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AND ORDERLY INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION DIALOGUE BENEFITS  
MIGRANTS AND ON MIGRATION  
SOCIETIES IOM ASSISTS IN MEETING  
THE GROWING OPERATIONAL  
CHALLENGES OF OVERLAPPING  
MIGRATION GLOBAL CRISES:  
MANAGEMENT THE IMPACTS OF  
UNDERSTANDING FOOD INSECURITY  
OF AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
MIGRATION ISSUES ON MIGRATION  
ENCOURAGES AND DISPLACEMENT  
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
THROUGH MIGRATION UPHOLDS THE  
HUMAN DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF  
MIGRANTS.

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No. 34

SECOND INTERNATIONAL  
DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION  
SESSION 2022

OVERLAPPING GLOBAL CRISES:  
THE IMPACTS OF FOOD  
INSECURITY AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE ON MIGRATION  
AND DISPLACEMENT



*“The primary goal of IOM is to facilitate the orderly and humane management of international migration... To achieve that goal, IOM will focus on the following activities, acting at the request of or in agreement with Member States:...*

*“7. To promote, facilitate and support regional and global debate and dialogue on migration, including through the International Dialogue on Migration, so as to advance understanding of the opportunities and challenges it presents, the identification and development of effective policies for addressing those challenges and to identify comprehensive approaches and measures for advancing international cooperation...”  
(IOM Strategy, adopted by the IOM Council in 2007).*

IOM launched its International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) at the fiftieth anniversary session of the IOM Council in 2001, at the request of the Organization's membership. The purpose of the IDM, consistent with the mandate in IOM's constitution, is to provide a forum for Member States and Observers to identify and discuss major issues and challenges in the field of international migration, to contribute to a better understanding of migration and to strengthen cooperation on migration issues between governments and with other actors. The IDM is a platform for the Organization to listen to and learn from its Member States and partners, and build an evidence base for projects worldwide. The discussions also contribute to the overall implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly goal 10.7.

The inclusive, informal and constructive format of the IDM has helped to create a more open climate for migration policy debate and has served to build confidence among the various migration stakeholders. In combination with targeted research and policy analysis, the IDM is providing an open forum for debate and exchanges between all relevant stakeholders and has contributed to a better understanding of topical

and emerging migration issues and their linkages with other policy domains. It has also facilitated the exchange of policy options and approaches among policymakers and practitioners, with a view towards more effective and humane governance of international migration. The IDM Unit is organized by IOM's Governing Bodies Division.

The International Dialogue on Migration Publication Series (or "Red Book Series") is designed to capture and review the results of the events and research carried out within the framework of the IDM. The Red Book Series is prepared and coordinated by the IDM Unit. More information on the IDM can be found at [www.iom.int/idm](http://www.iom.int/idm) or you can contact [idmworkshop@iom.int](mailto:idmworkshop@iom.int).

This publication presents an overview of the main issues raised during the second session of IDM in 2022, held in Geneva on 24 and 25 October 2022, entitled "Overlapping Global Crises: The Impacts of Food Insecurity and Climate Change on Migration and Displacement". The event was run in a hybrid (offline and online) format, featuring 35 speakers and attracting a record number of 650 participants, 518 of whom accessed the event platform, while others followed a YouTube livestream.

To facilitate the dissemination of key conclusions and recommendations, the report has been made concise, organizing the results of the session proceedings into the main challenges identified by the speakers and participants and corresponding responses to these challenges. The report opens with an overview of the main challenges and responses, drawn from all the panels of the session, and probes them in more depth in the following sections, in which the identified challenges and offered responses are organized thematically and regionally, and a selection of best practices shared by the IDM participants is highlighted.

The report was drafted by Piotr Kazmierkiewicz, independent consultant. Olga Rebolledo, Migration Policy Officer in the IDM Unit, coordinated the report's drafting and general production. Dejan Keserovic, Head of the Governing Bodies Division, provided overall guidance. Special thanks go to Ana Carla Carlos, Governing Bodies Division, who provided valuable assistance during the review and editing process.

# ABBREVIATIONS

COP27	27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IDM	International Dialogue on Migration
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USD	United States Dollar
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization





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SECOND  
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE  
ON MIGRATION  
SESSION 2022

Geneva, 24–25 October 2022

*Final Report*

8 February 2023



# 1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

## 1.1 Highlights of the IDM sessions

The first day of the IDM served as an opportunity to consider the nexus of climate change, food security and migration from different angles, including those of immediate and long-term impact, disaster risk reduction, gender and age aspects, burden- and responsibility-sharing, engagement and empowerment of affected persons (both migrants and wider communities) and forging of partnerships, in view of the shared commitment of all States to effective climate action.

Throughout the day's sessions, several common themes emerged. Both the speakers and the Member States:

- Assessed the scale of current and forecast climate-induced displacement, noted that those most affected are already vulnerable to climate change impacts, and alerted to the consequences of failing to take adequate actions;
- Agreed on the need to intensify efforts at addressing the root causes of displacement: land degradation and water scarcity, in view of the shock factors (disruption of food supply and post-COVID-19 economic impact) acting as additional drivers of mobility;
- Recognized the importance of dialogue among Member States and called on broadening partnerships with the private sector and donors in order to bridge funding gaps, on the way to the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27);

- Welcomed the initiatives aimed at improving capacity for monitoring, forecasting and early warning to be considered at COP27;
- Shared best practices of reducing immediate and long-term vulnerabilities, and identified benefits of greater involvement of women and youth in the planning, implementation and monitoring of climate action.

The second day of the IDM offered a platform for hearing the voices of those most affected by food insecurity and climate change (migrants, diasporas, communities and States) and for sharing lessons from multiple stakeholders' experiences on how to turn the challenges facing people on the move as a result of climate change into opportunities. The panellists and discussants underscored the role that regional cooperation arrangements (such as free movement protocols), national admission and integration policies and programmes with a humanitarian focus could play in opening safe and regular migration pathways. Attention was paid to the priority of taking a proactive and future-looking, evidence-based approach in place of the current fragmented, reactive and uncoordinated actions.

In the course of the day's sessions, the panellists and the Member States:

- Emphasized the disproportionate impact of climate change and food insecurity on the regions and communities already exposed to vulnerabilities, and called for greater burden- and responsibility-sharing;
- Identified existing policy and administrative gaps in the provision of safe and accessible migration pathways and exchanged examples of instruments that could serve as replicable practices to tackle humanitarian needs and offer durable solutions (including complementary protection as well as free movement agreements) to people on the move;
- Agreed that in light of the magnitude of the combined crises, a more preventive, rather than reactive approach is needed both regionally and globally, which would reflect the commitment of all

stakeholders (including the Global North) whose efforts need to be more coordinated;

- Stressed the importance of listening to the voices of the young generation and engaging them within the climate action decision-making platforms, as they are going to shoulder the long-term impacts of the climate change.

## 1.2 Thematic overview

The IDM centred its thematic areas around four major challenges, which the participants identified in the nexus of climate change, food security and migration; and six responses, which outlined the path for follow-up work. The following overview is organized around these 10 thematic areas (identified challenges and proposed responses), illustrated through reference to specific panels of the event.

### 1.2.1 Four challenges

The event provided an opportunity to diagnose four challenges associated with the impact of both adverse climate events and other shock factors on mobility and displacement. The challenges were highlighted throughout both days' sessions and several speakers discussed the issues emerging due to a combination of risks to the welfare of migrants, their families and communities, and regions of both origin and destination. These various aspects were considered as clear signals for the need for intervention of multiple stakeholders.

#### **Challenge 1:**

**The culmination of several shock factors in 2020–2022 (post-COVID-19 economic disruption, conflict in Ukraine and resulting food insecurity) accelerates the negative impacts of climate change and food insecurity, associated with both slow- and sudden-onset climate events.**

In their opening remarks, the speakers reviewed the wider-reaching effects of the recent shock factors, in particular the Ukraine crisis, on food prices and distribution, and raised the prospects of wider socioeconomic



threats, ranging from gender-based violence to community instability. IOM Director General Mr António Vitorino stressed that in 2022, an acute and multidimensional crisis came into sight as climate change became interlinked with other shock factors, bringing about food insecurity and conditions likely to provoke further movement.

Several speakers referred to both the immediate and the more far-reaching effects of the conflict in Ukraine, with particular attention paid to its impact on food prices and risks of disruption in grain supplies. A range of participants highlighted the importance of ensuring uninterrupted supplies, especially to countries already facing shortages.

### **Challenge 2:**

**The combination of underlying factors and additional shocks jeopardizes progress towards several objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Without addressing the root causes, such as land and water degradation, food insecurity and the resulting displacement cannot be properly mitigated.**

Opening the event, Mr Vitorino warned that climate change is a risk multiplier, threatening the attainment of Agenda 2030 and of individual sustainable development goals. This implies enhanced responsibility to mitigate impacts of climate change on individual and household livelihoods, in particular on those most exposed to vulnerabilities. Mr Vitorino demonstrated the wider negative humanitarian and developmental impacts of climate change-related disasters by reference to countries that had been recently affected. For instance, droughts have reduced Somalia's crop production by 70 per cent, leaving half of its population affected by food insecurity. Alarming trends, evident in the rapid increase in the number of persons affected by climate change hazards, were brought up by all the opening speakers and were further discussed throughout the two days of the event.

Several speakers discussed the role that land degradation and water scarcity are increasingly playing as drivers of displacement. They underlined the linkage between poor land and water management and droughts and associated migration. It was acknowledged that migration of affected

populations is an unavoidable adaptation strategy, given the current trends in degradation and diminished capacity to guarantee access to healthy food and clean water. Assessing the extent of the damage, several contributors noted that the rate of climate change accelerated and implied the need to prioritize both mitigation and adaptation measures.

### **Challenge 3:**

**Emerging and intensifying risks disproportionately affect those already most affected by vulnerabilities in social and economic terms, and burden- and responsibility-sharing has been insufficient.**

In the opening remarks, the speakers concurred that climate change (both rapid and slow-onset events) affected most severely the individuals, communities and countries already most vulnerable. There was also a broad recognition of the disproportionate impact of the risk factors in States, communities and people that had been financially stricken, emphasizing the need for burden- and responsibility-sharing. In the general discussion to understand the interconnection between climate change, food insecurity and human mobility and the role of oceans, water and land, different examples were brought up of countries that had already experienced socioeconomic strains and were subjected to dramatic climate-related events (floods, droughts, cyclones) with multiple impacts, including large-scale displacement.

Participants of the second panel reiterated that women continue to be disproportionately affected by climate change, as well as bearing the brunt of the economic consequences of climate crises. It was recognized that women were more food-insecure both during climate emergencies and at other times. The panel acknowledged that the impact of climate changes will fall on the youth and is currently felt most strongly by those most affected by vulnerabilities. Therefore, it is only fair and just for those most affected and by emerging leaders (both of the local communities and diasporas) to have their voices heard and inputs considered when designing climate-oriented policies.

#### **Challenge 4:**

**While legal and procedural obstacles have been removed in selected countries and regions, they continue to pose risks to migrants' welfare and rights (in particular to women and children) at all stages of movement, as migration driven by climate change and food insecurity continues.**

The second day opened with a panel that reaffirmed the relevance of Global Compact for Migration Objective 5 and featured several practices in opening safe and accessible migration pathways. These included national migration policies based on the “open door” and humanitarian approach, with Argentina, Pakistan and Türkiye, as well as several Latin American and African countries, engaged in the admission and integration of persons fleeing from climate change events, conflicts or economic crises. Participants discussed freedom of movement protocols (including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) as important contributions, as they expanded opportunities for legal stay and access to rights not only to persons fleeing from current disasters, but also to those on the move in anticipation of climate-related adverse events.

