

MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CONTEXT

Climate change and environmental degradation intersect with contemporary migration patterns in profoundly complex ways. Predictions suggest that these dynamics will become ever more challenging. Extreme weather events will likely become more frequent and intense, and changes in precipitation and temperature patterns will impact livelihoods and human security.

In 2021, 38 million people were internally displaced across 141 countries and territories, among which, 23.7 million were uprooted due to disasters. In other words, disasters triggered more than 60 per cent of the internal displacements recorded worldwide in 2021. World Bank projections indicate an estimated 216 million climate migrants by 2050 if no climate action is taken; and it is expected that many among them will cross international borders.

Least developed countries, small island developing states and low and middle economies are particularly affected, with many communities seeking better living conditions elsewhere, either as an adaptation strategy or out of necessity. In this regard, prevention, preparedness and the response capacity of health systems are key aspects in mitigating the potential health risks of climate change-induced displacement and global public health.

Aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Global Compact or GCM)** calls upon Member States to minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin (objective 2), including by sudden-onset and slow-onset disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation. Recommendations include: strengthening joint analysis and sharing of information; developing adaptation and resilience strategies, particularly adaptation strategies in countries of origin; integrating displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies and promoting cross-border cooperation; and, harmonizing and developing approaches and mechanisms at the subregional and regional levels to address the vulnerabilities of affected persons, among others.

On the occasion of the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27), the United Nations Network on Migration called on Member States to recognize the opportunities to work towards sustainable, rights-based mitigation and adaptation to climate change in order to address human mobility in this context in line with the recommendations of the UNFCCC Taskforce on Displacement. The Network urged States, working in cooperation with relevant UN entities and all partners, to address and seek inclusive solutions for the most affected people, including those staying in place, moving internally, and migrating internationally, while fully recognizing the adaptation role that migration plays in this context⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://migrationnetwork.un.org/statements/act-now-migrant-inclusion-climate-action-obligation-not-option

THE MIGRATION MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

Launched in 2019, the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (the Fund) was called for by Member States to support the implementation of the GCM. A critical feature of this unique pooled funding instrument in the field of migration is its 360-degree approach, with no GCM objective privileged over others or region favoured over another.

The Fund is the vehicle to bring the Compact to life and implement joint action. It is fully operational, with 21 Joint Programmes being implemented worldwide.

To date, more than 161 Joint Programme proposals have been received from 99 different countries (including regional submissions). These are the product of collaborative work by members of the United Nations Network on Migration, with proposals submitted by 23 UN organizations working with various government partners (both national and local) as well as stakeholders, including those representing migrants and communities. As such they are testament to the commitment of the United Nations system to work better together, fully aligned with overall reforms of the United Nations Development System.

THE FUND'S APPROACH ON MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Fund brings partners together and supports initiatives with a focus on climate change adaptation and resilience strengthening. The Migration MPTF aims at mobilizing resources to address climate change-induced migration, grounded in good migration governance and sustainable development.

In December 2021, the Migration MPTF Steering Committee made an explicit recommendation to strengthen the work of the Fund on climate change and migration, by encouraging new submissions related to that issue and by giving such submissions particular consideration in future priority selection processes.

In 2022, the IMRF Progress Declaration called for greater effort to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Member States committed to "strengthen our efforts to enhance and diversify the availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, including in response to demographic and labour market realities, and for migrants in vulnerable situations, as well as those affected by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation".

In response to the IMRF Progress Declaration, the Steering Committee reiterated, in June 2022, its decision to reinforce its attention to initiatives with a climate change component. The February 2023 Steering Committee meeting and the Investment Plan 2023-2026 reaffirmed that addressing climate change challenges is an area that deserves specific attention.

Climate change cuts across all five thematic areas of the Fund, as illustrated in the Joint Programmes that have been funded or selected in the Pipeline.

WHAT WE DO

Amongst the Joint Programmes funded by the Migration MPTF, five have been designed with the aim of addressing the impact of climate change on migration.



THEMATIC AREA 1

MENA

IRAQ, JORDAN, **USD 3.2M LEBANON**





"Harnessing synergies between climate change adaptation and risk reduction in migrant-inclusive health system responses"

The MENA region is among the world's most vulnerable regions due to its arid and semi-arid climates, combined with a projected increase in air temperatures and pollution, worsening water stress and frequency of extreme weather events.

The Joint Programme contributes to strengthening synergies between Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), in order to address the adverse drivers of migration in the region.



THEMATIC AREA 2

INDIA

USD 3M



"Enhancing the resilience to climate change of migrant and vulnerable households in the coastal areas of Odisha State and drought-prone areas of Telangana State"

Large-scale migration historically related to socio-economic factors has been increasingly exacerbated by climate change and environmental degradation that are affecting traditional mobility patterns and worsening the vulnerability of rural households in India. The Joint Programme will aim to strengthen rural households' resilience to climate change in order to reduce the pressure to migrate out of distress as well as to improve migration outcomes.



THEMATIC AREA 4

REGIONAL IGAD USD 2.15M









"Addressing drivers and facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in the contexts of disasters and climate change in the IGAD region"

The IGAD region is amongst the most vulnerable to climate change and, as a consequence, the number of people migrating is expected to continue increasing. This Joint Programme seeks to address knowledge gaps pertaining to the drivers of migration and ensure that people affected by climate change are adequately factored in national and regional mobility frameworks and strategies on climate action, ultimately facilitating pathways for regular migration in the IGAD region.

WHAT WE DO



REGIONAL PACIFIC USD 1.85M FIJI, KIRIBATI, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TUVALU, VANUATU





"Labour mobility for sustainable development and climate resilience in the Pacific"

With climate change and hazards leading to population displacement and livelihood challenges, many Pacific islanders seek opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. To enhance the benefits of migration as a sustainable development and climate resilience strategy, the Joint Programme works with countries of origin/destination and regional initiatives to facilitate dialogue, incorporate decent work principles/standards in labour migration schemes, and raise awareness among recruitment agencies and employers.



