

From Rhetoric to Response: Climate Change, Conflict, and Development in Karamoja, Uganda
By Daniel Abrahams, University of South Carolina, Department of Geography

The body of research examining climate change and conflict has been marked by considerable attention to if and how climate change and its associated biophysical impacts affect conflict outcomes. One important area of inquiry that remains under-addressed is that of organizational efforts to understand and address the impact of climate change on conflict outcomes. This dissertation addresses that research gap by posing the question, *How do the discourses of climate change and conflict travel across time and space to become policy, programming, and ultimately a development initiative that exist on the ground?* This dissertation address this broad question by focusing on the efforts of Mercy Corps, an international humanitarian and development NGO, in its efforts to address the connection between climate change and conflict in Karamoja, Uganda. I focus on two particular programs being implemented by Mercy Corps: Building Resilience Against Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) and the third iteration of Peace in East and Central Africa (PEACE III). I seek to understand how these programs come to be across a continuum that invokes discursive formation and problem identification, policy design, program funding and design, project implementation, and evaluation. By collecting data across the various stages – and places – of development, I was able to elucidate contextual factors that define both the discourses of and the responses to climate-conflict.