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Advocating for Change:

A Compendium on Climate Mobility

RESOURCES FOR RAISING AWARENESS
AND DRIVING ACTION TOWARD SOLUTIONS



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About the Climate Migration Council

The Climate Migration Council (CMC) is a group of leaders who share a commitment to putting people at the center of climate action and to accelerating global solutions to climate-related migration. The CMC urges governments across the globe to develop and adopt equitable and inclusive solutions to address climate-related human mobility.

The Climate Migration Council strives to: raise awareness about the importance of climate migration; highlight the urgency of this growing issue and promote unified action toward humane domestic and international policy solutions; and leverage the power of a collective voice, including leaders in local government, business, national security, advocacy, academia, and faith who share a commitment to putting people at the center of climate solutions.

Because the climate crisis acts as a powerful accelerant to migration patterns, there is a clear need for institutional leadership and new integrated strategies that anticipate and safely accommodate the increasing numbers of people affected by the climate crisis. The CMC steadfastly commits to press leaders and multilateral organizations on this growing issue.

For more information about the Climate Migration Council, please visit www.climatemigrationcouncil.org or contact info@climatemigrationcouncil.org

For more information about Emerson Collective's climate displacement work, please contact shana@emersoncollective.com

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Terminological Note

For better readability, the Compendium applies the shorthand “climate mobility” to mean both mobility and its flip side, immobility. “Mobility” here refers to people’s movement away from their homes or places of habitual residence in the context of climate impacts, whereas “immobility” refers to instances when people remain at these locations. “Mobility” is used as the umbrella term for migration, displacement, and relocation, while “immobility” encompasses both voluntary immobility and involuntary entrapment. The term “climate mobility” is applied without implying simple or straightforward causal links between climate change impacts, disasters, and human mobility or immobility.

Dedication

This Compendium is dedicated to the legacy of Professor Saleemul Huq, a visionary scientist and tireless advocate for climate justice. A lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and member of the Climate Migration Council (CMC), Saleemul played a pivotal role both in shaping global perspectives on the climate crisis and contributing to this Compendium. While his sudden passing on October 28, 2023, leaves a profound void, his legacy will continue to inspire the ongoing efforts against the climate crisis.

Acknowledgments

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Synopsis

As the climate and other environmental crises are increasingly affecting human mobility worldwide, the urgency for decisive action has never been more pronounced.

Humanity is far from meeting the essential goals of (1) mitigating greenhouse gas emissions to lessen the severity of the climate crisis, and (2) allocating adequate resources for climate adaptation and resilience building. Concurrently, other escalating disruptions, including profound alterations in land systems, freshwater, and biosphere integrity, are insufficiently addressed.

As a result, each year, more and more people find themselves either trapped in increasingly dangerous circumstances or forced to leave their homes. Existing policies, institutions, and actors are ill-equipped to handle the complexities of such climate change-related mobility (*henceforth “climate mobility”*).¹

The imperative to recalibrate the course of action toward comprehensive environmental stewardship and dedicated solutions to address climate mobility has never been more striking — especially as the least culpable and most marginalized communities worldwide shoulder the disproportional impact of the climate crisis.

This Compendium is both a resource and a practical toolkit to advance more concerted efforts on climate mobility. CMC members have signed the [CMC Declaration](#) and committed to advance suitable action. This document helps put these commitments into practice.

¹Please refer to the [Terminological Note](#) in the beginning of the Compendium, under the Table of Contents.

The first part of the Compendium outlines the need for change and required action toward solutions. CMC signatories have pledged to advocate for action on climate mobility, focusing on these foundational pillars: (1) improving displacement prevention; (2) supporting disaster-affected people who persist in place; (3) enhancing mobility pathways; (4) protecting displaced persons; and (5) taking action on Loss and Damage. This section of the Compendium offers two tools to transform the CMC declaration into action. First, it furnishes framing designed to elevate awareness and underscore the pressing need for action on climate mobility. Second, it suggests specific,

critical actions that are needed for addressing the issue and progressing toward viable solutions.² Together, they constitute a call for attention and comprehensive action along five interconnected axes.

The framing and actions in this Compendium serve as a versatile toolkit that can be adjusted to different contexts. The chapters allow readers to choose messages and actions based on their requirements, target audiences, and the platforms in which they participate. The main points are briefly summarized below, under each of the commitments outlined in the CMC Declaration.

Pillar 1

Scaling Up Prevention of Displacement

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Drastically mitigate emissions as well as develop, finance, and implement locally-driven disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation, and resilience strategies to avert and minimize drivers of displacement in the context of climate impacts, sudden-and slow-onset disasters, and other environmental threats, including adverse changes in land systems, freshwater, and biosphere integrity.

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts:

Step up actions to avert and minimize the interconnected environmental root causes of displacement, safeguarding the choices of people preferring to stay put.

2. Fit-for-Purpose Funding:

Increase, strategically allocate, and improve access to funding to address the environmental root causes of displacement more effectively.

3. Community-Centered Efforts:

Support locally-attuned prevention efforts that empower communities.

² The Strategic Working Group (SWG) of the CMC developed these framing and actions through a critical review and synthesis of existing assessments of evidence and legal or policy frameworks, as well as using the subject matter expertise of the SWG members.

Pillar 2

Supporting Disaster-Affected People Who Persist in Place

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Devise partnerships with all relevant actors and levels of governments to ensure that people who remain in areas affected by climate disasters are supported appropriately and in accordance with their needs. Support should be informed by a human rights-based approach, enable affected people to meet their needs, increase their agency over the long term.

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Disaster Response and Recovery:

Address needs and build resilience within disaster-affected communities to promote sustainable outcomes.

2. Rights-Based Approach and Protection:

Safeguard the rights and well-being of people remaining in disaster-affected communities.

3. Integrated and Collaborative Disaster Management:

Foster whole-of-government approaches and better collaboration at all levels of disaster management to ensure effective support for people staying in disaster-affected areas.

Pillar 3

Enhancing Mobility Pathways

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Expand and diversify the availability of pathways for safe, orderly, and regular migration in anticipation of, during, or in the aftermath of slow-and sudden-onset disasters. Facilitate and improve relocation and evacuation options where needed.

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Enhanced Mobility Options:

Expand mobility opportunities to broaden the range of strategies available to deal with the climate crisis.

2. Improved Well-Being Outcomes:

Maximize the benefits and minimize the challenges of moving to support both climate migrants and their communities.

3. Increased Receptiveness:

Encourage a positive view, better understanding, and acceptance of mobility among both receiving communities and policymakers.

Pillar 4

Protecting Displaced Persons

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Encourage all relevant actors to collaborate in developing and implementing coherent strategies and norms consistent with international law and standards to ensure that people displaced in the context of climate change and disasters receive adequate protection, can exercise their legal rights, have their well-being safeguarded, and are able to achieve durable solutions.

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Protection, Rights, and Support:

Protect, safeguard, and support people displaced in the context of the climate crisis and disasters while simultaneously meeting the needs of host communities.

2. Durable Solutions:

Establish conditions and provide the means allowing persons displaced in the context of the climate crisis and disasters to achieve enduring solutions, taking into account their aspirations and needs.

3. Enhanced Political Will, Collaboration, and Coordination:

Enhance political will, collaboration, and coordination across institutions at all levels to better address displacement.

Pillar 5

Taking Action on Loss and Damage

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Support affected countries in achieving just and equitable responses for climate mobility related to the climate crisis and disasters. Comprehensively avert, minimize, and address both economic and non-economic losses and damages resulting from climate impacts and ensuing mobility, particularly for people at high risk.³

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Just and Equitable Solutions:

Strengthen funding and data for Loss and Damage, prioritizing just and equitable responses to climate mobility.

2. Proactive and Responsive Measures:

Avert, minimize, and address loss and damage that leads to, and results from, climate mobility.

³ The wording of this pillar builds off language in the introduction of the [CMC Declaration](#), which calls for “equitable and inclusive solutions to address climate mobility.”

In the second part, the Compendium highlights the most significant approaches or perspectives that exist on climate mobility and which have shaped discussions and action on the topic.

The table below gives a short overview of these “lenses.” The respective sections in the Compendium discuss each of these perspectives, highlight the contexts in which they hold particular relevance, and explain the most important legal and policy frameworks or resources. The diversity of approaches allows readers to select the framing that aligns most

closely with their priorities and is most impactful for their target audience. Importantly, these viewpoints often complement each other rather than being entirely separate or mutually exclusive.

This part of the Compendium on lenses adds to an existing [Climate Migration Explainer](#), which explores definitions and numbers.

Major Lenses on Climate Mobility

Climate Justice Lens

Directs attention to the need for fair and equitable remedies for the climate crisis.

Development Lens

Calls for expanding opportunities for all to live lives they have reason to value.

Forced Displacement Lens

Addresses the protection of those forced to move in the context of the climate crisis.

Human Rights Lens

Underscores that all persons are rights holders and active agents.

Humanitarian Lens

Devotes attention to addressing human needs in crises.

Migration Management Lens

Points to the need for safe, orderly, and regular movement.

(Human) Security Lens

Explores perceived security implications (“*security*” lens) or the well-being of affected people (“*human security*” lens).

Urban Lens

Examines how climate mobility impact and unfold in cities.

A photograph of a dry, cracked landscape. In the foreground, a small, leafless tree stands on parched, brown earth. Behind it is a body of water with a reddish-brown hue. In the background, a steep, eroded cliff face is visible, showing layers of rock and some sparse vegetation. The overall scene suggests a drought or arid environment.

I. Action Toward Solutions

Pillar 1

Scaling Up Prevention of Displacement

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Drastically mitigate emissions as well as develop, finance, and implement locally-driven disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and resilience strategies to avert and minimize drivers of displacement in the context of climate impacts, sudden-and slow-onset disasters, and other environmental threats, including adverse changes in land systems, freshwater, and biosphere integrity.

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts:

Step up actions to avert and minimize the interconnected environmental root causes of displacement, safeguarding the choices of people preferring to stay put.

2. Fit-for-Purpose Funding:

Increase, strategically allocate, and improve access to funding to address the environmental root causes of displacement more effectively.

3. Community-Centered Efforts:

Support locally-attuned prevention efforts that empower communities.

1. Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts

Step up actions to avert and minimize the interconnected environmental root causes of displacement, safeguarding the choices of people who prefer to stay put.

Framing

Forced displacement in the context of the climate crisis is not inevitable. [Dedicated action can significantly expand opportunities for people who prefer to stay in their homes](#), and it can support their well-being and dignity. Due to past and ongoing emissions of greenhouse gases, [significant climate impacts are now unavoidable. Future emissions reductions are critical to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, but these reductions are far off track](#). Nonetheless, [robust evidence](#) and [modeling](#) confirm that effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are available to address some of the drivers of climate displacement, such as livelihood losses or food

insecurity. To ensure habitability and dignified livelihoods for people on the brink of displacement, a radical shift toward transformative, long-term prevention efforts is necessary. A key component of this shift is support for local authorities to identify areas and households at risk of displacement and to integrate displacement considerations into their disaster risk management (DRM), climate adaptation, development, as well as land-use planning policy and procedures. Given that multiple environmental, socioeconomic, and political factors drive displacement, integrating any climate adaptation action synergistically with broader resilience measures is critical.

Effective climate adaptation measures should help communities adjust to climate impacts and simultaneously improve ecosystem health, enhance social and economic well-being, and fortify governance.

Yet current efforts fall woefully short of addressing the rapidly intensifying climate crisis. [Emissions are still soaring](#), putting humanity on a trajectory toward a temperature increase well beyond the targets set by the Paris Agreement. Record-setting emissions have put [five major tipping points in the Earth system](#)⁴ at risk.⁵ If these tipping points are surpassed, crucial components of the Earth system might be forever altered. Simultaneously, if adaptation planning and implementation does not improve dramatically, [the adaptation gap will also continue to expand](#). Adaptation and resilience initiatives, alongside disaster risk reduction efforts, must be amplified to honor the choices of affected persons who aspire to stay in their homes. This is especially important for Indigenous communities with special relations to their ancestral lands. States should ensure that climate mobility dimensions are concretely considered in their adaptation planning. In particular, [the inclusion of climate mobility in National Adaptation plans \(NAPs\) and Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\) must improve considerably](#), as they set national priorities, targets, and commitments, and justify the need for climate finance.

While preventing displacement is imperative, in certain cases, moving can be a lifeline for people severely affected by climate impacts. Therefore, all prevention initiatives must thoroughly integrate mobility considerations; that is, they must be carefully designed to avoid trapping people in place against their will and facilitate safe, regular, and orderly

movement where needed (see [Pillar 3: Enhancing Mobility Pathways](#)). This must be undertaken in light of the recognition that environmental threats may complicate movement when it may be most needed.

Amid the pressing need for action on the climate crisis, humanity is concurrently disrupting the global environment through various other channels. The Earth system must be considered as an interconnected whole, with various scientifically proven planetary boundaries,⁶ which delimit the secure and sustainable operating space for humanity. Humans have already [breached six out of nine of these safe boundaries](#), including not only climate, land system, and freshwater change, but also biosphere integrity and others.⁷ [Defining not only a safe, but also a just operating space for humanity renders some of the Boundaries \(including climate\) even more stringent](#).⁸

As a result of these multiple breaches, billions of people find themselves dealing with a complex web of multiple, overlapping disturbances and shocks that amass over time, mutually amplifying one another. While [climate change is projected to diminish the niche suitable for human life significantly](#), the crossing of other planetary boundaries will create additional pressure, as the stability and resilience of the Earth system are lowered.

Therefore, the quest to address displacement requires a holistic approach that considers both climate change and the broader canvas of threatened planetary boundaries. Too often, these challenges are addressed as separate issues. A more holistic way of addressing the environmental root causes of displacement requires a multilevel, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach, informed by international standards and guidelines adapted to local contexts.

⁴ The familiar environments we experience result from the intricate interactions among the Earth's five systems: atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere.

⁵ With current warming, warm-water coral reefs are on the brink of tipping, and there is a possibility that four other systems—the Greenland and the West Antarctic ice sheets, the circulation of the North Atlantic Subpolar Gyre, and sections of permafrost susceptible to sudden thaw—might also approach critical tipping points.

⁶ [Planetary boundaries refer to nine evidence-based limits in the Earth](#)

[system](#), which, if crossed, curtail the environment's ability to self-regulate and thus threaten humanity's safe operating space.

⁷ The remaining two breached boundaries are biogeochemical flows and novel entities. Ocean acidification is approaching its boundary. Atmospheric aerosol loading and stratospheric ozone depletion are currently in the safe operating space.

⁸ This suggests that current generations undergo considerable, unjust harm even before the Earth system is destabilized. ([Pillar 5](#) discusses climate justice aspects in more detail.)

Recommended Actions

ADVANCE ACTION TO PRESERVE PLANETARY BOUNDARIES:

Address the interconnected nature of environmental challenges, among other things, by preserving the biosphere, oceans and freshwater, and land systems, in parallel to advancing climate action.

SIGNIFICANTLY MITIGATE EMISSIONS:

Immediately mitigate emissions in this decade to bring them to levels consistent with below 1.5°C and 2°C pathways. Fully enact conditional NDCs and formulate policies and actions to fulfill all commitments to achieve net-zero emissions. Take care that efforts do not result in new displacement.

EXPAND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MEASURES:

Intensify and broaden the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures, sensitive to displacement issues, to enhance resilience and reduce impacts on communities and ecosystems.

SCALE UP CLIMATE ADAPTATION EFFORTS:

Mainstream human mobility into national adaptation planning, while transforming the speed and scale of adaptation efforts and the required finance (see [Fit-for-Purpose Funding](#)).