THEMATIC AREA 5

BRAZIL

USD 2.5M PIOM World Health Organization





"Strengthening capacities of border municipalities in the Brazilian Amazon to face the challenges of migration, climate change and health"

The Brazilian Amazon experiences significant human mobility, including cross-border movements in its over ten official border posts. The Joint Programme aims to strengthen the capacities of eight border municipalities in the Brazilian Amazon to address challenges posed by migration and climate change, and health issues.

WHAT WE ARE READY TO DO

The Fund maintains 33 Joint Programmes in the pipeline, ready to initiate implementation as and when resources become available. The non-exhaustive list below provides examples of pipeline Joint Programmes where addressing the impact of climate change is considered a primary objective.



THEMATIC AREA 1

INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, THAILAND

USD 2.7M





"Safe Labour Migration and Decent Work for Climate Change adaptation and Resilience in the ASEAN Region"

Climate change is significantly disrupting livelihoods in the ASEAN region, impacting health, food sources, and water access. This, coupled with extreme weather events, drives migration and strains sectors like fishing, agriculture, and construction. The Joint Programme will aim to address these challenges at the intersection of climate change, environmental degradation, and labour mobility in ASEAN region, filling a critical gap in adaptation planning.



THEMATIC AREA 2

USD 2.5M BOLIVIA







"Addressing the adverse environmental drivers of forced migration in the northern Amazon region of Bolivia through gender, child sensitive and rights-based sustainable solutions and enhancing protection for vulnerable persons on the move"

The Northern Bolivian Amazon region faces numerous environmental hazards such as flooding, water and food insecurity, pollution, deforestation, drought, environmental degradation, and proliferation of invasive species. The Joint Programme will aim to contribute to increasing the resilience of communities in the region to disasters and adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation and to facilitate sustainable solutions for people compelled to leave their communities of origin.



THEMATIC AREA 2

NAMIBIA

USD 2.8M







"Strengthening protection and assistance services to migrants, including children in vulnerable situations in Namibia"

Namibia, especially in its Northern regions - Omusati, Kunene, Kavango East and West, Ohangwena, and Otjozondjupa - struggles with the adverse impacts of climate change, facing droughts and floods. With borders adjoining Angola, Zambia, and Botswana, climate-induced cross-border movements pose a crucial challenge. The Joint Programme will target these regions, addressing vulnerabilities by prioritizing children's rights and enhancing food security. Strategies include strengthening human rights-based policies and uplifting livelihoods.



THEMATIC AREA 3

BANGLADESH, INDIA, NEPAL

USD 5M





"Strengthening responses to the modus operandi of human traffickers and migrant smugglers in environmental crises due to climate change"

Environmental events, from floods and fires to droughts and desertification, devastate South Asian communities, displacing millions and causing loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods. The vulnerability of these affected populations makes them susceptible to exploitation by traffickers and smugglers, worsening the human impact of climate change-induced disasters. The Joint Programme will aim to address the urgent issue of human trafficking and smuggling in the aftermath of adverse impacts of climate change in the South Asian region, specifically focusing on Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.



THEMATIC AREA 4

TÜRKIYE **USD 2.5M**



"Supporting migrant's inclusion in Türkiye's transition to a green economy"

Türkiye experiences high levels of migration and is a country of orgin, transit, and destination. Climate Change impacts, including displacement, are already being felt in Türkiye, with water scarcity representing a particular challenge for municipalities hosting migrants, refugees and those under temporary protection. The Joint Programme will contribute to the inclusion of migrants in the sustainable and green development of Türkiye and its transition to a green and circular economy.



THEMATIC AREA 5

USD 1.8M (international Labour Labour







"Integration of migrant youth in host communities through climate resilience and adaptation in Chile'

Chile faces climate-related challenges affecting agriculture and infrastructure, alongside a surge in international migration. Young migrants and refugees encounter difficulties in integrating, exacerbated by climate-induced unemployment. The Joint Programme aims to enhance the resilience and socio-environmental adaptation of refugee and migrant populations, especially young individuals, in the face of climate change challenges. The programme will address these challenges by focusing on the impact of climate change on employment, ecosystem services, and the specific vulnerabilities faced by migrants and refugees.

SUPPORT THE FUND



The Fund Steering Committee has set the total capitalization target at USD 150 million by the International Migration Review Forum (2026). To date, approximately 38% of this target has been mobilized (USD 57.5M) from 20 Member States.

GERMANY	19,569,912 USD
UNITED STATES	10,000,000 USD
DENMARK	6,588,103 USD
UNITED KINGDOM	6,262,133 USD
■ FRANCE	3,849,601 USD
NETHERLANDS	3,781,000 USD
NORWAY	3,776,692 USD
SPAIN	1,072,406 USD
SWEDEN	938,159 USD
PORTUGAL	604,927 USD
■▲■ MEXICO	450,000 USD
UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF	150,000 USD
PHILIPPINES	126,402 USD
ROBERT BOSCH STIFTUNG GMBH	63,121 USD
■ ■ IRELAND	55,569 USD
€ CYPRUS	39,402 USD
LUXEMBOURG	26,307 USD
THAILAND	25,000 USD
C· TÜRKIYE	20,000 USD
BANGLADESH	12,007 USD
MOROCCO	10,000 USD
azerbaijan	5,000 USD



The collective commitment towards the GCM should be reflected by a broad donor-base for the Fund. Members States, traditional and non-traditional donors alike, are thus encouraged to contribute, even modestly.





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