



International Organization for Migration Commitments to the Water Action Agenda

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People on the move find themselves at the heart of the water and sanitation crisis, exacerbated by climate change. At the same time, disasters, climate change and environmental degradation are reshaping both patterns of water availability and access and patterns of human mobility. Conflict over water resources or exacerbated by shrinking water resources also impacts these patterns. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, as per [the Sustainable Development Goal 6](#), is among the most basic human needs for health and well-being for migrants and displaced persons. The Water Action Agenda is an opportunity to mobilize all stakeholders to work towards reducing existential threats linked to water access and achieving universal access to water and sanitation for all, without any discrimination, while prioritizing those most in need, including migrants and displaced persons.

In this context, and building on IOM’s leading role as the UN Migration Agency, on [IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021-2030](#), and on its broad and prominent experience in WASH interventions across contexts spanning the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace dimensions, IOM commits to:

1. Further advance the role that integrated human mobility solutions can play in addressing water-related issues, and the role that integrated water resources management can play for human mobility, as a central element to protect populations’ human rights and promote resilient, cohesive and peaceful societies. This means:
 - a. Developing solutions for people to make informed decisions to remain *in situ* when possible and preferred by local communities, through innovative, sustainable, and cooperative water resources management; but also, through adaptation solutions including water-related disaster risk management with preventive measures, anticipatory actions, and early warning systems accessible to all.

- b. Developing solutions for people on the move, responding to the impacts of water extremes on migrants and displaced populations, including through WASH assistance while ensuring that sustainable water management is a priority when finding durable solutions to displacement.
 - c. Developing solutions for people to move, where migration is an adaptation strategy and a response to losses and damages related to water resources, with specific attention to the context of water issues in the rural world, as highlighted by the [Dakar Declaration](#).
 2. Promote and work towards ensuring equitable access to environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient WASH infrastructure and services, tailored to local needs and contexts, in line with the [2020-2030 Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System](#) and the [Climate and Environment Charter](#); including by engaging in relevant thematic policy processes to address the linkages between human mobility and water scarcity, as recommended by the [Praia Call for Action](#); and by empowering local governments to include migrants and displaced persons alongside host communities in decision making on the governance of water-related issues.
 3. Empower migrants and mobile populations as development actors and leverage their contributions for innovation on water-use efficiency solutions and integrated water resources management; and enable Member States to implement transformative adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction measures linked to integrated water resources management.
 4. By 2025, IOM will reach at least 25 million conflict and disaster-affected people with life-saving WASH services to ensure the human right to drinking water and sanitation for displaced populations and their host communities and contribute to the achievement of SDG 6 in crisis and displacement settings.
 5. Strengthen through its WASH intervention, the collaboration, coherence and complementarity across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actions, within IOM and with its partners, ensuring comprehensive, people-centred approaches supporting progress towards durable solutions.

For additional information, visit the webpage dedicated to IOM's engagement at the UN 2023 Water Conference [HERE](#).