On both days of the event, Member States as well as panel speakers provided extensive illustrations of the plight of climate-driven migrants, referring to such issues as loss of livelihood, insufficient or irregular food intake, poor hygienic conditions, exposure to health hazards and limited access to care. The last panel of the event featured striking cases of vulnerability in the course of climate-induced and food insecurity-driven displacement. While the humanitarian efforts of various stakeholders were lauded, the Member States expressed concern that as climate-induced mobility is expected to rise, systemic solutions rooted in greater solidarity from international partners (including other States, civil society, international organizations and private sector) are called for.

## 1.2.2 Six responses

The global crises in relation to food insecurity/climate change overlap and their impacts on migration are multilayered. Therefore, the analysis of the discussions was grouped to address the interlocking factors into six multifactorial responses. The discussions around these responses highlighted the need to minimize the impacts and protect the rights of migrants, as follows:

### **Response 1:**

**The nexus between climate change, food security and migration needs to be understood and assessed in order to reduce mobility drivers, protect rights at all stages of migration and prevent further vulnerabilities due to spontaneous or insufficiently informed decisions.**

The first panel of the first day served as a platform for taking stock of the challenges associated with the nexus of climate change and migration. During the discussion, speakers and discussants mentioned the importance of adopting preventive measures to reduce the impact of land and water degradation, and alerted to the potential consequences if this situation is not addressed properly, for instance, unmanaged climate change-driven displacement on a higher scale.

During the second panel, participants acknowledged that the linkage between food insecurity and migration cuts both ways: migration might be both an adaptation strategy to food insecurity and also exacerbate food insecurity. During the event's first day, representatives of both the migrant-hosting countries and regions and climate change-affected areas pointed to food insecurity as an ever more potent driver of displacement and called for burden- and responsibility-sharing. The role of additional shocks (such as the rising prices of fertilizers and crops) was also highlighted during the discussion.

In the second day, the first panel served to analyse the complex relationship between food security, migration and timeliness of Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Migration. Several discussants noted

the importance of both monitoring the mobility patterns and of understanding the specific drivers underlying displacement. References were made to studies commissioned on the linkages between migration, climate change, development and food insecurity, in particular in the Sahel region. An important angle was the priority of reducing the vulnerabilities of communities so that they would not need to engage in spontaneous and irregular movement.

In this context, the participants welcomed IDM's focus on the nexus and looked forward to the topic receiving adequate attention during COP27, hosted by Egypt. A number of most-affected countries expressed their appreciation for opening a forum, enabling the international community to scope the impact of rapid- and slow-onset events, the contributing factors of conflicts and economic instability and the role of pre-existing vulnerabilities in order to intensify the exchange of national experiences and come up with effective solutions on the regional and global scale.

## **Response 2:**

**A shift from reactive to proactive responses of affected communities, regions and States requires investment in early warning systems.**

Participants pondered the increasing magnitude and multifaceted impact of climate change events and food insecurity on migration and displacement, the voices of affected countries, diasporas, and institutions engaged in humanitarian aid. A consensus emerged on the urgency of moving from reactive to proactive actions. Discussions on the second day brought in valuable perspectives from the ground, which helped raise awareness that any solutions need to be designed locally with the participation of affected communities (considering also the age and gender aspects). With this shift of perspective, some participants noted that changes in the funding allocation should be put on the COP27 agenda, so that a greater share of actions addressing impacts of climate change, currently predominantly focused on mitigation, would be dedicated to long-term adaptation of affected communities and building their resilience in the face of future crises.

Several speakers supported the Secretary General's call to ensure an "early warning for all" that was to guide the discussions during COP27. This plea reverberated during the first panel of the following day, as it was resolved that opportunities for regular migration are needed as a prevention strategy. In this context, regional free-movement arrangements in Africa and the Caribbean region were recognized as important vehicles, helping economically stricken individuals, households and communities to seek employment and secure livelihoods during crisis or climate events.

The participants referred to cases that offered evidence of the role that early warning and a shift towards preventive actions can play in reducing the negative impact of climate events on affected groups. Specifically, the collaboration between FAO and the Government of Mongolia was featured as an example of harnessing risk assessments to target interventions to the poorest households of livestock herders, helping not only to reduce their financial burden, but also to boost the self-confidence of small-scale herders, ensuring that they are resilient against future crises.

### **Response 3:**

**Complex issues, such as food insecurity, climate change and associated mobility, cannot be tackled individually. A response must be multisectoral and follow a whole-of-government approach, as well as engaging with multiple stakeholders, including social partners and donors.**

A consensus was reached among the opening speakers as to the need for overcoming institutional barriers and undertaking concerted actions, reaching out to new sources of financing, and investing in preventive and monitoring initiatives that have already proved their effectiveness.

During the first panel, focused on the role of oceans, land and water in addressing the climate change and human mobility nexus, participants raised concerns about the underfunding of humanitarian actions to affected regions and made pleas for burden- and responsibility-sharing. A plea was also made to other stakeholders to jointly identify those most affected by vulnerabilities and prioritize local actions needed to harness additional sources of funding.

Representatives of international organizations and of Member States highlighted the benefits and called for an intensification of partnerships with the business community and trade unions. In turn, several speakers noted that employers and trade unions were calling for greater dialogue with governments.

Another field of possible coordination is the search for synergies between the agendas of the Paris Agreement, the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, as well as other programmatic platforms.

Several Member States highlighted their commitment to align their legal and strategic frameworks with the Global Compact for Migration. The Philippines not only integrated the Compact into its migration strategy, but also established a single body in charge of issues affecting migrant workers. References were also made to some successful initiatives in cooperation across agency and sectoral divides. For instance, the United Nations system's support to El Salvador made it possible for that country's government to develop a comprehensive humanitarian response plan that responded to food insecurity risks to groups affected by vulnerabilities, including internally displaced people, asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and returnees. A noteworthy feature of the document is its adoption of a coordinated multisectoral approach, in which other needs of the targeted families are addressed alongside food security.

#### **Response 4:**

**For the response to be effective as well as fair, the perspectives of women, children and youth must be integrated into the processes of problem identification, response planning and monitoring. Empowering the most exposed groups is in itself part of the solution.**

The event presentations and discussions featured a gender and age perspective, noting the impact of climate change, food insecurity and malnutrition on women, youth and children. Women are more affected by food insecurity than men, both during crises and in non-crisis situations. This calls for investment into gender- and age-sensitive agricultural and trade policies that are central to addressing climate

change-driven food insecurity. The participants also pointed out the need for policies placing women and youth at the centre of decision-making if a resilient system of food production and distribution is to be built. During both days' discussions, engagement of youth within the diaspora was also marked as a priority.

During the second panel, which analysed the role of women and youth in mitigating the impacts of climate change, note was taken of the vital contribution of migrants, diasporas, women and youth to socioeconomic development and food security, which makes their voices particularly relevant. The panel underlined the priority of putting women and youth at the centre of decision-making, as a prerequisite for building a resilient system of food production and distribution. During the discussion, examples of initiatives engaging women and youth in setting the directions for climate action were given. Attention was also paid to the barriers facing women struggling to secure incomes and revitalize land. These included insufficient legal recognition of ownership, difficulty in accessing finance, and in some instances violence.

A variety of practices involving women and youth was shared: a partnership with rural women to expand their access to land and credit in Brazil, land tenure for small women-led farms with measurable improvements in soil conservation in Rwanda, beach cleaning, collecting water and delivery to those with fresh water needs in Somalia or the Barefoot College in India, where poor women can transfer sustainable solutions (solar lamps) to their communities. A long-term IOM Azerbaijan initiative of rehabilitation of water discharge systems was featured with its focus on engagement of women in governance and planning, as women make up 50 per cent of the members of water user committees, making decisions on maintenance and support of local water supplies. During the panel featuring migrants' experiences, diasporas were featured as important actors for climate action, as they not only contribute financially to aid disaster-stricken home communities, but also pool their members' expertise and skills to facilitate more long-term solutions.



### **Response 5:**

**An improved migration management system, offering safe and regular pathways, as well as providing integration opportunities, is needed not only to reduce post-impact vulnerabilities (humanitarian aspect), but also to work out lasting and systemic solutions, especially in cases of slow-onset events (developmental aspect).**

The speakers of the first panel of the session expressed concern that irregular migration and informal employment continue to put workers at risk without access to social protection. They expressed concern that pathways remain limited and access restricted – through onerous requirements, lack of documentation and absence of complaint mechanisms.

In this context, the speakers highlighted the need to open safe and accessible migration pathways as an important tool for tackling humanitarian problems resulting from climate crises. They also acknowledged the challenge of labour migration policies that remain fragmented and the need to consider to a greater degree the mechanisms for ensuring protection of all migrant workers.

The panel made a strong linkage between national policies, bilateral agreements and regional arrangements facilitating mobility for persons affected by armed conflicts, food insecurity and climate change in line with Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Migration. The experience of the IGAD draft protocol on free movement of persons, which gives right of movement in anticipation of disasters and obliges destination States to extend legal stay and facilitate access to other rights, was noted with appreciation. The panel also highlighted the need to put in place free movement agreements enabling people to find employment during crises or weather events (Africa, Caribbean).

The participants agreed that unless conditions were created for safe and regular movement, climate-induced migration could be a source of additional vulnerabilities. They also acknowledged that humanitarian-based national admission and integration policies, as well as comprehensive reintegration efforts, may be effective tools for the protection of migrants' rights.

Argentina's recent legal measures provided humanitarian visas that enabled people displaced by climate disasters from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean to reside in the country for three years without migratory fees. In turn, the Philippines shared its successful initiatives at protecting the rights of migrant workers through the establishment of service centres and helpdesks, as well as through the implementation of bilateral labour agreements. The experience of the labour mobility schemes between Pacific Island countries and New Zealand and Australia demonstrates that opening safe and regular labour migration pathways can help build climate resilience through facilitating the acquisition of new skills by migrant workers.

#### **Response 6:**

**A key to any long-term solutions is investment in the resilience of communities, households and individuals so that they are provided with necessary knowledge, skills and financial assets, as well as a legal and regulatory environment in which to work out sustainable adaptation strategies, including improved use of available land and water resources, temporary or permanent mobility, and dialogue and cooperation with other communities in a place of relocation.**

During the first panel, discussants recognized that land restoration and water management schemes are needed to avert the vicious cycle of degradation and resulting migration in order to build resilience, and referred to win-win scenarios already observed in many regions.

Panellists agreed on the linkage between inadequate land and water management and the increased frequency and impact of climate events. They also provided recommendations for a broad coalition to undertake remedial and preventive actions. Member States expressed solidarity with those affected most by a culmination of multiple crises and voiced their support for initiatives enhancing the resilience of communities and migrants.

Another topic of discussion throughout the first day was the recognition of the centrality of investment in skills, with particular attention to women

and youth. This theme was taken up during the second panel, when youth contribution (in particular, young diaspora leaders) was acknowledged as vital to communities' socioeconomic development and transfer not only of remittances, but also of knowledge, skills and sensitivities that are essential to building community resilience. Youth speakers also emphasized strengthening climate education and awareness programmes and harnessing technological research.

Several practices of investment into affected persons' capacity for coping with shocks were shared during the IDM session. Azerbaijan and the Niger noted in their presentation the importance of securing access to water and land for boosting households' resilience to disasters and socioeconomic crises. IOM's mission in Azerbaijan underlined the transferability of the practice of revitalizing traditional water supply systems in countries of North Africa and the Middle East. Another long-term effort involving local communities in reversing degradation of natural assets was that of greening the Sahel region. The Government of the Niger, for instance, has pledged to build on the success of the farmer-managed natural regeneration programme by further reclamation of degraded land. A related issue is the establishment of social protection mechanisms, as illustrated by FAO's efforts in the Sahel and West Africa region, aimed both at the protection of households' assets from the impact of natural and economic shock factors and at the enhancement of their productive capacities and thus sustaining local capacity for food security.



