



■ IOM Presence ■ MECC-DRR Programming

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**1.7M**  
NEW DISASTER  
DISPLACEMENTS IN 2021  
\*IDMC



**17M**  
POTENTIAL NUMBER OF  
INTERNAL CLIMATE MIGRANTS TO  
2050 IN WORST CASE SCENARIO  
\* WORLD BANK/GROUNDSWELL



**23**  
IOM ACTIVE PROJECTS WITH  
A TOTAL VALUE OF  
USD 56M



**3,000**  
TOTAL NUMBER  
OF IOM STAFF  
IN THE REGION

MAIN HAZARDS

- » 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

- » 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 is a growing driver of internal migration. 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”. The populations most affected by climate change generally have the fewest opportunities to adapt locally or to move away from risk and, when moving, often do so as a last resort and in conditions of vulnerability. Other groups will be unable to move, trapped in increasingly unviable areas.

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.

[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.



Flooded area in La Savane Désolée, Haiti. © 2016/Alessandro GRASSANI

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 has also produced studies and reports on the climate change and migration nexus in [Central America](#), in [South America](#) and in the [Caribbean](#), explicitly addressing gender dynamics in environmental migration and disaster displacement. Further thematic efforts are ongoing to explore the climate, security and migration nexus in Central America. IOM also strives to support national governments in better collecting and using data and evidence on climate change and migration.

#### CASE STUDY

##### Scaling Up 'Build Back Safer' in Haiti

The devastation of communities in Grand Sud impacted by the 2021 earthquake reflect the country's chronic poverty, lack of effective governance, and exposure to natural hazards. The Government of Haiti requested the World Bank to activate the Contingent Emergency Response Component of the Climate Risk Management and Resilience Project. IOM trains local construction workers and homeowners in affected communities on resilient construction techniques. In parallel, it implements a large-scale communication campaign aimed at communities and homeowners designed to increase awareness of the importance of building resilient homes. IOM is also building government capacity at the local and regional levels to accompany and monitor homeowner-led reconstruction efforts.

#### CASE STUDY

##### A National Plan of Action on Migration and Climate Change in Peru

The Peruvian Government has committed to the development of a dedicated National Plan of Action on Migration and Climate Change in the framework of its climate change law of 2018. IOM is supporting this effort through the provision of dedicated technical assistance and support. As part of this process, participatory workshops with Afro-Peruvian and indigenous communities, are taking place, to ensure their inputs are heard in the preparation of the Plan of Action. Once approved, the Plan of Action will be a key strategy to ensure coherence between the different entities working on climate change and migration, setting a new standard in government leadership on these issues.

#### 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 will also build 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 transversal approaches to the nexus between climate change and labour migration, cross-border migration policies, land and urban planning, 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.

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