



SESSION 3: WEST AFRICAN MESSAGES FOR THE REGIONAL REVIEW OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION (GCM)

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GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

- The first-ever negotiated global framework on migration
- It adopts a 360-degree view, looking at all facets and drivers of international migration
- States recognize that migration in the context of disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation is a reality
- States directly acknowledge that both sudden and slow onset events and processes associated with disasters, climate change and environmental degradation are drivers of contemporary migration
- States have also committed to action at national, regional and international levels



GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

The key GCM commitments on migration, disasters, climate change and environmental degradation are articulated in:

- **Objective 2:** Minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin - Natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation (*Objective 2, paragraphs 18.h-18.l*)
- **Objective 5:** Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration (*Objective 5, paragraphs 21.g-21.h*)



KEY MESSAGES

- States are encouraged to develop national review reports of GCM implementation, and to contribute to the regional review based on these reports.
- In preparing the national reviews and regional interventions, States are encouraged to involve relevant ministries in charge of environment, climate change, disaster management, disaster risk reduction, agriculture, development, labour etc., in addition to migration-relevant ministries.





KEY MESSAGES

In their national review reports, States are encouraged to analyse progress made and gaps in implementation under **GCM Objectives 2 and 5** on:

- 1. Data collection/analysis, research development, and knowledge sharing** relevant to migration in the context of disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation
- 2. Development, update or implementation of policies, strategies, and legislation on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and on disaster management**, which include migration considerations
- 3. Development, update or implementation of sub-regional and regional migration policies**, which include disaster, climate change and environmental degradation considerations
- 4. Development, update or implementation of regular migration pathways in the context of disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation**

1. Data collection/analysis, research, development, and knowledge



Examples include developing or contributing to:

- Country profiles on migration, environment and climate change
- Data collection and analysis exercises on disaster displacement
- Knowledge sharing among relevant ministries and with other countries at regional level.

2. Development, Update or Implementation of Policies, Strategies, and Legislation on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, and on Disaster Management



Examples include:

- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) on climate change
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on climate change
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policies/Strategies
- Disaster Preparedness Policies/Strategies.

3. Development, update or implementation of sub-regional and regional migration policies



Examples for West Africa include:

- The ECOWAS Regional Migration Policy, and alignment of national migration policies
- Participation in state-led processes relevant to migration in the context of disaster, climate change and environmental degradation, including:
 - The Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) hosted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
 - The Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S) Initiative
 - The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
 - The Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC)
 - The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
 - The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
 - The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)
 - The Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative
 - Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

4. Development, update or implementation of regular migration pathways in the context of disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation



Examples include:

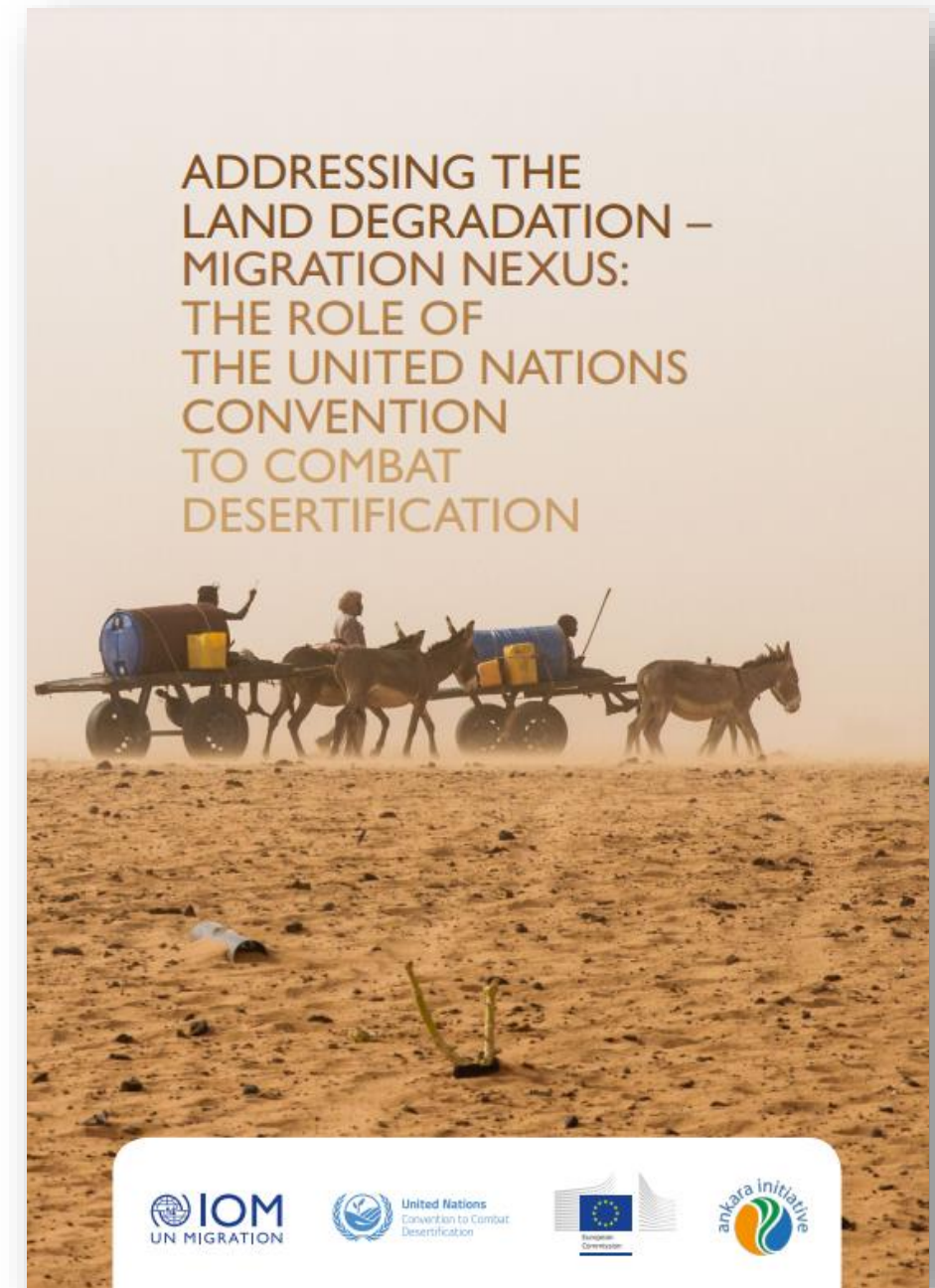
- Implementation of the 1979 ECOWAS Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment and its four supplementary protocols
- Implementation of the 1998 the ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol, the 2003 Regulation relating to its implementation as well as of the ECOWAS International Transhumance Certificates (ITC)
- Development, update or implementation of humanitarian visas, subsidiary or complementary protection, planned relocation, private sponsorships, access to education for children, temporary work permits, and visa options for people affected by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation

KEY MESSAGES

In their national review reports, States are encouraged to analyse regional dimensions of the migration-environment nexus relevant to West Africa:

1. Impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) on migration

- “Land remains the most fundamental asset for the majority of vulnerable populations living in developing countries, as their livelihoods are directly linked to agriculture.” (*IOM and UNCCD, 2019*)
- “Desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) can disproportionately contribute to increased poverty, unemployment and inequality; and lead to the forced migration of those already most marginalized and vulnerable.” (*IOM and UNCCD, 2019*)



KEY MESSAGES

In their national review reports, States are encouraged to analyse regional dimensions of the migration-environment nexus relevant to West Africa:

2. Circular migration, agriculture and drought

- “As agriculture is a main source of revenue in West Africa, migration can become an adaptation strategy when farming is no longer an option and if local adaptation strategies are limited.” (*IOM, 2021*)
- “There is evidence that international migration in search of employment can amplify at times of drought, especially in places with strong migration networks or traditions.” (*IOM and UNCCD, 2019*)
- “Although migration has always been a vital strategy to cope with DLDD, migration, in its forced forms, can also contribute to further socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities.” (*IOM and UNCCD, 2019*)

Environmental Migration,
Disaster Displacement, and
Planned Relocation
in West Africa



Publication will be available on [IOM Environmental Migration Portal](#)

KEY MESSAGES

In their national review reports, States are encouraged to analyse regional dimensions of the migration-environment nexus relevant to West Africa:

3. Changes in pastoralism and natural resources-related tensions

- “There is a long tradition of internal and international pastoralism related to seasonal variability in the Sahel region.” ([IOM, 2021](#))
- “Traditional transhumance corridors are affected by disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation.” ([IOM, 2021](#))
- “The instability and lack of rainfall leading to drought, pushes pastoralists in search of grazeland to drive their herds, usually further South or towards neighbouring coastal countries during the wet season.” ([IOM, 2021](#)). This can cause communal clashes between herders and farmers over natural resources.



KEY MESSAGES

In their national review reports, States are encouraged to analyse regional dimensions of the migration-environment nexus relevant to West Africa:

4. Migration, environment, climate change and conflict

- “The disproportionate impact of climate change can result in increasing local competition for natural resources, in particular food and water. The combined effects of climate change, including extreme weather episodes with droughts and floods, and armed conflicts are among the lead causes of displacements across the Sahel.” ([IOM, 2021](#))