Among other things:

- Establish favorable conditions for effective adaptation through political commitment and follow-through, clear institutional frameworks and policies, inclusive governance, as well as monitoring & evaluation (M&E) and accountability mechanisms.
- Combine structural measures (e.g., *fortifying infrastructure*) with non-structural measures (e.g., *early warning systems*) to increase adaptation effectiveness.
- Emphasize flexible, inclusive, and long-term adaptation planning that benefits multiple sectors in order to avoid ill-designed responses.
- Engage affected people (see [Community-Centered Efforts](#)). Support collaborative organizations, such as farmer cooperatives, which bolster collective action, pool resources, reduce risk, and enhance institutional, social, and economic factors.
- Implement multi-benefit adaptation. Varied response types, if designed and implemented well, have the potential to yield multiple benefits for ecosystems, communities and people in vulnerable situations, and governance. According to the IPCC, these could include:
 - Cross-sectoral**
 - Climate services, including early warning systems
 - Disaster risk management
 - Health and health systems adaptation
 - Livelihood diversification
 - Risk spreading and sharing
 - Social safety nets
 - Voluntary, safe, and orderly human migration and well-implemented planned relocation (see [Enhanced Mobility Options](#)).
 - For urban and infrastructure systems**
 - Green infrastructure and ecosystem services
 - Sustainable land use and urban planning
 - For land and ocean ecosystems**
 - Agroforestry
 - Biodiversity management and ecosystem connectivity
 - Coastal defense and hardening
 - Efficient livestock systems
 - Forest-based adaptation
 - Improved cropland management
 - Integrated coastal zone management
 - Sustainable aquaculture and fisheries
 - Water use efficiency and water resource management

BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE:

Beyond climate adaptation, implement programs to increase resilience against multiple environmental shocks and disturbances.

PROMOTE POLICY COHERENCE AND INTEGRATION:

Integrate mobility considerations into broader policy frameworks to ensure alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Promote better coherence between climate adaptation, environmental, disaster risk management, development, humanitarian, land use, and mobility policies and action.

ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION:

Encourage collaboration and information sharing across different sectors, across different government agencies, and across all involved stakeholders, to foster a holistic approach to managing complex, multidimensional environmental challenges that influence displacement drivers.

RAISE AWARENESS:

Promote public and political awareness to the need for safeguarding the threatened planetary boundaries as public goods for ensuring a secure operating space for humanity while reducing displacement pressure. Also raise awareness about the justice implications of transgressing these Boundaries.

2. Fit-for-Purpose Funding

Increase, strategically allocate, and improve access to funding to address the environmental root causes of displacement more effectively.

Framing

Financing from wealthier nations [falls significantly short of both their historical responsibilities and the resources required to meaningfully address the climate crisis](#) as well as related displacement. [The UN warned in 2023 that developing countries require 10 to 18 times more adaptation finance than current international public flows](#). This results in an estimated annual gap of US\$194-366 billion between what is needed and what is allocated in adaptation finance. Alarming, of the already insufficient pledges, only a fraction has been disbursed. [Moreover, much of the climate finance that is available has merely been diverted from Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#), contradicting the Copenhagen Accord's requirement that climate finance must be new and additional. This results not only in underfunded climate action but also jeopardizes other development goals.

Rectifying this inadequacy requires a fundamental shift in approach. First, all concerned actors must significantly increase overall funding for mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as for the SDGs overall. This can be done through expanding concessional finance, addressing debt and liquidity issues, boosting flows from development finance institutions, and mobilizing private finance. Innovative approaches like financial transaction or climate damages taxes, carbon levies, and the removal of fossil fuel subsidies could also help generate additional funding. Moreover, donors must deliver on their promise to provide at least 0.7% of their gross national income for development assistance, including for climate action. [Major emitters still fail to pay their fair share of climate finance](#) according to their responsibility (see also [Pillar 5](#)).

Second, financial resources already pledged must be promptly delivered, and planned investment projects must be expedited. Enforcing better disclosure regulations, transparent and replicable methodologies, and data validation could help ensure accountability and reliability. Funding must be readily accessible to communities at the forefront of climate impacts to implement effective adaptation and resilience measures, ensuring a more equitable and sustainable response to the climate crisis (*see also the section [Community-Centered Efforts](#)*).

Finally, available funding must be allocated strategically to address root causes of climate displacement. [A range of instruments are available, but the \(too limited\) available resources have not been used widely to address the issue.](#)

A primary obstacle for financing action on climate displacement is the lack of political will. The politicization of the issue, donor hesitation driven by perceived security implications, and reluctance to invest in Fragile, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) contexts hinder comprehensive engagement. Vague assumptions that financial support may increase people's desire to move may further reduce donor willingness.

Yet finance could be unlocked to address root causes of climate displacement by demonstrating that investments are not only just and necessary for human dignity, but are also more effective and cost-efficient than current inaction. Increasing both investment incentives and accountability could significantly contribute to increased political will. Further, NAPs under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [should include more concrete objectives regarding disaster displacement](#) to demonstrate the need for related finance. Bolstering the role of multilateral development banks (MDBs) is key, as they could invest in the type of long-term, large-scale projects that may be required to address climate displacement in a transformative manner. [Yet, the climate and displacement portfolios at MDBs generally remain siloed.](#) Finally, addressing knowledge gaps on effective interventions, bureaucratic challenges, the compartmentalization of funding, and absorption constraints could help utilize climate finance in a more targeted and more effective fashion for addressing displacement drivers.

Recommended Actions

BUILD POLITICAL WILL:

Galvanize stronger political commitment to allocate necessary funding for climate mobility, emphasizing the urgency and importance of these actions for safeguarding human dignity and promoting long-term sustainability. Increase both incentives and accountability mechanisms.

INCREASE FUNDING:

Increase the overall funding available for addressing root causes of climate displacement that supplements the existing funding flows, prioritizing the communities who are most at risk. Address debt and liquidity issues, initiate and expand concessional finance mechanisms, and boost flows from development institutions, private finance, and use innovative methods like financial transaction taxes and carbon levies.

ENSURE DONOR COMMITMENTS:

Hold wealthy donor countries accountable for providing 0.7% of their gross national income for development assistance and for attaining the US \$100 billion per year Climate Action Goal and doubling finance for adaptation. Deliver on the [New Collective Quantified Goal \(NCQG\)](#) with realistic scales for mitigation, adaptation, and Loss and Damage (*see [Pillar 5](#)*). Foster enhanced collaboration with emerging donors, ensuring a streamlined and harmonized approach.

EXPEDITE FUND DISBURSEMENT:

Streamline the delivery of financial resources to affected countries and communities, ensuring that investments are expedited and efficiently implemented. Address absorption constraints at national and subnational levels.

ENHANCE FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY:

Facilitate accessible and timely funding for countries most affected by the climate crisis by simplifying the procedures for accessing funds.

MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING FUNDING FOR ACTION ON DISPLACEMENT:

Include more concrete, specific objectives regarding disaster displacement in NAPs (and NDCs, where relevant) to justify and register the need for related climate finance.

OVERCOME SECTORAL SILOS:

Foster collaboration between sectors to break down existing barriers that hinder the strategic use and allocation of funding.

ENSURE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE ALLOCATION:

Enforce better disclosure regulations, transparent and replicable methodologies, and data validation. Establish transparent mechanisms for the allocation of funds, ensuring equity while minimizing misuse or mismanagement. Implement accountability frameworks to monitor usage.

STRENGTHEN MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

Implement robust M&E systems to track the impact and effectiveness of funded projects on the root causes of climate displacement, enabling the identification of successful strategies and areas for improvement. Engage in cross-institutional learning and sharing efforts.

DIRECT GLOBAL FUNDING TO LOCAL LEVELS:

Mobilize international resources for community-driven, mobility-sensitive efforts (see also [Community-Centered Efforts](#)).



3. Community-Centered Efforts

Support locally attuned prevention efforts that empower communities.

Framing

As past and ongoing emissions have made a range of severe climate impacts unavoidable, the world urgently requires renewed dedication to mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, as well as resilience building. In doing so, the empowerment of local communities must be prioritized at all times.

Initiatives should not merely recognize, but deeply integrate the unique traditional and/or Indigenous knowledge of the affected communities to foster resilience, empowerment, and self-determination. All efforts to address climate displacement and its underlying causes should be undertaken with meaningful participation of affected people. The same goes for measures to address the broader canvas of other environmental threats resulting from the

breaching of various other planetary boundaries beyond climate change, including land system, freshwater, and biosphere change (see [Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts](#)).

Adopting a community-centered approach places decision-making directly in the hands of those affected. Scientific evidence shows that cooperative decision-making and pooling of resources [makes adaptation more effective](#). This approach ensures that affected communities lead the way in addressing the potential displacement challenges they face, while supporting them in shaping their own futures. Community-centered efforts may not only prove more effective but are also important from a justice perspective (see also [Pillar 5](#)).

Recommended Actions

CONDUCT COMMUNITY-BASED ASSESSMENTS:

Conduct participatory assessments in communities facing climate risks to identify their specific adaptation needs, vulnerabilities, and opportunities, as they relate to staying put or moving.

LOCALIZE FUNDING AND DECISION-MAKING:

Boost direct funding to local authorities, including for technical cooperation, humanitarian relief, climate action and Loss and Damage. Actively involve local communities in decision-making, allocating, and implementing funds. Address local absorption constraints and provide capacity-building programs to enhance capabilities for financial management and project implementation (see also [Fit-for-Purpose Funding](#) and [Pillar 5](#)).

ENSURE PEOPLE-CENTRIC MEASURES:

Ensure active community engagement in designing prevention frameworks and implementing related efforts in order to empower communities, foster long-term buy-in, and increase the sustainability of interventions.

DEVELOP CAPACITIES:

Support local communities, civil society organizations, and governments through training, knowledge sharing, and technical support. Establish platforms for sharing best practices, offering mentorship, and facilitating skill development to enhance technical capabilities.

DESIGN SUPPORTIVE AND ALIGNED POLICIES:

Establish policies that encourage the integration of locally driven, displacement-sensitive solutions into national strategies, including development and land use agendas, DRM and climate adaptation, NAPs, and NDCs. Foster a policy environment that recognizes the importance of community empowerment and community-based solutions.

ENHANCE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION:

Foster collaboration among stakeholders at all levels—with particular attention to local communities and civil society organizations—to create a unified approach to prevention. Encourage partnerships that leverage diverse expertise and resources, ensuring coordinated and effective responses.



Pillar 2

Supporting Disaster-Affected People Who Persist in Place

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Devise partnerships with all relevant actors and levels of governments to ensure that people who remain in areas affected by climate disasters are supported appropriately and in accordance with their needs. Support should be informed by a human rights-based approach, enable affected people to meet their needs, and increase their agency over the long term.

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Disaster Response and Recovery:

Address needs and build resilience within disaster-affected communities to promote sustainable outcomes.

2. Rights-Based Approach and Protection:

Safeguard the rights and well-being of people remaining in disaster-affected communities.

3. Integrated and Collaborative Disaster Management:

Foster whole-of-government approaches and better collaboration at all levels of disaster management to ensure effective support for people staying in disaster-affected areas.

1. Disaster Response and Recovery

Address needs and build resilience within disaster-affected communities to promote sustainable outcomes.

Framing

The intensifying climate crisis amplifies the frequency and severity of known hazards and concurrently introduces unprecedented threats, such as rising sea levels. In the wake of these and other climate disasters, substantial segments of affected communities tend to stay in place, where they contend with significant humanitarian and developmental challenges. These challenges include disrupted livelihoods, health burdens, and psychological strains. If people's needs in disaster-affected areas remain unattended, and their chances to recover in place diminish, they may risk losing their lives or becoming displaced, even if they aspire to remain at home.⁹

At-risk populations affected by climate-related sudden-or slow-onset disasters must receive essentials such as clean water, nutrition, and shelter to address their immediate needs. These populations also require comprehensive development support to increase their prospects for recovery in dignity. Intertwining immediate humanitarian assistance with longer-term development initiatives that stress empowerment, self-sufficiency, and resilience facilitates sustainable rehabilitation, lessens vulnerability, and lowers the risk of displacement. Additionally, comprehensive interventions at the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding-Nexus (HDP), which integrate peacebuilding measures

⁹ [Pillar 3](#) discusses the need to expand and diversify the range of strategies to address climate impacts in a way that better encompasses mobility options, where needed and desired. This is especially critical in regions where the limits of adaptation have been reached, as mentioned under [Pillar 1](#).

from the outset, can significantly improve social cohesion and conflict resolution after disasters.

There are significant challenges in providing such comprehensive support to people remaining in disaster-affected areas. Limited financial resources and inadequate funding mechanisms constrain the scale and breadth of both humanitarian and development work. Furthermore, bureaucratic obstacles and administrative or governance inefficiencies can impede the timely delivery of essential services. Integrating humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts presents challenges

due to the distinct focuses of these three approaches. Additionally, systemic inequalities and social barriers are often deeply entrenched in societies, and impede the delivery of tailored and equitable support to at-risk populations. The inadequate incorporation of local knowledge and community participation in the planning and execution of programs may result in standardized approaches that overlook the unique circumstances of various people, thereby diminishing effectiveness and inclusivity. Overcoming these challenges would help cultivate resilience and agency, and would serve to foster more equitable and long-lasting results for all those affected by disasters who remain in place.

Recommended Actions

ENACT LEGISLATION AND POLICY REFORM:

Develop and implement legislation and policies at all levels of government that prioritize disaster risk reduction and management as well as HDP-Nexus approaches after disasters, inclusive of mobility dimensions.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE HDP-NEXUS APPROACHES:

Ensure disaster-affected people have access to essential humanitarian assistance. Simultaneously, foster greater integration and coordination between humanitarian and development actors. Invest in capacity- and resilience-building initiatives within disaster-prone communities, including preparedness and risk reduction efforts, to enhance their ability to prevent, cope with, and recover from disasters. Address immediate needs and simultaneously build long-term resilience. Also utilize conflict-sensitive approaches and promote community-driven peacebuilding initiatives to foster social cohesion and resolve conflicts.

BRIDGE FUNDING GAPS:

Bridge funding gaps to ensure direct resources for effective assistance and support for disaster-affected people, in line with the

localization agenda. Make more use of development and peacebuilding funds for HDP-Nexus work.

ENSURE CONTINUITY OF SUPPORT:

Foster long-term resilience and adaptive capacity in disaster-affected communities, ensuring continuous support beyond immediate relief.

TAILOR INCLUSIVE SUPPORT MECHANISMS:

Develop tailored and inclusive support mechanisms that cater to the needs of marginalized and at-risk groups or individuals (see [Rights-Based Approach and Protection](#)).

PROMOTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION:

Integrate local knowledge and participation in the design and implementation of all HDP-Nexus programs to ensure context-specific and effective responses (see [Community-Centered Efforts](#)).

ESTABLISH M&E AND LEARNING FRAMEWORKS:

Establish robust M&E and learning frameworks to assess the effectiveness and impact of interventions, enabling continuous improvements and adaptive approaches.

¹⁰ Pillar 3: Enhancing Mobility Pathways discusses the need to expand and diversify the range of available strategies to deal with the climate crisis to include better mobility options, where needed and desired.

2. Rights-Based Approach and Protection

Safeguard the rights and well-being of people remaining in disaster-affected communities.

Framing

Protection under international law involves safeguarding people from physical harm as well as defending civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights. Prioritizing human rights-based approaches in disaster management can contribute to the dignity and well-being of all affected persons, regardless of their circumstances. Disasters do not impact everyone equally; intersecting factors such as socioeconomic, health, and mobility status, as well as age, ethnicity, gender, and sex significantly influence how people experience and are able to cope with the impact of disasters. Marginalized groups, including Indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and those living in poverty, often face compounded challenges due to preexisting inequalities and limited access to critical resources. At-risk groups, such as children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with disabilities, are particularly susceptible to heightened rights violations before, during, and after disasters. Adhering to rights-based

principles recognizes the diverse factors that contribute to respective vulnerabilities.

Despite widespread recognition of the crucial role of rights-based approaches in disaster management, their practical implementation remains inadequate. Challenges such as insufficient resources, limited institutional capacities, and inadequate understanding of diverse vulnerability factors often hinder the effective integration of rights-based principles into policy and practice, particularly in volatile and insecure environments. Furthermore, the complexities of social, political, and economic contexts sometimes contribute to the neglect of certain rights, leaving at-risk groups further exposed to violations, discrimination, and injustice. Rights-based approaches promote inclusivity, equity, and accountability, fostering a more just and humane response that addresses the needs of all people.

Recommended Actions

PRIORITIZE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION:

Embed human rights protection at the core of disaster management, ensuring the dignity and well-being of all affected persons, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups or people.

PROMOTE COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUSIVE FRAMEWORKS:

Advocate for the adoption of rights-based frameworks to prioritize equity, inclusivity, and accountability in disaster management, ensuring the protection of the rights and dignity of all affected people. Examples include

the [IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters](#), the [Sphere Handbook](#), and the [ILC Draft Articles on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters](#).

