

Template for Notetaking for the IMRF virtual side-events

Date and time: 17th May 2022, 09:00-10:00 NY time

Notetakers: Lena Brenn, IGAD

Notes of the session	Member State/UN/Stakeholder
<p>Promoting partnerships, governing migration: experiences from the IGAD region on GCM implementation in a changing climate</p> <p>Side event organized by IGAD, IOM, Platform on Disaster Displacement and ILO</p> <p>Moderation: Dina Ionesco, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</p> <p>IGAD, Madam Fathia Alwan, Director of Health and Social Development – opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disasters and climate change are a serious challenge in the IGAD region with two-thirds of the land being arid or semi-arid. The ongoing drought situation in the region leaves more than 40 million people facing high levels of food insecurity. • Figures from IDMC indicate that in 2020 alone, almost 3 million people were newly displaced in the region (not including the people moving in the context of slow-onset events) • Pastoralists for example use migration as a traditional coping method to the negative impacts of climate change • The launch of the regional Joint Programme on Migration, Disasters and Climate Change (MDCC) by IOM, ILO, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, UNHCR and IGAD including ICPAC in May 2022 has been an important step to ensure that this movement happens in a safe, regular and orderly way. • The four pillars of action address data and knowledge; national and regional policy frameworks; disaster displacement and preparedness; and regular migration pathways. • Another new development is the IGAD’s Free Movement of Persons Protocol (FMP) which was adopted in June 2021. This is the first time that a FMP specifically addresses the needs for people affected by disasters. Once implemented, the people affected by disasters and climate change will be able 	



to move in a safe, orderly and regular manner to the neighboring countries.

Government of Uganda: Peggie Luash, National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) under the Office of the Prime Minister

Q: How are the migration governance structures such as the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration used for discussing GCM implementation of migration and climate change commitments?

- Uganda has a National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) who is coordinating all work related to migration. It involves all ministries/departments with an element on migration, and civil society – **whole of government and whole of society approach**
- NCM identified key objectives to implement the GCM. NCM members report quarterly on Uganda's commitments related to GCM implementation.
- Uganda is in the process to develop a national action plan to implement the GCM – the TOR for a consultant have just been finalized in a meeting of the NCM in May 2022
- Importance of data collection related to human mobility and climate change

The Federal Government of Somalia: Abdulkani Barrow, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change

Q: What are the main drivers of human mobility in Somalia and how those are addressed by the Federal Government of Somalia while enhancing GCM implementation?

- In the last five years, droughts and floods have displaced more people than armed conflicts, and become the major drivers of displacement in the country
- The nature of climate change calls for extensive cooperation, coordination and international response.
- By ratifying the Paris Climate Agreement, UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, Somalia shows dedication and obligation to the implementation of strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to its impact.
- Somalia has taken a number of steps to implement UNFCCC in the country – this includes the development of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA), Initial Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National disaster Policy Management, National Environmental policy and the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2020 to guide the countries adaptation and mitigation efforts at national and sub-national levels.
- To address the climate change migration/displacement nexus, the NCCP policy outlines five areas:
 1. Promote vocational training, especially for youth, in places with high likelihood of receiving in-migration;



2. Invest in agriculture in vulnerable areas, such as developing crops and livestock that are pest and drought resistant, early yielding and promote irrigation, to help curb rural-urban migration;
3. Facilitate movement between source and destination areas through improved transport systems;
4. Promote alternative livelihood programs to develop skills among rural dwellers;
5. Mainstream migration into national development frameworks.

Kenya, Civil Society Organization, Ezekiel Najalimo Dida, Program Manager - Humanitarian & Refugee Services LOKADO, Turkana County, Kenya

Q: In Turkana county, Kenya, how do you witness human mobility and climate change? How can sustainable livelihood opportunities for migrants be enhanced?

- Turkana is the second largest of all counties in Kenya
- Increase in lake Turkana water levels causing displacement and migration, prolonged droughts and heat stress result in loss of pasture, heavy rains
- Pastoral communities migrate with their livestock from the lowlands that are secure to international border lands during dry periods that are prone to conflicts in search of pasture and water.
- Programmes implemented by LOKADO related to migration:
 - Construction of new water pans and drilling of boreholes along the pastoral migratory routes
 - regular inter-governmental forums to facilitate free movement of traders, pastoralists, asylum seekers and refugees across the international borders
 - Ensuring safe mobility through regular security updates throughout migratory routes
 - Construction of health facilities to serve pastoralists who have lost livestock due to disasters.
- IGAD has adopted a transhumance protocol in 2021. However, harmonizing the same by participating countries has been a challenge

Platform on Disaster Displacement: Walter Kaelin, Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

Q: What is the particular role that regional institutions (as opposed to national or local ones) can play in advancing efforts to address human mobility challenges in a changing climate?

