

### Fragile States & Protracted Humanitarian Crises

ACT Alliance humanitarian operations are consistently taking place in fragile state contexts. Often in complex conflict environments, humanitarian needs arise directly due to a conflict or by a natural disaster context (or a combination of both). Increasingly, these humanitarian contexts are also impacted by the effect of climate change. Challenges that ACT Alliance humanitarian responses face in these contexts are innumerable but usually include:

- Deliberate violent targeting of particular populations;
- Difficulty discerning perpetrators of violence from disaster vulnerable groups;
- Exploitation and abuse of humanitarian resources;
- Sexual exploitation;
- Humanitarian access challenges;
- Legal restrictions by donors linked to counter-terrorism restrictions.

Increasingly, ACT Alliance humanitarian operations are taking place in fragile state environments where there is a protracted humanitarian crisis. The implications for the ACT Alliance are that there is therefore a requirement to consider in operational responses integrating conflict sensitive programming that addresses protection, gender, the prevention of sexual exploitation and robust safety and security practices.