IMPLEMENT EXISTING OBLIGATIONS:

Provide resources for implementing existing human rights obligations, strengthening institutional structures already in place. Effectively integrate rights-based principles into disaster management practice. Enhance legal frameworks and safeguards to improve protection.

CONDUCT RIGHTS-BASED ASSESSMENTS:

Conduct comprehensive rights-based assessments to identify the specific needs of, and risks faced by, diverse disaster-affected populations, taking into account intersecting social factors.

PROMOTE INCLUSIVE PROTECTION MEASURES:

Recognize and address the intersecting forms of discrimination, inequality, and structural dynamics that contribute to vulnerability, ensuring equitable and humane treatment of all during disaster management. Pay special attention to the rights and needs of marginalized groups.

PROMOTE AND ENSURE NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Uphold principles of non-discrimination to ensure that assistance and support are provided impartially and without prejudice.

ESTABLISH LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS:

Enforce legal protections that uphold the rights of individuals remaining in affected areas, ensuring access to justice as well as legal redress and grievance mechanisms in case of rights violations.

FACILITATE ACCESS TO INFORMATION:

Ensure timely and accurate information is accessible to all, allowing people to make informed decisions and participate actively in the disaster management process.

3. Integrated and Collaborative Disaster Management

Foster whole-of-government approaches and better collaboration at all levels of disaster management to ensure effective support for people staying in disaster-affected areas.

Framing

National governments play a vital role in preparing for disasters and providing protection, assistance, and support to affected populations within their territory. Deference to local leadership allows for more locally attuned, effective, and sustainable solutions. Bolstering national efforts to lead and coordinate disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery simultaneously strengthens national capabilities, ownership, and accountability. Doing so should support whole-of-government approaches to effectively address the complex challenges related to disasters and displacement, given that these phenomena cannot be fully managed by a single government policy sector. To create and enforce effective policies and practices, a comprehensive approach involving

all branches of the government is necessary, ensuring horizontal policy coherence and coordination across different sectors. Bringing together sectors such as DRM, health, education, and social services enhances coordination, reduces redundancy, and optimizes resource allocation for streamlined disaster preparedness and response. Engaging local, regional, and national authorities in a country can leverage their respective strengths and expertise. Multilevel collaboration facilitates the sharing of information and resources, enables a better understanding of diverse community needs, fosters collective responsibility, and builds public trust in the government's ability to support disaster-affected populations. An inclusive

whole-of-government approach thus contributes to more comprehensive strategies and support for affected populations.

Simultaneously, not all national governments are able to meet their responsibilities due to limited resources, institutional capacity, leadership, or political will. Balancing local leadership with the need for external support and expertise demands a delicate equilibrium. Ensuring that humanitarian access is unimpeded often necessitates navigating complex political, bureaucratic, and logistical hurdles and landscapes. It requires efforts to build mutual trust and understanding among stakeholders.

Despite frequent calls for the coordination and collaboration reforms described above, their implementation remains insufficient,

and fragmented responses further jeopardize disaster-affected communities and increase the risk of entrapment or displacement.

Embedding a whole-of-government approach requires overcoming institutional silos and fostering a culture of collaboration. Similarly, collaboration across various levels of government requires overcoming jurisdictional complexities and fostering a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities. Limited capacity for effective communication and coordination, bureaucratic hurdles and intergovernmental conflicts, as well as divergent political priorities can delay decision-making and flows of information, and can create discrepancies in the allocation of support. Tackling these challenges would establish a more integrated approach to disaster management that ensures effective responses for all people staying put.

Recommended Actions

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS:

Establish comprehensive national disaster preparedness programs to enhance capabilities, ownership, and accountability. Allocate necessary resources and support to build related institutional capacity.

EMPOWER LOCAL LEADERSHIP:

Develop mechanisms that empower and prioritize local leadership in disaster management. Invest in community-based disaster preparedness and response training programs to strengthen local capacities and resilience.

IMPROVE HUMANITARIAN ACCESS:

Strengthen access to international assistance and protection when local capacity is strained. Negotiate with states in cases of restricted or denied access, leveraging core humanitarian principles, international humanitarian law, and national legal norms. Enhance programming in situations of limited access, using strategies

like remote management, low-profile approaches, collaboration with local organizations, and cross-border operations. Advocate with the government and ensure accountability, e.g., by condemning obstructed access through the UN Security Council and other fora.

ADVOCATE FOR GLOBAL SUPPORT:

Advocate for global support to address the challenges faced by national governments in disaster response and management. Encourage international stakeholders to provide necessary assistance to countries facing resource constraints in disaster management.

INSTITUTIONALIZE WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACHES:

Integrate whole-of-government approaches into national disaster management frameworks, promoting collaboration among various sectors for a holistic disaster response strategy. Foster a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange.

STRENGTHEN MULTILEVEL COORDINATION:

Establish robust protocols and channels for information sharing and decision-making as well as collaborative platforms among government levels and external stakeholders during disaster responses. Invest in capacity development to facilitate efficient communication and decision-making.

ALLOCATE RESOURCES EQUITABLY:

Establish protocols to address disparities in political priorities and resource allocation, ensuring all communities receive adequate support before, during, and in the aftermath of disasters.



Pillar 3

Enhancing Mobility Pathways

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Expand and diversify the availability of pathways for safe, orderly, and regular migration in anticipation of, during, or in the aftermath of slow- and sudden-onset disasters. Facilitate and improve relocation and evacuation options where needed.

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Enhanced Mobility Options:

Expand mobility opportunities to broaden the range of strategies available to deal with the climate crisis.

2. Improved Well-Being Outcomes:

Maximize the benefits and minimize the challenges of moving to support both climate migrants and their communities.

3. Increased Receptiveness:

Encourage a positive view, better understanding, and acceptance of mobility among both receiving communities and policymakers.

1. Enhanced Mobility Options

Expand mobility opportunities to broaden the range of strategies available to deal with the climate crisis.

Framing

While many people prefer to stay in their homes, the toll of the worsening climate crisis makes that choice difficult or impossible for some. Other options that can preserve the dignity and well-being of affected populations must be available. This means not only improving conditions in current locations (see [Pillar 1: Scaling Up Prevention](#)), but also expanding migration pathways to safe destinations, within and across borders.

Ensuring that everyone has the means to safely leave threatened areas in anticipation of harmful climate impacts is not only a humanitarian imperative, it is also a legal and moral obligation. In the context of cross-border movement,

[the international community has the responsibility to prevent, respond to, and offer solutions for climate displacement](#). In order to meet these responsibilities, states must provide safe migration options that people can use before they are forced to flee for survival. States should fulfill their commitments made in various frameworks, including the [Global Compact for Migration](#) (GCM), to expand such international migration options.¹⁰ Conversely, state policies that restrict mobility often lead to even more harmful outcomes, trapping people in dangerous areas, or leaving individuals with no regular pathways so they turn to irregular migration routes that put them at risk and may lead to the proliferation of exploitative practices by traffickers and smugglers.

¹⁰ Above all under the GCM Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

To expand and diversify cross-border mobility pathways in the context of disasters and climate change, concerned actors should build on existing entry points in policies and laws and, where they do not exist, develop new, rights-based, gender- and child-responsive instruments. For example, they can expand existing opportunities for regular labor, educational, and family mobility that include affected persons who move in a more voluntary manner. Simultaneously, they can enhance refugee, compassionate, and humanitarian admission measures for people forced to move who are unable to return to their homes (see [Pillar 4](#)). Promoting collaborative efforts among states, international organizations, and civil society can help effectively broaden and diversify mobility pathways, as well as harmonize strategies and enhance their predictability. Implementing these strategies requires addressing key hurdles, including overcoming political resistance and public skepticism, as well as ensuring the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

While restrictions on mobility within countries are usually less stringent than those limiting cross-border movement, many people seeking to leave their threatened homes are unable to easily or safely do so. States should work to lift efforts aimed at discouraging internal migration through means such as residence permits or controls on movement. They could also devise means to support movement, including through financial, tax, infrastructure, housing, and job opportunities in safer locations. Where needed, rights-based evacuations for people at imminent risk and managed retreat or relocation strategies should enhance the suite of options.

The expansion of mobility pathways does not replace the crucial need to invest in local adaptation and resilience building (see [Pillar 1](#)). Increased migration options do, however, provide options for people whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate impacts.

Recommended Actions

Cross-Border Migration Pathways

REVIEW POLICIES AND LAWS AND CHOOSE AREAS FOR REFORMS:

Review existing frameworks to optimize mobility pathways and identify areas needing reform, including all aspects of mobility, such as visa categories, work permits, family reunification, and humanitarian admissions. Gather views from all relevant stakeholders on the impact and effectiveness of existing policies and necessary changes. Make adjustments to increase the number, flexibility, and accessibility of pathways for regular migration from affected areas. Regionally harmonize laws and policies to enhance predictability.¹¹

CLIMATE-HUMANITARIAN VISA:

Create new visas for residents from highly disaster-affected or disaster-prone areas, especially for those unable to access other mobility routes. The visa should not require specific skill levels or preexisting job offers, grant rights similar to those of citizenship, and offer pathways to permanent residency and citizenship.

¹¹ See for example the work in the [Regional Conference on Migration](#) and the [Conferencia Suramericana sobre Migraciones](#) (South American Conference on Migration).

CLIMATE VISA LOTTERY:

Implement a visa lottery program for residents of climate-vulnerable countries, providing a middle ground between entirely humanitarian and skill-based migration criteria. Allocate a predetermined number of visas to people from a set of climate-vulnerable countries.

SKILL- AND/OR CLIMATE-BASED MIGRATION AGREEMENTS:

Ensure that climate-vulnerable countries have incentives integrated into general migration systems, such as waived/reduced visa fees. Consider unilateral immigration visa programs. Establish mechanisms for ethical recruitment, implement robust safeguards to prevent exploitation and promote economic security, including legal status and rights, decent work conditions, and protection.

- **Temporary and Seasonal Worker Programs:**

Establish or enhance temporary and seasonal worker programs that match the labor demands of labor markets with migrants aspiring to work, ensuring that their rights are protected

- **Labor mobility:**

Negotiate labor migration agreements with climate-vulnerable countries or regions to address related displacement and labor market gaps.

- **Educational Mobility:**

Strengthen agreements that support academic mobility from affected areas, including scholarships for students and educators, visiting professor programs, and collaborative training initiatives.

EXPEDITE PROCESSING:

Implement flexible procedures and fee waivers to expedite entry and visa processing for those affected by disasters.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAMS:

Expand family reunification programs and allow migrants from climate-affected areas to sponsor family members.

FREE MOVEMENT AGREEMENTS:

Use free movement agreements to allow entry and stay of persons affected by the climate crisis and disasters, especially in regions with historically permeable borders and existing regional labor markets. Strengthen and adapt existing regional frameworks to respond to the needs arising from climate mobility. Enhance eligibility criteria, capacity, and political will for their implementation. Consider specific transhumance agreements where reasonable.

IMPLEMENT POLICY REFORMS EFFECTIVELY:

Amend existing laws or enact new legislation to support the implementation of reformed mobility policies. Invest in training and capacity building for responsible entities. Eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles. Implement labor market matching systems and foster partnerships between governments and private sector entities to enhance the effectiveness of labor matching and skills development. Strengthen mechanisms for M&E of mobility policies and ensure accountability for abuses or violations, while supporting oversight and reporting.

SUPPORT INFORMED DECISION-MAKING BY MIGRANTS:

Empower potential migrants to make informed decisions. Provide accessible information about mobility options, eligibility criteria, and application processes through public awareness campaigns.

Internal Migration Pathways

ENABLE SAFER INTERNAL MIGRATION:

Ensure free movement by removing legal, administrative, and/or practical barriers to movement, including residence permits and movement controls. Implement measures supporting reasonable internal mobility, such as pre-departure training, financial incentives, tax advantages, improved infrastructure, affordable housing, and secure job opportunities in safer destinations.

IMPROVE EVACUATIONS FOR PEOPLE AT IMMINENT RISK:

Ensure well-planned, lawful, safe and organized, efficient, and timely evacuations where necessary. Prioritize the meeting of basic needs and upholding human rights. Prevent arbitrary or prolonged displacement resulting from these actions and ensure returns are possible.

FACILITATE PLANNED RELOCATION OR MANAGED RETREAT:

Transform soft law instruments, such as the [Guidance on Planned Relocations](#), into binding instruments that regulate planning, information, consultation, and participation, measures pending and during physical relocation, providing conditions for rebuilding lives, land and compensation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as funding. Where needed, undertake inclusive, culturally appropriate relocations, informed by evidence and best practices. Prioritize the safety and well-being of all and ensure compliance with international and regional standards, including the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#).



2. Improved Well-Being Outcomes

Maximize the benefits and minimize the challenges of moving to support both climate migrants and their communities.

Framing

When people impacted by the climate crisis have no alternative left but to move, or opt to move, promoting safe, orderly, and regular mobility pathways is essential to maximize well-being and prospects for everyone involved. Moving always comes with potentials and risks, [but scientific evidence underlines that the outcomes of climate mobility are not set in stone](#): Improving the resources for those moving, and the conditions under which they move, would significantly harness the benefits while minimizing the associated risks for all.

Mobility policies, the quality of governance, and other structural conditions significantly shape the context in which climate migrants move and establish themselves, consequently affecting outcomes across the board. Migrants' journeys should be characterized by safety, respect, fairness, and humane treatment, safeguarding their inherent dignity and rights. Ensuring their protection from violence, exploitation, abuse, and discrimination throughout transit and upon arrival is fundamental. Regular and authorized channels can facilitate dignified and documented mobility, and can also promote rule of law, legal certainty, transparency, and accountability.

Conditions in both transit and receiving regions strongly shape the outcomes for all involved. Improving these conditions requires implementing receptive and supportive policies as well as targeted assistance that fosters an environment where migrants and receiving communities can both prosper.¹² Doing so would prioritize the empowerment and inclusion of migrants into receiving communities, fostering mutual understanding, and allowing both new

and established residents to contribute positively to their communities by leveraging their skills, knowledge, and experiences.

While improved structural conditions are essential for achieving better migration outcomes, this is not enough. Equally important is the empowerment of individuals and communities affected by climate mobility. [Evidence shows that higher agency among migrants, increased household resources, and greater freedom of movement, yield greater benefits for everyone involved](#). Mobility is most beneficial when it is well informed and planned, consensual, and executed with sufficient resources. Supporting people's ability to pursue their desired goals and desired outcomes requires concerted Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) interventions throughout the entire mobility cycle (prior to, during, and after movement).

These interventions should encompass receiving communities as well as migrants themselves. Action should also support translocal ties to enhance the potential of mobility across locations, including for people remaining at home.

This transition comes with its own set of hurdles. Major challenges include addressing the lack of adequate legal frameworks for protecting migrants and ensuring their well-being throughout movement and settlement. In many instances, the political will to adopt more accommodating policies appears remarkably limited, despite the evident advantages. Fostering inclusion and providing access to essential services and employment opportunities remain significant obstacles. The need for substantial financial resources and international cooperation is also critical.

¹² The next key message in this section discusses the need for [Increased Receptiveness](#) in more detail.

Recommended Actions

INCREASE SAFETY OF PATHWAYS:

Implement safety measures along migration routes and implement robust monitoring and surveillance systems to ensure timely responses to risks. Provide accessible information and guidance to migrants. Establish legal frameworks that protect rights and facilitate access to justice in case of abuses.

SAFEGUARD ORDER AND REGULARITY OF PATHWAYS:

Prioritize the creation and maintenance of legal mobility channels to ensure well-coordinated journeys in which migrants enjoy full protection under rule of law. Establish robust legal frameworks and international agreements as well as efficient coordination, oversight, and M&E.

PROMOTE MIGRANTS' AGENCY:

Strengthen the agency of migrants through adequate resources and holistic HDP-Nexus interventions before, during, and after their journey. Provide migrants with the rights, opportunities, and skills so they can flourish. Interventions may include: education and skills development as well as training programs for potential migrants to ensure they can make a dignified living in destination countries; language and cultural inclusion support; information on routes, destinations, and conditions to enable people to make more informed migration decisions with greater control; as well as mental and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services for those who have experienced disasters, trauma, conflict, or displacement.

ENHANCE CONDITIONS IN TRANSIT AND RECEIVING AREAS:

Implement supportive policies and HDP efforts to foster an inclusive and beneficial environment for migrants and transit or receiving communities. This can encompass improved infrastructure, access to basic services, accessible legal and social services, conflict resolution and mediation mechanisms, and sustainable inclusion strategies.