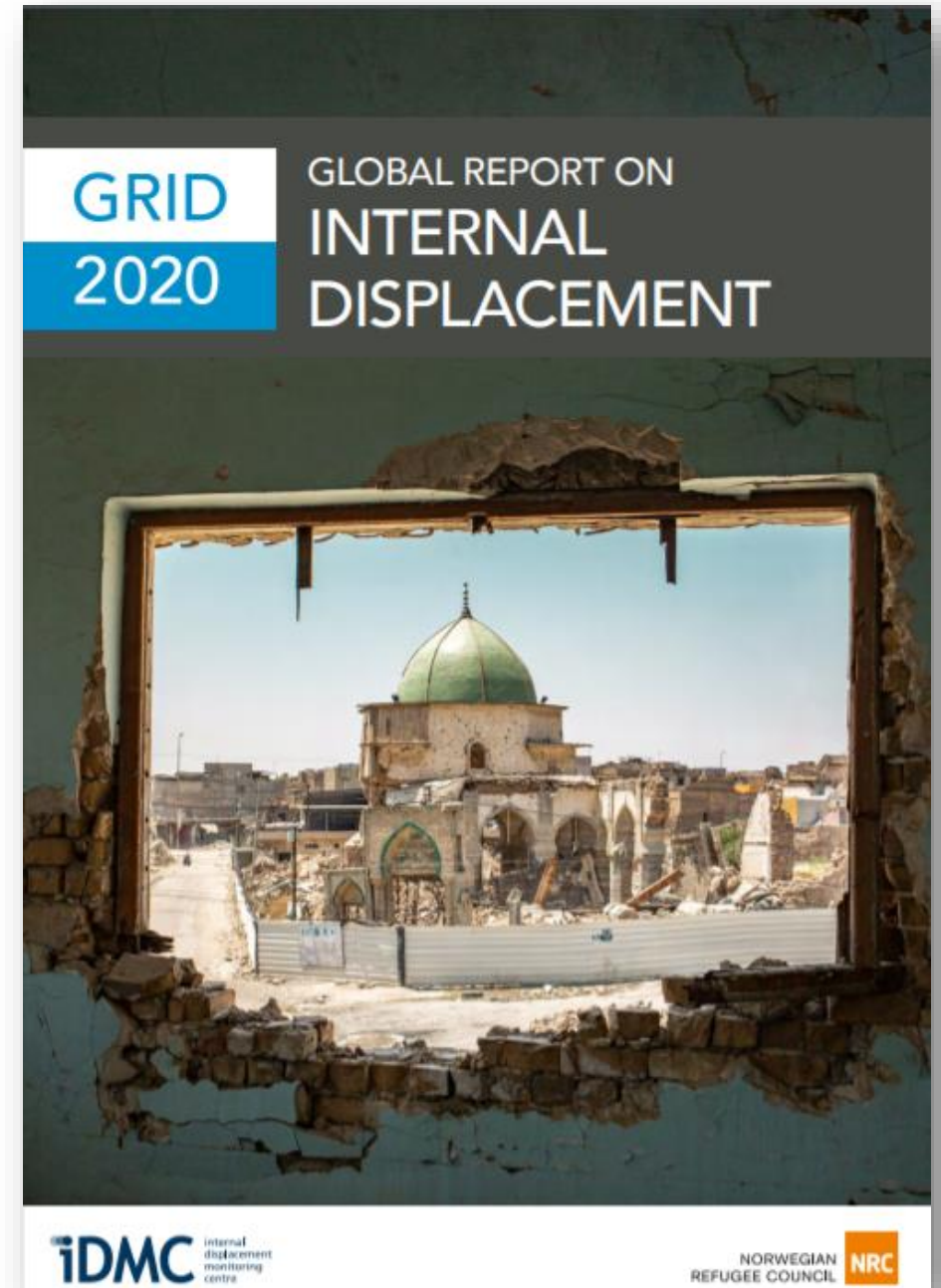


KEY MESSAGES

In their national review reports, States are encouraged to analyse regional dimensions of the migration-environment nexus relevant to West Africa:

5. Displacement in the context of floods, heavy rains and tidal surges

- There were around 328,000 new internal displacements in the context of disasters in 2019 in West Africa ([IDMC, 2020](#)). Torrential rains, rivers overflowing, tidal surges, floods, and landslides are among the main sudden-onset hazards causing disasters and displacement in West Africa



KEY MESSAGES

In their national review reports, States are encouraged to analyse regional dimensions of the migration-environment nexus relevant to West Africa:

6. Planned relocations, coastal erosion and fishing communities

- “Approximately 105 million people live in the coastal areas of West Africa. A combination of slow-onset processes, such as coastal erosion, land degradation and sea-level rise, and sudden-onset hazards such as floods, storms and tidal surges, are threatening local populations’ livelihoods and pressuring them to find other locations.” (IOM, 2021) Most of these people are fishing communities, who are also seeing a depletion of fish stocks. Planned relocation has been used in West Africa to respond to such dynamics.
- “Planned relocation should be used as a measure of last resort, after other risk reduction and/or adaptation options have been considered in a timely manner and reasonably exhausted.” (IOM, Georgetown University, and UNHCR, 2017).



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Institute for the Study of International Migration



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

A TOOLBOX: Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change



Publication available on [IOM Environmental Migration Portal](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS RELATED TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION AND THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

- ECOWAS GCM regional reviews consultations - 8-9 April 2021
- Africa GCM regional review - June 2021
- International Migration Review Forum - May 2022





THANK YOU

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