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
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?