



Photo: NRC, Sylhet Flood, Bangladesh, 2022

COP27 Must Act on Human Mobility

These messages were developed by the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility, with contributions from additional civil society organisations.¹

Climate Change and Human Mobility

- **Climate-related disasters already force millions of people to flee their homes each year.** In 2021 alone, hazardous weather events triggered an estimated 22 million displacements. Most displaced people stay in their own countries, but in some situations, displaced people cross borders in search of safety and protection.
- While the **Global South is most seriously affected**, climate change is contributing to displacement around the world, with people forced to flee storms, floods, and fires in Australia, Europe, and North America. Refugees and other previously displaced people are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate emergency, as are ocean and ocean-dependent communities.
- Since AR5 there is increased evidence that **climate hazards associated with extreme events and variability act as direct drivers of migration and displacement** and as indirect drivers through deteriorating climate-sensitive livelihoods (high-confidence). In the IPCC AR6's technical summary it is stated that one of the main pathways for climate related migration is through the deteriorating economic conditions and livelihoods (high confidence). Climate change has influenced changes in temporary, seasonal, and permanent migration that is associated with labour diversification as a risk reduction strategy. This movement is often

¹ AOSED (An Organization for Socio-Economic Development), the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Climate Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), COAST Foundation, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the Hugo Observatory at the University of Liège, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Refugees International (RI), Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung International Climate Justice Programme, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Water Initiatives.

The Advisory Group remains available for any further information on these messages and stands ready to provide technical support to UNFCCC Parties. For further information, please contact nrcgeneva.policy@nrc.no.

followed by remittances (medium confidence). However, these same economic losses can also undermine households' resources and savings, limiting mobility and compounding their exposure and vulnerability (high confidence) (TS.B.6.2).

- For the first time, the 6th assessment report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in February 2022 recognises that climate change is already contributing to humanitarian crises in vulnerable contexts. In addition, **climate and weather extremes are increasingly driving displacement in every region of the world**. Notably, the IPCC report projects a **200 per cent increase in human displacement across Africa for 1.6°C of warming** and an increase of 600 per cent for 2.6°C degrees of warming.
- The **climate emergency demands international cooperation now to limit warming to a 1.5°C** increase over pre-industrial levels and **avoid and minimise future displacements**.
- **Adaptation measures including migration and planned relocation and resettlement as an adaptation strategy** play a crucial role in building resilience and reducing underlying vulnerabilities that may contribute to displacement of populations that lack the resources to move out of harm's way. These include **legal and policy frameworks that support safe, voluntary, and dignified migration** as a positive choice, and, if necessary, through **participatory planning for relocation** to safer settlement areas with full **respect for a broad range of human rights as a last resort measure and with full participation of affected people**.
- **When displacement cannot be avoided, advance** planning, technical support, and adequate resources to build capacity in the most-affected countries can **reduce loss and damage when people have to flee or relocate** from the adverse effects of climate change by helping them find durable solutions to their displacement that **respect their human rights**. Strengthening climate resilience in return areas also enables safe and sustainable reintegration that breaks cycles of crisis and displacement.

Loss and Damage

Progress to date:

- The **WIM Executive Committee's five-year rolling workplan** includes "enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation" (UN Doc FCCC/SB/2018/1).
- Established under the WIM in 2016 (Decision 1/CP.21), the **Task Force on Displacement** has submitted a broad range of recommendations to the WIM, based upon extensive research and expert consultations as set out in its workplan.
- At COP 26, Parties determined the functions of Santiago Network (established by Decision 2/CMA.2) and established a process to further develop its institutional arrangements and decided that the "Santiago network will be provided with funds to support technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage". The Glasgow Dialogue was also established in 2021 to discuss the funding of activities to avert, minimise and address loss and damage.
- Parties should urgently provide affected and vulnerable countries with expertise, tools, and financing to prepare for and Respond to Climate Change-Related Human Mobility.
- Before and at COP27, commitments to new and additional dedicated loss and damage financing must be secured. Finance mobilisation is a key first step – however we must also consider how the money will flow to those that need it most.
- To date, the **Global Stocktake**, which is scheduled for 2023, as required by the Paris Agreement, does not include Loss and Damage.

