

**Group of Friends of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)**  
**“Global policy processes and outcomes of relevance to disaster displacement”**

Organized by Morocco and the European Union (co-chairs)

17 November 2021, 10:00am-11:15am EST (virtual meeting)

*Remarks by the World Bank on the Groundswell report*

*(Dr. Kanta Kumari Rigaud, Lead Environmental Specialist, World Bank)*

1. Thank you Chair and the Group of Friends of the PDD for providing the World Bank this opportunity to share the findings of our recent report released in September.
2. This new report: **Groundswell: Acting on Internal Climate Migration** includes projections and analysis for three additional regions: East Asia and the Pacific, North Africa, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Qualitative analyses of climate-related mobility in countries of the Mashreq, and in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is also provided. The first report from 2018 covered Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America.
3. The *Groundswell* reports seeks to understand how climate induced migration within countries will play out between 2020-2050, and what action areas we must pursue. The reports apply a scenario-based modeling approach using state-of-the-art climate, demographic, and climate impact data, to isolate out movement induced by three slow-onset climate factors— namely water availability, crop productivity and sea-level rise augmented by storm surge. Combined with validation, grounding in literature, and tailored assessments, these scenarios can inform policy dialogue and action.
4. The results of the *Groundswell* reports show that without early and concerted climate and development action, as many as 216 million people could move within their own countries, **by 2050** – as a consequence of slow-onset climate change impacts. No region or country will be immune, but the poorest, and those living in climate vulnerable areas, will be disproportionately impacted. Hotspots of internal climate migration could emerge as early as 2030 and continue to spread and intensify by 2050. But these hotspots are not pre-destined. Early action is key.
5. There are three key takeaways from these reports: First, is the **potency of climate change to induce internal migration** – as evidenced by the scale, trend, and patterns of migration across the regions we studied. Second, **is the urgency to act now**. With far-sighted, concrete climate and development action, the scale of internal climate migration could be reduced by as much as 80 percent. But the window of opportunity is rapidly narrowing. Third, and final is the importance of **locality**, and the need for strategies and solutions **to be tailored**, in accordance with national and local contexts. This is particularly important with regard to the emerging hotspots.
6. The Groundswell report underscore two overarching policy actions. **First and foremost**, is the imperative - at the global level – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – in accordance with the Paris Agreement, and the new Glasgow Climate Pact. This will help reduce climate pressures that compel people to migrate. **Equally**, the results of the analyses emphasize the importance and urgency of inclusive development – that is both resilient and green. Building systems to be resilient, and livelihoods that are diversified can help people to stay in place, or move away safely from risks if needed, into areas of better conditions and prosperity. Internal climate migration can also be an adaptation strategy resulting in positive development outcomes if well planned and managed. The report also calls for investing in **better understanding** of climate migration to inform policies and planning.
7. Three weeks ago, the World Bank released the **Groundswell Africa** reports focused on the West African and the Lake Victoria Basin countries. We applied an expanded version of the pioneering *Groundswell* model, bringing in additional climate and non-climate factors for a more granular analysis – that is better placed to inform concrete policy dialogue and action. The Migration and Climate-informed Solutions (MACS) framework, in these Reports, identifies concrete domains of action to reduce the scale of climate-induced migration, and usher in opportunities for social and economic transformations.
8. In conclusion, internal climate migration is a reality, but it does not have to be a crisis. Early and concerted action is key – but the window of opportunity is narrowing rapidly. Thank you for your attention.