## **2. CHALLENGES AND NEEDS FOR ACTION IDENTIFIED DURING DISCUSSIONS**

This chapter highlights the various challenges and needs for action identified by the participants, by relating them to the context and focus of discussions at particular panels of the IDM event. The identified challenges and needs have been organized into three parts: (a) diagnosis of the current situation and forecasts of emerging trends in the nexus between climate change, food insecurity and displacement; (b) the current and foreseen role of various stakeholders, with particular attention to women and youth, and the urgent need for opening up safe migration pathways; and (c) the priority of shifting towards prevention, adaptation and long-term resilience. Due to the interlinked nature of the subject of the discussions, cross-references have been made to other relevant interventions.

## 2.1 Current situation and forecasts of the impact

### 2.1.1 Context

#### **Nexus between climate change, food insecurity and displacement.**

Oceans, water and land have a key role in ensuring people's livelihoods and strengthening their adaptive capacities in the context of climate change. With each passing year, our oceans are becoming more acidic, water sources are depleting, the lands are degrading, and desertification is on the rise. Increasing temperatures and sea-level rise have direct consequences for island and coastal populations. However, their repercussions go beyond these regions, as the environment, the economy and the livelihoods of many communities worldwide will be affected.

Land that has become harder to farm is reducing the capacity of communities to maintain sustainable livelihoods, escalating food insecurity and forcing people to find subsistence alternatives. This is compounded by increased water scarcity and other resource challenges, threatening the traditional way of life and potentially leading to conflict.

A recent study undertaken by IOM and IGAD to explore pastoralism in the Horn of Africa found a mutually beneficial relationship between pastoralists and the local environment (Rodgers, 2022). Transhumance is important for preserving ecosystems and protecting the security of food production. If these livelihoods cannot be sustained, ongoing environmental degradation could in turn accelerate.

Recent data indicate that major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition – conflict, climate extremes and economic shocks, combined with growing inequality – are becoming more prevalent. This has halted progress in tackling moderate or severe food insecurity to a large extent. It is forecast that nearly 670 million people (or 8% of the global population) will be facing hunger in 2030. This figure is unchanged

from that in 2015 when the 2030 Agenda was put into effect (FAO et al., 2022).

Environmental migration is likely to be on the rise and the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report 2022 estimates that more frequent and extreme fires, floods and droughts as well as other weather events could displace more than 200 million people by 2050 (Water Europe, 2022). Migration and displacement linked to the impacts of climate change on the oceans and the degradation of marine ecosystems are already a reality in many regions throughout the world.

These trends are driven by various factors. On one hand, income uncertainties and food insecurity risks may induce farm households to seek migration as a coping strategy (FAO et al., 2018). By sending family members into urban environments to pursue non-agricultural jobs, poor rural households especially in developing countries try to cope with such risks as seasonal hunger and extreme poverty (FAO, 2015). In turn, displacement due to floods or coastal erosion has already occurred in many countries. Migration can also be a collective strategy for communities whose livelihoods depend mainly on threatened marine resources. For instance, in Senegal, the decline in fishing productivity is pushing coastal populations to migrate to cities to find new sources of income (Zickgraf, 2022).

The recent 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) also acknowledged forced migration and displacement driven by desertification and land degradation as an issue of urgent concern. The participating States called for “creating social and economic opportunities that increase rural resilience and livelihood stability, and by mobilizing resources, including from the diaspora, for land restoration projects” (UNCCD, 2022). Approaching COP27, the participating States are aware of the need to redouble their efforts to ensure that people remain at the centre of our collective advocacy and actions. They are committed to increase action and resources for climate change adaptation measures to avert and minimize displacement and strengthen people's resilience. These efforts must include human mobility within adaptation and loss and damage plans and policies, with action on both slow-onset processes and sudden-onset hazards. Another priority area is strengthening solidarity with countries and people most vulnerable to climate change impacts and facilitating

their access to just transition processes, as well as significantly scaled-up sustainable and predictable finance for adaptation and resilience.

### **Multiple impacts of climate change for populations on the move.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the lives of everyone on Earth, in different ways. Just as for climate change, the impacts of COVID-19 vary by geography and are exacerbated by existing systemic inequalities associated with age, race, gender, disability and economic status. The climate crisis also comes with its own threats to our health: from rising heat, coastal flooding and extreme weather events, to infectious diseases and threats to the food supply.

Unless well managed and safe, migration may act as a determinant of poor health outcomes. While the nexus between displacement and global health has been widely recognized, only recently have there been attempts to quantify the negative impact of poor working and living conditions on health and well-being of migrants or displaced people. For instance, WHO's recently published *World Report on the Health of Refugees and Migrants* identifies the physical environment, including "safe water and clean air, healthy workplaces; safe houses, communities and roads; and food and nutrition" as one of three major determinants of migrants' health along with individual characteristics and the social and economic environment (WHO, 2022:41). It also points to food insecurity as a major issue, especially among labour migrants.

While WHO notes that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected refugees and migrants (for instance, by affecting their mental health as well as by limiting access to personal safety and opportunities for return), it recognizes that these groups were generally not included in national public health strategies. These gaps need to be taken into account by governments when undertaking the Universal Health and Preparedness Review, which adopts a whole-of-government approach to strengthening the capacity of national health systems for future emergencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic appears to have long-term effects on some elements of the well-being and mental health of both rural populations and migrants, such as food security and food system resilience. Several studies point to a dramatic impact of the lockdown measures and mobility restrictions on movement of farm labour and supplies and resulting



changes in dietary patterns, most notable among those already vulnerable to poverty and malnutrition (IOM and WFP, 2020).

Other studies revealed linkages between household food insecurity and adverse mental health outcomes (Fang et al., 2021; Polsky and Gilmour, 2020). Significantly, the association between food availability risks and mental health concerns (notably anxiety and depression) was strongest in households with low incomes, including those in highly industrialized countries. Reducing the impact of stress factors (most notably household food insecurity) is being recognized as an urgent priority for authorities and as an element of post-pandemic public health strategies.

Solutions to crises are often interconnected. For example, co-morbidities that increase vulnerability to COVID-19 include respiratory problems caused by fossil-fuel air pollution and obesity. Both health issues may benefit from climate actions, including electrification of the transport system and more options for walking and cycling. Solutions to one crisis may also counter the solutions to another. For example, the response to a hurricane is for people to seek safety in a disaster shelter, but the response to COVID-19 is to stop people gathering. The key to preparing for and responding to multiple simultaneous hazards is building resilient systems at all scales.

## 2.1.2 Focus of the discussion

The speakers of the first panel, **“What do we know? – Climate change, food insecurity and human mobility and the role of oceans, water and land”**, reviewed the available data and evidence on the current situation, along with future projections, drawing out the linkages between climate and environmental change and how it is affecting migration and displacement patterns. This analysis included an assessment of the role of oceans, water and land in addressing the climate change, food security and human mobility nexus, and identification of progress and further needs regarding displacement driven by desertification, land degradation and food insecurity.

The discussion was guided by the following questions:

- (a) What do the current data tell us about the links among climate change, food insecurity and human mobility? What are the projections for the future?
- (b) What impacts have the accelerating trends in land degradation, ocean acidification and water scarcity had on food insecurity and displacement patterns at national and regional levels?
- (c) How can we use the policy advancements from the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the UNCCD on the links between land and migration to address food insecurity? How can we use the policy advancements from the World Water Forum on the links among water, migration and rural development to address food insecurity?
- (d) What challenges does climate-induced migration pose in meeting SDG2 (end hunger), SDG6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land) for countries of transit and destination?

The third panel on the second day, **“Food insecurity and systemic risk: What can we learn from the COVID-19 health crisis to address the multiple impacts of climate change for populations on the move”**, considered how to guide resource allocation and context-specific policymaking to make food systems climate smart and COVID-19 responses pandemic smart. They did so by covering the related disruptions in the food system and their impact on human health, primarily through pathways of food safety and nutrition and the effects on the mental health of at-risk populations.

The discussion of the panel centred around the following questions:

- (a) How can we overcome critical gaps, revealed during the COVID-19 health crisis, in the access of migrants (in particular, children on the move) to health services and proper nourishment?

- (b) What lessons can we draw from the responses to the COVID-19 health crisis, to enhance national preparedness for imminent and ongoing food security risks by strengthening the resilience of the most at-risk communities?
- (c) What good practices in consultations, involving whole-of-government, civil society, communities and affected populations on the move, could be drawn from the process of universal health and preparedness review to ensure the sustained involvement of all stakeholders in addressing the impacts of climate change on mobility?

### 2.1.3 Identified challenges

#### **(a) Displacement reaches a higher scale as climate events and food insecurity become more frequent and intense.**

In the opening remarks, the speakers linked the dynamics and severity of climate events with an increase in resulting displacements. They highlighted particularly that as climate change became interlinked with other shock factors, the subsequent food insecurity drove further movement of people. It is estimated that 205 million people are likely to be affected by food insecurity and driven to move, Africa being the most affected with 86 million people already driven out. The speakers pointed to several countries of immediate concern, including Somalia, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Honduras and Malawi.

The panellists brought up recent instances of climate-induced displacement. Nearly a million persons were affected by floods in Nigeria and more than 8 million people were displaced due to floods in Pakistan. Moreover, some countries have regularly become affected by adverse weather events (e.g. Bangladesh), which has severely weakened their response capacity.

When seen through a disaster risk reduction lens, the nexus between climate change and displacement appears as an increasingly potent source of vulnerabilities, at both individual and community levels. The speakers

referred to several alarming trends: a sixfold increase of the number of climate hazard-affected persons, with the forecast that the number of disasters is set to rise by 40 per cent by 2030. In his opening remarks, Mr Vitorino, IOM Director General, quoted a forecast that unless climate action is taken, 216 million persons could become internal climate migrants by 2050 (World Bank, 2021).

### **(b) Land and water degradation act as long-term drivers of displacement.**

Slow-onset change, associated with the impact of climate change on food production and supply, was identified by several speakers as a long-term factor contributing to large-scale displacement that is already visible in certain regions. According to FAO estimates, close to a billion people are at risk of food insecurity as a result of climate change in countries particularly exposed to vulnerabilities.<sup>1</sup> The IOM Director General also underlined that by 2050, up to 10 per cent of food-producing areas could become climatically unsuitable, which could act as a long-term migration push factor. Other speakers illustrated this scenario by pointing to the current impact of land and nature degradation on families' and communities' livelihoods. In this context, migration has already become an adaptation strategy to deal with the erosion of incomes and deterioration of living conditions.

Those trends were illustrated with references to several emergencies observed recently, in which either water scarcity or sea-level rises have jeopardized food and drinking water security. The cases of Somalia, Yemen and several countries in the Sahel region demonstrate the disastrous consequences of land degradation in the form of droughts that have reduced crop production and continue to undermine livelihoods, resulting in the displacement of entire communities. During the panel, a representative of Somalia stated that droughts had reduced the nation's crop production by 70 per cent, leaving half of the country's population

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<sup>1</sup> FAO assessed the global loss in crop and livestock production due to natural disasters in the period of 2008–2018 as amounting to USD 280 billion or 4 per cent of potential agricultural production, with much higher relative losses in some regions, ranging from 8 to 14 per cent (FAO, 2021).

food insecure and millions facing malnutrition. These negative phenomena have both immediate humanitarian consequences and long-term social and economic consequences, placing even greater burdens on the country's governance and economy.

**(c) Additional risks appear, associated with higher food prices and disruptions in food supply.**

In their opening remarks and during the first panel, the speakers highlighted further risks that compound the effects of climate change on the global system of food supply and distribution. Particular attention was paid to both the immediate disruptions in food deliveries, which could jeopardize security of supply during winter, and to the mid- and long-term effects on the cost of food through a combination of reduced supply and rising prices of fertilizers. The speakers assessed these spillover effects to be contributing factors to the economic vulnerabilities faced by countries already burdened with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on economic activities.