Allocate resources and establish support services that cater to the needs of climate migrants.

MONITOR AND EVALUATE WELL-BEING:

Provide resources for M&E of the well-being of immigrants and receiving communities, with regular reporting to relevant entities.

SUPPORT TRANSLOCAL TIES:

Facilitate the maintenance of translocal connections and networks for climate migrants, ensuring ongoing support and communication across localities. Among other things, implement programs that provide support to migrants', families, including access to education, health care, vocational training, and microfinance. Create targeted programs that leverage both social and financial remittances to foster community development and empower people in migrants' sending communities, including financial literacy and investment training, access to microfinance, support for small business development initiatives, and the exchange of new skills and ideas. Establish and enforce fair and transparent regulations on remittance fees.

ADVANCE COOPERATION AND DIPLOMACY:

Engage in diplomatic efforts to promote international cooperation on issues related to climate mobility. Advocate for the development of comprehensive frameworks and agreements that facilitate the safe, orderly, and regular movement of people.

3. Increased Receptiveness

Encourage a positive view, better understanding, and acceptance of mobility among both receiving communities and policymakers.

Framing

Climate change presents a severe crisis, but related human mobility should not be perceived as inherently problematic. As communities struggle to address escalating climate impacts where they live, moving can, under the right conditions, serve as a life-saving strategy that allows for adaptation and well-being (see the previous point on [Improved Well-Being Outcomes](#)). Effectively harnessing the positive potential of mobility, however, depends on cultivating receptive conditions within receiving communities. These conditions, in turn, depend on people's perceptions of migration. To bolster the positive potential of climate mobility requires fostering a better understanding, promoting acceptance, and cultivating a more positive view of migrants in receiving areas.

On the one hand, the increasing biases and prejudices against migrants globally are deeply concerning. These detrimental dynamics perpetuate marginalization and discrimination, originating from both official policies and actions

taken by local residents. Labeling undocumented migrants as “illegal” is dehumanizing and can worsen their situation, perpetuating exclusion and adversity. Furthermore, false narratives that depict climate migrants as security threats must be countered, considering the [lack of empirical evidence supporting such claims. On the other hand, encouraging recent research suggests](#) that many residents in receiving areas view environmental drivers as valid reasons for moving and do not perceive climate migrants as posing significant risks.

The goal is to foster empathy and understanding, stressing the shared humanity, rights, and potentials of all people, irrespective of their mobility status. More inclusive societies would empower migrants to become active members of their communities, and encourage the reciprocal engagement of both receiving communities and migrants in respecting each other's rights and customs.

Recommended Actions

TAKE ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY ACTION:

Implement policies and laws to protect migrants from xenophobia, racism, marginalization, and stigmatization, ensuring they are treated fairly and equitably, and promoting inclusivity and dignity for all, regardless of their mobility status and other intersecting social factors.

INCLUSIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

Develop inclusive policy goals on labor market inclusion, family reunification, education,

health, and other key issues. For example, promote inclusive school environments that embrace diversity, incorporating evidence-based information on mobility into education curricula.

PROMOTE POSITIVE NARRATIVES:

Emphasize the humanitarian, legal, and moral dimensions as well as the potential benefits of climate mobility, encouraging a proactive and constructive perspective on its potential contributions to communities and justice.

RAISE AWARENESS:

Initiate campaigns to dispel false narratives about climate migration as a security threat, emphasizing the lack of empirical support for such claims and providing evidence-based information.

FOSTER EMPATHY:

Facilitate community engagement to build empathy among residents in areas receiving climate migrants, fostering cohesive and compassionate societies and recognizing the shared humanity and rights of all people.

PROMOTE PEACEBUILDING:

Support peacebuilding and conflict resolution in regions that receive climate migrants, fostering stable environments conducive to sustainable development.

ENGAGE COMMUNITIES:

Support the active participation of receiving communities and migrants in decision-making processes, prioritizing their voices in shaping policies and programs. Promote cultural inclusion and the celebration of diversity within receiving communities. Facilitate interactions, shared identity, social cohesion, and mutual understanding, e.g., through intercultural dialogue or mentorship programs.

BEST PRACTICE EXCHANGE:

Promote mutual respect for diverse cultures through the exchange of best practices in inclusion policies, fostering social cohesion and acceptance of diversity.

FACILITATE COLLABORATION:

Foster partnerships among policymakers, community leaders, and advocacy groups to create an environment conducive to the successful inclusion of climate migrants.



Pillar 4

Protecting Displaced Persons

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Encourage all relevant actors to collaborate in developing and implementing coherent strategies and norms consistent with international law and standards to ensure that people displaced in the context of climate change and disasters receive adequate protection, can exercise their legal rights, have their well-being safeguarded, and are able to achieve durable solutions.

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Protection, Rights, and Support:

Protect, safeguard, and support people displaced in the context of the climate crisis and disasters while simultaneously meeting the needs of host communities.

2. Durable Solutions:

Establish conditions and provide the means allowing persons displaced in the context of the climate crisis and disasters to achieve enduring solutions, taking into account their aspirations and needs.

3. Enhanced Political Will, Collaboration, and Coordination:

Enhance political will, collaboration, and coordination across institutions at all levels to better address displacement.

1. Protection, Rights, and Support

Protect, safeguard, and support people displaced in the context of the climate crisis and disasters while simultaneously meeting the needs of host communities.

Framing

Not all displacement can be avoided. The political failure to mitigate climate impacts and other environmental disruptions means that local and regional adaptation limits will be exceeded. In such situations, forcing people to stay would be unethical and counterproductive. Conversely, effectively facilitating migration, relocation, or evacuation may offer adaptive potential and avoid the harms of displacement (see [Pillar 3](#)). Yet, many affected people will lack access to such pathways and still be forced to flee to save their lives. In such cases, it is key that displaced persons have nondiscriminatory access to protection and assistance, including emergency support and full respect for their human rights.

Initially, most displacement occurs within countries, and national governments bear the primary responsibility for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Their responsibility encompasses proactive and reactive measures. First, governments must anticipate and prepare for scenarios where displacement becomes the sole viable recourse for saving lives, to prevent being overwhelmed in the face of sudden or large-scale internal displacement. Second, if people are displaced, states must ensure adequate protection and assistance. The challenges for protecting IDPs, however, are often substantial. There is no dedicated global protection treaty for IDPs as there is for refugees,

although regional and international frameworks offer valuable tools.¹³ Furthermore, addressing the needs of IDPs implicates the domestic policy of sovereign states. International interventions should not marginalize governmental actors, yet balancing their sovereignty with the imperative to safeguard IDPs can prove complex. Moreover, a majority of IDPs live in developing countries with limited capacity to provide adequate protection and assistance, and the international community regularly fails to mobilize required support. Overall, the political will for supporting IDPs is often limited in home and donor states, as discussed in the section [Enhanced Will](#).

For cross-border displacement in the context of the climate crisis and disasters, states along with the international community bear responsibility for preparedness and protection measures (*including measures discussed under [Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts](#)*). States should anticipate forced displacement in the context of climate and should preemptively adopt preparedness measures, as informed by relevant international standards and guidelines.¹⁴ In particular, cross-border displacement may trigger the [non-refoulement principle](#) that bars removal of persons to places where their lives or freedom would be threatened seriously.¹⁵ Furthermore, most people affected by climate change and disasters are unlikely to qualify for

refugee status, since the Refugee Convention only provides protection to people who fear persecution if they are returned home. Still, those displaced in the context of climate change and disasters may have a claim for refugee status as a result of the intersection between climatic and other factors that qualify for protection. [Additionally, some regional refugee instruments may offer protection in cases when people flee from areas with massive human rights violations or disturbances to public order.](#)

Beyond multilateral protection frameworks, many states offer discretionary humanitarian protection for those displaced across borders in the context of climate impacts or disasters (*see also [Enhanced Mobility Options](#)*); while temporary stay may suit certain situations, others necessitate lasting solutions. Overall, however, many states demonstrate a limited political resolve to grant displaced persons from another state access to their territory, provide them with legal status, and sufficiently finance protection and assistance. Because the scale of cross-border displacement may exceed the capacity of national structures, cohesive global cooperation and the robust implementation of appropriate legal frameworks may be necessary to respond effectively to the evolving needs of displaced people.

Recommended Actions

For All Displacement

BE BETTER PREPARED:

Foster proactive measures and preemptive planning in regions prone to receive displaced persons, prioritizing early warning, risk assessments, and scenario planning to ensure timely and effective response mechanisms are in place. See also recommended measures under [Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts](#).

ENACT PROTECTION STRATEGIES:

Establish robust protection strategies for displaced persons, including identification procedures; registration mechanisms; admission protocols; safeguarding against violence, exploitation, discrimination, and human rights abuses; promoting social inclusion as well as providing access to legal aid, justice systems, and redress mechanisms.

¹³ Key frameworks are listed in the section [Forced Displacement Lens](#).

¹⁴ The section Forced Displacement Lens details the most relevant frameworks.

¹⁵ The non-refoulement principle is enshrined in various human rights frameworks. [If climate impacts reach critical severity, individuals may qualify for international protection on these grounds.](#) As customary international law, the principle holds even for states not party to specific treaties.

ENSURE ACCESS TO SUPPORT:

Integrate impartial, immediate relief with long-term support, incorporating the search for [Durable Solutions \(see below\)](#) from the outset.

STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES:

Define the roles and responsibilities of relevant disaster response, humanitarian, and development actors at all levels (see [Enhanced Will, Collaboration, and Coordination](#)). To strengthen capacities, also improve data and knowledge as well as technical assistance and capacity-building.

IMPROVE FINANCING:

Establish resilient and consistent funding mechanisms that generate compelling motivations for implementing protection and solutions. Facilitate access to flexible, long-term financing for displaced persons-inclusive services by fostering partnerships with national and local authorities. Allocate resources to governmental authorities responsible for managing displacement and facilitate access to DRR and climate change funds or financing mechanisms.

For Internal Displacement

IMPROVE LAWS AND POLICIES:

Fully incorporate the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#) into domestic law and policies and ensure that persons displaced in the context of climate change and disasters are covered alongside those displaced by conflict and violence. Evaluate domestic DRR, climate adaptation, development, and land tenure frameworks to ensure a cohesive response, in line with international and regional principles, such as the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), the [MEND Guide](#), the [Nansen Protection Agenda](#), and [OHCHR's work](#).

INTEGRATE IDP PROTECTION INTO DISASTER PLANNING AND RESPONSE:

Using the [UNDRR's Words into Action Guidelines on Disaster Displacement](#), adapt DRR and climate change adaptation planning and responses to include displacement considerations.

FACILITATE HUMANITARIAN ACCESS:

Allow humanitarian actors to provide assistance and protection, free from unnecessary interference, when government capacities are strained. In instances where access is unreasonably restricted or denied, the UN and donors must actively advocate with the government and ensure accountability.

For Cross-Border Displacement

USE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS:

Protect persons displaced across borders in accordance with applicable human rights and refugee law. Ratify the [Refugee Convention and its Protocol](#), along with relevant regional frameworks, integrate applicable frameworks into domestic laws and policies, and use them when applicable.

MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF CURRENT MECHANISMS:

Allocate sufficient resources for refugee systems. Develop and implement specific guidelines, policies, and training to ensure that domestic adjudication aligns with [UNHCR's Legal Considerations](#) for international protection. Ensure ample funding and support for the more inclusive regional refugee approaches in Latin America and Africa, promoting them as models for other regions.

IMPROVE ADMISSION AND STAY:

Assist and protect people displaced across borders on a prima facie basis. Formulate domestic laws allowing for at least temporary entry and stay following a disaster. For further pathways, see [Enhanced Mobility Options](#) (including complementary protection such as private sponsorship, family reunification, and targeted work and study programs, as well as special humanitarian visas or targeted protection mechanisms). Harmonize protocols and standardized practices across states.

UPHOLD THE NON-REFOULEMENT PRINCIPLE:

Include international and regional human rights-based non-refoulement obligations in domestic laws and policies and apply them.

2. Durable Solutions

Establish conditions and provide the means allowing persons displaced in the context of the climate crisis and disasters to achieve enduring solutions, taking into account their aspirations and needs.

Framing

While robust prevention measures can help mitigate the challenges of the climate crisis to some extent (*see Pillar 1*), the escalating effects of the crisis will likely still magnify both the magnitude and duration of displacement within and across borders. Already today, protracted displacement in camps and crowded urban settlements, lasting for years, is affecting millions of people worldwide. Humanity's breaching of various planetary boundaries¹⁶—including the climate crisis, which increasingly exceeds adaptation limits—is greatly reducing the niche suitable for human life. The linked impacts are likely to contribute to growing and more protracted displacement.¹⁷

As more people are being displaced for longer periods of time, they urgently need dedicated solutions in line with international law. Strategies that resolve the predicament of displacement in a lasting manner are called durable solutions.

For IDPs, durable solutions are either (a) voluntary reintegration at the original location (“return”); (b) local integration in the new location; or (c) settlement elsewhere in the country. Various international frameworks underline the right of IDPs to achieve such solutions.¹⁸ The primary responsibility for solutions lies with the state, with a complementary role for international actors. While residing in their home country, IDPs maintain the rights afforded to all citizens. They thus have a right to make free and informed

choices about solutions, including the right to choose their place of residence. While IDPs often require support from states and third actors for achieving solutions, they have a right to meaningfully participate in any decision that affects them. If IDPs cannot return in safety and with dignity or do not wish to do so—for example, because climate change has rendered their former homes too dangerous for habitation—local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country become crucial alternatives. Especially in protracted displacement, states should take interim steps to normalize the situation of IDPs (while upholding their right to return under suitable circumstances).

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement stress that lasting solutions are only achieved when the needs related to displacement are resolved, and when IDPs can exercise their rights without discrimination. It is thus necessary to address both immediate and long-term needs, which includes measures aimed at safety and security; adequate standard of living; livelihoods; remedies and justice; family reunification; restoration of housing, land, and property; personal and other documentation; and participation in public affairs. Key to success are integrating humanitarian with development and peacebuilding approaches, as they foster social cohesion and support resilience by stressing inclusion, empowerment, education, and skill-building alongside. So-called area-based

¹⁶ Including land degradation, freshwater change, and biodiversity loss; see [Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts](#).

¹⁷ Simultaneously, those who stay put in increasingly dangerous sites also require support; see [Pillar 2](#).

¹⁸ Key frameworks are the [Kampala Convention](#), [the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), [the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs](#), and [the UNSG Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#). Domestic laws and regulations on IDP protection add to this in various countries.

approaches to durable solutions achieve longer-term and more holistic results because they target the needs of all people with needs within a specific geographical area, including IDPs and local persons.

Achieving durable solutions for IDPs, however, has been challenging. Although a robust normative framework exists, it is often insufficiently disseminated, customized, and implemented. While the responsibility for ensuring durable solutions rests with national authorities, their operational capacity and/or political will for adequate action often remain scarce. International actors can assist only to the extent they are invited in, and funding gaps for IDP support remain wide. Environmental threats and reduced habitability, often in conjunction with conflict, can complicate the feasibility of returning. Integrating into host communities may also be challenging, especially if local resources are strained due to climate impacts or tensions, or if state or non-state armed groups reject, oppress, or threaten IDPs in their new locations.

If people are not displaced within their own country but to a third state, they encounter a distinct situation as non-citizens. Granting access to durable solutions is one of the primary objectives of the [Global Compact on Refugees](#). Such solutions encompass (a) voluntary repatriation into the country of origin; (b) local integration into the host country; or (c) resettlement to a safe third country. Repatriation must be voluntary, in safety and dignity, and based on free will and informed decision (*the non-refoulement principle applies; see [previous section](#)*). Resettlement is the supported transfer to a secure third country that agrees to admit, protect, and gradually grant more fundamental rights or naturalize displaced persons.

This alternative becomes crucial for people facing particular needs, including physical or legal protection needs, and for whom repatriation or local integration are unattainable. Complementary pathways for admission to third countries can provide additional opportunities for those requiring international protection, either temporarily or permanently. Examples include humanitarian visas, labor mobility or educational pathways, family reunification, and private or community sponsorship (see [Enhanced Mobility Options](#)). When repatriation and resettlement are not options, local integration becomes crucial. This entails granting the right to stay, progressively realizing more fundamental rights, allowing people to live in dignity in their new communities without discrimination, exploitation, or abuse, and, whenever possible, offering avenues to citizenship. Local integration is a sovereign state decision, but which is guided by treaty obligations and human rights principles. In addition, other local solutions can include interim legal stay with appropriate support for inclusion and without prejudice to eventual durable solutions.

