



Highlights of Regional Perspectives on Climate Change, Human Mobility, and Human Rights

In April and May 2023, the Climate Migration & Displacement Platform, in partnership with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, held four regional consultations on climate change, human mobility, and human rights. These brought together nearly 100 participants from civil society, research organizations, and frontline communities in Africa, Latin America, the Pacific, and South and Southeast Asia. **Key messages** that emerged include:

Africa

Climate mobility is a growing trend, disrupting livelihoods and displacing people throughout the continent. A clear regional policy framework is needed, but progress is hampered by a lack of political will and limited involvement of frontline communities in decision-making. In addition to investing in local adaptive capacity and early warning systems, specialized funds for climate-displaced persons and migrants are needed. An Africa-wide annual forum on climate migration and human rights could advance strategic action, bridge data gaps, and increase the participation of youth, women and girls, and rural communities in policy development.

Latin America

Climate change is a systemic crisis that adds to other causes of displacement, such as violence, poverty, and discrimination. Climate vulnerable communities suffer from a lack of human rights protections amid normalized violence, and threats are even greater for migrants and displaced persons. Policies must ensure communities' territorial rights and control over land and natural resources, especially by Indigenous, Black and *campesino* communities, and allow for different production systems to coexist. More attention is needed to labor migration and to the reintegration of returned migrants, especially youth, in locations that face increasing climate hazards.

Pacific Islands

Threats from both slow and sudden climate change impacts already contribute to migration and displacement. Responses to climate-forced displacement do not adequately protect the rights of displaced populations, and more attention is needed to the rights of vulnerable groups, such as elders, women, LGBTQI+, and persons with disabilities. Evidence-based approaches and engagement of traditional and faith leaders are needed to strengthen planning and implementation. Human rights protections in labor migration must be strengthened, so that at-risk people may seek economic empowerment and legal pathways in the context of climate-forced displacement.

South and Southeast Asia

Vanishing coastlines, salinization and changing rainfall patterns are displacing people from their lands and compelling temporary or seasonal migration into other precarious situations. Where policies exist for planned relocation or disaster displacement, they are often not operational and lack coherence across sectors and levels of government. Adaptation finance must be available to and easily accessible by impacted communities, and L&D funds should support relocation of climate-migrants and displaced persons, providing for migration and relocation with dignity. Community outreach should ensure that impacted people know their rights and can access housing, health care, and education in migration. Transformative skills and regular pathways for youth are critical to increasing climate resilience.

Common Priorities

- ➔ Safeguards for the right to stay and the right to return
- ➔ Dedicated funding for climate mobility responses, including via Loss & Damage
- ➔ Improved policy coherence and implementation capacity
- ➔ Expanded climate education, incorporating Indigenous, local and scientific knowledges
- ➔ Human rights in migration and displacement
- ➔ Inclusion of impacted communities in policy development
- ➔ Improved evidence bases, particularly regarding vulnerable groups