

GCM Africa Regional Review - Side event on human mobility in the contexts of disasters and climate change in Africa

26 August 2021, 15:00-16:30 EAT

Organizers: UNDP, IGAD, Platform on Disaster Displacement

Speakers: IGAD, UNDP, Platform on Disaster Displacement, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Friends of Lake Turkana Region, Africa Climate Migration Initiative

Key messages:

- The development and implementation of policy frameworks such as the GCM is key. At the same time, tracking progress in their implementation remains challenging, particularly in the absence of specific indicators aimed at measuring GCM implementation. It is important that all stakeholders work together to support ongoing efforts and address the remaining gaps in implementing disaster displacement-related commitments under the GCM in Africa.
- With existing policy frameworks, such as the GCM, and a range of other toolboxes, such as the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda, much can already be done to help people who are affected by disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change. This includes reducing hazards associated with global warming, helping people to stay or move out of harm's way, and protecting those displaced.
- The GCM and its 23 Objectives offer States with a policy framework for developing instruments and tools to address the factors that compel people to move, including disasters and the adverse effects of climate change; to address the need for better data and knowledge to support evidence-based policies; as well as to enhance legal pathways for people compelled to move in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.
- Partnerships and capacity-building are key to contributing towards developing and implementing coherent approaches to the challenges we face. The Joint Regional Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) programme in the IGAD region is an excellent example, which includes the development of displacement risk models to build forecasts and to explore future displacement scenarios based on climatic and other factors as well as support to strengthening solutions and enhancing pathways for people compelled to move in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, in line with Objective 5 of the GCM.
- To have tangible results we must integrate the perspectives of the affected communities into the conception and implementation of the programmes, and strengthen evidence through data. We must ensure community-based planning, and a rights-based and bottom up approach.

- The importance of capacity-building at all levels. Data and knowledge are not sufficient for implementation when capacities to address climate-change and disaster related challenges are limited.
- The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement has set up a platform for exchange of knowledge among key partners, which can be further leveraged for information exchange and sharing moving forward.
- IGAD has organized a Regional Consultative Process on Migration (RCP) meeting on 18-19 August 2021 to review the implementation of the GCM in the IGAD Member States. The interlinkage between climate change and human mobility has been highlighted in several interventions and the outcome document will be submitted as an input to the Africa Regional GCM Review.
- The issues and challenges relating to the impacts of climate change are relatively similar throughout the continent. To address these issues there is a need for ownership at different levels of government.
- Not isolating climate change related factors to other factors affecting displacement. Encouraging a holistic approach.
- Need to support cross-country infrastructure and access to services for affected people and communities.
- Important to adopt a gender-lens, and consider how different population groups are impacted.
- Need to look at the different geographical locations and impact in strengthening the knowledge base, data and evidence. Need to focus on common geographics, not defined by borders, beyond the political borders.
- It would be important to take into account NRM to address the root causes of climate change related migration and displacement, especially in a region where governments are supporting further investments in extractive industries.
- Link between climate variability and climate change and exacerbation of conflicts.
- Need to move beyond the response agenda into 'prevention,' including preparedness, resilience, adaptation and climate action
- It will be important to ensure and strengthen regional ownership - integrate the agenda for the continent on the move into the African development agenda.
- Crossborder collaboration is key since many movements are taking place across borders. In the IGAD region, the newly adopted Free Movement of Persons Protocol presents a unique opportunity with a specific paragraph on people affected by disasters. The development of Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) on admission and stay in disaster situations which will be tested in cross-border simulation exercises can support its implementation.
- The need to generate data to better map, understand, predict and address migration movements and the risk of displacement
- Inclusion of disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation in national and regional migration and mobility policies, and as part of climate change and disaster preparedness strategies, including via national coordination mechanisms and through cooperation with neighboring countries