Again, the challenges can be significant. Repatriation may not always be a feasible or preferred option due to persistent climate risks, deteriorating habitability, and/or conflict in home countries. Local integration serves as a vital alternative, but can be demanding if available resources or societal willingness are limited. Finally, states have shown little political commitment to implementing resettlement or complementary pathways, indicating that there is still considerable need to foster international solidarity and shared responsibility. Yet, with the right investments, overcoming these challenges and delivering durable solutions is possible and can ultimately enable more sustainable outcomes for everyone involved, from affected countries to displaced and local populations.

Recommended Actions

For all Displaced Persons

FACILITATE SELF-RELIANCE AND USE HDP-NEXUS APPROACHES:

Humanitarian responses should support interim solutions and be oriented toward durable solutions to enhance inclusion, self-reliance, well-being, and resilience among displaced and receiving communities. Include forcibly displaced persons in national and local development processes as well as in climate, disaster risk, land, and urban planning. Support national and local service delivery systems and capacities, and expand basic infrastructure and socioeconomic opportunities in area-based approaches. Transform livelihoods where displaced people cannot go back to their prior livelihoods due to climate impacts. Promote social cohesion and peacebuilding.

ENCOURAGE LOCAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION:

Encourage inclusive decision-making by consulting all local communities and organizations. Advocate for the inclusion of displaced persons and receiving communities in durable solution planning.

ENHANCE OPTIONS FOR LOCAL INTEGRATION:

Foster inclusive policies and programs that promote the integration of displaced persons, ensuring equal access to essential services. Advocate for the recognition of IDP rights, and gradually grant more rights for persons displaced across borders. Use area-based approaches to also support the resident population while promoting interaction and mutual understanding.

SUPPORT CONDITIONS IN AREAS/COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR RETURN IN SAFETY AND DIGNITY:

Ensure people are not returned to dangerous areas. Respect their informed choices and, where desired and viable, facilitate a safe and dignified return process. Take measures

to protect returnees from climatic and other hazards and prevent renewed displacement. Implement HDP-Nexus, DRR, climate adaptation, and cohesion-building measures.

MAKE SETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE / RESETTLEMENT SAFE:

Ensure that displaced persons are not (re)settled to areas where they are exposed to serious climate impacts or other risks, provide support for their integration, and support their well-being.

MAKE USE OF GOOD PRACTICES:

Promote a good practices compilation for solutions to disaster-and climate displacement and facilitate comprehensive durable-solutions roadmaps for select affected areas.

ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING:

Provide predictable, catalytic financing to support the solutions process, also for city and local actors. See the recommended action points on finance under [Protection, Rights, and Support](#).

ESTABLISH MONITORING MECHANISMS:

Implement continuous monitoring and evaluation processes to assess the effectiveness and impact of solution strategies, ensuring adaptive and responsive approaches to evolving displacement challenges.

For Internal Displacement

PROMOTE NATIONAL OWNERSHIP FOR IDP SOLUTIONS:

Prioritize internal displacement as a key national concern, stressing the need for political will and capacity development. Support safe return of IDPs where desired and viable, local integration, and/or settlement in safe secondary cities (*as described further above*). Strengthen the capacity of the communities receiving them through area-based approaches.

IMPROVE FRAMEWORKS:

Develop, disseminate, customize, and implement robust normative and institutional frameworks for durable solutions at national levels, based on the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#) and other relevant frameworks. Commend the use of the [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs](#) and encourage the incorporation of IDP policies into national and local development plans, city planning, and peace processes.

For Cross-Border Displacement

SUPPORT HOST COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES:

Under national leadership, and with international support where appropriate, arrange for and develop comprehensive response plans. Upon request, establish Support Platforms in line with the Global Compact for Refugees. Build on operational partnerships between relevant actors, including UNHCR and IOM, to enhance support for responses. Support self-reliance and resilience pending durable solutions and enhance options for local integration as described further above. Support host communities appropriately.

SHARE RESPONSIBILITY:

Establish effective, predictable, and equitable arrangements for sharing responsibilities and challenges to support persons displaced across borders, resident populations, and countries significantly impacted by large movements or prolonged situations. Contribute concrete pledges and contributions toward challenges- and responsibility-sharing, using the Global Refugee Forum.

EXPAND ACCESS TO COUNTRY SOLUTIONS:

Collaborate with hosts and global organizations to find appropriate options for people in need of resettlement. Ensure safety, livelihood opportunities, and the integration in local development plans. Also allow businesses, communities, local organizations, and individuals to sponsor resettlements, in collaboration with relevant agencies and in respect of international frameworks. Invest in [Enhanced Mobility Options \(see here\)](#) as complementary pathways.

3. Enhanced Political Will, Collaboration, and Coordination

Enhance political will, collaboration, and coordination across institutions at all levels to better address displacement.

Framing

Political will is one of the major levers for improving protection and durable solutions, as it is a prerequisite for dedicating more resources within one's territory or for third host countries and for improving capacities. [To enhance political will, a mix of incentives and accountability is essential](#), given that states are motivated by public support, funding, investments, as well as international reputation and constituency

pressure. Enhanced funding and investment may help galvanize will. So too public awareness and storytelling campaigns, impactful data visualization, and creative initiatives such as leveraging art and music may help shape public opinion and, consequently, influence political will. High-level and peer-to-peer diplomacy may also incentivize action. In parallel, it is crucial to strengthen accountability efforts at

all levels in cases of neglect of displaced persons and receiving communities. This could involve the support of advocates, human rights institutions and mechanisms, judicial systems, civil society, and the media, as well as diplomatic efforts.

Simultaneously, forging stronger collaboration and coordination among diverse institutions is crucial at every level of governance to ensure a more unified and effective approach to the protection of displaced persons. At the grassroots level, integrating the voices of displaced persons and receiving communities into decision-making processes can contribute to inclusion, cohesion, and measures adjusted to the realities on the ground. Local and city authorities, community-based organizations,

and local initiatives are essential components of the collaborative effort, as they can offer tailored support and insights into the specific needs within given localities. Regionally, collaboration can involve collective responses as well as the sharing of best practices, resources, and information among neighboring states facing similar challenges. Moreover, other states and international organizations can play a pivotal role by providing financial support, sharing responsibility, and ensuring that displaced persons receive adequate protection and solutions in accordance with international standards. Finally, leveraging the resources, expertise, and innovation of private entities can contribute significantly to addressing the complex challenges associated with displacement, for example through public-private partnerships.

Recommended Actions

GALVANIZE WILL AND COMMITMENT:

Advocate for enhanced political will and commitments through incentives for action, by providing adequate funding and investment; improving public support for action through awareness campaigns and advocacy at the local level; and fostering high-level dialogue and diplomacy to garner backing for the well-being of displaced and receiving communities. Simultaneously, establish and implement accountability mechanisms across all levels.

ENHANCE COLLABORATION:

Cultivate a culture of trust, transparency, and mutual respect among relevant stakeholders. Provide adequate financing and share responsibility, for example, by backing Support Platforms in line with the Global Compact for Refugees. Collaborate regionally and sub-regionally to develop harmonized policies and practices regarding admission and stay in the context of climate change and disasters. Work together with displaced persons, receiving communities, local and city authorities, as well as community-based organizations and local initiatives. Collaborate with the private sector to leverage their resources and expertise.

IMPROVE COORDINATION:

Foster effective coordination among diverse stakeholders to ensure protection and durable solutions. Institutionalize a whole-of-government approach to displacement and inter-ministerial task forces. Establish clear coordination mechanisms with international and local actors, including consultation mechanisms for displaced and host community representatives. Advocate for improved coordination within international organizations, including within the UN system. Overall, establish robust channels and clear lines of communication, standardized protocols and procedures, as well as inter-sectoral knowledge-and resource-sharing.

Pillar 5

Taking Action on Loss and Damage

IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION:

Support affected countries in achieving just and equitable responses for climate mobility related to the climate crisis and disasters. Comprehensively avert, minimize, and address both economic and non-economic losses and damages resulting from climate impacts and ensuing mobility, particularly for people at high risk.¹⁹

THIS REQUIRES:

1. Just and Equitable Solutions:

Strengthen funding and data for Loss and Damage, prioritizing just and equitable responses to climate mobility.

2. Proactive and Responsive Measures:

Avert, minimize, and address loss and damage that leads to, and results from, climate mobility.

1. Just and Equitable Solutions

Strengthen funding and data for Loss and Damage, prioritizing just and equitable responses to climate mobility.

Framing

The climate crisis disproportionately affects marginalized regions and people with minimal responsibility for its origins, and it heightens environmental risks that further compound the challenges these populations already confront. Several climate impacts are exceeding human capacity to adapt, and are leading to a spectrum of loss and damage. Loss refers to the negative impacts caused by climate change or disasters that cannot be repaired, recovered, or restored. Unlike losses, damages may include the potential for recovery or repair, either immediately or over time, with sufficient efforts and funding. [Plainly](#), displacement may be an indicator of economic and non-economic loss and damage that individuals and communities are suffering, constitute a form of loss or damage, and also create and perpetuate vulnerability and act as a catalyst for further loss and damage.

[Loss and damage stemming from climate mobility include](#): loss of income and livelihood sources, diminished prospects for the future, challenges in accessing food and water, compromised health and limited health-care access, trauma and psychological distress, heightened risks for women and girls, restricted access to education and political representation, disruptions to community cohesion, and the erosion of a sense of place and identity, in addition, the climate crisis significantly compounds existing inequalities for migrants and people who are already displaced, including those fleeing from conflict, as they frequently live in precarious conditions and locations where they are vulnerable and exposed to worsening climate impacts.

¹⁹ The wording of this pillar builds off language in the introduction of the [CMC Declaration](#), which calls for “equitable and inclusive solutions to address climate mobility.”

The climate crisis is thus exacerbating existing global disparities and perpetuating a cycle of inequality, with the most disadvantaged and least culpable communities often enduring the most severe consequences. [Future loss and damage estimates are uncertain but annual needs may reach at least US\\$160–340 billion by 2030 and US\\$315–565 billion by 2050.](#)

Addressing these disparities is not only a matter of environmental, humanitarian, and developmental urgency but also a fundamental issue of justice and fairness. The legal “polluter pays” principle, state obligations in treaties, business self-commitments and pledges, as well as humankind’s moral compass all underscore the need for just and equitable responses, prioritizing the rights and well-being of marginalized communities who are disproportionately harmed, including those affected by climate mobility. Concerned actors must recognize their varying levels of historical responsibility for the climate crisis and act accordingly.

Collaborative efforts from governments, international organizations, and businesses can help achieve just and equitable solutions for those disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. More insights are developing on frameworks and measures that can help avert, minimize, and address loss and damage, including that due to displacement and entrapment (*as discussed below in the section [Proactive and Responsive Measures](#)*). To “avert” is understood as avoiding, and to “minimize” as curbing loss and damage as much as possible, whereas to “address” refers to measures that compensate for, or rectify, unavowed or unavoidable loss and damage.

Funding and data are two key requirements for taking action. Important steps have been taken by the UNFCCC with the agreement to draft a new climate finance target²² prior to 2025, which must ensure adequate integration of Loss & Damage (L&D). The L&D Fund, operationalized in 2023, could become a key mechanism for averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage that results in, and ensues from, climate mobility. Equally important is the Santiago Network, which supports developing countries in averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage by facilitating access to knowledge, resources, and technical assistance. If fully operationalized, it can also catalyze the technical assistance required for the effective utilization of the L&D Fund. However, significantly more funding is needed to tackle the challenges at hand, and efforts must be made to ensure equitable and transparent access for those most affected. Simultaneously, better data on loss and damage is indispensable for informing policy, financial support, and operational planning. [While efforts are underway in the UN](#) and at national levels to develop better loss and damage tracking systems, numerous challenges persist, including the absence of globally accepted methodologies and limited data standards. [Climate mobility must feature prominently in these data efforts.](#) Data on mobility dynamics and associated losses and damages are still sparse, especially as they relate to non-economic, long-term, indirect, or cascading impacts, in particular in cases driven by slow-onset hazards. All efforts should ensure that the data is reliable and credible, while safeguarding the privacy and rights of those moving and guaranteeing that the outcomes benefit affected populations.

²² The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), aligned with the Paris Agreement, is built from a floor of the current, insufficient US \$100 billion pledge for mitigation and adaptation initiatives in developing nations.

Recommended Actions

FULLY OPERATIONALIZE THE UNFCCC L&D FUND:

Ensure the Fund can tackle economic and non-economic loss and damage. Major historical polluters must commit significantly more long-term funding, above and beyond current ODA and climate finance; others should be invited to contribute as well; new, equitable, polluter-pays funding sources should be considered, and public and private financing be combined. Ensure simple and direct access for at-risk countries, communities, local governments, and civil society at the scale of their needs, including as they relate to climate mobility. Prioritize grants. Install guardrails for the independence of the Fund and for equitable governance. Align allocation with human rights principles, gender responsiveness, and equity. Improve linkages with disaster risk financing, including the Global Shield Against Climate Risks.

FULLY ACTIVATE THE SANTIAGO NETWORK:

Fully operationalize the Santiago Network to provide crucial support to vulnerable developing countries in averting, minimizing, and addressing L&D, including those leading to, and resulting from, climate mobility. Provide the Network with sufficient financing to initiate its work. Guarantee that it can facilitate independent, swift, and scalable support and serve as a catalyst for the technical assistance required to effectively utilize the L&D Fund.

DELIVER ON THE NEW COLLECTIVE QUANTIFIED GOAL:

Integrate L&D into the NCQG agenda as a distinct sub-goal, aligning it with similar objectives for mitigation, adaptation, and biosphere conservation. Implement regular reviews of the NCQG to assess progress and issue annual L&D gap reports.

ENHANCE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION:

Enhance international cooperation, coordination, and solidarity to ensure accountability as well as adequate resources for averting, minimizing, and addressing climate-related loss and damage, including those linked to climate mobility. Encourage partnerships and collaborations among countries, organizations, and communities to foster a united approach. *(See also the section [Enhanced Political Will, Collaboration, and Coordination](#).)*

IMPROVE DATA:

Improve data collection on loss and damage for informing policy and planning. Develop and implement globally accepted methodologies and enhanced data standards. Revise and expand existing data collection systems and assessments to systematically incorporate and evaluate the occurrence of climate mobility, as well as their impacts, to influence funding decisions and arrangements accordingly. Integrate non-economic, long-term, and indirect impacts. Establish ethical protect in all data efforts to safeguard the rights and privacy of affected persons, especially those on the move or trapped in dangerous circumstances.



2. Proactive and Responsive Measures

Avert, minimize, and address loss and damage that leads to, and results from, climate mobility.

Framing

States recognized in the Paris Agreement that the climate crisis produces ongoing loss and damage, and they established L&D as the third foundation of climate policy, alongside mitigation and adaptation. Each of these three elements is intricately linked. The scale, intensity, and pace of loss and damage, along with its implications for mobility, partially depend upon proactive measures taken now, including mitigation and adaptation. Other proactive measures, such as disaster risk management, forecast-based humanitarian financing, and resilience-building, are equally important (see [Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts](#)). Finally, proactively improving the agency of people on the move, as well as the conditions under which they move and settle, can also help avert or minimize loss and damage. For example, climate mobility is often directed to sites with high climate risks, which imply the potential of additional losses and damages. It is critical to implement proactive measures to help avert or minimize some of this potential loss and damage down the line (see the sections [Improved Well-Being Outcomes](#) for everyone moving and [Protection, Rights, and Support](#) for displaced persons in particular).

Nevertheless, substantial loss and damage is now becoming inevitable even with extensive proactive measures. [Past and ongoing emissions have made significant climate impacts unavoided or now unavoidable](#), while both soft (socioeconomic) and hard (physical) [adaptation limits are progressively being reached around the world](#). Displacement and relocation constitute a signal of the loss and damage suffered in communities, as they typically represent a last resort for people facing unmanageable levels of impacts. Additionally, while these forms of movement can save lives,

they are a form of loss and damage themselves, and tend to create or perpetuate further loss and damage down the line. Other mobility forms, such as migration, can help people cope with climate impacts and disasters but often also result from, and entail further loss and damage, especially if they occur under unfavorable conditions and policies.

