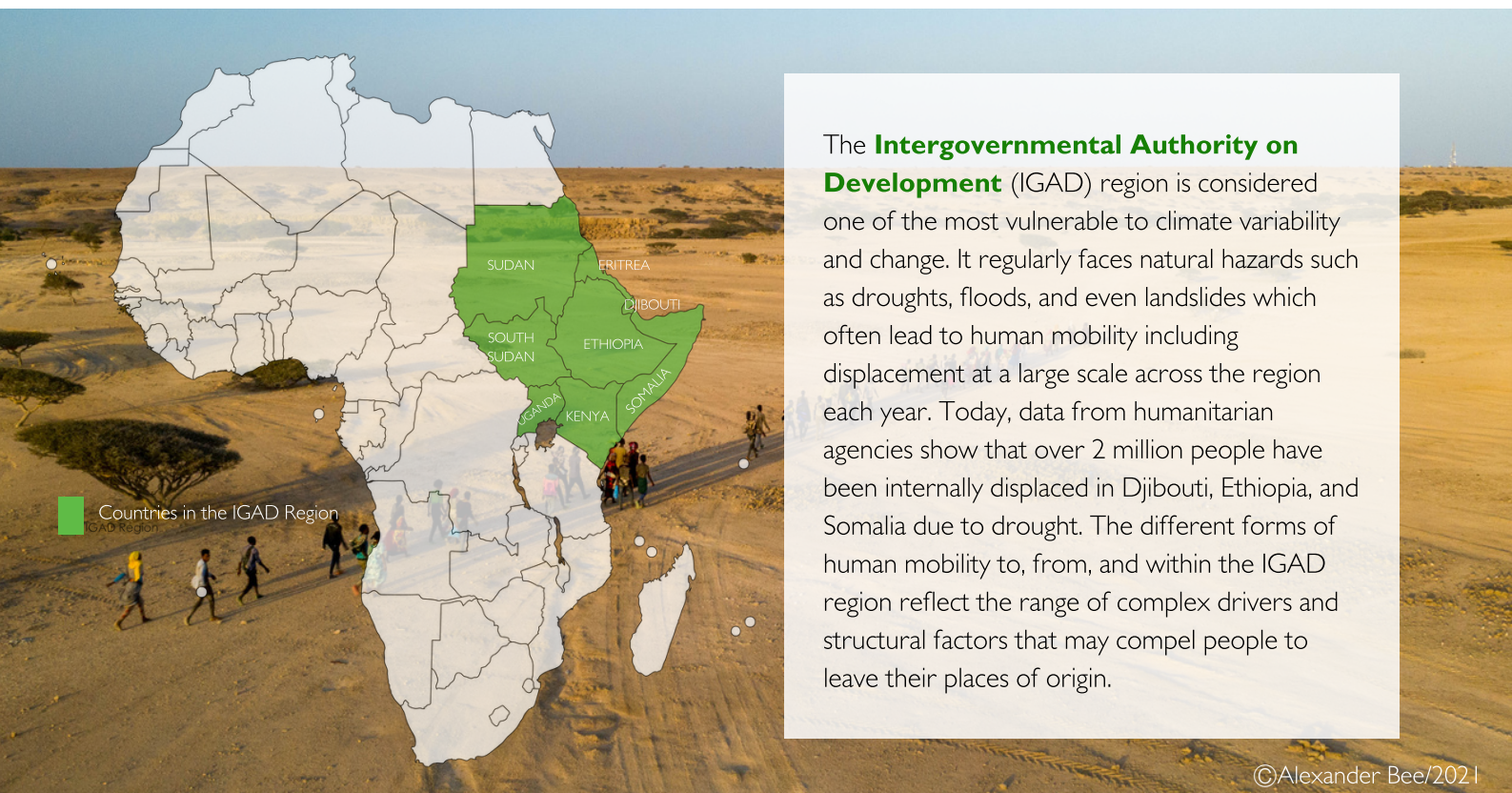


HUMAN MOBILITY AND REGULAR MIGRATION PATHWAYS IN CHANGING CLIMATE

REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

KEY MESSAGES

15-16 March 2023, Nairobi



The **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** region is considered one of the most vulnerable to climate variability and change. It regularly faces natural hazards such as droughts, floods, and even landslides which often lead to human mobility including displacement at a large scale across the region each year. Today, data from humanitarian agencies show that over 2 million people have been internally displaced in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia due to drought. The different forms of human mobility to, from, and within the IGAD region reflect the range of complex drivers and structural factors that may compel people to leave their places of origin.