The panel represented an opportunity for diagnosing the various ways in which a combination of hazards – climate, health, economy or conflict – limited opportunities for countries to attain their national development objectives. For instance, it was underlined that the majority of the 25 countries most vulnerable to climate change were experiencing conflicts. At all subsequent panels, panellists voiced concerns about the impact of the rising food and energy prices on the segments of the population most affected by vulnerabilities, including those displaced. They acknowledged the challenges posed by this scenario's shock factors in meeting climate action commitments, especially for the lower-income countries or those struggling with internal conflict.

## 2.1.4 Identified needs

### **(a) Mitigating immediate effects through humanitarian efforts.**

The speakers discussed the multifaceted nature of current crises, in which the cumulative impact of climate change is aggravated by challenges such as the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. They also called for greater coordination of humanitarian efforts based on the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. In the opening remarks, several panellists referred to the linkages between climate change and food and health systems and stressed the importance of parallel efforts in response to the humanitarian crises: stepping up financing of local mitigation activities, extending opportunities for legal, safe and orderly migration for those forced to move, providing health services to persons at risk due to climate events and health hazards due to inadequate access to water and food, and building resilience to deal with the impacts in a sustainable manner.<sup>2</sup>

Two urgent messages resonated during both days of the event. First, discussants underlined that given the growing scale of impact, current mitigation efforts were not keeping up due to insufficient scale and funding. They also mentioned that business as usual would result in greater costs in the long run. Third, there was a consensus that mitigating actions had to be planned as part of a larger response, integrating adaptation and resilience-building measures.

Relevant good practices addressing the need for responding to climate-induced migratory emergencies can be found in [subsection 3.2.1](#) (Opening safe migration pathways).

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<sup>2</sup> Mr Janez Lenarčič, European Commissioner for Crisis Management, in particular outlined three directions for action: closing the humanitarian funding gap by widening the donor base; continued improvement of the international humanitarian legal framework to protect all displaced people (including those with unsafe returns); and building resilience on the local level to help countries withstand shocks. One of the speakers at Panel 1 of Day 1, Mr João Gomes Cravinho, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, stressed that the international community had not acted with sufficient commitment and welcomed IOM's leadership in putting the climate agenda high on the strategic objectives, stressing three priority areas for action: managing migration, concluding labour migration agreements and helping people to stay.

**(b) Burden- and responsibility-sharing are needed to tackle the impact of climate change and food security risks at an unprecedented scale.**

Several of the panellists and State representatives affirmed that the accelerating rate of climate change and the presence of additional shock factors were taxing the limited resources of the most-affected countries. Speakers from Maldives, Somalia and Ukraine made passionate pleas regarding the challenges they were facing. These challenges, originated by different causes (sea-level rise, droughts or conflict), could not be addressed effectively without strong and sustained multilateral engagement.

Apart from referring to the limited capacities of the impacted countries, many speakers reminded that the cumulative nature of the risks and resulting impacts (clearly seen in climate-induced displacement or spillover economic effects of crises) meant that other areas would inexorably experience the fallout from initially local phenomena. Appeals to solidarity and justice were also made by both the representatives of the countries directly affected and by speakers representing donors and other important stakeholders. The notion of justice was invoked in two contexts, both of which involved bearing consequences of others' actions – referring to countries with low carbon consumption that are affected by global climate change trends, as well as to the next generations, which will have to deal with the long-term effects of current trends.

One of the participants argued that the lack of collective awareness of the urgency of climate change had led to underfunding, resulting in failure to stem the crises. Another speaker warned that by not addressing the root causes, the world community must face larger costs in the future in tackling the consequences of climate change and unresolved current crises.

**(c) Understanding drivers and setting up early warning systems.**

The first panel concluded with several speakers expressing support for the United Nations Secretary General's call for "early warning for all" that was launched at COP27. This initiative was deemed timely,

considering that half of the world's countries (especially island nations and countries in Africa, which remain most exposed to climate events) still do not have early warning systems, which is a major vulnerability (UNDRR and WMO, 2022).

The speakers indicated several benefits from establishing working early warning systems. First, monitoring and forecasting investment was shown to reduce overall cost. A representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction cited an estimate that the ability to give warning 24 hours before a disaster could reduce damages by as much as 30 per cent (WMO, 2022). Second, when complemented with good land restoration and water management practices, establishing such systems could help address underlying drivers of climate-related events. During the discussion, speakers highlighted the role of preventive and monitoring actions in reducing or even preventing displacement, and illustrated this scenario using the case of Mongolia.<sup>3</sup> By combining investment into monitoring and forecasting with comprehensive land and water restoration measures, the countries particularly affected by vulnerabilities could come closer to drought resilience. In this context, speakers gave support to Spain and Senegal's initiative to consolidate the international drought resilience alliance at the COP27.

Relevant good practices addressing the need for involvement of other stakeholders and establishment of early warning systems can be found in [subsection 3.2.5](#) (Early warning/prevention: the need for multi-stakeholder cooperation).

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<sup>3</sup> For more details, see Practice #12 in subsection 3.2.5 of the report.



## 2.2 Multi-stakeholder approach: responsibility-sharing and opening up migration pathways

### 2.2.1 Context

**The role of women and youth in mitigating the impacts of climate change-driven food insecurity and displacement.** Migration related to climate events and food insecurity is a gendered phenomenon. As climate change undercuts households' stability and welfare, women are affected in various ways (UNFCCC, 2022). More particularly, they are expected to undertake additional responsibilities as their male family members migrate, or when they are either prevented from migrating or pushed into precarious movement as a result of economic, cultural or social pressures.

Of particular concern is the position of women engaged in agricultural production and trade whose workloads increase as they need to cope with water scarcity or rising costs. As women and girls are disproportionately engaged in unpaid work, their ability to undertake paid or recognized formal work, to develop their skills, acquire knowledge or make decisions about the household future, becomes further limited. Also, women are less likely than men to own land or productive and financial assets, which makes them particularly vulnerable to the effects of higher credit costs, price fluctuations, disruptions in trade or shortages of goods.

These circumstances are interconnected and have been recognized as seriously affecting the resilience of households and communities in the face of multiple hazards associated with food insecurity, climate change and economic hardship.

As acknowledged in recent UNCCD process resolutions, household welfare may be promoted through support to women and youth in securing decent land-based jobs and entrepreneurship (Pek et al., 2022). The panel looked into the role that gender- and age-sensitive agricultural and trade policies continue to play in addressing climate change-driven food insecurity, as well as in some initiatives aimed at tackling risks associated with migration and displacement.

**Building resilient and adaptive migration pathways.** The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in 2018, lists 12 relevant actions under Objectives 2, 5, 21 and 23. These objectives address the causes of migration attributed to adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation and the protection of migrants affected by the climate change. Objective 5 in particular explicitly calls for enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration, while Objective 7 seeks to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration. Also of note is Objective 12, which calls on Member States to strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral.

However, the restrictions introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic severely hampered access to regular pathways for migrants, including those affected by climate events and food insecurity. As highlighted by the United Nations Network on Migration in its 2021 guidance document, a notable category of migrants that faced situations of vulnerability consisted of those who either had to leave and/or were unable to return to their homes in the wake of sudden-onset disasters, or those who engaged in seasonal or permanent migration in response to slow-onset events and processes (UNNM, 2021). Dwindling or irregular food provision, land degradation and water scarcity, as well as the breakdown of basic services, can all act as drivers of displacement and require humanitarian intervention as well as a more sustained developmental response.

Member States should meet many of the above-mentioned commitments by opening up safe and accessible migration routes for climate-affected migrants. Available actions include those offered prior to arrival (by providing humanitarian visas, granting family reunification or extending work permits, as well as by accepting migrants already in transit in a regular and safe manner) and those for residing migrants (offering access to regular status, in particular by extending temporary

stay or regularizing residence, and ensuring access to employment, as well as protecting migrant workers' rights). Another area that needs to be considered is the opening up of dedicated pathways for persons in need of protection and those seeking humanitarian assistance.

Monitoring the implementation of these commitments is also of vital importance to ensure progress towards the availability of regular and safe pathways. Leading up to the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), IOM together with the State-led Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) commissioned an analytical framework and a baseline mapping to identify relevant national policy and legal instruments. In April 2022 a report was published identifying several gaps in policy and legislation, but also noting that “some countries have specific provisions in their migration policies and legislation addressing admission and stay and assistance to migrants and people displaced in the context of disasters and climate change” (Mokhnacheva, 2022). It may be hoped that this initiative will provide impetus for stepping up efforts in voluntary monitoring and reporting at national and regional levels, which will in turn bring about more vigorous exchanges of practices and approaches. In this context, the panel aimed to take stock of actions undertaken at local, national and regional levels to avert risks faced by migrants in transit and to build the capacities of communities to respond to the needs of groups affected by vulnerabilities.

## **2.2.2 Focus of the discussion**

The speakers on the second panel presented good practices as well as challenges faced on the ground when trying to mitigate the impact of climate change and food insecurity on women and youth (in particular those in migration), as well as engaging these groups in seeking long-term solutions to climate- and food insecurity-driven displacement.

The following questions were proposed to guide the discussion:

- What challenges remain in improving women's involvement in land management and food provision in the context of climate change, and how can these challenges be overcome?

- How can gender-sensitive agricultural and trade policies help tackle emerging food insecurity issues and the resulting migration and displacement patterns facing the countries and regions particularly exposed to vulnerabilities?
- What are the opportunities for youth to contribute to measures addressing climate change and food insecurity in order to avert and minimize displacement?
- What risks do such factors as precarious food supply, agricultural market fluctuations and climate-induced displacement carry for household members' welfare (in particular, that of women, children and youth) and how can gender- and age-inclusive policies (access to finance, technology and training) help mitigate these problems?

The speakers on the first panel during the second day of the session recognized that opening safe and accessible migration routes for climate-affected migrants is an increasingly important tool for tackling humanitarian as well as developmental crises caused by climate change and food insecurity. They stressed that it is worth taking stock of actions undertaken at the local, national and regional levels to avert risks facing migrants in transit and to build the capacities of communities to respond to the needs of groups exposed to vulnerabilities.

The panel discussions opened with reference to the following guiding questions:

- How do migrants contribute to food security affected by climate change?
- In what ways can measures expanding safe and regular pathways to labour migration, and other opportunities for growth associated with mobility, help secure rights of migrant workers, improve livelihoods of families and promote the advancement of youth?
- What role do initiatives facilitating regular and rights-sensitive labour mobility play in addressing issues of food security facing individuals and communities in vulnerable situations?

- What are the outstanding assistance needs of regions and localities receiving migrants driven by climate change, food insecurity and related economic adversity?

The debate on the road to COP27 was launched by reference to the following questions:

- What are the benefits of integrating human mobility in climate change negotiations? How can we achieve this?
- What are the key issues related to human mobility that climate change negotiations should be informed of, in line with the Kampala Declaration?
- How do we frame the impacts that food insecurity will have on some of the most vulnerable countries in the world and their progress on climate-resilient development? How will this be addressed at COP27?
- What progress and needs have been noted in engaging appropriate financial institutions and development partners in offering relief to countries hosting migrants and disaster displaced persons?

### 2.2.3 Identified challenges

**(a) The impacts of climate change have been most acutely felt by those already affected by vulnerabilities.**

The theme of the uneven burden of climate change reverberated during both days of the event. Already in the opening remarks, several speakers raised the issue of growing needs for support to deal with the consequences of climate change and food insecurity. They presented forecasts according to which 45 countries will be in need of food support and by 2050 as many as 183 million people could be facing hunger.

The second panel of the session featured the pivotal role that women play in addressing the issue of food security. The panellists stressed that representing up to 40 per cent of the global agricultural workforce (reaching up to 80% in some countries), women were both most affected and best positioned to respond to food insecurity challenges. Furthermore, it was recognized that the food deprivation experienced by women has direct consequences for the nutritional status of children. While women are known to have been disproportionately affected by climate change and climate-induced food insecurity, their vulnerability has been recognized to be high also in non-crisis situations, as girls and women face greater hurdles in access to capital, skills or education. It was also noted that unequal access to land affects women's ability to secure and maximize their households' incomes.