Responsive measures are crucial to address²¹ the losses and damages that are unavoided or now unavoidable, especially for at-risk communities that bear the disproportionate burden. This includes holding polluters accountable for the detrimental consequences of their actions; they must ensure that damage is adequately repaired, recovered, or restored, while irreparable losses are compensated for or rectified. All efforts for addressing losses and damages should adequately account for, measure, and address mobility as a form of loss and damage, where appropriate. At the same time, they should recognize, quantify, and address the additive loss and damage ensuing from such climate mobility. This is particularly important, but challenging, for dynamics related to slow-onset hazards and non-economic losses and damages suffered.

International cooperation and collaboration are imperative to ensure the effectiveness of global mechanisms that can help avert, minimize, and address loss and damage. Governments should integrate the nexus between loss and damage and mobility or immobility into their planning strategies under the UNFCCC, namely National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as into other relevant national and regional strategies.

²¹ To “address” means compensating for or rectifying unavoided or unavoidable loss and damage.

Recommended Actions

STRENGTHEN PROACTIVE MEASURES:

Strengthen proactive measures such as robust emissions mitigation, disaster risk management, climate adaptation, and resilience-building to avert or minimize climate-related loss and damage, including displacement or entrapment (see also [Scaled-Up Prevention Efforts](#)).

AVERT AND MINIMIZE ADDITIONAL LOSS AND DAMAGE FROM HUMAN MOBILITY:

Avert and minimize additional loss and damage related to people's mobility or immobility, recognizing that they may be at risk while staying or moving and settling in areas with heightened dangers. Implement mobility-informed, anticipatory planning to avert or minimize these risks and ensure greater agency and better conditions for people staying and on the move (see also [Pillar 2, Protection, Rights, and Support, and Improved Well-Being Outcomes](#)).

ADDRESS LOSS AND DAMAGE:

Provide fair compensation and rectification for unavoided or unavoidable loss, and repair, restore, or recover damage done, accounting for climate mobility as forms of loss and damage where appropriate. Address additional loss and damage ensuing from climate mobility as well.

FOSTER INCLUSIVITY:

Foster inclusion and meaningful participation of affected people in evaluating climate impacts, loss and damage, and relevant funding decisions, as well as in developing and implementing proactive and responsive measures. Ensure no at-risk persons are left behind, including displaced persons, Indigenous peoples, low-income groups, and marginalized communities.

MAINSTREAM LOSS AND DAMAGE INTO POLICIES:

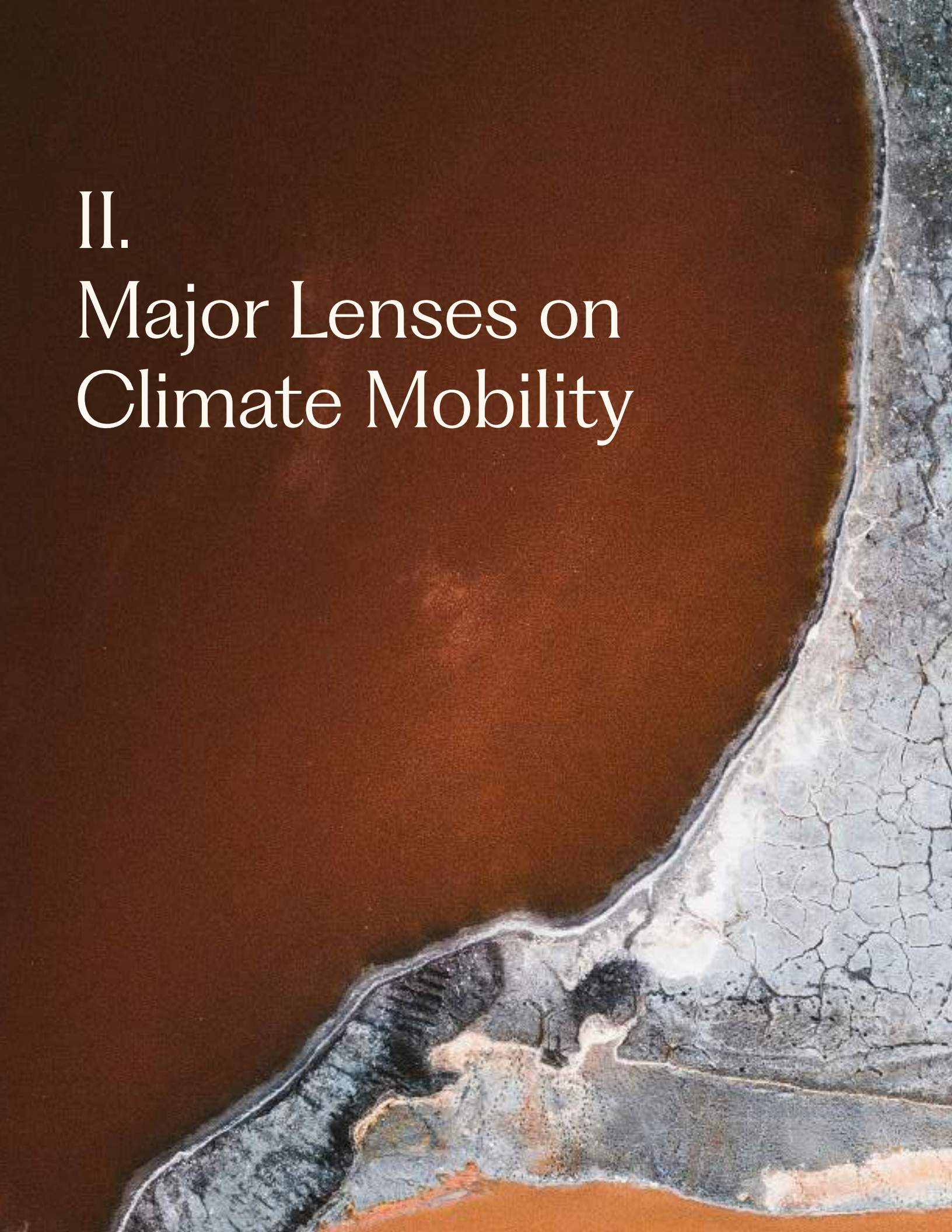
Integrate the nexus between loss and damage and mobility or immobility dimensions into NAPs, NDCs, and other relevant national and regional strategies, using concrete and actionable provisions.

INTEGRATE MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS:

Implement comprehensive and integrated M&E systems to assess the effectiveness of proactive and response measures for tackling loss and damage, enabling continuous tracking of progress and identification of gaps for informed decision-making and adaptive strategies.



II. Major Lenses on Climate Mobility



This chapter explores major perspectives and approaches that have been instrumental in shaping discussions, policies, and actions concerning climate mobility, including the formulation of the CMC Declaration.

They encompass the Climate Justice, Development, Forced Displacement, Human Rights, Humanitarian, Migration Management, (Human) Security, and Urban Lenses. By discussing these lenses, the chapter provides a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted dimensions inherent in the topic. It not only clarifies the core principles underlying each perspective but also provides insights into the specific contexts where they hold relevance. Furthermore, it delves into the legal and policy frameworks that form their foundation, and collates further resources and tools.

In its entirety, this chapter stands as a resource for readers seeking to understand the intricate factors influencing climate mobility and the diverse perspectives that can inform policymaking and practical action. A multitude of actors in this field, both at the national and international levels, organize themselves around these perspectives to inform and guide their daily work. The chapter allows readers to select the most pertinent framing that aligns with their priorities and resonates with their target audiences, emphasizing the interconnected nature of these lenses and showing how they often complement rather than contradict one another.

The following resources provide additional information:

- The [Task Force on Displacement Outputs](#), with several mappings of policies, legal or institutional frameworks, processes, and guidance or tools.
- The [CLIMB Policy Database](#) of instruments addressing mobility in the context of climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation.
- The [IOM Portal on Data Sources](#), with information about data sources for environmental migration as well as their strengths and limitations.
- Three repositories of studies and reports on climate mobility, hosted by the [IOM](#), the [University of Neuchâtel](#), and the [Platform on Disaster Displacement](#), respectively.
- [IDMC's Global Repository of Good Practices](#) compiles, shares, and evaluates policies and programs to support better solutions for internally displaced people.
- The [GCM Repository of Good Practices](#) showcases replicable practices to inspire those working to implement the Global Compact for Migration.

Climate Justice Lens

What Is It About?

As climate impacts intensify and disproportionately harm the communities least responsible for this crisis, seeking fair and equitable responses is paramount. The climate justice perspective addresses the legal and ethical aspects of the climate crisis and related mobility or immobility. It emphasizes the obligation of those entities and countries primarily responsible for the climate crisis to remedy the harms caused by their actions or inactions, which includes discussions about Loss and Damage (L&D) mechanisms, reparations, and legal actions taken against the emitters. At its core, the climate justice lens is rooted in principles of fairness, equity, and accountability. It advocates for the pursuit of legal avenues to address climate mobility challenges and hold those responsible accountable for their actions or inactions.

In Which Context Is It Most Relevant?

Despite the widespread legal and moral recognition of the importance of justice principles, significant challenges persist in translating them into transformative actions and outcomes. The international community has, to date, not adequately mitigated greenhouse gas emissions. Humanity remains on a trajectory that will fail to meet emission reduction goals necessary to forestall the most egregious impacts of the climate crisis. Thus, it is imperative that a strong ethical and legal framework be developed for addressing the consequences of the climate crisis. Such a framework must make central the assignment of responsibility for promoting measures aimed at mitigating emissions and for remedying harms already caused and likely to be caused in the future.

The climate justice angle intersects with the Development Lens by stressing the need to ensure that climate change mitigation, adaptation, and DRR efforts are fair and equitable.

Key Frameworks and Resources

- [International Court of Justice Statute \(1947\)](#): The ICJ Statute defines that “general principles of law recognized by civilized nations” are among the sources of international law, which encompass concepts of fairness and justice that hold universal application in legal systems worldwide.
- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(1992\)](#): The UNFCCC is the key international treaty addressing the climate crisis. It emphasizes principles of equity and differentiated responsibilities, particularly acknowledging historical contributions to the climate crisis. Relevant to climate mobility, it provides a platform for international cooperation and negotiations, advancing climate justice principles in discussions on climate displacement and loss and damage.
- [International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples \(1989\)](#): This ILO convention recognizes the rights of Indigenous and tribal peoples to their lands, territories, and resources, which can be crucial for mitigating climate displacement.

- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(2007\)](#): UNDRIP is relevant to climate justice discussions, especially in regions where Indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. It emphasizes the rights of Indigenous communities to protect their lands, territories, and resources, which can be essential for mitigating climate displacement.
- [Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights \(2011\)](#): While not specific to climate mobility, these principles outline the responsibilities of businesses to respect human rights. They are relevant as climate justice discussions often involve debates on corporate accountability for the climate crisis and its impacts, which may include displacement.
- [UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage \(2013\)](#): The WIM was established to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of the climate crisis, including those leading to, and resulting from, climate mobility. It provides a framework to assess and address the losses and damages incurred by vulnerable communities. The Task Force on Displacement issued a [Report](#) with recommendations under the WIM (which states welcomed at the annual conference of the parties [COP in 2018](#)), as well as a [2020 Summary Report](#).
- [Paris Agreement \(2015\)](#): The UNFCCC Paris Agreement is a legally binding treaty. It is crucial for climate mobility as it sets the global framework for efforts to combat the climate crisis, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance adaptation measures. It aims to ensure that all countries take appropriate action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, considering their historical emissions and capacities. It upholds principles of climate justice and equity through mechanisms such as Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, regular ambition reviews, financial support for developing nations, and explicit provisions for adaptation as well as loss and damage.
- [UNFCCC Sharm El Sheikh Implementation Plan \(2022\)](#): This process focuses on loss and damage associated with the impacts of the climate crisis, including those resulting from and leading to mobility. It provides a platform for discussions on addressing the loss and damage, including financial support, and highlights the justice aspect of compensation for affected communities.
- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: Ecological Crisis, Climate Justice and Racial Justice \(2022\)](#): The Report highlights the racially discriminatory and unjust roots and consequences of environmental degradation, including the climate crisis, and highlights the prerequisite of addressing systemic racism to resolve these ecological crises.



Development Lens

What Is It About?

The development lens considers and calls for actions that enhance people's capabilities to live lives they value. It not only explores efforts to reduce the root causes of displacement in the context of the climate crisis and disasters; it also focuses on strategies for enhancing resilience and prosperity of all people affected by climate mobility, be it in home, transit, or destination regions. A development lens emphasizes the urgent need for action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, alongside the critical need for addressing underlying vulnerabilities, bridging development disparities, and empowering communities to confront climate hazards, related mobility, and other development challenges. This perspective frequently promotes efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From a climate mobility perspective, attaining the SDGs is understood as critical for reducing involuntary movement driven by environmental factors. Furthermore, development interventions aim to facilitate movement in dignity and prioritize long-term investments to safeguard the well-being of migrants and receiving communities.

Two critical sub-themes often incorporated in the development lens are disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). Both are essential components of a comprehensive approach to building long-term resilience and addressing the impacts of hazards. DRR involves proactively identifying, assessing, and managing hazard risks to mitigate adverse effects, including displacement. Fundamentally, DRR aims to diminish community vulnerability to disasters and to enhance resilience through long-term planning, capacity building, and sustainable development practices. CCA focuses on long-term adjustments in systems, practices, and behaviors to minimize harm (and take advantage of new opportunities) arising from changing climatic conditions.

Although development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding approaches have traditionally been employed with distinct focuses, time frames, and strategies, they share common goals of improving the well-being of affected people. The Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding (HDP) Nexus approach underscores that mobility in the context of climate and other environmental change require integrated responses that not only provide immediate humanitarian aid but also integrate long-term development and peacebuilding initiatives from the outset. Historically, various actors have employed these three approaches within distinct, isolated domains, and some of these silos persist to this day.

In Which Context Is It Most Relevant?

The development lens is particularly pertinent for long-term strategies aimed at reducing risk, bolstering resilience, and diminishing vulnerability, not only to climate change but also to other risks to well-being. It underscores the imperative to devise enduring solutions that address not only immediate climate-related challenges but also promote sustainable development and improved well-being. This approach recognizes the interconnectedness of sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as risk reduction and resilience building in fostering prosperous societies.

Moreover, the HDP-Nexus approach is relevant for integrating development and conflict prevention aspects early on into humanitarian assistance for people affected or displaced by disasters (see [Humanitarian Lens](#)). It directs attention to fulfilling needs, building resilience and livelihoods, as well as stability and peace. This approach is key in regions characterized by conflicts

and displacement, where coordinated efforts are essential to alleviate the immediate needs of affected populations while simultaneously addressing the root causes of displacement as well as grievances. Integrated approaches enhance efficiency, resource allocation, and cost-effectiveness, and ultimately enhance the sustainability of solutions. Disintegrated approaches, by contrast, may miss opportunities for conflict prevention and inadvertently contribute to new or protracted displacement.

Key Frameworks and Resources

Development

- [Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2015\)](#): The 2030 Agenda outlines 17 SDGs, emphasizing the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental dimensions. It highlights the need to address climate impacts and climate mobility within the broader context of sustainable development.
- [SDG Implementation Progress Reports \(2016-2023\), Global Sustainable Development Reports \(2019, 2013\), and Voluntary National Reviews \(ongoing\)](#): These ongoing reports and reviews monitor and evaluate countries' progress in implementing the SDGs, including aspects related to climate mobility.
- [Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development \(2015\)](#): This Agenda focuses on financing sustainable development, emphasizing the need for robust financial mechanisms to support adaptation and resilience efforts that are highly relevant for addressing climate mobility.
- [New Urban Agenda \(2016\)](#): Acknowledging increasing urbanization trends worldwide, this agenda advocates for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban development, recognizing the role of cities in mitigating climate impacts and addressing challenges related to mobility to urban areas.

The development lens also intersects with the Human Rights Lens, which calls for inclusive and non-discriminatory development efforts treating all people as rights-holders; the [Urban Lens](#), which explores how mobility unfold in cities; and the [Climate Justice Lens](#), which calls for fair and equitable climate change mitigation, adaptation, and DRR efforts.

- [Programmes of Action for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States](#): These programs provide tailored strategies for the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by the least developed, landlocked, and small island nations, emphasizing the need to enhance sustainable development, resilience, and adaptation.

