



ADVANCING LAW AND POLICY RESPONSES TO CLIMATE MOBILITY IN AFRICA

KEY MESSAGES TO GOVERNMENTS FOR COP 27 OCTOBER, 2022

Introduction

With work underway for COP27, the **Climate Mobility Africa Research Network (CMARN)** – a multidisciplinary network of more than 100 researchers and policy makers working on climate mobility in Africa – calls on governments to **recognise** the impacts of climate change on human mobility, **prioritise** the development and implementation of relevant laws and policies based on current knowledge and sound evidence, and **collaborate** with affected communities, affected researchers, civil society and international organisations in addressing this issue.

Climate mobility – that is, displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change – is happening now and is evident in several countries on the African continent. Across Africa, a range of law and policy areas can play a critical role in ensuring that those who choose to move, or are compelled to do so, can access safety, protection and lasting solutions, and that the loss and damage that results from climate mobility can be assessed and addressed. Relevant fields of law and policy include (but are not limited to): climate change, disaster risk reduction, migration, free movement of persons, transhumance, refugee protection, human rights, protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and planned relocation.

Climate mobility poses challenges – as well as opportunities – for people who move, the communities to which they move, and those who remain at home. For laws and policies to effectively address the challenges and maximise the opportunities, they must:

- be based on up-to-date knowledge and evidence regarding climate mobility
- protect and advance the human rights of affected communities
- be developed in consultation with those affected
- be fully understood by policy makers, practitioners and affected communities
- be effectively implemented in practice

The Key Messages presented here identify specific priorities for governments seeking to advance law, policy and practice in this area for the better protection and safety of persons displaced or moving in the context of disasters and climate change.



Key Messages

CMARN calls on governments, in collaboration with affected communities and other stakeholders, to:

1. Facilitate access to and provide relevant and accessible information about climate mobility (including data, evidence, laws and policies) to affected communities
2. Develop and implement relevant international and regional frameworks to ensure that all measures to address climate mobility are gender-responsive and based on relevant human rights
3. Support local research, led by local researchers, to inform law and policy developments that are evidence-based and reflect the lived experiences of affected communities
4. Facilitate collaboration and dialogue between different levels of government, inter-governmental organisations and regional institutions to ensure integration between global, regional and local approaches to climate mobility
5. Provide opportunities for collaboration and dialogue on climate mobility between researchers and policy makers to facilitate sharing of knowledge and expertise
6. Take a holistic approach to addressing climate mobility, taking into account the interaction between climate change, conflict, poverty, livelihoods and food security as drivers of human mobility
7. Prioritise local and indigenous knowledge and perspectives in all measures to address climate mobility
8. Work collaboratively with all stakeholders – including affected communities, researchers, international organisations and civil society – to facilitate an inclusive and participatory approach to addressing climate mobility

About the Climate Mobility African Research Network (CMARN)

CMARN was established in 2021 by researchers from across Africa and beyond with the goal of supporting the advancement of evidence-based law and policy responses to climate mobility in Africa. CMARN promotes policy-relevant research and creates opportunities for collaboration and exchange between researchers and policy makers working in a wide range of fields, including climate change, disaster risk management, migration, free movement of persons, transhumance, human rights, refugee protection, IDP protection and planned relocation. These key messages have been developed as part of CMARN's objective to support evidence-based development and implementation of laws and policies relating to displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change on the continent. The development process of these key messages has been supported by IOM through its MECC project in West Africa, led together with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) with the generous support of the Government of France: [Implementing Global Policies on Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement in West Africa](#).

Find out more about CMARN at <https://www.cmarnetwork.com/>.