



■ IOM Presence ■ MECC-DRR Programming

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### MAIN HAZARDS

- » Risk to food security, risk of malnutrition (micronutrient deficiency), and loss of livelihood due to reduced food production from crops, livestock and fisheries
- » Increased risk to water and energy security due to drought and heat
- » Reduced economic output and growth, and increased inequality and poverty rates

### MAIN CLIMATE IMPACTS

- » Increasing adverse impacts on displacement, including because of droughts and floodings
- » Increasing adverse impacts due to damages to infrastructure
- » Increasing adverse impacts due to damages to key economic sectors
- » Increasing adverse impacts from water scarcity
- » Increasing adverse impacts from agriculture/crop production



**7.4M**

NEW DISASTER DISPLACEMENTS IN 2022  
\*IDMC



**86M**

POTENTIAL NUMBER OF INTERNAL CLIMATE MIGRANTS TO 2050 IN WORST CASE SCENARIO  
\* WORLD BANK/GROUNDSWELL



**67**

IOM ACTIVE PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF USD 0.5Bn



**5,023**

TOTAL NUMBER OF IOM STAFF IN THE REGION

### CLIMATE MOBILITY PROFILE IN THE REGION

#### What the Science Says: Climate induced mobility in Sub-Saharan Africa

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report indicates that climate change is projected to increase migration, especially internal and rural to urban migration. Should temperatures rise by 1.7°C by 2050, between 17 and 40 million people could migrate internally across Africa. This figure could reach 56 to 86 million if the increase rises to 2.5°C, because of water stress and associated conflicts, reduced crop productivity and sea level rise. These numbers could be even higher if we include rapid-onset hazards such as floods and tropical cyclones. The report also states that climate-related migration outcomes are diverse, and may lead to changes in the timing or duration of migration and to changes in migration source locations and destinations

The East and Horn of Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate variability and climate change. The region regularly faces a wide range of natural hazards and slow-onset events and processes leading to different forms of human mobility (displacement, migration, returns and planned relocation). Disasters linked to natural hazards, environmental degradation, and the adverse effects of climate change are amongst the leading and overlapping drivers of human mobility. The region is experiencing significant variability in seasonal rainfall patterns and increasing intensity and frequency of drought cycles, which result in the deterioration of natural resources, damage to

infrastructure, and the loss of livelihoods and jobs, contributing to disaster displacement and environmental migration decisions.

Similarly, besides being a region particularly vulnerable to sudden onset events such as floods, West and Central Africa is also exposed to land degradation, water scarcity and coastal erosion. In 2022, multiple river basins across West Africa burst their banks, flooding areas already affected by conflict displacement and food insecurity according to the World Weather Attribution. During the same year, Nigeria recorded its highest number of disaster displacement in a decade and the highest in sub-Saharan Africa with 2.4 million displacements (IDMC, 2023). According to the IDMC, as of the end of 2022 the region accounted for 1,156,060 IDPs due to disasters (such as floods, storms or landslides), approximately 12% of total IDPs in West and Central Africa. In recent years, climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, urbanization, land privatization, changes in farming practices, and insecurity have also affected transhumance patterns, routes and periods as well as relations with other communities.

Moreover, in certain contexts, climate shocks overlap with existing humanitarian crises, including violent conflict. In these cases, countries that experience a combination of disaster and conflict displacement crises tend to have the worst levels of food insecurity, as those forced to move must abandon their fields and livestock, seek shelter at displacement sites located far from markets and become trapped in repetitive displacement. Therefore, food security and livelihoods are key factors to address in bringing displacement to a sustainable end.

## CASE STUDY

### Human Mobility Assessment Tool and community activities in Sierra Leone

Just like many nations, Sierra Leone suffers from extreme climatic events and disasters that impact its population all year round, specifically during the rainy season. Streamlining policies and structures including the allocation of resources into capacity-building in the context of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation aims to address some of the challenges faced with regard to human mobility in the context of extreme climate events both at the national and local levels.