DRR

- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(2015-2030\)](#): The Sendai Framework focuses on reducing disaster risk and building resilience and offers a comprehensive approach to managing climate disasters, which can lead to displacement.
- [UNDRR Words into Action Guidelines on Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience \(2019\)](#): These guidelines provide practical guidance on reducing disaster displacement risk, addressing impacts, and strengthening resilience.
- [Yonetani, Michelle \(2018\): Mapping the baseline—To what extent are displacement and other forms of human mobility integrated in national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies?](#) Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). This mapping assesses how national

and regional DRR strategies address disaster-related mobility, to inform guidance development and progress tracking in line with the Sendai Framework.

Climate Adaptation

- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(1992\)](#): The UNFCCC is the key international treaty addressing the climate crisis. It recognizes the need for global action to address the adverse impacts of climate change through adaptation and provides a platform for international cooperation and negotiations. Under the UNFCCC, developing countries submit adaptation goals in their [National Adaptation Plans \(NAPs\)](#).
- [Paris Agreement \(2015\)](#): This legally binding treaty is crucial for addressing climate mobility as it sets the global framework for efforts to combat the climate crisis by mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing adaptation measures. It contains

the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. [The Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) submitted by all signatories are primarily targeted at emissions mitigation but can also contain adaptation goals.

HDP-Nexus Approach

- [OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus \(2019\)](#): The document emphasizes the importance of integrated approaches across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts to address complex crises.
- [INCAF Common Position on Supporting Comprehensive Responses in Refugee Situations \(2019\)](#): The Position focuses on fostering comprehensive responses to refugee situations through cooperation among various stakeholders.



Forced Displacement Lens

What Is It About?

This perspective examines climate mobility in the context of international and regional conventions and principles aimed at protecting forcibly displaced persons, within and across borders.

First, it stresses the importance of robust legal and policy tools to protect people displaced across borders, including complementary protection based on human rights law. In addition, this lens assesses the more limited cases of climate displacement across borders that fall within the scope of the 1951 Refugee Convention²² and regional refugee systems, and considers the potential necessity of additional normative frameworks to address protection gaps. It also underscores the importance of the concept of non-refoulement, the principle that prevents states from returning people to a country where they may face serious harm to life or liberty.

Second, in cases of climate displacement within countries, this lens explores avenues for enhancing the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs). It evaluates the translation of key documents, such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the African Union Kampala Convention, into national norms, assesses the effectiveness of their implementation, and scrutinizes ways to address persistent protection gaps.

In Which Context Is It Most Relevant?

The forced displacement lens holds particular significance when examining the legal protections, obligations, and policies concerning climate displacement. Ongoing deficiencies

within current protection systems compound the challenges posed by such displacement. These deficiencies encompass limited recognition of climate displacement as a distinct protection category in many cases, a shortage of legal instruments tailored to the specific needs of people displaced in the context of climate change, and the absence of standardized procedures for granting asylum or other forms of protection. For people displaced across borders in the context of the climate crisis, the lack of a comprehensive international framework exacerbates the vulnerabilities throughout their journeys. Similarly, protection available to IDPs is often insufficient both legally and practically; they often fall through the cracks of a patchwork of ad hoc responses at the national and regional levels, and end up in a precarious legal and humanitarian limbo. Consequently, the forced displacement lens emphasizes the need for first, more effectively implementing existing norms, and second, developing enhanced legal and policy measures. Although the climate crisis increases the probability of additional and protracted displacements, legal and policy progress remain insufficient to address these challenges. Additional measures are essential to ensuring the protection, safety, and dignity of those forcibly displaced.

The forced displacement lens intersects with the [Human Rights Lens](#), which underlines that all persons, independent of their mobility or legal status and location, possess rights. It also intersects with the [Development Lens](#), which points to the need for reducing drivers of forced displacement and safeguarding the well-being of displaced persons over the long term (*while the [Humanitarian Lens](#) directs attention to alleviating more immediate needs*).

²² Exceptions exist where refugee protection has been granted, for example, when persons were affected by both disasters and political persecution; [see Braun](#) (2023).

Key Frameworks and Resources

Specifically on Cross-Border Displacement

- [Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees \(1951\) and Protocol \(1967\):](#) This foundational treaty defines refugee status for people seeking international protection and outlines their rights. While it primarily addresses persecution-based displacement, its principles can have implications when individuals may seek refuge from environmental threats.
- [Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa \(1969\):](#) Provides a foundational framework that may be adapted to address the unique challenges in the African context, especially given its recognition that people compelled to flee from “events seriously disturbing public order” shall be considered as refugees.
- [Cartagena Declaration on Refugees \(1984\):](#) Similar to the OAU Convention, the Declaration stresses its broader applicability in cases of serious disruptions of public order, offering a framework that could be adapted to encompass challenges arising from environmental factors.
- [Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda \(2015\):](#) The non-binding Agenda provides a comprehensive approach to address the protection needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the climate crisis.
- [Guide to Effective Practices for RCM Member Countries: Protection for Persons Moving Across Borders in the Context of Disasters \(2016\):](#) The Regional Conference on Migration’s Guide offers practical guidance and protection measures for people crossing borders in the context of disasters.
- [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants \(2016\):](#) The Declaration, a precursor of the GCM and GCR, sets out principles and commitments for the safe, orderly, and regular management of international mobility. It recognizes the need to address the specific challenges of climate mobility and ensure the protection and well-being of affected populations.
- [Global Compact on Refugees \(2018\):](#) The GCR offers a non-binding framework for addressing refugee situations and their impacts. It has potential for addressing climate displacement through international cooperation and protection principles but lacks specific recognition and legal provisions for people displaced in the context of climate change.
- [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(2018\):](#) The GCM outlines principles and commitments related to safe, orderly, and regular migration. It explicitly embeds environmental causes of migration within its scope, emphasizing the establishment of regular pathways and the safeguarding of the protection and well-being of migrants. The GCM also refers to related displacement and provides tools, such as temporary protection.
- [South American Conference on Migration’s Regional Guidelines on the Protection and Assistance of Persons Displaced Across Borders and Migrants in Countries Affected by Natural Disasters \(2019\):](#) The guidelines address the protection and assistance of people displaced across borders and migrants in the context of disasters, providing a framework for collaborative efforts among South American countries to address the related challenges.

- [IGAD Protocol of Free Movement of Persons \(2020\)](#): This protocol promotes the free movement of persons within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region in East Africa, explicitly recognizing that persons moving in anticipation of, during, or in the aftermath of disaster shall have rights of entry and stay when return to their state of origin is not possible or reasonable.

Specifically on Internal Displacement

- [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement \(1998\)](#): These non-binding principles offer guidance on the protection and assistance of IDPs. They apply to conflict-and disaster-related displacement and thus are relevant for addressing climate displacement.
- [African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa \(Kampala Convention\) \(2009\)](#): This convention addresses the protection and assistance of IDPs and outlines the responsibilities of African states. It addresses displacement due to disasters, armed conflict, and development projects.
- [ICGLR Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons \(2006\)](#): The protocol outlines measures for the protection and assistance of IDPs in the East African Great Lakes Region, including those displaced due to disasters.
- [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons \(2010\)](#): This operational framework focuses on durable solutions for IDPs, including those displaced by climate events, emphasizing the importance of lasting solutions within their home countries.
- [Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement Within States \(2013\)](#): These non-binding principles outline a framework for addressing climate displacement within countries, highlighting the rights and needs of those affected by such displacement.
- [Comprehensive Guide for Planning Mass Evacuations in Natural Disasters \(2014\)](#): The so-called MEND Guide offers practical guidance for planning mass evacuations during disasters. Evacuees are generally counted as displaced persons.
- [Guidance on Protecting People from Disasters and Environmental Change Through Planned Relocation \(2015\)](#): This document provides guidance for planned relocation in the context of disasters and environmental change, offering principles for protecting and assisting people who need to move within their own countries due to climate factors.
- [A Toolbox: Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change \(2017\)](#): This Toolbox offers practical tools and guidance for planned relocations to protect people from disasters.
- [The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(2018\)](#): The Handbook sets out standards to improve humanitarian responses, enhance accountability, and ensure the well-being and rights of affected people, including those on the move.
- [Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement \(2021\)](#): The recommendations aim at finding durable solutions, strengthening prevention, and improving protection and assistance for IDPs, especially protracted cases, including climate-related ones.

- [UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement \(2022\)](#): Building on the 2021 High-Level Panel Report, the Agenda defines actionable steps to help IDPs find a durable solution, better prevent new displacement crises from emerging, and ensure those facing displacement receive effective protection and assistance.

On Both Cross-Border and Internal Mobility

- [Sydney Declaration of Principles on the Protection of Persons Displaced in the Context of Sea Level Rise \(2018\)](#): The Declaration articulates principles for the protection of persons displaced in the context of sea-level rise.
- [The International Law Commission's Work on the Implications of Sea Level Rise for International LaW \(ongoing\)](#): The ILC investigates questions relating to the protection of people at risk of displacement due to SLR and those factually displaced, both internally and across borders. The aim is to develop a Final Report that informs about future avenues for action to develop law. However, roadblocks suggest that the process will take long, so that the final form and potential impacts are uncertain.
- [C40-MMC Cities, Climate and Migration \(2021\)](#): This report by C40 Cities and the Mayors Migration Council explores the role of cities in the climate-mobility nexus.
- [Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change \(2022\)](#): The Declaration by 12 African countries addresses the interplay between environmental challenges and mobility patterns and provides a framework for regional collaboration in addressing the issue.
- [Africa Climate Mobility Initiative Agenda for Action \(2023\)](#): This Agenda for Action is a comprehensive strategy detailing provisions related to climate mobility within the African context.
- [Kaldor Centre Principles on Climate Mobility \(2023\)](#): The Principles provide legally sound tools for addressing climate mobility, drawing on a wide range of frameworks to provide adaptable guidance.
- [Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility \(2023\)](#): In this Framework, Pacific Island countries recognize the priority of people to stay in their ancestral lands, while offering practical guidance for governments planning for and managing all forms of climate mobility where needed.
- [Eastern Caribbean Declaration on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change \(2023\)](#): The Declaration outlines a comprehensive framework for human mobility in climate change and disaster contexts, committing states to enhanced cooperation and concrete solutions for cross-border disaster movements, rural-to-urban migrations, and other forms of movement.



Human Rights Lens

What Is It About?

This lens stresses that individuals and communities are rights-holders, whether they are affected by the climate crisis and related mobility inside or outside their countries of origin. It recognizes the right of people to remain in their homes if they wish to, the right to flee from climate threats, and the right to seek refuge in other districts or countries. It highlights the importance of respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the fundamental rights of those threatened by displacement and those who move voluntarily, which include access to shelter, food, water, and security. It also underscores rights in flight and rights in settlement, ensuring that people are protected throughout their journey and in their new place of residence. Lastly, it stresses the duty of states not to remove displaced persons or migrants to a country where they may face serious harm to life or liberty, known as the principle of non-refoulement.

In addition to highlighting specific human rights that must be respected, protected, and fulfilled, the lens also emphasizes principles necessary to ensure this outcome, including accountability, access to justice, non-discrimination, as well as participation and access to information.

In Which Context Is It Most Relevant?

The human rights perspective provides a comprehensive framework that applies universally, irrespective of people's mobility status or citizenship, safeguarding the fundamental rights of all those who move or stay, and calling for upholding their dignity and safety. Importantly, human rights frameworks lay out obligations that a state must uphold vis-à-vis people within its borders.

This lens holds relevance for all people affected by climate mobility, as their rights are frequently threatened, particularly when they are compelled to abandon their homes, trapped in dangerous

sites, or opt to stay despite imminent risk. Unchecked, rights violations worsen suffering, injustices, and atrocities, which intensify vulnerabilities, hinders recovery, fuels tensions, and exacerbates crises. Human rights-based approaches can provide critical guidance for addressing climate mobility, especially if their practical effectiveness is improved through more robust implementation and enforcement mechanisms. In the preamble of the Paris Agreement, states have committed to “respect, promote, and consider their respective obligations on human rights” when taking any climate action.

It is key to recognize that various social identities and factors—including age, gender, ethnicity, indigeneity, health, sex, and socioeconomic status—intersect to shape the agency, experiences, and vulnerabilities of individuals and communities in the context of climate mobility. So-called intersectional lenses stress that people's distinctive conditions play a pivotal role in determining their ability to adapt, access resources, and make decisions regarding staying, moving, or settling. Certain groups, such as women, minors, older adults, Indigenous peoples, and individuals with health limitations, tend to face heightened risk of rights violations when either moving after disasters or remaining in their current locations. These factors, however, cannot be considered in isolation of one another; the interplay between them generates unique challenges that require practical and policy solutions.²³ Acknowledging the diversity of experiences within affected populations enables more targeted and effective responses.

The Human Rights Lens intersects with various others, including the [Development](#), [Forced Displacement](#), and [Humanitarian lenses](#), by highlighting the need for rights-based approaches when undertaking development, protection, and humanitarian efforts.

²³ To illustrate, although government neglect affects many climate migrants, the failure to facilitate access to social programs and basic services may disproportionately impact, for instance, pregnant women, young children, and older adults who migrate, intensifying their vulnerabilities.

Key Frameworks and Resources

International

- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(1948\)](#): The UDHR forms the basis for the protection of people affected by climate displacement. It underpins the human rights framework for climate mobility by establishing fundamental rights and principles, such as the right to life, liberty, and security of person, and the right to seek asylum from persecution.
- [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(1966\)](#): The ICCPR safeguards rights like freedom of movement and the right to be free from arbitrary detention.
- [International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights \(1966\)](#): The ICESCR includes the right to an adequate standard of living, which encompasses the rights to food, water, and housing, which are crucial for climate migrants who often face challenges in accessing these essentials.
- [International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples \(1989\)](#): This ILO Convention recognizes the rights of Indigenous and tribal peoples to their lands, territories, and resources, which can be crucial for mitigating climate displacement.
- [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination \(1965\)](#): The Convention addresses discrimination that certain racial or ethnic groups may face, including in the context of climate mobility.
- [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(1981\)](#) and [Optional Protocol \(1999\)](#): Climate mobility often has gender-specific impacts, and CEDAW provides a framework for gender equality and women's rights, ensuring their inclusion in policies and responses.
- [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families \(1990\)](#): The Convention can be pertinent for protecting the rights and well-being of individuals and families who are compelled to migrate in the context of environmental changes.
- [Convention on the Rights of the Child \(1990\)](#): The CRC protects the rights of children, who are often disproportionately affected by climate mobility. It highlights the importance of considering the unique vulnerabilities and needs of children in climate policies and responses. It provides guidelines for facilitating family reunification and ensuring protection of migrant children. [There are several optional protocols.](#)
- [IASC Operational Guidelines on Protecting Persons Affected by Natural Disasters \(2006\)](#) and [IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters \(2011, revised version\)](#): A framework for protecting the human rights of persons affected by disasters, including climate events, ensuring their rights are upheld during displacement.
- [Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities \(2006\)](#) and [Optional Protocol \(2006\)](#): The Convention addresses the specific needs and rights of people with disabilities who may be disproportionately affected by climate mobility.
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(2007\)](#): UNDRIP emphasizes the rights of Indigenous communities to protect their lands, territories, and resources, which can be essential for mitigating climate displacement.

- [Human Rights Council Resolution-Human Rights and Climate Change \(2017\)](#): This Resolution addresses human rights and climate change, underlining the importance of human rights in climate mobility contexts.
- [OHCHR Principles and Guidelines, Supported by Practical Guidance, on the Human Rights Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations \(2017\)](#): This document is designed to safeguard the rights of migrants in vulnerable situations and is applicable to climate concerns.
- [OHCHR Study-The Slow-Onset Effects of Climate Change and Human Rights Protection for Cross-Border Migrants \(2018\)](#): This document explores the human rights aspects of slow-onset climate change effects and their impact on cross-border migrants.
- [Human Rights Council Report - Human Rights Protection Gaps in the Context of International Migration and Displacement Related to Climate Change \(2018\)](#): This Report discusses human rights protection gaps in the context of migration and displacement related to the climate crisis.
- [Human Rights Council Resolution-Human Rights and Climate Change \(2020\)](#): This Resolution highlights the intersection of human rights and climate change, emphasizing the importance of protecting the rights of those affected by climate mobility.
- [Special Rapporteur Report on Internal Displacement in the Context of the Slow-onset Adverse Effects of Climate Change \(2020\)](#): This Report focuses on the human rights of IDPs in the context of slow-onset climate change impacts.
- [Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the Context of Climate Change \(2022\)](#): These UNICEF guiding principles focus on the rights of children who are on the move due to the climate crisis, offering specific guidance on safeguarding their rights in this context.
- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: Ecological Crisis, Climate Justice and Racial Justice \(2022\)](#): The Report highlights the racially discriminatory and unjust roots and consequences of environmental degradation, including the climate crisis, and highlights the prerequisite of addressing systemic racism to resolve these ecological crises.
- [Special Rapporteur Report on Legal Options to Protect the Human Rights of Persons Displaced Across International Borders due to Climate Change \(2023\)](#): This Report explores legal options to protect the rights of people displaced across international borders in the context of the climate crisis.
- [Fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization](#): These Conventions are pertinent to climate mobility as they focus on safeguarding labor standards and workers' rights for all.

