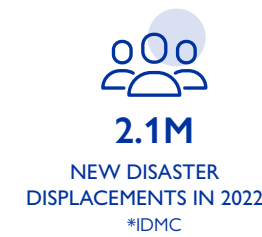


■ IOM Presence ■ MECC-DRR Programming

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. Source Data: IOM

MAIN HAZARDS

- » Wildfires are an increasing cause for concern, worsened under climate change scenarios.
- » Hazards associated with extreme rainfall and tropical storms are recurrent in the Caribbean Basin
- » Large areas of the Americas are exposed to droughts, with increasing intensity in climate change scenarios
- » Sea level rise and coastal erosion is a critical concern in coastal areas of the Americas
- » Glacier melt affects water availability in the Andean region
- » Deforestation and other processes of degradation compound the adverse impacts of climate change



MAIN CLIMATE IMPACTS

- » Differential impacts for women and girls and gender diverse persons, indigenous populations, migrants and other groups.
- » Increasing adverse impacts of droughts in agriculture/crop production
- » Destruction of infrastructure, housing and economic damages due to extreme events
- » Water scarcity issues affecting large urban areas of the region
- » Rural to urban mobility increasingly driven by climate hazards
- » Large scale displacement associated with extreme weather events
- » Increased need for planned relocation in areas regularly affected by disasters

CLIMATE MOBILITY PROFILE IN THE REGION

What the Science Says: Climate induced mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Climate change increasingly affects human mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean. As noted in the [IPCC 6th Assessment Report](#), “migration and displacements associated with climatic hazards are becoming more frequent in Central and South America, and it is expected they will continue to increase”. Caribbean Small Island Developing States are also particularly affected by climate mobility. Climate hazards drive displacement directly but also act as indirect factors shaping mobility through impacts on livelihoods, health and food security.

The [INFORM 2023 Risk Index](#) underlines that countries of the Americas are highly exposed to a wide range of hazards, a situation amplified by growing rates of inequality, poverty and rapid urbanization. Reliance on rainfed subsistence agriculture, weaknesses in land and urban planning and dependence of national and local economies on natural resources for production of commodities are critical drivers of vulnerability that influence the way in which climate factors affect human mobility. Climate change may also exacerbate other political, social, economic or environmental drivers of mobility, creating complex situations of

systemic risk. The [IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement](#) shows that displacement remains a key consequence of disasters in the region. New displacements are highly dependent on the occurrence of large scale disasters, either geophysical (notably earthquakes) or hydrometeorological, with a significant impact of active Atlantic Hurricane Seasons, as in 2017 and 2020, when hurricanes Eta and Iota resulted in around 1.7 million new displacements. Wildfires are also a consistent driver of new displacement in the region. In 2022, 2.1 million new disaster displacements were registered across the continent.

[Planned relocation](#) increasingly appears as a last resort option to mitigate the impact of environmental hazards and is used across the region with nuanced success. Better evidence and planning processes are required to improve the outcomes of planned relocation in close coordination with affected communities. To further address the challenge of climate change and migration, several countries in the Americas and the Caribbean are incorporating migration and mobility into their climate strategies and integrating environmental factors in their migration policies.

The availability of evidence and information is crucial to enable policymaking on climate change migration. IOM leverages its Displacement Tracking Matrix through the [the Regional Knowledge Hub on Migration](#) and the [Western Hemisphere Programme \(WHP\)](#) to provide a sound evidence base for the design and implementation of programming. IOM's [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) is already one of the world's largest repositories of displacement data and, under IOM's newly launched Global Data Institute, is expanding its work on climate change and early warning related data collection, analysis, modelling and increasingly forecasting.

IOM supports the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in the creation of a regional pre-positioning hub to be better able to respond to disasters in a timely and effective manner and enhance its interaction with international, regional, and national disaster management authorities through targeted capacity building initiatives. These efforts support political emphasis on climate mobility as demonstrated in the [Eastern Caribbean Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change](#), supported by a project focused on human security and climate mobility in the region.

CASE STUDY

Strengthening Capacities of Brazilian Municipal and Federal Government to Respond to Challenges Related to Internal Migration, Environment, and Climate Change

Internal migration, particularly to urban settlements, linked to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters has been one of the key drivers of urbanization in Brazil and this trend will intensify in the context of climate change, posing significant challenges to municipal governments. Limited evidence is available on environmental and climate drivers of internal migration in Brazil, but evidenced patterns include disaster displacements and internal migration related to slow-onset processes such as biodiversity loss and deforestation. The 2022 IPCC report notes that both North-eastern Brazil and the Amazon are among the most sensitive regions to climate migration in the world. Once in cities, internal migrants may face acute vulnerabilities, which can have a disproportionate impact on women.

In order to contribute to the preparedness and resilience of municipal and federal governments in Brazil to respond to the challenges of internal migration, environment and climate change and promote the protection of the human rights of internal migrants, the project supports municipal governments in mainstreaming internal migration, environment and climate change in policies, plans, and strategic decision-making across sectors. The intervention will also produce new evidence and policy recommendations, provide online and in-person trainings, promote the exchange of experiences and work with target municipalities to develop local plans.

CASE STUDY

Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Preparedness in the Caribbean

As Small Island Developing States, Caribbean countries are amongst the most vulnerable worldwide to the impact of a wide range of sudden onset hazards, notably hurricanes and storms, flooding and earthquakes. These hazards often overwhelm capacities of exposed countries and provoke massive disasters with large instances of displacement, as has been the case in recent years in countries such as Haiti, the Bahamas, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica. In addition, slow onset environmental degradation exacerbated by the growing effects of climate change is also gradually compounding the impacts of sea level rise, amongst others, affecting both lives and livelihoods. Disaster preparedness and resilience building are therefore top priorities for governments in the region.

As IOM opens its office in Barbados, a new incoming Member State, and moves its Caribbean Coordinator to Bridgetown, it will support the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in the creation of a regional pre-positioning hub to be better able to respond to disasters in a timely and effective manner and enhance its interaction with international, regional, and national disaster management authorities through targeted capacity building initiatives.

WAY FORWARD

Moving forward, IOM is mobilizing resources to continue supporting governments and communities across the Americas and the Caribbean to address the impacts of climate change on human mobility, leveraging its partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders from governments, local authorities, the civil society and the international community.

This includes stronger advancement of disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action in hazard prone areas as well as a better integration of migrant populations in DRR efforts. IOM also builds capacities to address environmental migration through better planning and adaptation efforts and helping cities in the continent to better address climate mobility. Upcoming initiatives require a more cross-cutting approaches to the nexus between climate change and labour migration, cross-border migration policies, land and urban planning, climate change, migration and health security issues and a dedicated attention to gender dynamics and Indigenous Populations.

IOM's role within the [UN Migration Network](#), the [UNFCCC WIM Task Force on Displacement](#), the [Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative \(CADRI\)](#) and the [Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative \(MICIC\)](#) facilitates coordination and joint action across the system.

CONTACT

Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction Division
mecrhq@iom.int

Regional Thematic Specialist for LAC, Pablo Escibano
pescribanomiralles@iom.int