**(b) Without comprehensive solutions, environmental migrants find their rights at risk as they face vulnerabilities at various stages of migration.**

The second day of the IDM opened with an overview of the progress and needs in the area of legal pathways for persons displaced as a result of climate events. Several common points were made, highlighting some significant challenges. First, although climate-induced displacement is on the rise, few legal and administrative provisions at the national and regional levels have been made for admission and integration of this category of migrants. Second, the complex interplay of factors determining migration has made it difficult to identify clearly those people moving for reasons related to climate events. Third, the participants acknowledged that to reduce environmental migrants' vulnerabilities, it is essential that both the border facilities and consular procedures are designed so as to manage large-scale movements and respond to the particular assistance needs of those most exposed to vulnerabilities.

Relevant good practices, addressing the risks faced by migrants at all stages of migration can be found in [subsection 3.2.2](#) (Reducing migrants' vulnerability and protecting their rights).

## 2.2.4 Identified needs

### **(a) It is key to create opportunities for greater engagement of women and youth.**

Throughout the event, the speakers underlined the central role that women and young people play in addressing the consequences of climate change and tackling food insecurity. In his opening remarks, Mr Vitorino, IOM Director General, noted that women often bear the brunt of food insecurity, while at the same time developing solutions to the issue. He also referred to young people who will have to deal with the legacy of current impacts, underscoring the importance of giving voice to the next generation.

Speakers on the second panel agreed that protection of women and their families in migration is central to addressing the vulnerabilities attributed to the impact of climate events and food insecurity. Issues such as legal barriers to inheritance and acquisition of land, inadequate access to decent jobs and protection against violence need to be tackled in order to ensure a more level playing field for women to exercise their rights to decision-making in matters central to their households' and communities' welfare.

The importance of engaging women (especially those with more limited access to decision-making) in resolving issues associated with food insecurity was a major theme of the discussion that followed the panel's presentations. Several cases were presented in which women in rural areas could be empowered as food producers and distributors. The speakers highlighted three aspects. First, local, small-scale activities targeting women's businesses and households can have transformative effects. For instance, land tenure in Rwanda for small farms, many of them run by women, led to measurable improvements in soil conservation.<sup>4</sup> Second, the success of these efforts and their eventual upscaling depend on the active role of national authorities, which need to remove legal obstacles and offer remedies in cases of violations. Finally, for these responses to be well targeted and sustainable, the establishment of consultative

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<sup>4</sup> See the description of the case in Practice #10 in subsection 3.2.4.

and decision-making bodies, in which women would be adequately represented, is necessary.<sup>5</sup>

In the course of the discussion, participants also outlined some priority directions for action to enhance the engagement of women and youth with climate issues. They agreed that it was necessary to include women and young people in reflections around climate action to promote the emergence of better results, as women and young people can offer innovative solutions. To help society face the challenges of sustainable development, it is essential to generate investment in skills development through support for women's education. Finally, to address women's vulnerabilities, it is important to promote dignified and respectful treatment of women, as well as tackling those social, cultural and structural norms that underlie these vulnerabilities.

Relevant good practices addressing the need for targeted support measures for women and youth can be found in [subsection 3.2.4](#) (Strengthening resilience of the most exposed to vulnerabilities: youth and women).

### **(b) Regional mobility facilitation schemes.**

Experiences of the regions that are among those most affected by climate-induced displacement shared on the session's second day underscore the importance of transferring good national practices and building regional solutions. During the day's first panel, **"Building resilient and adaptive migration pathways to contribute to food security and promote regular migration in the context of climate change"**, several speakers from the Latin American region presented solutions in fulfillment of Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Migration. A major country of destination, Argentina, featured its "open door" policy, based on a humanitarian approach, which responded to the displacement

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<sup>5</sup> Mr Abdihakim Ainte, Senior Adviser to the Federal Government of Somalia's Special Envoy for Drought Response, stressed a need for policies placing women and youth at the centre of decision-making as a precondition for building a resilient system of food production and distribution. A related point was made by Ms Ugochi Daniels, IOM's Deputy Director General for Operations, who underlined the importance of empowering women and youth with the right tools for making climate-resilient livelihoods.



of a large number of nationals of neighbouring countries, temporarily unable to return to their places of origin.<sup>6</sup> It was stressed that 64 per cent of instances of displacement were climate-related. This experience of humanitarian admission was welcomed with appreciation by a representative of Colombia, which in turn shared its record of admission and regularization of migrants exposed to vulnerabilities.

Latin American discussants underscored the strong impact that climate events had on livelihoods and displacement in the region, and agreed that Latin America should be considered vulnerable in this context. There was a consensus that good national practices of humanitarian-based admission and integration policies should be promoted and over time incorporated into regional solutions. Two interventions from the Central American region made strong appeals to intensify exchange of practical experiences, involving not only States but also civil society, international organizations, academia and the private sector.

During the IDM, participants featured experiences from the African continent on facilitating safe, regular and orderly migration, particularly in the IGAD region.<sup>7</sup> The draft protocol on free movement of persons within IGAD gives the right to movement in anticipation of disasters and obliges destination States to extend legal stay and facilitate access to other rights. At the same time, participants made references to studies that indicated the limitations of the current regional instruments, noting administrative barriers such as onerous formal requirements, problems in securing documentation, or limited or non-existent complaints mechanisms.<sup>8</sup>

Relevant good practices addressing the need for further development of regional mobility facilitation schemes can be found in [subsection 3.2.1](#) (Opening safe migration pathways).

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<sup>6</sup> Further information is found the description of Practice #1 in subsection 3.2.1.

<sup>7</sup> The IGAD region comprises the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda.

<sup>8</sup> Region-specific concerns and needs are further elaborated in section 2.4.

### **(c) Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach and coordinating efforts.**

Responding to the challenge of meeting more intense and frequent climate events, the panellists on the first- and second-day sessions recognized that no single agency can tackle these issues on its own, and that joint efforts for needs identification and coordination of assistance activities are urgently needed.

The importance of adopting a whole-of-society approach was reaffirmed during the last panel of the first day. Some cases of effective cooperation with business and civil society were featured: the ILO's Fair Recruitment Initiative, assistance to undocumented migrants in the Philippines,<sup>9</sup> and involvement of local communities in the long-term revitalization of water supply routes in Azerbaijan.<sup>10</sup>

During the second panel of the second day, migrant speakers stressed the pivotal role that diaspora communities are playing by bringing multiple assets: remittances that are essential for the local communities to weather the crisis, expertise gained in destination countries that can be harnessed to work out local solutions, and the capacity for networking and working with partners in countries both of origin and destination. All these assets make the diasporas ideally positioned to offer connection across geographies, communities and sectors. The speakers also underscored that the involvement of diasporas could ensure easier adoption of practices and tailoring of solutions to meet local specificities.

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<sup>9</sup> See Practice #2 in subsection 3.2.1.

<sup>10</sup> More information can be found in Practice #6 in subsection 3.2.3.

## 2.3 Addressing root causes through adaptation and building resilience

### 2.3.1 Context

**Strengthening the resilience of those most affected by vulnerabilities.** Migration that is voluntary, well-planned and regular has traditionally been used by households as an adaptation strategy to cope with environmental shocks. Young people may use the migration experience as a path towards acquiring knowledge and skills, while reducing the burden on their families and over time also contributing remittances. Labour mobility also offers opportunities for diversifying incomes and gaining a broader outlook, both particularly important when families face multiple shocks and must adjust their responses.

However, the rapid onset of climate events, food shortages and labour market disruption can all compel individuals and families to depart with few assets, make use of irregular channels and eventually become vulnerable to abuse and exploitation both in transit and at destination. Several stakeholders, in particular IOM and the ILO, have noted with concern that the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic and social crises have further exacerbated poor conditions of employment, limited access to health and social protection for those categories already most vulnerable to discrimination, social marginalization and abuse of rights.

Of greatest concern is the proliferation of cases of child labour, as well as of forced labour, often involving migrants. Monitoring the incidence of exploitation and investing in compliance solutions, including gender-responsive mechanisms, is essential to tackling the challenges related to the lack of social protection, the limited access to education and restricted opportunities for ensuring decent livelihoods.

Addressing those issues requires building resilience through engaging social partners, including employers, workers' organizations and diasporas. It is also essential to invest in pre-departure preparation so that migrants and their households become more resilient through gaining necessary skills and education and securing access to financing and resources, enabling them to make better strategic decisions.

As already highlighted in previous panels, strengthening the resilience of migrants and their families and communities must also involve addressing the root causes of displacement, such as food insecurity and adverse climate events. This, in turn, depends on close collaboration between countries of destination and transit, which should provide safe and regulated migration environments, and the regions of origin of migrants, which must deal with the drivers of mobility and invest in long-term resilience-building measures.

**Some key lessons on how to promote a systemic approach and strengthen the resilience of communities.** A 2020 OECD study concluded that the various economic and social systems did not respond to the COVID-19 crisis as “a conscious collective choice”, but rather reacted “to the incentives that individual components face”. Although eventually these “complex, nested, and interconnected systems” managed the global delivery of goods and services, the magnitude of the challenge ultimately “reduced the resilience of key systems to shocks and allowed failures to cascade from one system to others” (Ramos and Hynes, 2020). In this scenario, it is essential to guarantee a systems approach based on resilience to prepare socioeconomic systems for future shocks.

**Testimonies of migrants affected by climate change.** In line with the guiding principles of the Global Compact for Migration, a whole-of-society approach is needed for the voices, knowledge and unique perspectives of all the stakeholders for climate action to be effective. As integration and inclusion are two-way processes, this presupposes that both the people who are displaced and their hosts must be involved in inclusive, participatory and rights-based actions.

The first and vital step is for the stories of climate migrants to be heard. With a variety of platforms (online as well as offline) available, the experiences of migrants themselves, the cases of front-line communities, and testimonies of advocates and practitioners have made their way

to the public forum. Examples include the Climate Refugees NGO story-sharing website,<sup>11</sup> online stories published by Oxfam<sup>12</sup> and United Nations Women, snapshots included in IOM and World Bank reports, and many others.

The essential next step is for these voices and perspectives to be acknowledged and considered. One of the key 2018 COP24 recommendations is to “better map, understand and manage human mobility related to the adverse impacts of climate change in a manner that includes the participation of communities affected...” (UNFCCC, 2018:5). A major takeaway from this Conference of Parties is that “the adverse impacts of climate change on human mobility can only be addressed through a collaborative approach, including affected communities and individuals” (Chazalnoel and Ionesco, n.d). This notion is in line with IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, and also underscored in IOM’s Global Compact for Migration thematic paper, in which it is recommended that the multicausal nature of environmental migration be addressed through integrating the expertise of non-governmental partners and the migrant communities themselves (IOM, 2017).

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of displaced people and migrants for defining and implementing measures to address the climate change, human mobility and food insecurity nexus, much remains to be done. The wealth of their knowledge and capacities is rarely recognized and they should be given more opportunities to participate in policy decisions and be represented and heard in global forums. They represent a diversity of experiences and perspectives that is needed to inform effective and inclusive policy and action that leaves no one behind and develops resilience where it is most needed.

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<sup>11</sup> Available at [www.climate-refugees.org/storytelling](http://www.climate-refugees.org/storytelling).

<sup>12</sup> Available at [www.oxfam.org/en/displaced-climate-crisis-voices-field](http://www.oxfam.org/en/displaced-climate-crisis-voices-field).

## 2.3.2 Focus of the discussion

The third panel featured three speakers who reviewed recent cases in labour mobility as well as crisis-driven displacement to see how migrants and their households could best be supported to build the necessary resilience. Their perspectives, combining global outlook and local experience, provided an introduction to the discussion on the lessons that various stakeholders could draw from the responses to recent climate-driven migratory movements and the ways in which the resilience of local communities, migrants, and countries of transit and destination could all be built.