Regional Frameworks

- [American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man \(1948\)](#), [American Convention on Human Rights \(1969\)](#) and its [Protocols \(1988, 1990\)](#), and various Inter-American Human Rights Conventions
- [European Convention on Human Rights \(1950\)](#), [European Social Charter \(1961 and Protocols\)](#), and [European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(2002\)](#)
- [African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights \(1981\)](#) and various [Protocols](#) as well as [African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child \(1990\)](#)
- [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union \(2000\)](#)
- [Arab Charter on Human Rights \(2004\)](#)
- [ASEAN Human Rights Declaration \(2012\)](#)

Humanitarian Lens

What Is It About?

The humanitarian lens emphasizes providing assistance and protection to disaster-affected populations, both to those remaining in disaster-stricken areas and those forcibly displaced elsewhere. Humanitarian efforts are instrumental in ensuring access to essential services, enhancing community resilience, and minimizing the impact of future climate events on people remaining in affected areas and already displaced populations.

Three principles are central to the humanitarian commitment to alleviate suffering and safeguard human life for those affected by disasters and displacement. Neutrality requires humanitarian actors to abstain from engaging in hostilities and to ensure that assistance is provided solely based on needs, free from bias or discrimination. Impartiality underscores the delivery of humanitarian aid without discrimination, prioritizing people based on vulnerability and needs rather than factors like ethnicity, nationality, or political affiliation. Independence remains paramount, allowing humanitarian organizations the autonomy to make decisions and take actions that prioritize the needs of affected populations free from external influence. The [Human Rights Lens](#) stresses the need for rights-based approaches when undertaking any humanitarian action. Beyond fulfilling humanitarian needs, part and parcel of ensuring well-being for people displaced in the context of climate change is providing adequate protection, as described in the [Forced Displacement Lens](#).

In Which Context Is It Most Relevant?

This lens is crucial for addressing the immediate consequences of disasters leading to displacement and other forms of human mobility. Given the increasing frequency and projected escalation of extreme weather events, this lens takes on critical significance. Its paramount role is evident especially during and after such events, where effective humanitarian response is essential for providing timely assistance and protection to affected populations. With Forecast-based Financing (FbF), humanitarian funding can also be allocated as early action in advance, based on scientific forecast information and risk analysis, to anticipate disasters, reduce their impact, and lessen suffering. Humanitarian work is also relevant in all contexts where disasters and conflict converge into complex emergencies. Despite the critical importance of humanitarian assistance to safeguard and protect people, persistent funding shortfalls continue to hinder appropriate responses in numerous disaster contexts.

Importantly, it is increasingly recognized that development and conflict prevention aspects must be integrated early on into humanitarian assistance for disaster-affected or displaced people. A coordinated approach between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts can help address the specific challenges presented by mobility in the context of climate change more effectively. The so-called Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding-(HDP)-Nexus approach is built upon this recognition, as explained in the [Development Lens](#).

Key Frameworks and Resources

- [IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters \(2011\)](#): These guidelines provide essential guidance on protecting people in the aftermath of hazards or climate disasters and address their protection needs.
- [World Humanitarian Summit Commitments to Action \(2016\)](#): The Summit's commitments to action are relevant to the humanitarian lens, emphasizing collective efforts to address humanitarian challenges, including those arising from climate disasters and mobility.
- [Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster \(2016\)](#): These guidelines focus on protecting migrants in situations of conflict or disasters in their destination countries, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding their rights and well-being.
- [The Sphere Handbook \(2018\)](#): This Handbook provides practical guidance on humanitarian response, including in disaster situations, for ensuring the protection, assistance, and dignity of affected populations, which is vital in climate disasters leading to mobility.
- [ILC Draft Articles on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters \(2021\)](#): These draft articles emphasize the importance of disaster preparedness and response to safeguard the well-being of affected populations. They were drafted by the International Law Commission and acknowledged by the UN General Assembly for further consideration.

Also see frameworks and resources on the HDP-Nexus Approach under the [Development Lens](#) list. Furthermore, the Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols become relevant when armed conflicts and disasters co-occur, as they establish legal frameworks for the protection of people affected by such situations (see [foundational treaties of international humanitarian law](#)).



Migration Management Lens

What Is It About?

The migration management lens primarily centers on governments' responses to climate mobility. States typically aim to regulate cross-border movements of people and frame such "management" of migration as one aspect of maintaining order and security. In response to climate mobility, states have often adopted a similar approach.

In favorable scenarios, the management perspective highlights that proactive approaches are needed to channel climate mobility through safe, regular, and orderly pathways so as to ensure the well-being and safety of affected populations in origin, transit, and destinations. This idea is expressed in Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Migration, which deals with enhancing pathways for regular migration. In this view, which intersects with the [Human Rights](#) and [Development Lenses](#), the goal of migration management should be to make disaster- and climate change-related migration safe, orderly, and regular. This may also involve efforts countering trafficking in persons and associated forms of exploitation and abuse.

Worryingly, however, the migration management lens has also been used to justify highly restrictive policies and practices that exacerbate the vulnerability of climate-affected people and impede their access to essential resources and protection, while reducing the potential benefits of migration for transit and receiving areas. Commonly applied restriction strategies range from border controls to immigration, visa, and deportation laws or policies. In these concerning

cases when "management" serves as a euphemism for disproportionate constraints on much-needed options for climate migrants, this lens intersects with the [Security Lens](#).

Climate migration management usually focuses on cross-border mobility, but internal migration policies can also be impacted. These policies can encompass efforts to discourage internal migration (*such as through residence permits and controls on movement*) or incentivize it (*such as through financial, tax, infrastructure, housing, and job opportunities*). Policies can encompass efforts to discourage internal migration (*such as through residence permits and controls on movement*) or incentivize it (*such as through financial, tax, infrastructure, housing, and job opportunities*).

In Which Context Is It Most Relevant?

This approach is most relevant in the context of how governments respond to the challenges posed by climate mobility, especially across borders. By adopting proactive, rights-based, and human-centered measures, states can ensure that climate-affected people receive the necessary assistance, humanitarian support, and access to safe and legal pathways, ultimately contributing to the well-being and safety of all involved populations. Additionally, a people-positive management approach can help to generate a welcoming atmosphere for receiving communities, can build stability and resilience for people on the move, promote planned and orderly migration, and mitigate the risk of unplanned

mass movements that could result in greater vulnerabilities and crises. Effective management can help people find suitable destinations, mitigate overcrowding in key destinations, and strategically develop secondary cities or sanctuary cities, fostering more equitable distribution and sustainable development.

Finally, migration management, if positively applied, can also be relevant for the stabilization of migrant communities, when it aims at creating conditions that foster the well-being, inclusion, and sustainable development of migrants within their host communities.

Key Frameworks and Resources

- [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families \(1990\)](#): This Convention emphasizes the protection of the rights and well-being of all migrant workers and their families, including those displaced by climate factors. It underscores the importance of ensuring their access to basic necessities.
- [Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2015\)](#): One of the targets of the SDGs is explicitly to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible mobility of people.
- [Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster \(2016\)](#): These guidelines focus on protecting migrants in situations of conflict or natural disasters in their destination countries, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding their rights and well-being.
- [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants \(2016\)](#): The Declaration, a precursor of the GCM and GCR, sets out principles and commitments for the safe, orderly, and regular management of international mobility. It recognizes the need to address the specific challenges of climate mobility and ensure the protection and well-being of affected populations.
- [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(2018\)](#): The GCM outlines principles and commitments related to safe, orderly, and regular migration. It explicitly embeds climate migration within its scope, emphasizing the establishment of regular pathways and the safeguarding of the protection and well-being of migrants.
- [International Organization for Migration Migration Governance Framework \(2018\)](#): The IOM's Migration Governance Framework offers guidance for policymakers on migration management. It is relevant to climate mobility as it provides insights into the governance of migration processes, including those related to climate displacement.
- [Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection \(2022\)](#): The Declaration, endorsed by a coalition of actors in the Americas, emphasizes the importance of supporting safe, orderly, humane, and regular migration.
- [Fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization](#): These conventions are pertinent to climate mobility as they focus on safeguarding labor standards and workers' rights for all.
- [Regional Consultative Processes on Migration](#): RCPs are state-led forums at the regional level that play a key role in fostering collaboration, shaping national or regional policies, and contributing to global initiatives, including considerations related to climate change.

(Human) Security Lens

What Is It About?

The traditional “security lens” tends to focus on state-centric concerns and national security interests regarding climate mobility. These concerns may include safeguarding territorial integrity, preserving sovereignty, and ensuring the security of a state’s borders. Within this perspective, border crossings related to climate impacts or disasters are typically framed as a potential threat to national security, including due to the possibility of large-scale population movements leading to resource scarcity, conflicts, or destabilization. Further invoked security concerns may also encompass the hampering of labor markets or social cohesion. Policies and strategies developed under the security lens may encompass measures like border controls, immigration restrictions, and defense mechanisms, which ultimately exacerbate the risks faced by persons moving in the search of safer havens before, during, or after disasters and reduce their opportunities to contribute to both transit and receiving areas.

“Human security” refers to a concept that emphasizes the protection and well-being of people, placing the focus on people rather than the state. Its goal is to ensure that people live with dignity in safe and just environments, free from fear and want. This approach recognizes that traditional notions of security should extend beyond state-centric security concerns to address the diverse and interconnected challenges that people face in their daily lives. Policies and strategies framed within the human security lens are geared toward addressing the human needs and vulnerabilities associated with climate mobility, often prioritizing [humanitarian](#) and [development-oriented](#) responses. While it is crucial to address climate-conflict connections through a peacebuilding approach, it is equally key to recognize and treat people fleeing such situations as humans deserving of protection and support, rather than as threats.

In Which Context Is It Most Relevant?

The (human) security approach is most relevant in the context of assessing and mitigating the implications of climate mobility. It underscores the importance of addressing security concerns, such as potential conflicts and instability, even though the evidence on the climate crisis directly exacerbating conflict is still emerging. What is already clear is that conflict often triggers displacements and/or affects already displaced persons, so that conflict-sensitive approaches are crucial for the climate-mobility nexus. These links are spelled out in the section on the HDP-Nexus approach under the [Development Lens](#). How security concerns can feed into restrictive migration policies is detailed in the [Migration Management Lens](#).

The human security perspective, as a crucial complementary viewpoint to traditional security approaches, emphasizes that efforts should prioritize the protection and well-being of affected individuals and communities, rather than using security concerns as a pretext to control people’s movements and increase their vulnerabilities. Similarly as spelled out in the [Human Rights Lens](#), the human security lens also directs attention to the various intersecting social factors that shape people’s differential experiences, such as age or gender, and should thus inform action.

Key Frameworks and Resources

- [United Nations Charter \(1945\)](#): The UN Charter emphasizes the prevention of armed conflicts and provides a broad foundation for addressing these conflicts and promoting peace, which are relevant as the climate crisis may influence conflict and related displacement dynamics.
- [Foundational Treaties of International Humanitarian Law](#): The Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols become relevant when armed conflicts and disasters co-occur, as they establish legal frameworks for the protection of people affected by such situations.
- [UNDP Human Development Report “New Dimensions of Human Security” \(1994\)](#): Endeavor to articulate the concept of human security, contending that the most effective approach to address global insecurity is by ensuring “freedom from want” and “freedom from fear” for all people.
- [UN Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Agenda](#): This agenda highlights the need for a more holistic approach to peacebuilding, recognizing the links between the climate crisis, conflict, and peace. It underscores the importance of addressing climate factors as part of conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies.
- [Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2015\)](#): The SDGs recognize the interlinkages between climate change and peace. Goal 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change, while Goal 16 highlights the need for peaceful and inclusive societies.

- Regional and National Initiatives: Numerous regional organizations and local governments have taken steps to integrate climate change and peacebuilding.

For example:

- [The European Council’s Strategic Compass for Security and Defence \(2022\)](#) stresses the role of climate change in escalating threats of instability, conflict, and subsequent displacement.
- In [Asia and Africa](#), various regional organizations have endorsed relevant policies. For example, IGAD in East Africa, which was founded in part to respond to drought, food insecurity, and environmental protection and has developed specific frameworks on climate mobility. The African Union Peace and Security Council in 2019 also underscores the importance of managing security risks associated with the climate crisis and disasters.
- National governments, like the U.S., have recognized the security implications of climate mobility, albeit within specific contexts ([White House Report in \(2021\)](#)).
- [United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Climate Change and Security](#): The UNSC has debated climate-security links in regions where it had been already active, though the topic, and if the UNSC should deal with it, has been the subject of controversy. Some resolutions have recognized the security implications of climate change and stressed the need for proactive efforts.
- UN General Assembly ([Resolution A/RES/63/281](#)) and Secretary General (e.g., [UNSG A/64/350](#)): The UNGA and the UNSG have recognized climate-security implications and encouraged the UNSC to avert, minimize, and address displacement due to climate disruption at various occasions.



Urban Lens

What Is It About?

The urban lens offers insights into how climate mobility affects urban areas, infrastructure, and the governance of growing populations. It delves into the interplay of urbanization, economic shifts, demographic transitions, and mobility drivers, stressing the significance of considering diverse mobility types and directions alongside population increase determined by births and deaths. This view also draws attention to urban areas that attract climate migrants and the need to promote equitable distribution beyond the

local level. It sheds light on people's well-being in cities, including by calling attention to climate risks that migrants face in urban areas. Moreover, it shows how certain urban areas highly exposed to climate impacts may lose certain segments of their population as they are forced to move away. Lastly, it addresses the role of urban governance and the integration of non-state actors in comprehensive preparation and responses for climate mobility.

In Which Context Is It Most Relevant?

This perspective is particularly relevant in regions where rapid urbanization coincides with climate mobility. Many people moving in the context of the climate crisis will likely stay within their own country, and a significant share of that movement will be from rural or peri-urban to cities. In addition, many cities that serve as destinations for migrants are themselves highly vulnerable to climate impacts. The urbanization lens is thus essential for comprehending the intricate interplay among population movements, natural population growth, and urban development to effectively address the multifaceted impacts of climate change, harness potential benefits, and tackle associated challenges. Furthermore, this view is valuable for crafting responses to urban areas facing potential out-movement

due to the climate crisis. It aids in identifying which of these regions, even as they experience the departure of migrants due to deteriorating habitability, may still undergo natural population growth, and offers insights into managing these dynamics to safeguard people's well-being. Finally, the urbanization lens emphasizes the critical importance of sub-national engagement to address climate displacement dynamics, managed retreat or planned relocation, and evacuations. Given that a large share of displaced persons [lives in urban settings](#) and [urban displacement risks are significant](#), the urbanization lens closely intersects with the [Humanitarian, Development, Human Rights](#), and the [Forced Displacement](#) lenses, among others.

Key Frameworks and Resources

- [New Urban Agenda \(2016\)](#): The Agenda sets out a global strategy for sustainable urban development. It guides urban planning and resilience-building efforts in response to the climate crisis and is therefore relevant for climate mobility that increasingly involves urban areas.
- [Global Mayor's Action Agenda on Climate and Migration \(2022\)](#): The Action Agenda explores the climate-mobility nexus and efforts needed to address the challenges in urban areas. It recognizes the crucial role of cities in providing safe havens, services, and opportunities for migrants while calling for promoting sustainable urban development in the face of climate change impacts.

Also see other lists, particularly under the [Human Rights](#) and [Development Lens](#).