Under its work related to Migration Environment and Climate Change (supported by France, Italy, the European Union and the IOM Development Fund), IOM has piloted a Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Integrated Human Mobility Assessment Tool in Sierra Leone. By piloting this tool, IOM assessed and strengthened the capacity of the Government of Sierra Leone relevant to environmental migration and disaster displacement and refine the tool through dialogue. The “Prioritization and Plan of Action for Implementation of Recommendations on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Disasters in Sierra Leone” was developed by stakeholders working in Migration Environment and Climate Change sectors in Sierra Leone. This document was signed by the Ministry of Environment and The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). IOM Sierra Leone also supported disaster preparedness efforts where IOM worked in collaboration with the Freetown City Council in a drainage clean-up exercise in selected communities in the City. The clean-up activities were carried out by returned migrants and jointly supervised by IOM and the Freetown City Council. Additionally, IOM Sierra Leone has been implementing beach clean-up engaging returned migrants on a cash for work initiative. These efforts of mainstreaming human mobility in the context of environmental degradation and climate change have been recognized both in the country and internationally. Consequently, IOM has been nominated as the beach preservation organization of the year during the 7th Annual Environmental Award, organized by Shout Climate Change Africa, Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency and Freetown City Council.

## CASE STUDY

### Addressing human mobility in the context of climate change through the Kampala ministerial declaration on migration, environment and climate change

The Government of the Republic of Uganda, supported by IOM, organized a High-level, regional, Inter-Ministerial Conference on “Migration, Environment and Climate Change in the East and Horn of Africa” in July 2022. The Conference was geared towards developing an integrated approach to climate-induced mobility across the region and to raise the urgency of addressing the impacts of climate change on human mobility in Africa and at the global level, and highlighting both its positive and adverse implications on the future of African development. 15 African Member States signed the ‘Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment & Climate Change (KMDECC)’, which was the first regional policy framework to address human mobility in the context of climate change. The 12 commitments enshrined in it include, amongst others; to build and strengthen climate resilience and adaptive interventions; to develop comprehensive urban plans to address population surges in urban areas arising from adverse impacts of climate change; to address knowledge gaps by understanding and applying indigenous knowledge and practices in the development of appropriate adaptation responses; to establish an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change, Environment and Migration.

In response to a growing interest from other African Member States to also append their signatures to the KDMECC, in 2023, IOM, the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for East and Southern Africa (RCC ESA) and the Governments of the Republics of Uganda and Kenya organized a high-level technical conference for the discussion and finalization of a Continental Addendum to the KDMECC (KDMECC-AFRICA), which was signed by Ministers from African Union Member States during the Africa Climate Summit in Kenya. A total of 32 African Member States have signed the KDMECC to date, which will be reopened for signing and launched at COP 28 during a High-Level event.

## WAY FORWARD

IOM promotes inclusive and sustainable migration management to mitigate the environmental drivers of migration across Sub-Saharan Africa. IOM’s holistic approach, inclusive of policy dialogue, knowledge production, data collection and concrete action with migrants at subregional, national and local levels supports the identification of solutions to environmental migration and disaster displacement.

IOM is supporting regional and continental integration agendas of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities through free movement that allows for cross border mobility in the context of climate change and disasters. As such, IOM contributed to the development of the Economic Community of West African States’ Regional Climate Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2030), which includes specific references to climate mobility. It also supports Member States in the region to articulate Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction (MECR) priorities and develop joint approaches. Additionally, IOM supports advocacy efforts to raise the topic of human mobility in global forums and negotiations.

IOM’s portfolio of projects in the region combines evidence-based policy projects with livelihood community-based activities on topics such as diaspora engagement, pastoralism, gender and natural resources, green jobs, waste management, agroecology, agroforestry and coastal resilience, labor migration, or water and migration.

IOM works to ensure that migration can bring about positive results for vulnerable groups such as women and youth in both countries of origin and countries of destination. We recognize the strengths and opportunities migrants bring when capacitated, empowered and given opportunities to contribute directly to sustainable development.

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