The following questions were put forward for discussion in this context:

- What policy and assistance mix is needed to reduce short-term vulnerabilities of people on the move and to increase their own and their family members' resilience to economic shocks in the long run?
- What challenges have emerged recently to securing the rights of migrant children and youth, and what measures have proved to be successful in strengthening the resilience of those most affected economically?
- What lessons can be drawn from the recent crises related to labour mobility, such as the migrant caravan crisis, for addressing root causes of displacement (including food security and climate change), assistance in transit and long-term solutions?

The second panel of the second day, **“Migrants’ voices – Testimony of migrants impacted by climate change”**, provided a platform for displaced people and migrants to share their experiences and views on what policymakers and practitioners need to deliver on and inspire action.

The discussion was guided by the following questions:

- What are the needs of communities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and avert and minimize displacement?
- What measures are needed to address the links between climate change, human mobility and food security?
- What are the messages of migrants (youth, diaspora, displaced persons) to policymakers addressing the links between climate change, human mobility and food security?
- How can diasporas be more effectively engaged in mitigating the effects of food insecurity and how can barriers to remittances and other forms of support from migrants and diasporas to home communities be removed?

### 2.3.3 Identified challenges

**(a) Jeopardized livelihoods can push families into irregular migration, which amplifies their vulnerabilities and exposes them to multiple risks.**

The third panel considered the impact of COVID-19 and the economic crisis on the welfare of migrants and their families. Combinations of various negative factors were concluded to be the major drivers of vulnerability, and participants underlined the importance of building long-term resilience through tackling vulnerabilities at all stages of migration. The close linkage between climate change and vulnerability was noted in particular in the instances in which individuals and families have to move as a result of climate-induced loss of livelihood.

Following on from rapid-onset events, the speakers considered long-term environmental changes, bringing about loss of livelihood, as drivers of migration. A reference was made to the high-confidence forecast from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on people in regions exposed to vulnerabilities to experience further erosion of livelihood

security (Pörtner et al., 2022). It was also stressed that longer-term land degradation (e.g. in sub-Saharan Africa) may over time put pressure towards mobility.

During the discussion, several risks were identified to migrant workers' welfare under conditions of irregular migration and informal employment. These included limited access to social protection, vulnerability to exploitation and difficulties in the enforcement of rights. Attention was paid to the specific challenges in the protection of rights of migrant children and youth. Several speakers also noted the difficulties in securing access to decent employment of migrants and forcibly displaced persons.

**(b) Without investment and preparation, displacement may put a greater burden on food security and multiply risks.**

Representatives of several countries affected by climate events and resulting displacement (either as places of origin, transit or destination) alerted to the costs that unmanaged and unplanned migration pose for both migrants, communities and States. Absence of collective awareness of the magnitude of issues has led to underfunding of responses, exposing displaced people and host communities to social and economic strains. For instance, speakers in the first panel referred to these challenges from the perspectives of risk and vulnerability reduction, as well as the search for lasting solutions that will enable affected communities and States to shift from mitigation to adaptation.

The criticism of the current response to climate-induced displacement was complemented by a broader observation that the solutions adopted so far have been reactive and the focus has been on mitigation of the effects of disasters. Thus, the speakers at several panels concluded that unless the affected States are provided with financial, technical and informational support, and the migrants and their families are granted the necessary welfare and financial assistance, vulnerabilities will become even greater and risks of rights violations and discrimination will become more widespread, given the growing scale of impact of climate events and resulting displacement.



## 2.3.4 Identified needs

### **(a) A shift towards prevention and adaptation is needed.**

The panellists in the initial sessions pointed to the growing intensity and increasing impact of climate events, concluding that mitigation is no longer a viable response on its own. Instead, they made a clear plea for addressing root causes and starting to act before disasters strike. It was in particular acknowledged that climate-induced displacement is not going to be significantly reduced unless the root causes of migratory crises are addressed.

The theme was discussed during the second day of the IDM. During the final debate, speakers revisited lessons from COVID-19 responses that posed obstacles to mobility and risks to migrants' welfare. A strong emphasis was made on the need to manage and plan for future climate-related migration. For instance, speakers highlighted that it is key to manage borders effectively and avoid the creation of further vulnerabilities.

This proactive approach should be guided by the whole-of-society and whole-of-government principles, involving a range of stakeholders in thinking creatively about migration drivers and embracing migration as a climate adaptation strategy, bridging any protection gaps to ensure that the rights of migrants are protected regardless of their status, and supplying migrants with necessary resources (financial, information, skills) in order to make rational and sustainable decisions (whether to migrate, remain or return).

Relevant good practices, addressing the need for adopting the whole-of-society approach and a shift towards prevention can be found in [subsection 3.2.5](#) (Early warning/prevention: the need for multi-stakeholder cooperation).

**(b) The voices of those most affected are still insufficiently integrated into decision-making.**

The discussants responding to the presentations during the second panel agreed that women and youth were strongly affected by climate-induced food insecurity patterns. At the same time, they acknowledged a major gap in terms of these groups' empowerment for meeting the challenges and their engagement in decision-making. This asymmetry was made acutely evident in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, when only a fraction of policy responses explicitly targeted the vulnerabilities faced by women and girls, and female members of decision-making bodies were in a minority.

It is notable that the issue of inadequate representation and engagement has been brought up both by donors and the countries most affected by climate change and food insecurity. For instance, a representative of Somalia highlighted the urgency of putting in place a resilient system of food production and distribution with the strong participation of women and youth in order to deal with the current risk of malnutrition due to drought.

The benefits of broadening the circle of decision makers were also discussed during the second panel of the second day, featuring migrants' and diaspora representatives' voices. The speakers indicated that as the number of persons affected by climate events grows and broader impacts (not only immediate, but also long term) are considered, the voices of those directly and indirectly affected (both migrants and host communities) take on greater significance. Their inputs are particularly valuable in the process of developing forward-looking, sustainable solutions, addressing not only the humanitarian needs of direct beneficiaries in the wake of climate crises, but also the wider socioeconomic implications of slow-onset processes.

In the course of the second day's debate, the youth envoy for the COP27 President acknowledged that young people's perspectives were insufficiently integrated into the policymaking process to deal with climate change. She announced that COP27 would provide a unique space for young people to discuss ways in which they could contribute to climate change actions and help work out climate mobility solutions. The event will bring together some of the contributions made at a dedicated Youth COP27 Platform, which has been led by young people to showcase youth-generated ideas on tackling different impacts of climate change.

### **(c) A long-term effort is needed for building the resilience of individuals, communities and States.**

A theme underlying the interventions on both days of the IDM has been that of resilience-building as a looming priority for long-term action. The speakers in the opening remarks session put a clear priority on building resilience at the local level as a response to more frequent, intense and impactful climate events. Mr Vitorino concluded the opening session with a strong call for support, transfer of technology and investment as necessary preconditions of building local-level resilience.

The objective of resilience building was the focus of the discussions within the last session of the first day. The speakers identified certain building blocks for attaining this objective. First, they agreed that linking national laws and policies to Global Compact for Migration objectives helped ensure that the response to identified vulnerabilities was both comprehensive and systemic. Second, the crucial role of financial and technical assistance to countries of origin and of offering economic opportunities to low-income communities, particularly those of refugees and internally displaced persons, was emphasized. Finally, a linkage between the availability of open and safe pathways, access to health services and social security was stressed as a precondition for long-term resilience.<sup>13</sup>

Relevant good practices addressing the need to build household and community resilience can be found in [subsection 3.2.3](#) (Alternatives to migration: building local resilience through rural green development).

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<sup>13</sup> During the first panel of the second day, Mr Andrew Harper, Special Adviser on Climate Action at UNHCR, put forward the issue of building the resilience of those most affected, so that these communities would not need to move. Related issues were tackled by Professor Walter Kaelin, Envoy of the Chair at the Platform on Disaster Displacement, who pointed to the Niger's social safety net programmes and cash transfers to the chronically poor and households exposed to vulnerabilities, as well as Sri Lanka's 2016 national policy on durable solutions, as illustrations of States' ability to prevent migration and minimize adverse drivers.

## 2.4 Regional challenges and needs

While many of the identified challenges have a global reach, the discussions of the urgent issues and priority actions had different focuses in various geographic areas. The following brief discussion analyses the references made by the panel speakers to examples from particular regions or Member States' focused interventions.

The various impacts of the conflict in Ukraine, primarily in terms of the displacement of large numbers of people, the humanitarian implications and the economic consequences of the larger crisis were noted by participants from Europe and the Middle East. References to the crisis were made also by representatives of other regions (especially Africa), as the hostilities jeopardized supplies of grain to several countries particularly exposed to vulnerabilities, particularly in northern Africa. However, the humanitarian responses to the crisis, as well as the solutions (such as a temporary agreement on grain exports across the Black Sea), were clearly among central concerns in the interventions from countries such as Türkiye, Ukraine and Portugal.

Significantly, the focus on humanitarian measures in response to the conflict and other shock factors, as well as to the looming local food insecurity emergencies, was evident in the statements from Europe and the Middle East on wider issues of concern, such as the greater rate and impact of climate events. High on the agenda in that region is the need to open safe migration pathways (both through humanitarian admissions of displaced persons and through managing labour migration through bilateral agreements) and the transformation of economies to cope with rising energy, fertilizer and food prices, with attention paid to the plight of those most exposed to vulnerabilities. A representative of Portugal elucidated the perspective of many European countries. The Black Sea Grain Initiative was in turn the central concern in the interventions from Türkiye and Ukraine, which also stressed the need for burden- and responsibility-sharing.

Africa has been invoked on numerous occasions as a clear example of multiple impacts driving displacement: rapid-onset events (e.g. floods in Nigeria) further amplifying long-term food insecurity risks due to prolonged slow-onset processes (such as droughts), made worse by poor land management. The representative of Somalia put these intersecting trends in focus by referring to both direct impacts (diminished crops and famine) and wider consequences (large-scale displacement, competition over scarce resources and potential for social conflict).

In view of the combination of both humanitarian disasters and protracted socioeconomic crises, resulting from multiple factors, the discussions on the needed responses for Africa were multilayered. First, the call for burden- and responsibility-sharing was very clear, noting that while Africa remains a small contributor to emissions, it is among the most climate change-affected areas. Second, some contributors noted the importance of opening up safe migration pathways both within the continent (referring to progress in IGAD or ECOWAS regional integration efforts) and towards other regions, notably Europe and the Middle East.

Notwithstanding the enormous diversity of the Asia and Pacific region and the differences in current challenges, certain common themes reverberated clearly. Small island nations have long faced rising sea levels, forcing these countries to adopt relocation policies, and with the increasing rate of climate change, risks are appearing of entire communities being forced to leave their homes permanently. Maldives, for instance, continues to experience sea-level rise, increased salinity, and increases in monsoons and rainfall. With as much as 80 per cent of the land close to ocean levels, the country is at risk of being uninhabitable. At the same time, the greater intensity and frequency of rapid-onset events, such as floods, has brought about very large-scale displacement, as in Pakistan, where intense floods put one third of the country under water.

Responses postulated in the Asia-Pacific region have therefore been among the largest and most complex. Given that some areas might be temporarily or permanently uninhabitable, evacuations, planned relocation and temporary mobility schemes have taken priority. Another area of focus is the development of early warning systems, enabling communities and States to reduce impacts of typhoons, tsunamis, floods or other disasters. It is also notable that some of the most encouraging

initiatives of bilateral cooperation on safe and regular migration, as well as on protection of migrant workers' rights and facilitating skills transfers, have been found in this region (as in the cases of the Philippines or the Pacific island nations). Another important area of development is the involvement of diasporas (featured during IDM in the case of Bangladesh) in contributing to mitigation efforts and raising awareness of climate change, as well as helping to build resilience.

