



Human mobility as a result of climate change

New strategies deal with climate-related migration, displacement and relocation

SEVERE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is already having a noticeable impact on our world. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent across the globe, and gradual environmental changes are placing people's lives and livelihoods at risk. The impacts of climate change are also felt by atoll and island states in the Pacific and the Caribbean, as well as coastal areas of the Philippines. Rising sea levels, sinking groundwater, and flooding in populated areas can deprive residents of their livelihoods and force them to leave their homes. Western and Eastern African countries are also heavily impacted, for example by longer dry spells and flash floods. **In the future, the impacts of climate change will mean that an increasing number of people throughout the world will need to find a new place to live.**

But not all people who suffer from the impacts of climate change are able to move. Without financial resources to migrate, people may not be able to leave their homes despite the high risk. Support for these "trapped populations" is therefore needed. With international agreements such as the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) and *the Global Compact for Migration* (GCM), **the international community is trying to find ways to manage climate-related migration more effectively in the future.** Currently, at the national level, there are very few concepts and measures to support affected people and societies. Governments, regional organizations and international and German development cooperation are

gathering knowledge, experience and solutions to be able to respond adequately to climate-induced human mobility – migration, displacement in the context of disasters and planned relocation.



One of the 300 islands of Fiji © GIZ / Felix Ries

NEW KNOWLEDGE FOR MANAGING CLIMATE-RELATED HUMAN MOBILITY

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is supporting partner governments to help people who are so severely affected by climate change, that leaving their homes and moving elsewhere is considered a viable option – and sometimes the only option – to save their livelihoods.

National and regional partners, non-governmental organizations and universities are setting up working groups and exchange formats, supported by the Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change, to discuss the challenges of climate change in the partner countries. Stakeholders receive training, as needed, on climate change as a driver of migration, as well as on how migration can be a viable adaptation strategy.

Project title	Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)
Project area	Caribbean, East Africa, Pacific, Philippines, West Africa
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Overall term	11/2017 to 04/2023
Financial volume	EUR 10.28 million, including EUR 0.28 million co-funding by New Zealand

The programme and its partners support workshops, studies and the development of policy guidelines. Gaps in research and policy implementation are identified and closed. The results are published on publicly accessible information platforms and made available for local use as well as international processes.

OUR RESULTS

The programme has supported the development of several national policies: In the Philippines, it assisted national government agencies to incorporate climate-induced human mobility in its updated *National Climate Change Action Plan*. In Fiji, **guidelines for planned relocations and displacements in the context of climate change and disasters** were created. The guidelines were developed

through a participatory process and ensure that all actions are voluntary and are guided by a human rights-based approach. It remains uncertain exactly how climate change will influence future migration movements, so preparing for various scenarios is a sensible strategy. In seven workshops, **stakeholders used the “foresight planning method”** to explore the circumstances which may lead to climate-induced migration. In the Caribbean, **these results were used by the Commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)** to anchor human mobility in the context of climate change sustainably into the work of the organisation.

“PEOPLE HAVE TO RESETTLE”

“Concrete houses are cracking and wooden houses are sinking, doors won’t be able to close because the houses are not levelled, because the sea water keeps coming in. [...] We really appreciate the relocation assistance from the government and their partners. [...] Living here we can see how fast the sea is rising and taking away the land. There is no point in waiting, better for us to move higher.”

Josefa Saukitoga, Narikoso, Fiji, Pacific



Community Narikoso, Fiji © GIZ / First Fighter