Critical next steps:

- **Establish loss and damage as a permanent, standalone agenda item** for all future COPs/CMAs, and **appoint a loss and damage focal point** to mobilise and enhance political will.
- All Parties to the UNFCCC must **reaffirm their commitment to address** human mobility within adaptation and loss and damage, with action on both slow-onset processes and sudden-onset hazards, considering planning processes and integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, humanitarian assistance, and development.
- **Parties should not wait for communities to be displaced before embarking on efforts to protect them.** Invest in communities and organisations working to enhance their resilience by increasing their adaptive capacity and enhancing disaster risk reduction efforts, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and other relevant international and regional frameworks.
- **Develop an action plan and commit adequate financial resources to operationalise the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage** through the establishment of a governance structure and Secretariat to serve as a technical support hub for vulnerable developing States at all levels, including local and community-based projects.
- Competent national authorities to **apply existing refugee and human rights law where relevant to grant international protection to people displaced in the context of climate impacts and disasters**; and consider granting temporary or other rights to stay on humanitarian grounds, where applicable, in other situations².
- **Include loss and damage within the upcoming Global Stocktake** and encourage Parties to consider how relevant policies and actions contribute to reducing climate-related displacement risk and ensure that those who want to move have safe and regular migration pathways.
- Encourage the Santiago Network to invite a **wide variety of relevant organisations, bodies, networks, and experts, including at the local level**, with technical expertise and assistance on human mobility issues so that they inform technical support of efforts.
- Collaborate with communities of practice to produce or provide relevant disaggregated data to inform scaled up climate action relevant to human mobility.
- Implement the **Task Force on Displacement's** (TFD) existing recommendations³ (welcomed in Decision 10/CP.24) and express continued support for the Task Force on Displacement as an important knowledge forum for helping States develop integrated approaches to avert, minimise, and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change. Key recommendations include:
 - **"To continue supporting efforts, including finance, technology and capacity-building, of Parties and other actors, including with and for communities and local actors**, in order to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, at all levels, including the community, national, regional and international levels;"
 - **"To enhance research, data collection, risk analysis and sharing of information** to better map, understand and manage human mobility related to the adverse impacts of climate change in a manner that includes the participation of communities affected and at risk of displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change;"
 - **"To integrate climate change related human mobility challenges and opportunities into national planning processes**, as appropriate, by drawing on available tools, guidance and good practices, and consider communicating these efforts undertaken, as appropriate".
- Encourage the TFD to explore and analyse **distinctions between adaptation and loss and damage measures** in the context of displacement, and clarify, accordingly, how vulnerable countries can access financing under adaptation and/or loss and damage modalities.

² UNHCR, *Legal considerations regarding claims for international protection made in the context of the adverse effects of climate change and disasters*, 1 October 2020, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5f75f2734.html>

³ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/10a1.pdf#page=43>

Adaptation and Resilience

Progress to date:

- In May 2021, the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee continued its discussions, based on technical guidance (AC/2021/TP/GGA), to establish a review process for the **Global Goal on Adaptation** (GGA), created under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement. The GGA review will be one component of the **Global Stocktake**.
- The **Green Climate Fund** has supported Parties with the development of their national adaptation plans (NAPs). In 2021, the UNFCCC Adaptation Division also launched the **UN for NAPs Initiative** that aims to provide coordinated technical assistance from across the UN system to help countries formulate and implement their NAPs.
- By 2017, 51 countries prepared short-term National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (NAPA). However, to date, only 50 countries,⁴ have submitted longer term **NAPs**, which reinforce and expand upon national adaptation priorities identified in their NDCs.

Critical next steps:

- Advocate for the **Global Goal on Adaptation review process, as part of the Global Stocktake, to include adaptation goals and targets aimed at averting and minimising displacement**, such as through the facilitation of safe, orderly and regular migration when adaptation in places of origin is not possible, planned relocation processes, and other measures. Ensure the process considers information on vulnerable populations at risk of displacement, and adaptation actions that can reduce displacement risk by reducing vulnerability and exposure to adverse climate impacts, and that respect the rights of displaced persons, migrants, and other vulnerable populations.
- Ensure that the **Global Goal on Adaptation workshop** includes displaced persons and migrants and discusses how Parties can **include human mobility considerations** in their NAPs and other planning tools, including identifying necessary support for countries and regions from financial institutions, UN Agencies, and other stakeholders to collectively implement such plans.
- Encourage global and national efforts, like the Green Climate Fund and UN for NAPs Initiative, to **support the inclusion of human mobility considerations in the formulation and implementation of NAPs**, particularly for LDCs and SIDS, by providing affected countries with necessary technical expertise and financing.
- Highlight the **importance of adaptation in existing displacement settings to advance durable solutions**, in line with the UN Secretary-General High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement's September 2021 report and the Sustainable Development Goals' commitment to leave no one behind, recognising that refugees and internally displaced persons are often exposed to high levels of displacement risk associated with the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Emphasise the importance of **inclusive, gender-responsive and integrated human rights-based approaches to adaptation measures** that conform with the Paris Agreement, the Global Compact for Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach.

