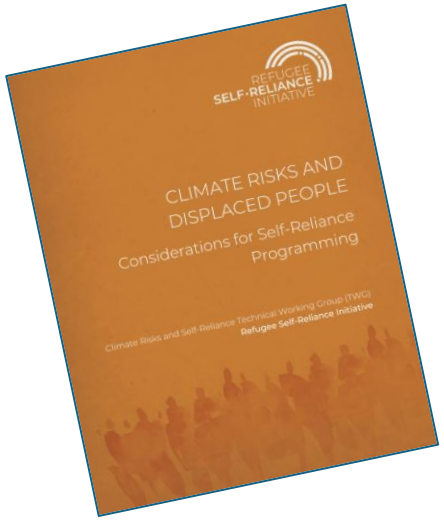
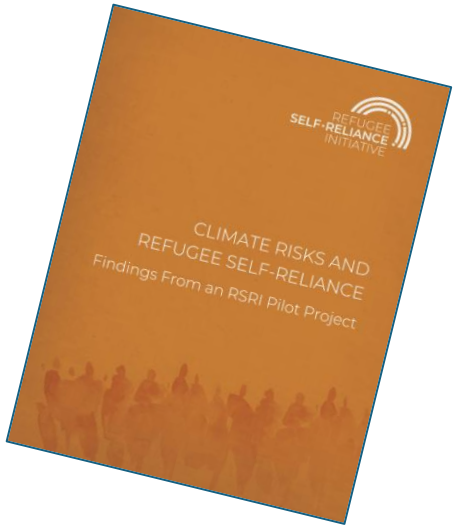




Climate Risks and Self-Reliance Programming for Displaced People

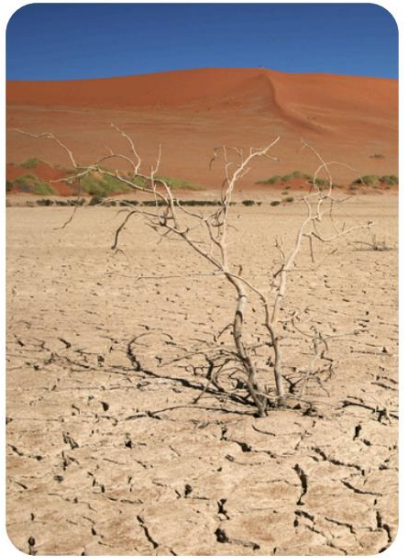
Dr. Evan Easton-Calabria
Senior Researcher and Fellow
Fletcher School, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University

REFUGEE SELF-RELIANCE INITIATIVE

Feinstein International Center

THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

1. Self-reliance programming should be informed by robust climate risk and impact assessments



- Programming should be informed by near- and mid-term climate projections and historical forecast analysis

- More support by donor for these assessments (requirement *and* funding)

- Climate risk/impact assessments completed at multiple levels:
  - Programme design in particular contexts (e.g., situational analyses, risks to programmes)
  - Projects and activities (e.g., analysis of how projects and activities can be made climate-adaptive and avoid maladaptation), including climate risk assessments for populations at the individual/household and community level

2. Resilient livelihoods should be central to any self-reliance programming that includes livelihoods interventions

- Useful distinction between programming targeting:
  - ‘Green livelihoods’ assistance focusing on greenhouse gas mitigation (e.g., plastic recycling, repair and re-use work, reforestation, etc.) and
  - ‘Climate-adaptative livelihoods’ assistance (e.g., adaptive agriculture training and equipment/goods, disaster preparedness and early warning information to preserve livelihoods in the case of climate hazards; etc.).

- Resilient livelihoods are not just ‘individual’! Need for area-based and community-level adaptation, recognition of geographic vulnerability of camps, etc.

3. Ensure that urban displaced people are represented and included in planning related to addressing and mitigating climate risks

- Less attention paid to how urban livelihoods can be made climate-adaptive…yet cities affected by climate hazards, too!
  - Less information and evidence on climate-adaptive Graduation Approaches, small businesses, etc.

- Urban self-reliance programming should be designed to link to existing municipal climate action and adaptation plans.

- Ongoing need to ‘see’ urban refugees and IDPs: advocacy needed to include displaced people among their constituents as they develop adaptation, response, and other relevant plans.

