International Organization for Migration Sudan

Climate and Migration in Darfur

29 March 2011

Background: Darfur

- Severe population displacement and environmental damage, mainly due to conflict.
  - Deforestation
  - Desertification
  - Soil erosion
  - Declining soil fertility

- Information is *very* incomplete – complex relationship between climate, migration and conflict.
- More study is needed, but we can build community resilience *now*, to address local environmental problems **and** climate change.

Critical observations

- Climate/environmental change not the only cause of conflict/displacement, but:
  - Depleted environment exacerbates risk of conflict.
  - Conflict accelerates environmental damage.
  - Vicious cycle propels displacement and violence.

Climate change is not the primary driver, but it amplifies these issues and worsens existing vulnerabilities

IOM's Response:

Sustainable Livelihoods in Darfur

Budget: **USD2.5 million**

Funder: **Government of Japan**

Period: **March 2009 – July 2010**

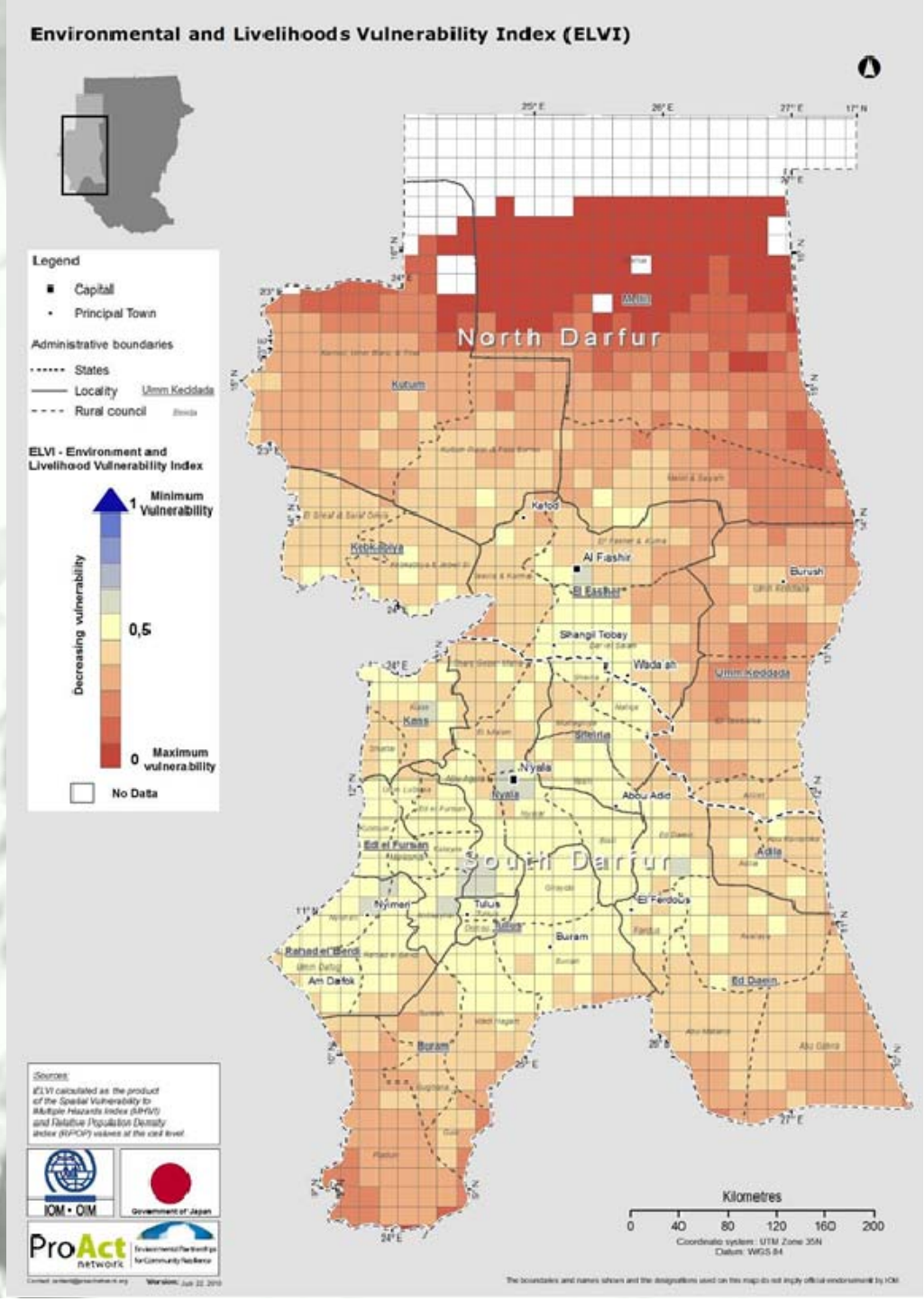
Beneficiaries: **60 000**

Partners:

- ProAct Network
- UNDP
- UNEP
- Tufts University
- Darfur state governments

Environment and Livelihoods Vulnerability Mapping (ELVM)

- Spatial data from field surveys and satellites.
- Rapidly assesses community vulnerability to drought, deforestation and livelihood disruption.
- A complement to field work and a valuable tool to assess climate vulnerability.