Latin America represents a unique case in which significant progress has been achieved towards regional economic integration, with greater economic ties stimulating cross-border migration. At the same time, the combination of socioeconomic, climate-induced and conflict-driven push factors has put on the agenda the need to adapt admission and integration policies to accommodate mixed migration flows, giving due place to humanitarian and emergency considerations. Therefore, the examples of humanitarian-based policies of such countries as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico are relevant and have been proposed as the foundation for multilateral solutions.

Another relevant development is the focus on building resilience at the community level and the economic activation of women, which helps empower them as entrepreneurs, skilled workers or local leaders. Cases of gender-sensitive credit access initiatives (featured in good practices below) have been showcased, not only as paths towards local sustainable development, but also giving actual voice over climate actions to those most exposed to vulnerabilities.

### 3. KEY TAKEAWAYS: EVENT EVALUATION AND SHARED SPECIFIC PRACTICES

The IDM proceedings offer participating stakeholders the opportunity to identify shared challenges and needs, as well as featuring and disseminating innovative practices. The final section illustrated the challenges and responses, identified above, by reference to the participants' written feedback (returned evaluation forms) and to the cases, which were either explicitly presented by the panellists or mentioned during discussions. The following overview is included in the hope of stimulating further interest in the possibilities of adoption, emulation or consideration of selected practices and identification of areas where dialogue could be most impactful.

#### 3.1 Evaluation of IDM sessions

The participants were requested to assess the IDM session and its component parts by filling out an online form. The results of the assessment are as follows:

- The **content of the event as a whole** was evaluated highly by over three quarters of the respondents (31 out of 40 responses or 77.5% of the total) and another 7 responses (17.5%) considered it “adequate”. Only 2 respondents (5%) were not satisfied.

- There were no significant differences in the evaluation of the two days of the IDM session: 73 per cent of those surveyed gave “good” ratings to the first day of the event while 71 per cent considered the second day “good”. Only one respondent was not satisfied with each day’s session.
- The **format of the event** was considered “good” by two thirds of those surveyed (26 responses out of 39 or 66.7% of the total). Only 1 respondent gave a “poor” grade while 12 responses (30.8%) assigned an “adequate” grade. An exactly similar distribution of evaluations was received on the question of the **audio quality** of the event.
- None of those surveyed expressed dissatisfaction with the **online platform**, which was used for the event and over two thirds (27 out of 40 responses or 67.5%) gave the highest “good” rating.

Nearly all those surveyed reported that the conference improved their knowledge of the nexus of climate change, food insecurity, and human mobility (see Table 1). Of 40 responses, 31 participants agreed that their knowledge improvement was significant and some improvement was noted by 8 others. One person stated that they already had such knowledge, but that the conference offered a useful review. Solid majorities of queried participants reported “significant” gains in knowledge of the other two topics: 64 per cent (25 of 39 responses) stated so in response to the topic of “facilitating regular migration and adaptive migration pathways” and 58 per cent (22 out of 38 responses) believed that their knowledge of “advancing migrants’ socioeconomic inclusion and empowerment” had improved significantly.

Considering that the nexus of climate change, food insecurity, and human mobility was the key angle of the event and represented a unique and new perspective for many participants, these results are assessed positively. It is also significant that even on the topic for which a relatively lower share of participants reported significant gains in knowledge, all except one respondent found the material “useful”.

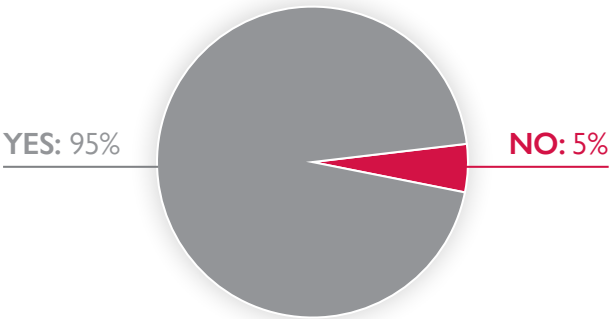


**Table 1. Responses to the question “How did this conference improve your knowledge and understanding of:”**

	It significantly improved my knowledge	It improved my knowledge somewhat	I did NOT learn much new, but it was useful review	I did NOT learn anything, and it was NOT useful as a review	Responses
<b>The nexus of climate change, food insecurity, and human mobility</b>					
Count	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>
Row %	77.5%	20.0%	2.5%	0.0%	
<b>Facilitating regular migration and adaptive migration pathways</b>					
Count	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>
Row %	64.1%	28.2%	7.7%	0.0%	
<b>Advancing migrants' socioeconomic inclusion and empowerment</b>					
Count	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>
Row %	57.9%	28.9%	10.5%	2.6%	

A very encouraging indicator is the nearly unanimous assertion that the event was an opportunity to highlight “good practices, lessons learned and recommendations” on the impacts of food insecurity and climate change on migration and displacement. About 95 per cent of participants supported this statement.

**Figure 1. Responses to the question “Did this conference help highlight good practices, lessons learned and recommendations as they relate to the impacts of food insecurity and climate change on migration and displacement?”**



These results can be better understood when seen in the context of some comments from the participants. Most evaluations of the sessions were positive with some specific points raised, such as: “The content was clear and easily understood”; “The session was very interactive and inclusive”; and “All went well”.

A few participants made some critical remarks. These either noted that the content had already been covered at other events (“The programme overlapped significantly with comparable events in recent weeks and months, and did not enrich the discussions substantially”) or called for more in-depth coverage of certain topics: “war issues and migration across the world” or “migration in South Asia and surrounding areas”.

Of the 13 responses to the question as to whether the event was useful ahead of COP27, 12 were in the affirmative, with many instances where the participants stressed the importance of stimulating contacts between countries or looking forward to further events of this kind being organized by IOM. One comment was positive, but noted that “it would have been better to have hosted it a little earlier” in order to work out key messages in advance.

## 3.2 Selected good practices to address the challenges

In the post-event evaluation results, 70 per cent of the participants in the satisfaction survey found the IDM session to be a source of good practices, helping identify the mechanisms to address different challenges effectively. This subsection groups several cases thematically by their relevance to the main topic of the panel, as well as suggesting recommendations.

### 3.2.1 Opening safe migration pathways

**Rationale.** Throughout the IDM proceedings, a clear recognition was evident of the nexus between both rapid- and slow-onset climate events, the resulting food insecurity, and migration and displacement (see [section 2.1](#)). Moreover, the participants agreed that unless conditions were created for safe and regular movement, climate-induced migration could be a source of additional vulnerabilities ([section 2.2](#)). While some progress on the regional scale towards facilitating mobility was noted (in particular with references made to the free movement protocols in Africa), emphasis was made on the application of a humanitarian approach in national admission and integration policies (see Practice #1); an active role of countries of origin in protecting the rights of its nationals abroad and assisting reintegration of returnees (Practice #2); and the central place of bilateral agreements in removing administrative obstacles to admissions, legal residence and employment, as well as in helping migrants acquire and transfer their skills (Practices #2 and #3).

**Practice #1.** Argentina shared during IDM two significant initiatives that grant persons displaced by disasters with legal opportunities for entry. The Special Humanitarian Visa Programme, launched in May 2022, extends to nationals of Mexico and 22 countries of Central America and the Caribbean who are displaced by sudden-onset disasters the right to a three-year period of authorized residence with a waiver of fees. The beneficiaries are identified by UNHCR and/or IOM in the affected countries and referred to the appropriate consular representative offices of Argentina. The programme also includes an integration component, as the relocated persons are provided by a civil society sponsor with housing, maintenance and support for one year. Durable solutions are provided as the beneficiaries are entitled to acquire the right to permanent residence after three years within the programme. Another measure has been under way since October 2022, targeting nationals of countries bordering Argentina (Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay). In line with the National Directorate of Migrations Provision No. 2641/22, persons coming from these countries who were displaced by sudden-onset disasters may enter Argentina even in the absence of documentation or with an expired passport and be granted a temporary residence authorization of between one and three months or until the country of origin can guarantee their safe return home.<sup>14</sup>

**Practice #2.** The Philippines has showcased a range of measures that underline the country's priority of protecting the rights of its nationals employed abroad through opening safe and regular migration pathways. In December 2021, a single body in charge of issues affecting this group was set up, the Department of Migrant Workers.<sup>15</sup> Its establishment was part of the country's commitment to enforce all 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This step was a continuation of efforts towards making access to government services easier for overseas Filipino workers, with a network of one-stop service centres and helpdesks being set up, offering registration, licensing, and legal, psychosocial and psychological aid. Further work is needed on staffing and training the personnel at helpdesks as well as at foreign service posts to meet the needs of a large overseas Filipino

<sup>14</sup> Information provided to IDM by the National Directorate of Migrations of the Argentine Republic. For further information, see [www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/262784/20220519?busqueda=1](http://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/262784/20220519?busqueda=1) and [www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/274488/20221027](http://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/274488/20221027).

<sup>15</sup> See [www.dmw.gov.ph](http://www.dmw.gov.ph).

population (Government of the Philippines, 2022). Another initiative that was invoked during the IDM was the forging of partnerships with the countries of destination of Filipino migrant workers. As of March 2022, the Philippines has concluded 54 bilateral labour agreements and five multilateral agreements. Moreover, seven countries have signed agreements with the Philippines on deploying workers through a government-to-government arrangement. Work continues on addressing restrictions in the regularization of migrants already present in the host countries, and important avenues have been the issuance of passports for undocumented overseas Filipinos and partnerships on the granting of work and residence permits to qualified undocumented migrants (ibid.:5).

**Practice #3.** IOM and ILO's policy brief *Climate Change and Labour Mobility in Pacific Island Countries* presents the experience of several Pacific island countries, showcasing how seasonal labour mobility schemes with Australia and New Zealand were vital mechanisms for households coping with climate change (Voigt-Graf et al., 2022). These labour opportunities were sources of remittances that were not only essential to disaster recovery of areas affected by climate events, but also served as investments into climate-proof homes, seawalls and community infrastructure. This case, however, also shows that opening safe and regular labour migration pathways can help build climate resilience through facilitating acquisition of new skills by migrant workers. Pacific migrant workers in Australia and New Zealand benefited from improved English proficiency and acquisition of general workplace skills (including communication and planning), as well as sector-specific professional skills, including financial and computer literacy, that were gained both at training courses and on the job. The policy brief cites several studies indicating that many of these skills were successfully transferred to the home environment, concluding that this experience proves that “labour mobility can be an important means of increasing resilience to climate change if labour mobility governance systems and social protection mechanisms are in place that establish and maintain safe and regular pathways that provide decent work opportunities” (ibid.:10).

### ***Other innovative practices reviewed***

- Colombia's regularization of Venezuelan migrants;<sup>16</sup>
- Morocco's national migration and asylum strategy with a humanitarian approach;<sup>17</sup>
- Portugal's national Global Compact for Migration implementation plan.<sup>18</sup>

**Prospects for IDM's role.** IDM as a cross-regional setting is particularly well positioned for exchange of national migration policy solutions and for stimulating bilateral and multilateral cooperation on regular migration. First, it can highlight the need for building capacity of the States of origin in monitoring the needs of their nationals overseas, drawing attention to requirements such as adequate staffing and training of consular and legal aid staff. Second, it may provide an intermediate platform in which successful cases of bilateral cooperation can be showcased and promoted for incorporation into multilateral initiatives (as was suggested, for instance, in the Mercosur context). Finally, this IDM session offered real-life examples of the positive impact of safe and regular migration by drawing on the testimonies of migrants themselves, as well as by juxtaposing the perspectives of countries of origin, transit and destination.

## **3.2.2 Reducing migrants' vulnerability and protecting their rights**

**Rationale.** As highlighted in section 2.2, a variety of speakers pointed out a major challenge – that a combination of rapid- and slow-onset climate events, health hazards (such as COVID-19), internal and

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<sup>16</sup> See [www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/2/60214cf74/unhcr-iom-welcome-colombias-decision-regularize-venezuelan-refugees-migrants.html](https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/2/60214cf74/unhcr-iom-welcome-colombias-decision-regularize-venezuelan-refugees-migrants.html).

