

## Final External Evaluation: Addressing Drivers and Facilitating Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Contexts of Disasters and Climate Change in the IGAD Region

The Joint Programme “Addressing Drivers and Facilitating Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Contexts of Disasters and Climate Change in the IGAD Region” (or Migration, Disasters, and Climate Change, “MDCC”) aimed to contribute to facilitating pathways for regular migration in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region and minimizing displacement risk in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters in line with the vision and guiding principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

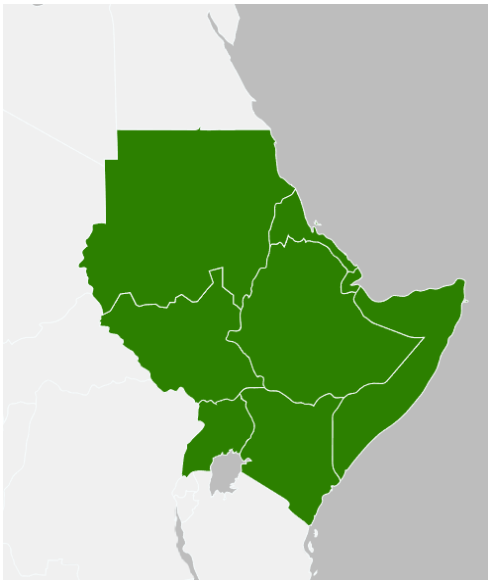
DATES

From February 2021 to August 2023

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



### The IGAD Context: Key facts

- Over 260 million people live in the IGAD region, which is highly vulnerable to disasters and climate change.
- In 2020, the IGAD region hosted 9 million conflict-related internally displaced persons and 4.6 million refugees and asylum seekers.
- In the countries targeted by MDCC, about 3.1 million internal disaster displacements occurred in 2022.
- Models estimate there could be over 10 million internal climate migrants by 2050 across East Africa.<sup>i</sup>

This brief presents the key findings of an external evaluation conducted by the Migration Policy Institute and Axiom Monitoring and Evaluation. The full evaluation is available on the IOM website. To contact the evaluation team, please email [Lawrence Huang at Lhuang@migrationpolicy.org](mailto:Lhuang@migrationpolicy.org).

<sup>i</sup> See IGAD, *IGAD Migration Statistics Report, October 2021*; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Internal Displacement Database*; World Bank, *Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration*.

# The Goals of the Programme's Four Pillars



## Data and Knowledge

Enhance access to quality data and evidence on human mobility and disaster displacement (Pillar I).



## National and Regional Policy Frameworks

Better integrate human mobility, disasters, and climate change across relevant national policy areas (Pillar II).



## Disaster Preparedness and Response

Improve operational readiness for cross-border disaster displacement (Pillar III).



## Regular Migration Pathways

Support access to regular migration pathways and protection, as well as sustainable livelihoods and green jobs (Pillar IV).

## The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM)

Established in 2018, the GCM is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The programme was funded by the financing instrument of the GCM, the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and focused on three of the GCM's 23 objectives:

- Objective 1 (strengthening migration data)
- Objective 2 (minimizing adverse drivers of forced migration)
- Objective 5 (enhancing regular migration pathways)

## About the evaluation

This final external evaluation sought to understand how well the programme performed towards enhancing the implementation of the GCM. The evaluation was conducted between March and August 2023. The non-experimental design relied on remote and in-person data collection with 55 key informants, with a focus on local pilot projects in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, and complemented by an extensive desk review. The evaluation took a purposive sampling approach and ensured sensitivity to local contexts and cultures to assess the programme according to six criteria.

# Key Findings

## RELEVANCE



The MDCC programme addressed key challenges associated with human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation in the IGAD region. IGAD and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) were the main regional partners. The programme focused on partnerships with national governments in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda, which were closely engaged as partners of the local interventions. Local authorities and residents in target locations were highly engaged in the design of the three local pilot projects. The programme was firmly embedded within regional policy frameworks, and notably, contributed to IGAD's Regional Migration Policy and the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons. Overall, the programme was designed well, but it could have been more flexible to adapt its outcomes and targets to changes and would have benefited from a longer time frame and budget.

MDCC aligned well with the GCM and contributed to a host of other global and regional frameworks. Actively participating in international events such as Africa Climate Weeks and COP27, the programme effectively integrated its principles into broader regional and global conversations. It can also point to strong synergies with regional development programmes working on similar issues, which enhanced implementation.

## COHERENCE



## EFFECTIVENESS



The programme reached most of its goals to the satisfaction of its stakeholders. However, a small number of activities did not reach their intended scope or were not fully implemented (more below).

As the first initiative of its kind, the programme efficiently used its available resources, although it required two extensions in order to complete its activities, due to challenges such as COVID-19, insecurity, and elections in the intervention countries. While M-MPTF funding can only go to UN Agencies, the PDD was able to transfer almost all of its budget to IGAD, ensuring the regional organization could actively participate in the programme and gain ownership.