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/news/more-countries-formulating-national-adaptation-plans-support-to-ldcs-strengthened> (Accessed 16 Oct 2022)

Finance

Progress to date:

- High-income countries have repeatedly committed in Copenhagen, Paris and Madrid to **robust financing measures at 100 USD billion per year**, starting in 2020 and extending beyond 2025, balanced between mitigation and adaptation (Decision 1/CP.21, paras. 53 and 114). However, these commitments have not yet translated into reality. The **ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance**, co-chaired by Italy and Trinidad and Tobago, is planned for 2022-2024, and includes technical expert dialogues and annual reports (<https://unfccc.int/NCQG>).
- In Madrid, the COP invited the **Green Climate Fund** to “continue providing financial resources for activities relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in developing country Parties, to the extent consistent with the existing investment, results framework and funding windows and structures of the Green Climate Fund, and to facilitate efficient access in this regard” with reference to the WIM’s five-year work plan that includes displacement (Decision 6/CMA.2).

Critical next steps:

- Increase **political commitment** for scaling up global financial and technical support to address climate displacement under loss and damage.
- The **ad hoc work program** should ensure that they **address human mobility considerations** in their technical expert dialogues.
- Follow up and strengthen **financial commitments to dedicate 100 billion USD annually to support mitigation and adaptation measures** for low-income countries between 2021-2024, ensuring that adaptation accounts for at least 50 per cent of the total grant equivalent amount.
- Initiate negotiations on quantifying a **new, higher collective goal for 2025 onwards**, “taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries” as mandated in the Paris Agreement (Decision 1/CP.21, para. 53), that **supports mitigation, adaptation, as well as loss and damage measures**.
- Request a progress **update on the Green Climate Fund’s support** for measures to avert, minimise and address loss and damage, and the extent to which they address displacement and other forms of human mobility.
- Ensure that **eligibility requirements for adaptation, as well as loss and damage projects, include and streamline relevant human mobility measures**, such as resilience building for displaced populations and vulnerable migrants, facilitating community-based planned relocation, access to pathways for admission and stay in cases of cross-border mobility, and assistance and durable solutions for displaced persons.
- Provide low-income countries, as well as national, local, and civil society organisations, with **guidance on how to access sustainable, adequate, and predictable financing** to comprehensively integrate climate change-related human mobility considerations in wider climate change responses.
- **Invite UN agencies and other stakeholders to strengthen countries’ capacities** to develop climate finance proposals for national and regional management of climate change-related human mobility.
- Contribute funding and support for Member States’ access to **humanitarian and development funding outside the UNFCCC process** for efforts to address human mobility associated with the adverse impacts of climate change, such as through multilateral vertical funds, the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, insurance, social protection safety nets, and anticipatory financing mechanisms.

WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT

Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility

Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED): An NGO based in Egypt that works in the field of environment and sustainable development in the Arab world, Mediterranean countries, Africa, and internationally.

Hugo Observatory, University of Liège: A research center committed to the study of interactions between environmental changes, human migration, and politics.

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC): An NGO offering the world's definitive source of data and analysis on internal displacement to inform policy and operational decision making.

International Organization for Migration (IOM): Migration and displacement management, humanitarian assistance, policy development, capacity-building, research, and advocacy in the context of environmental degradation, climate change and disasters.

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): An independent humanitarian organization helping displaced people worldwide, NRC is engaged at the global, regional and national level to better protect people displaced in the context of climate change.

Refugees International (RI): RI advocates for lifesaving assistance, human rights, and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Displacement, protection policy and legal advice in the context of the climate emergency.

United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS): Research at the nexus of science, policy, and capacity building about the drivers and impacts of climate-related mobility.

Additional Expertise

AOSED: AOSED is committed to the development of the grassroots population by tackling the environment-friendly ecosystem of Southwestern Bangladesh and tackling the harmful effects of climate change and establishing the rights of local people in natural resources.

COAST: COAST Foundation is a non-profit NGO working for the coastal poor in Bangladesh since 1998. COAST organizes strategically important activities related to development, which facilitate a sustainable and equitable improvement in coastal areas of Bangladesh for disadvantaged populations through their increased participation in the socio-economic, culture and civic life.

Climate Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP): A global platform, representing more than 30 organizations, that brings together civil society, activists, and academics with missions at the intersection of climate change and human mobility.

European Environmental Bureau (EEB): The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations, consisting of 180 member organisations in 38 countries, standing for environmental justice, sustainable development, and participatory democracy.

Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung International Climate Justice Programme: An internationally active, progressive non-profit organization for political education.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC): UUSC is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. Its Climate Justice work focuses on advancing and protecting the rights of populations at risk of climate-forced displacement caused by slow-onset climate impacts.

Water Initiatives: A network of civil society organizations, academia and experts working on water, environmental, and climate change issues in India.

For events on human mobility and disaster displacement at COP27 see a listing here:

<https://disasterdisplacement.org/disaster-displacement-at-the-2022-united-nations-climate-change-conference-cop27>