



PLATFORM
ON DISASTER
DISPLACEMENT
FOLLOW-UP TO THE NANSEN INITIATIVE



Migraciones



Ministerio del Interior
Argentina



POLICY BRIEF

ARGENTINA: LEADING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DISPLACEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

BACKGROUND

Disaster displacement in South America is multi-causal and driven by political, social, demographic, and environmental factors, including land degradation and unsustainable urbanization, among others. It occurs in the context of earthquakes and other geophysical hazards or is linked to extreme weather events, such as floods, storms, and drought.

The adverse effects of **climate change** are already increasing the frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards and undermining resilience in communities across the South American region.

Argentina, in addition to being a country that has ratified most international **human rights** treaties, has been actively engaged in the adoption of relevant global and regional frameworks across relevant policy areas: from **humanitarian action** to **climate change, disaster risk reduction, immigration governance** and **sustainable development**.

ARGENTINA'S ENGAGEMENT

in relevant fora, regional and global frameworks to address the challenges of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (A/RES/69/283)
- The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and 'Agenda for Humanity' (A/71/353)
- New York Declaration for Migrants and Refugees (A/RES/71/1)
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (A/RES/73/195)
- Global Compact on Refugees (A/RES/73/151)
- South American Conference on Migration (SACM)
- Ibero-American Immigration Authorities Network (RIAM).
- The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)



INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DISPLACEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN VISA PROGRAM FOR NATIONALS AND RESIDENTS IN MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN DISPLACED BY SOCIO-NATURAL DISASTERS

Launched in May 2022 by Argentina's National Immigration Directorate (DNM), [Disposición DNM N° 891/2022](#) aims to collaborate with 23 states to provide humanitarian protection, planned relocation and durable solutions to nationals and residents from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean situated in vulnerable areas and at high risk of displacement.

The **Special Humanitarian Visa Program** grants admission and temporary visa based on humanitarian grounds under article 23, subparagraph m) of Immigration Act No. 25 871 for up to three years with possibilities to transition into a permanent resident status.

This initiative is sustained through a **sponsorship** program by a civil society organization through which beneficiaries get access to housing and integration support for a period of one year. The program entails coordination across different organizations including IOM, UNHCR and ICRC.

“ This policy instrument is innovative because it provides active and preventive protection measures to people displaced or at risk of displacement, as opposed to the most common *ex post facto* humanitarian measures usually granted to people already in the country when a disaster strike...”

Ms. Florencia Carignano, Director
National Immigration Directorate, Argentina

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) PLEDGING INITIATIVE

Argentina was the first country to have reported that one of its pledges has been realised: the adoption of the *Special humanitarian visa program for nationals and residents in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean displaced by socio-natural disasters*.

Source: [United Nations Network on Migration](#)



“*Our commitment, which involves human mobility, the environment, climate change and disasters, aims to reinforce the will of the Argentine Republic **not to leave anyone behind** assuming the shared but differentiated responsibilities that all countries have in terms of disasters and climate change, from a **comprehensive, sovereign, pan governmental and pan social approach** that collaborates to prevent humanitarian crises and build higher levels of resilience in our societies.”*

María Florencia Carignano,
National Director of Migrations IMRF UN
New York, May 19th, 2022

HUMANITARIAN GUIDELINES IN CASE OF ENTRY OF PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES DUE TO SOCIO-NATURAL DISASTERS

[Disposición N° 2641/22](#) which entered into force in October 2022, aims to facilitate paperwork and provides guidelines on admission in case of massive and/or abrupt entry of people displaced across borders in the context of sudden-onset socio-natural disasters from neighboring countries.

It guarantees entry for nationals of Argentina, permanent residents and non-residents affected by disasters who lack proper documentation. In the last case they must sign an affidavit which allows a stay of up to three months, which can be extended.

This new policy provides safe return in coordination with relevant authorities from neighboring countries and builds on the spirit of regional and binational coordination in partnership with other UN agencies, namely IOM, UNCHR and OCHA.

The tool contributes to facilitating **safe, orderly, and regular migration** by aiming to provide protection to those people who cannot be granted international protection under refugee law, but are nevertheless temporally unable to return to their countries of origin due to the prevailing humanitarian conditions in the context of disasters.

SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (SACM): A NEW NETWORK ON MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT, DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

As Chair of the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) in 2021, Argentina proposed a new [network on migration, environment, disasters, and climate change](#) which was endorsed by member countries of the SACM to follow-up and support the work in the region.

National focal points support the network which is envisioned as a regional collaborative platform to identify the needs of ‘environmental migrants’ and populations at risk of displacement, enhance and identify best practices in South America and work towards regional solutions. The network has produced and disseminated material and [mapping tools](#) with the support of IOM and PDD, aiming to implement the 2018 SACM [Regional guidelines on the protection and assistance of cross-border displaced persons and migrants in countries affected by disasters](#).

ARGENTINA JOINS THE STEERING GROUP OF THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT (PDD)

Argentina acknowledges that effective approaches to addressing disaster displacement require coherence with and partnerships across related policy areas. In July 2022, Argentina was welcomed as a new Steering Group member of the Platform on Disaster Displacement.

<https://disasterdisplacement.org/the-european-union-new-chair-of-the-platform-on-disaster-displacement>



Ambassador Federico Villegas,
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN
and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Argentina understands that human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change means shared but differentiated responsibilities. To this end, preparedness strategies and promoting cooperation with neighboring countries across different policy areas guide regional and national policies in a coherent manner and give support to action at the local level.

OTHER RELEVANT PRACTICES:

- The SACM Network on migration, environment, disasters and climate change facilitated a [common position](#) of SACM member countries to the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Egypt 2022.
- **RIAM workshop: 'Cross border displacement and assistance to migrants in the context of disasters' for Ibero-American Immigration Authorities Network'**, Panamá, April 2022. The workshop aimed to strengthen knowledge, trends and challenges associated to environmental mobility in the regional and strategies for implementing global and regional frameworks. It provided an opportunity to adopt a common position and key messages to the **International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)** organized by the United National Network on Migration in June 2022.
- [IOM International Dialogue on Migration \(IDM\)](#): Argentina's engagement has led to interventions at the highest level at the 20th and 21st IDM on accelerating integrated action on sustainable development: migration, the environment and climate change.
- [International Migration Review Forum 2022 \(IMRF\)](#): served an opportunity to showcase effective practices and available policy instruments related to pathways for regular migration in disaster and climate change contexts at regional, national and local levels. At the IMRF Argentina made its first pledge on the subject and supported the adoption of resolution A/RES/76/266

DOCUMENTS TO CONSULT:

- Dirección Nacional de Migraciones Argentina, 2022. Disposición 2641/2022. [Pautas a seguir en caso de ingreso masivo y/o abrupto de personas desplazadas desde países limítrofes por desastres socio-naturales de aparición repentina.](#)
- Dirección Nacional de Migraciones Argentina, 2022. Disposición 891/2022. [Programa especial de visado humanitario para personas nacionales y residentes en los Estados Unidos mexicanos, Centroamérica y el Caribe desplazadas por desastres socio-naturales.](#)
- Nansen Initiative, 2015. [Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change.](#)
- South American Conference on Migration SACM, 2018. [Regional guidelines on the protection and assistance of cross-border displaced persons and migrants in countries affected by disasters.](#)
- South American Conference on Migration SACM, 2018. Mapeo sobre Migración, [Medio ambiente y cambio climático en América del Sur.](#)
- The Nansen Initiative, 2015. [Human mobility in the context of natural hazard-related disasters in South America. Background paper.](#)



Further resources on disaster displacement here:
<https://bit.ly/3MeseTg>

ABOUT THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT (PDD)

The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) is a State-led initiative. Its objective is to support States and other stakeholders to strengthen the protection of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and to prevent or reduce disaster displacement risks in countries of origin. After Germany, Bangladesh, France and Fiji, the European Union (EU) currently chairs the PDD, with Kenya as Vice-Chair. The PDD works across human mobility, DRR, climate change, humanitarian, development, human rights and other policy areas to support States and other stakeholders in implementing the **Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda**, which was endorsed by more than 100 governmental delegations during a Global Consultation in October 2015.

The **PDD Steering Group** is comprised of the following members: Australia, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Fiji, France, Germany, Kenya, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal, Switzerland, and the European Union (current Chair). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are standing invitees. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is a member ex officio, hosting the PDD Secretariat.

PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT
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