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In March 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and partners; the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) (hosted under United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), brought together representatives from IGAD member countries to discuss the impact of climate change on human mobility and regular migration pathways within the IGAD region in a two-day workshop in Nairobi.

The workshop was organized as a part of a Joint Programme "Addressing Drivers and Facilitating Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Contexts of Disasters and Climate Change in the IGAD Region"

The workshop:

Fostered dialogue, synergies and partnerships among stakeholders addressing challenges and opportunities facilitating regular migration pathways, promoting sustainable development, just transition and green jobs in the context of disasters, environmental degradation, and climate change in the IGAD region, based on existing data and evidence.

Brought together representatives from IGAD member countries working on human mobility, climate action, green jobs and just transition, disaster risk reduction, protection as well as representatives of local, national, and regional partners, including migrants, private sector, Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and local community leaders.

Participants made efforts to prepare for the IGAD Regional Consultative Process (RCP) on migration focusing on the human mobility and climate change nexus, which is envisioned to take place in mid-2023.



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GCM Champion initiative – IGAD region to be a GCM champion region

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) offers an opportunity to anchor the environmental and climatic dimensions in the international migration governance agenda. It offers a space to fully acknowledge the importance of climatic and environmental drivers, the multi-causality of migration and the impacts of migration on the environment.

The GCM acknowledges that disaster preparedness measures need to better anticipate forced migration movements linked to disasters. It also calls for states to develop adaptation and resilience strategies to sudden-onset and slow-onset disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation taking into account the potential implications for migration, while recognizing that adaptation in the country of origin is a priority. However, migration can also be an adaptation strategy and work is needed to ensure it can take place through regular pathways.

The UN Network on Migration seeks to support the international community's efforts towards the implementation of the GCM. The GCM Champion¹ countries initiative offers an opportunity for Member States to share insights, lessons learned and promising practices to contribute to achieving the objectives of the GCM, consistent with the GCM vision and guiding principles.

“Effective practices on implementing the Global Compact on Migration objectives while ensuring whole-of-society approach can be of value to the IGAD region to address adverse impacts of climate change to human mobility.”

From the IGAD region, Kenya and Ethiopia are current members of the group. The participants of the workshop suggested that the other IGAD MS become members of the champion group as well, making IGAD region the first regional champion.

In addition, IGAD Member States should take steps forward in creating National GCM implementation Action Plans, with relevant indicators to be voluntarily reported in the regional reviews of the GCM.

Mainstream GCM implementation planning into national policy and legal frameworks, which requires outlining national priorities and including human mobility considerations in the context of a changing climate in the implementation of the GCM.

Utilize structures such as the National Coordination Mechanisms (NCM) on Migration with whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches in mind, to improve coordination and cooperation between relevant stakeholders.

¹UN Network on Migration https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/faq_champion_countries_initiative_dec_2020_0.pdf



Establish and strengthen partnerships across sectors and policy-making levels:

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Climate change is impacting human mobility in multiple, complex ways, and we know that people are already moving, thus well-coordinated, collaborative, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are crucial in this context. Working on migration in the context of disasters and changing climate must include a focus on partnerships. The solutions require cooperation and intersectoral policy dialogue and policy coherence, but also inclusion of different stakeholders, particularly the most vulnerable ones.