## EFFICIENCY



## SUSTAINABILITY



Several of the programme activities are to continue thanks to the engagement of programme partners. For instance, ICPAC is continuing to integrate MDCC's displacement data across its other climate and disaster data systems. Local authorities in Ethiopia are planning to conduct more awareness raising activities regarding climate change and access to regular migration pathways. In Kenya, county and national governments are working to implement policies enhanced with MDCC support. Still, more support is needed to sustain other actions in the long term.

Although it is too early to assess MDCC's full impact, initial findings point to important improvements in the overall evidence base on disaster displacement risks in the region, and in the awareness about climate change and its impacts within local communities in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Pilot project participants also reported some improvements in their livelihoods and access to jobs, and policymakers (particularly in Kenya) better understand and are better prepared to respond to these issues.

## IMPACT



## GCM



The programme directly contributed to multiple GCM objectives and generally aligned with its guiding principles. Importantly, MDCC took a whole-of-government approach (partnering with different ministries at local and national level) and whole-of-society approach (partnering with civil society, private sector, and other social partners especially in pilot projects). Finally, it managed to mainstream gender issues, although these efforts to enhance a programme's inclusivity can always be further prioritized.

# Milestones and Good Practices

The MDCC programme addressed critical challenges related to disasters, climate change, and human mobility in the East and Horn of Africa. Most of the policymakers, practitioners, and community members interviewed were satisfied with their involvement in MDCC, and there is strong appetite from local, national, and regional actors to continue these actions.

## Key successes include:



At the regional level, two studies on cyclone and flood displacement strengthened data and analysis on disaster displacement risk.

→ A strong partnership with ICPAC was critical to making the data actionable and disseminating them to IGAD Member States, in order to better prepare for future disasters and displacement crises.



The programme supported the revision of Kenya's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan and its GCM Implementation Plan, as well as several county and sub-county action plans in Turkana County. It also provided evidence for the inclusion of human mobility across relevant policies in Somalia and in the IGAD region.

→ Efforts to support policy development on climate, disasters, and migration were most effective where there was strong national and local government buy-in.



The programme developed two Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for cross-border disaster displacement at the Kenya-Ethiopia and Kenya-Uganda borders, following two simulation exercises with the participating countries.

→ MDCC followed an effective whole-of-government and whole-of society approach.



In Ethiopia, an awareness raising campaign reached a wide audience to promote safe and orderly migration, workers' rights, and environmental sustainability. The campaign relied on radio channels, street dramas, peer-to-peer education, and print media.

→ Peer-to-peer engagements were reportedly the most effective tool as they allowed locals to engage in face-to-face discussions with the MDCC trained educators.



Pilot interventions in the green economy improved sustainable livelihoods and labour market access for migrant and host communities in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia (see below).

→ ILO's pilot was designed based on a comprehensive market system analysis, which identified three value chains with high potential for green job promotion and which allowed to design intervention models in close consultation with local partners. As a result, entrepreneurship training was provided and 105 businesses were established.

→ In Kenya and Somalia, IOM's pilots were designed based on recommendations from its regional review of green economy related policies with case studies in Kenya and Somalia. Community members were consulted on the recommendations and validated the relevance and the need for further investments to implement them.

## Challenges and Limitations

COVID-19, elections, and security conditions (particularly in Ethiopia and Somalia) caused delays and required adapting some activities.

Droughts in Turkana County, Kenya, meant that there was insufficient water to effectively work on pasture re-seeding which relied on rain.

Skills training and entrepreneurship interventions improved sustainable livelihoods and green employment opportunities, although additional resource support would have enhanced trainees' ability to see livelihood changes.

The programme supported the government of Somalia with capacity strengthening and research on enhancing its national climate change and disaster policies. However, this has not materialized in policy change (as it did in Kenya) and there proved to be less need for policy support than anticipated. Besides, these efforts to support national authorities were made harder by a change in government personnel (due to elections).

Some activities took longer than expected or had to be scaled down. For instance, MDCC faced significant challenges identifying the right level of expertise for research products, often because it is not so common in the region. The programme also reduced the number of SOPs they produced (from three to two) and the number of scenarios covered by disaster displacement profiles.

## Key Recommendations

***Further integrate displacement data into climate and disaster data systems (e.g., at ICPAC), redouble efforts to strengthen data capacities, and expand collection and analysis of data on displacement, disasters, climate change, and related topics.***

***Support national-level policy development or revision on migration, climate change, disasters, and related issues in other IGAD Member States, through tailored research, technical assistance, and capacity strengthening at the national level. Also, supporting the implementation of these measures is critical to ensure they materialize in concrete changes at local levels.***

***Operationalize the SOPs for cross-border disaster displacement and monitor their impact during future disasters to determine whether and how to replicate them.***

***Scale-up efforts to support the green economy, especially in the ruminant fattening sector in Ethiopia, with climate-smart agriculture in Kenya, and replicating green skills development and apprenticeship programs in Somalia.***

***Explore programme designs that are: longer, to allow more time to sequence activities and disseminate deliverables; could provide funds directly to IGAD, ICPAC, and the IGAD Member States, to secure their buy-in and ownership; and engage even more civil society and private sector partners, or other government ministries, to further enhance the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches.***