REFUGEE SELF-RELIANCE INITIATIVE

Feinstein International Center

THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

4. More and larger-scale anticipatory action interventions for displaced populations are needed to support displaced people's lives and livelihoods

- Anticipatory action uses climate and weather forecasting, pre-arranged plans and funding, to provide assistance in in advance of extreme weather events.

- Not commonly undertaken with displaced people or for their livelihoods

- But…
  - Anticipatory cash provided in advance of a flood could offer options for moving goods from a small shop or buying material to board up homes/businesses
  - Drought-resistant seeds ahead of a drought can keep yields high enough for profit (and reduce food insecurity and more).
  - And other ways for anticipatory action to support displaced people's livelihoods

And… good examples exist!

- 2022 OCHA-facilitated AA pilot in South Sudan
- Ongoing WISER Istibak ('Anticipate!') project in the MENA region

REFUGEE SELF-RELIANCE INITIATIVE

Feinstein International Center

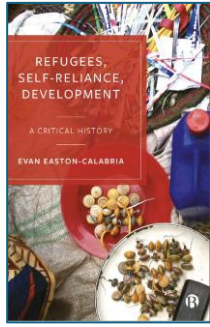
The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy
Tufts University

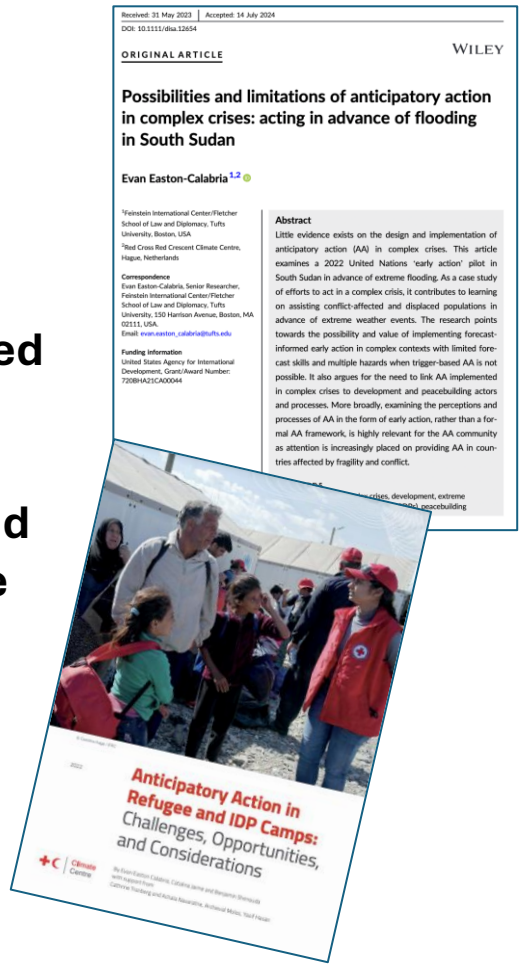
5. There is a need to identify and build on opportunities to link climate-adaptive self-reliance programming with climate action agendas and other global commitments related to displacement and climate change

- COP/UNFCC
  - ‘Getting Ahead of Disasters’ Charter made at COP 28 (promotes the better use of finance to manage risks and protect people in the most vulnerable countries from climate-related disasters
  - COP 28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace (which calls for urgent action to bolster climate resilience in vulnerable regions affected by FCV)
  - Ongoing loss and damage agenda negotiated by the parties to the UNFCC

- GRF pledges
  - ‘Multistakeholder Pledge on Economic Inclusion and Social Protection’ (GCR Objective 2: enhancing self-reliance), and the Multistakeholder Pledge on Climate Action (GCR Objective 1: easing pressure on host countries)

Next Steps & Ongoing Work





- **Scaling up research on refugee self-reliance programming and climate risks**
- **Ongoing research: early warning systems and anticipatory action for displaced people (WISER Istibak project in MENA)**
- **Join us! Self-Reliance Research Community of Practice and Climate Risks and Self-Reliance Technical Working Group (hosted by the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative)**

Interested in collaborating or discussing further? Please reach out:

Dr. Evan Easton-Calabria

Fletcher School and Feinstein International Center, Tufts University

Research Associate, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

evan.easton_calabria@tufts.edu

REFUGEE SELF-RELIANCE INITIATIVE

Feinstein International Center

THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Humanitarian Action for Sustainability (HAS)

Peter Kisame, Team Leader
Conrad, Assistant Head of Programmes