- Meaningful adaptation to climate change need to be linked to mobility actors, together with the affected communities, to discuss these matters together, not in siloes.
 - There is a need to break down the bias and recognize young people as innovators, leaders and as active participants in policy development and implementation at all levels of engagement.
 - Private sector can lead the way to green economy development with social inclusion when policies provide an opportunity for them to grow. Also, private sector actors need to incorporate sustainability in their operations.
 - CSOs have knowledge and expertise, as well as envision solution approach for policy development. Policy development need public participation, such as through stakeholder consultations – with women, youth, persons with disabilities, pastoralist, agro-pastoralist, fisherfolk.
- Diaspora members can transfer skills and knowledge and support in executing policies with local communities.
 - Identify areas where there is potential to strengthen partnerships at;
 - Policy level in decision-making processes, through better coordination across line ministries, not only horizontally but also vertically through working with different levels of governments (e.g. national-county) on policies and plans, while also engaging civil society, migrants and local communities, and private sector actors;
 - Operational level, e.g. Joint programmes funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support IGAD member states particularly related to finance, capacity-building, policy advice, data gathering and analysis, technology.
 - Create awareness of climate funding opportunities and streamline funds to areas that have not been attractive to traditional donors, particularly long-term funding for implementation of sustainable development interventions instead of funding for short term humanitarian aid.



Strengthen knowledge and data on climate change and human mobility

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- The GCM recognizes the need for more investments in evidence, data, and research to address environmental migration.
- There is a need to strengthen the knowledge and evidence base on the links between the adverse effects of climate change and human mobility, with specific focus on gender and other vulnerabilities, this includes improving participation – civil society, migrants and local communities in design and implementation of policies, which has great potential to improve service delivery and the knowledge base by sharing practical lessons-learnt.
- Knowledge on human mobility as an adaptation alternative to the adverse effects of climate change needs to be strengthened among policy-makers. Additionally, knowledge about human mobility as a contributor for sustainable and green economy development needs to be better understood and disseminated to affect policy-making.
- Include mobility data in statistical data collection, while synchronizing data collection in the region to capture immobility and mobility trends and patterns in the context of a changing climate. Conduct country-specific as well as cross-border studies to explore concrete alternatives on how mobility can contribute to adaptation or mitigation in each context.



Adoption and implementation of the IGAD Free Movement of Persons Protocol could facilitate implementation of the GCM

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The GCM and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize that no country can address the challenges and opportunities of human mobility on its own, as it is a multidimensional reality impacting the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination - nor can it be addressed by any single policy sector alone.

The GCM outlines the importance of working at the regional level to address environmental drivers of migration. Actionable commitments include to integrate migration and displacement considerations into preparedness strategies and promote cooperation with neighboring and other relevant countries, and to harmonize and develop approaches and mechanisms at the subregional and regional levels to address the vulnerabilities of persons affected by sudden-onset and slow-onset environmental drivers.

IGAD Regional Strategy Frameworks acknowledge that mobility is both an opportunity and a concern to development in the region. Strategic interventions have prioritized the promotion of free movement of persons, including transhumance, youth skilling, employment and provision of basic services in order to harness the full potential of mobility as a force for development.

A wide range of instruments exists in the region – There is a need to enhance the incorporation of references to human mobility in climate change, green economy and related policies to ensure coherence; as well as effective implementation of these policies.

“ In 2021, IGAD member states endorsed the IGAD Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons in the IGAD Region. ”

The objective of the Protocol is to progressively realize the objective of free movement of persons in the IGAD region. Article 4 of the Protocol outlines the four steps of implementation, which ultimately shall provide the right of entry, stay, work, and study for persons in the IGAD member states – enhancing regular migration pathways as stated in the GCM.

The Protocol explicitly states that the realisation of free movement for persons in the IGAD region may have a positive impact on mitigating drivers of displacement caused by the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation. Article 16 of the Protocol calls on Member States to facilitate entry and stay for people who are moving in anticipation of, during or in the aftermath of a disaster. This does not only facilitate the entry and stay for those who are moving during or after a disaster but also allows those at risk of displacement to move pre-emptively. In addition, their stay will be extended as long as return to the country of origin is not possible or reasonable.

With the support of the IGAD Secretariat, adopt and ratify regional and international legally-binding instruments such as IGAD FMP. The ratification and implementation of the FMP would help to strengthen international cooperation between countries, as well as it would harmonize practices related to human mobility in the region while also enhancing protection through improve access to social services for persons moving within the region. The FMP can strengthen economic development when free movement of labour across the region is enhanced, as it can support dealing with labour shortages and distribution of labour through needs and skills, contribute to innovation and alleviating unemployment.

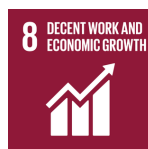
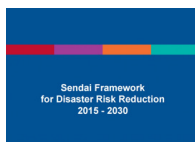


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