



Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change

Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Eastern Caribbean

POLICY BRIEF – Summary of policy recommendations

Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

In cooperation with

 **Organisation of
Eastern Caribbean States**



















Summary of policy recommendations





















Based on the literature review, the survey and the interview, policy recommendations have been formulated to inform the development of an OECS policy to address human mobility in the context of a COVID-19 pandemic and climate change event convergence. A key consideration for the OECS Commission, while focusing on COVID-19, is that of a broader pandemic approach in the policy development. COVID-19 may just be one of the many challenges that the region, and indeed the world, will face while we continue to address human mobility in the context of climate change. In the following, the main recommendations are elaborated. All twenty (20) recommendations are included in the recommendations table.

The need to “develop national and/or sub-regional financial mechanisms for supporting displaced persons and cross-border migrants from the adverse impacts of climate change” has been identified as one of the main recommendations. The financial mechanism would utilize various financial instruments including insurance through the CCRIF which can create an immediate injection to address issues arising from disaster displacement and cross-border migration. Relief funds have been established to support COVID-19 responses. Some of these resources could be allocated as seed funding for mechanisms addressing HMCCC.

It can furthermore be recommended to “sensitize vulnerable populations and communities on the possibility of being displaced by a climate related event, including providing information on and options for risk-pooling as well as securing livelihood protection policies”. It is important to equip and empower the most vulnerable groups of OECS citizens with the information and tools needed to positively impact their future. Furthermore, gender dynamics should be given particular recognition in all processes and in the development of policies or guidelines.

The supporting sources for the recommendations presented below are indicated by LR - Literature Review, I - Expert Interview and S - Survey. The time-frame for implementation is captured as S-Short, M-Medium or L-Long-Term.

Policy Recommendations	Supporting Sources			
	LR	I	S	S, M, L
Develop national and/or sub-regional financial mechanisms for supporting displaced persons and cross-border migrants from the adverse impacts of climate change including risk insurance, expanding social protection funding to include displaced persons and cross-border migrants and budgetary allocations by national governments.				M
Sensitize vulnerable populations and communities of being displaced by a climate-related event and inform on the options for risk pooling and securing livelihood protection policies.				S
Promote and facilitate improved coordination between key agencies such as immigration and security/police, disaster risk, health, social and human services in planning for and responding to the convergence of a climate event with the COVID-19 pandemic.				S
Facilitate the coherence of key policies, mechanisms and approaches among OECS MS in order to minimize differences in responding to displaced persons and cross-border migrants.				M
Promote the adoption of a whole-of-society approach, recognizing that private actors, civil society and faith-based organisations have a critical role to play in supporting the efforts of reducing risks to displaced persons and cross-border migrants.				S
Promote and support the establishment of MoU between all OECS MS, including non-protocol OECS MS who do not benefit from the contingent rights.				L
Promote and facilitate the coordination of mental health programmes to support displaced persons and migrants within the OECS region.				S
Encourage the updating and/or adoption of pandemic plans based on the work done by PAHO in 2005.				M
Promote the strengthening of emergency management plans, climate change policies and other relevant legislation to thoroughly address human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters. Legal protection for such person should be included.				L
Facilitate comprehensive and systematic data collection and analysis as well as data sharing on displaced persons and cross-border migrants.				S

Policy Recommendations	Supporting Sources			
	LR	I	S	S, M, L
Encourage the establishment of “receiving desks” as part of protocols at ports of entry to facilitate disaster-displaced persons. This will support tracking of disaster-displaced persons.				S
Support the improved capacity, encourage resolute leadership and promote adequate financial resources of NECOs.				M
Encourage adherence to established COVID-19 health protocols as part of emergency shelter management, while establishing clear SOPs in the event that a strict adherence to the COVID-19 health protocols cannot be adhered to is impossible in the interest of saving lives.				S
Update the OECS policy on contingent rights to include provisions for protection of disaster-displaced persons and their families and other rights as appropriate.				L
Develop regional migration policies/frameworks which cover all forms of human mobility including HMCCC. These should consider the risk reduction and climate justice dimension of human mobility.				M
Encourage assessment of emergency shelters with a view to extreme climate events such as hurricanes of Category 5.				S
Promote and facilitate the development of a plan of action to improve the infrastructural integrity of emergency shelters.				L
Consider revision of border control policies for the scenario of an extreme climate event during the COVID-19 pandemic.				S
Support OECS MS in their efforts “to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change”, following the advice from the Task Force on Displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM).				S
Support the efforts of CDEMA in promoting the full disaster management approach over an episodic approach to managing disasters.				S

Imprint

Published by the

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change
Friedrich-Ebert Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
Phone +49 (0) 6196 79 - 0
Fax +49 (0) 6196 79 - 1115
www.giz.de

As at

October 2020

Design

DIAMOND media GmbH, Neunkirchen-Seelscheid, Germany

Photo credits

© Junior Etienne, St. Lucia

Text

Neranda Maurice-George

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

The information and recommendations of the publication do not automatically reflect the opinion of BMZ or GIZ.

On behalf of the
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)