- The PDD is a State-led initiative working towards better protection of persons displaced in the context of disasters and adverse effects of climate change.



- To implement the IGAD FMP, it will be necessary to build the systems and capacities at the ground-level. One example under the MDCC Project include: IGAD, PDD and partners will conduct a simulation exercise (SIMEX) and support States to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on admission and stay in disaster and climate change contexts. In doing so, we can build on experiences made in other regions such as the SIMEX that took place at the border between Colombia and Ecuador in March 2022. One conclusion of the exercise was that immigration and foreign affairs authorities who rarely cooperate with disaster management actors must be an integral part of the operational plans.
- Other examples include: Costa Rica and Panama developed joint SOPs for cross-border disaster displacement situations, which they have tested through a bilateral simulation exercise. In West Africa, cross border displacement simulation exercises have been conducted between Mali and Mauritania and between Gambia and Senegal.
- There is growing recognition of the **importance to work regionally** on these issues. For example the Pacific Islands Forum has initiated a process to develop a Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility.
- The IGAD region can learn from all these experiences. At the same time, the MPTF-supported MDCC Project is an excellent example of how the Global Compact can be implemented through enhanced bilateral and regional cooperation.

Closing: Coumba Diop, Regional labour migration and mobility specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO)

From the panel discussion, we can raise key messages such as:

- **The importance of partnerships and policy coherence:** the joint MDCC is an example of strong and effective partnership with UN agencies, IGAD Secretariat and IGAD member states
- **The importance of employment creation, skills development and the development of labour markets**
- Labour migration, if taking place through regular pathways, can represent an adaptation strategy to climate change.
- The IGAD free movement protocol recognizes the need to address these challenges, and the need to develop tools and responses to ensure these movements are positive.
- The MDCC joint project is a promising pilot experience which already is yielding intervention examples which could be replicated not only in the Africa region but also elsewhere.

Summary (500 words max)



Introduction

- The event was focusing on human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change in the IGAD region, including partnerships – GCM Objectives 1, 2, 5
- Virtual event, 60 participants
- 6 speakers, 1 moderator
- Number of interventions.

Panel discussion

The speakers from IGAD, Uganda, Somalia, CSO in Kenya, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement were highlighting the following:

- The importance of the regional level: migration practice, policies and implementation advances the fastest at the regional level
- **The importance of partnerships and policy coherence:** The Joint Program of the UN agencies IOM, ILO, Platform on Disaster Displacement hosted by UNOPS, ILO and UNHCR with IGAD on **Migration, Disasters and Climate Change (MDCC)** in May 2021 is an example of strong and effective partnership with UN agencies, IGAD Secretariat and IGAD member states. The Program strives to facilitate pathways for regular migration in the IGAD region and minimize displacement risk in the context of disasters and climate change. This is the first regional Programme that received funding from the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund.
- **Importance of cross-border cooperation.** This includes the **IGAD Free Movement of Persons Protocol** which provides a specific reference to people who are moving in the context of disasters and climate change. To support the implementation of this Protocol, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on admission and stay in disaster and climate change contexts will be developed and tested in cross-border simulation exercises.
- **Whole of government and whole of society approach:** for example, Uganda is having a National Coordination Mechanisms on Migration (NCM) to coordinate the work of the different ministries/departments dealing with migration issues. This Mechanism is also coordinating the work on the GCM implementation, and includes the involvement of civil society
- The **importance of employment creation, skills development and the development of labour markets.** Labour migration, if taking place through regular pathways, can represent an **adaptation strategy to climate change.**
- The **MDCC joint project** is a promising pilot experience which already is yielding intervention examples which could be replicated not only in the Africa region but also elsewhere
- Importance of coherence and complementarity between global, regional, national and local level
- Connection to climate frameworks as a way to implement the GCM as far as obj.2 is concerned

Interventions from the floor

- Question from Samuel Hall: what is the role of research in effective partnership structures?
- Response from Uganda: research focused organizations are important for evidence-based policy making. In Uganda, academia is part of the NCM and provides input