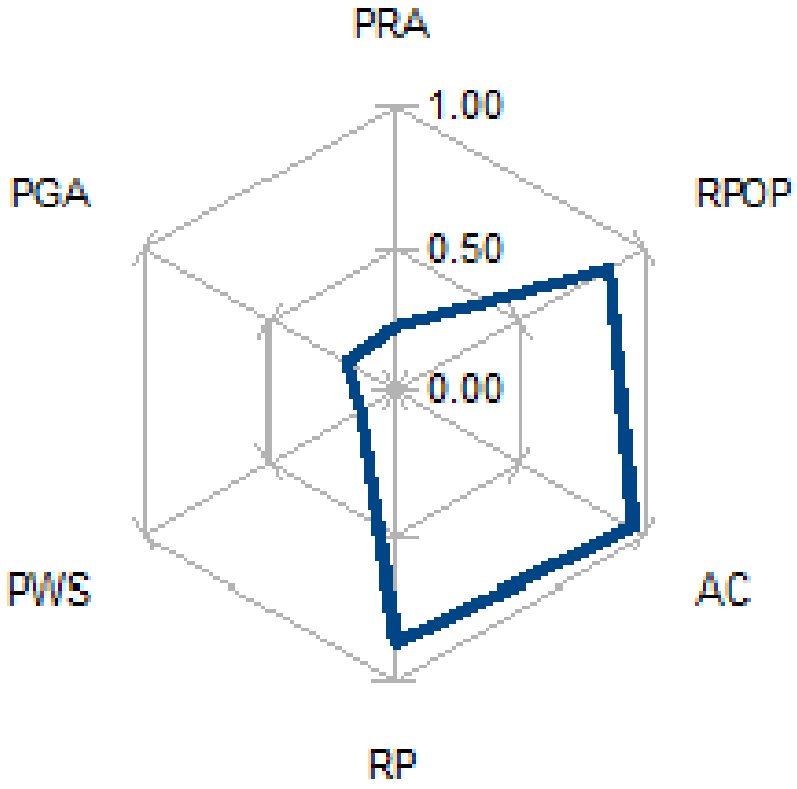


Environment and Livelihoods Vulnerability Index

Combines data on:

- Potential Rainfall (PRA)
- Rainfall Predictability (RP)
- Potential Groundwater (PGA)
- Woodfuel Sufficiency (PWS)
- Relative Population (RPOP)
- Adaptive Capacity (AC)

Creates a Vulnerability Index for any 16x16km grid square – and thus any community - in Darfur.



Mitigation Activity: Community Environmental Action Plans

- A community-driven approach to identify environmental issues and build local capacity.
- Identifies *all* environment and livelihoods issues in a community and addresses them in an integrated way.
- Trains communities and transfers technology.
- Core Principles:
  - Community Governance
  - Gender Equality
  - Local Ownership

Community-identified Needs

Address existing vulnerabilities:

- Reforestation
- Better fuel/energy management
- Efficient water use
- Agricultural capacity
- Livelihoods opportunities
- Improved sanitation/hygiene

All boost climate resilience *and* economic growth from the bottom up while breaking cycle of displacement.


Community Tree Nursery


Community Tree Nursery

Agricultural Capacity-building

Fuel-Efficient Stove (FES) Training

Water Management

Community-level capacity-building

- Takes an integrated approach to multiple environmental issues, using local knowledge.
- Especially valuable for remote or insecure regions.
- Allows effective action despite incomplete data.
- Improving community environmental management boosts livelihoods and resilience *before* worst effects of climate change.

Recommendations

- Emphasize integrated community capacity for environment and resource management
  - Local effects often larger than climate change effects now, but this will change.
  - Local capacity will become critical as climate change worsens.
  - Can act *now* while still seeking more data
- Apply ELVM approach in other at-risk contexts
  - e.g. Sahel, Haiti, Central/South Asia

Follow-up

- Insecurity and visa issues have prevented IOM replicating in Darfur.
- UNEP Sudan is continuing with Community Environmental Action Plans with 7 villages in North Darfur
- IOM working to extend to other areas of Sudan.


Thank you!
Any questions?