<sup>17</sup> See <https://marocainsdumonde.gov.ma/en/national-immigration-and-asylum-strategy/>.

<sup>18</sup> See <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Portugal%20-%20Voluntary%20GCM%20Review%20%28English%29.pdf>.

inter-State conflicts and associated economic disruptions has hit hardest those who were already exposed to vulnerabilities. The speakers noted some additional barriers to effective assistance to migrant workers, which were a result of mobility restrictions, limited capacities of governments due to the need to respond to a variety of shock factors, and low awareness among migrants themselves. Some of these issues could be dealt with through the introduction of legal measures and bilateral and multilateral frameworks, as noted in the subsection above. However, it was recognized that those systemic arrangements cannot be fully effective without initiatives addressing the immediate needs of returning migrants (Practice #4) or establishing platforms for acquiring trustworthy and verified information on labour migration opportunities, as well as offering personalized consultations to inform of both the risks and opportunities of migration (Practice #5).

**Practice #4.** The Government of Bangladesh, a major country of origin of migrant workers, has worked out a multipronged reintegration programme to address the immediate needs of its nationals returning from various countries of destination in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included immediate support in the form of assistance for stranded migrants to return home safely (including an allowance handed out at the airport) and the allocation of a dedicated fund to a State-owned bank so that migrants could take low-interest loans (Government of Bangladesh, n.d.). The latter initiative was showcased during IDM as an essential element of addressing the impact of economic shock factors on migrants and their households. The introduction of the scheme made loans available to a much higher number of migrants. For example, during 2011–2019 only 111 returning migrant workers drew reintegration loans, while the number of recipients in the fiscal years 2020–2021 increased to 12,680. One of the key factors that helped in protecting migrants' labour rights was the active engagement through a national consultation. During the consultations, the challenges associated with the implementation of the low-cost loans were a matter of discussion with a variety of stakeholders. Independent research into the disbursement of reintegration loans identified barriers such as problems with finding guarantors, collecting bank statements, proving trade licences and meeting the requirement of a prior investment (Prothom Alo, 2022). Among the directions identified for further work were increasing the financial literacy of migrant workers, including the use of banking services, as well as low-cost loans to migrants at grassroots level, in particular women in migration.

**Practice #5.** The Eurasian Economic Commission, represented at IDM by a speaker from the Republic of Kazakhstan, featured its experience in developing digital technologies to provide citizens with opportunities to look for jobs and recruiters to look for potential employees. The Commission facilitates the operation of a single labour market within the Eurasian Economic Union, under which 1.7 million workers of the total of 93 million employees of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation participated in inter-State movement in 2021. To ease the process of matching employers with employees, the digital “Work Without Borders” system was launched in July 2021 to enable cross-border recruitment.<sup>19</sup> The online system offers several services: apart from a search engine, currently making accessible 500,000 vacancies and 4 million verified CVs, opportunities have been made available for receiving consultations, obtaining loans, acquiring insurance and concluding electronic contracts.<sup>20</sup> The portal has been built on the basis of five national platforms run by State employment services that are responsible for verifying the participating employers, thus ensuring protection against fraud and exploitation. At the same time, certain limitations exist. National requirements for accessing official online resources apply and, for instance, reviewing vacancies in the largest labour market within the Union (that of the Russian Federation) requires authorization. While online consultations and assistance in document preparation are available to all persons, accessing vacancy databases is restricted in practice to the permanent residents or nationals of the participating States (Danilova, 2021).

### ***Other innovative practices reviewed***

- Symbols of Hope of the Lutheran World Federation operates in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe supporting potential migrants, internally displaced persons and returnees with skills training and seed funding.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> The Russian-language portal to the system is available at <https://trudvsem.ru/rbg/>.

<sup>20</sup> Presentation of the European Economic Commission at IDM session.

<sup>21</sup> See [www.lutheranworld.org/content/symbols-hope#:~:text=In%20the%20context%20of%20the%20%E2%80%98Symbols%20of%20Hope,on%20board%20as%20additional%20target%20country%20in%202020.](http://www.lutheranworld.org/content/symbols-hope#:~:text=In%20the%20context%20of%20the%20%E2%80%98Symbols%20of%20Hope,on%20board%20as%20additional%20target%20country%20in%202020.)



**Prospects for IDM's role.** Given the expected rise in climate-induced and food insecurity-driven mobility, IDM participants highlighted the need for the countries of origin to invest in institutional infrastructure and staff skills so that they would be able to support their nationals at all stages of migration (beginning with pre-departure orientation through legal assistance and information provision on regularization and safe return opportunities, to comprehensive reintegration programmes combining emergency assistance with long-term support). As demonstrated in the featured initiatives, effective support for migrants crucially depends on the understanding of migrants' concerns, the development of targeted communication tools, and the acquisition of technical and interpersonal skills. IDM's ability to bring together international organizations, civil society actors (including diaspora, which is also featured in [subsection 3.2.5](#)) and States with different experiences of support to their migrants is a strong asset, which could be deployed to elaborate sets of guidelines, taking into account both the various States' particular needs and indicating entry points for partners to build their capacities.

### **3.2.3 Alternatives to migration: building local resilience through rural green development**

**Rationale.** A strong message reverberating through the IDM discussions has been the need to address root causes of socioeconomic vulnerabilities and of displacement through investment in the affected persons' abilities to cope with shocks and make the best use of available assets. Resilience-building, which enables households, local communities and States to adapt to the impact of crises, was the focus of the discussions summarized in section 2.3. Participants sought solutions to food insecurity through investment in infrastructure and land and water revitalization (Practices #6 and #7), while considering the right mix of short-term assistance (cash-based or in kind), enhancing productive capacities and social security guarantees in order to build more resilient communities (Practice #8).

**Practice #6.** IOM's mission in Azerbaijan offered for consideration the results of sustained action run since 1999 to address key drivers of irregular and economically driven rural-to-urban migration.

The revitalization of traditional *kahriz* subterranean water supply systems, used since ancient times to extract drained surface and precipitation water, employed an innovative method of drilling to restore canals in a fast, effective and safe method, and the project received the International Energy Globe Award in 2021. As a result of this long-term effort, over 3,500 households gained free-of-charge access to water that is safe to drink and can be used in agriculture. It is notable that internally displaced persons were among the beneficiaries. IOM Azerbaijan stressed that while the mechanized practice of rehabilitation of *kahrizes* is unique to the country, the practice might be applied to similar traditional water supply systems elsewhere and interest has already been expressed by engineers in several countries of North Africa and the Middle East (IOM, 2022).

**Practice #7.** Regreening the Sahel region in the Niger has long been recognized as one of the most successful initiatives involving local farmers in reversing land degradation in Africa (Magrath, 2020). Planting a million trees through regeneration and the multiplication of roots lying under the land have been lauded as instrumental in restoring land fertility and stemming desertification, as well as in increasing household incomes. These impacts in turn helped improve nutrition and build long-term resilience against future health hazards. Moreover, the Government of the Niger has built on the success of the farmer-managed natural regeneration programme by pledging to continue reclaiming 3.2 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. A 2020 Oxfam-commissioned assessment identified among the drivers of the initiative two major elements: an administrative reform, bringing about decentralization of responsibilities in the field of environment to local and regional authorities as essential to the success of the initiative, and a shift in government policy towards involving cooperatives and local organizations. The assessment noted, however, that to ensure long-term food security for the poorest households, agroecology must be supplemented by government support addressing the structural causes of poverty “to enhance their ability to earn money” (ibid.:9).

**Practice #8.** In its assessment of the risks to the welfare of the residents of the Sahel and West Africa region, which is among the most food insecure globally, FAO pointed to “lack of access to basic social and productive services” as well as “displacement, loss of assets and livelihood disruptions”, all of which undermine agriculture and pastoralism activities (FAO, 2016). These vulnerabilities called for the establishment of social protection

mechanisms that would both reduce food insecurity and strengthen the resilience of the poor, helping them to protect their assets and enable them to undertake productive activities. FAO has therefore implemented cash-based programmes that combine a mix of instruments, appropriate for the local context: cash transfers, vouchers, and combinations of cash and in-kind assistance. For instance, the CASH+ programmes seek to address both livelihood needs and to enhance the productive capacities of households exposed to vulnerabilities by complementing cash transfers (protecting assets) with productive assets and/or technical training, leading to long-term income generation and food security (ibid.:10).

### ***Other innovative practices reviewed***

- Sierra Leone: FAO strengthens resilience by supporting businesses through green adaptation strategies;<sup>22</sup>
- Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee: every programme at BRAC looks at resilience-building.<sup>23</sup>

**Prospects for IDM's role.** In view of the participants' consensus on resilience-building as a necessary and increasingly important response to the rising scale and impact of climate-driven and socioeconomic risks to local communities' livelihoods, the discussion as to the most effective modalities of such actions appears very timely. IDM also represents a promising format for exchanging experiences, as it brings together some current and prospective partners: the donor and recipient countries, international organizations, policymakers and field practitioners. The discussions held over the two days of the IDM session actually embodied the spirit of what one of the participants suggested to be an objective for further dialogue: the ability to transcend communities, regions and sectors.

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<sup>22</sup> See [www.fao.org/3/cb6253en/cb6253en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/cb6253en/cb6253en.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> See <https://blog.brac.net/how-friendships-build-resilience-to-climate-change/>.

### 3.2.4 Strengthening resilience of some of the most exposed to vulnerabilities: youth and women

**Rationale.** The IDM session underlined the central role that those most affected by vulnerabilities – women and youth – play in addressing the impacts of and developing solutions to climate change and associated food insecurity. It did so both structurally (giving voice to their representatives at various panels and dedicating some panels altogether to this perspective) and substantively, as both sections 2.2 and 2.3 seek to reflect the challenges faced by women and youth and seek inclusive solutions. These twin aspects (ownership of measures and empowerment through enhanced resilience) are found in the shared cases. Practices #9 and #11 were either implemented directly by the groups exposed to vulnerabilities or were designed on the basis of their feedback. Practices #9 and #10 tackled deep-rooted barriers to women's autonomy by helping them overcome social and cultural handicaps and establish their rights, helping to achieve resilience for themselves and their families.

**Practice #9.** During a panel presenting the testimonies of migrants, references were made to some local actions undertaken by the Somali youth to deal with climate change consequences, as well as to assist those most exposed to vulnerabilities. One such activity involved self-organized local youth delivering water to the areas most affected by drought-induced shortages. A press interview with a youth activist in 2019 revealed that delivery was implemented by the affected region's youth through the collection of small-scale donations in their own circle as well as among local residents, including traders (SoOHA, 2019). The initiative targeted communities with the most urgent needs, which were identified through the group's visits to the areas and a survey. Another notable instance has been the engagement of young residents of Mogadishu in a clean up project, during which garbage was collected from roads, streets and, significantly, the city's beaches, which again became accessible to local dwellers and tourists. In a story published by UNDP Somalia, the success of the initiative was attributed to the cooperation between the agency, local councils and community groups, whose inputs were considered to "create a project that could fit their specific needs" (UNDP, 2016). An important range of positive impacts was noted, including the creation of business opportunities through opening transportation routes, the improvement

of hygiene, the benefit of short-term employment and skills development for youth (the vast majority of the participants being women).

**Practice #10.** The importance of improved land governance for building resilience of groups exposed to vulnerabilities and long-term soil conservation was highlighted through reference to Rwanda's land tenure reform. A comprehensive assessment in 2018 of the reform pointed to the establishment and development of several dedicated land institutions (in particular, the National Land Centre, land commissions and the Office of the Registrar of Land Titles), followed by the roll-out of systematic land registration and regular monitoring as the building blocks for the programme's success, which at the time was unique in scale on the African continent (Ngoga, 2018). The reform had a major impact on women's land rights, as the assessment revealed that the vast majority of interviewed women who held legal titles either independently or jointly with their husbands believed that their vulnerability in terms of land ownership and ability to bequeath their land titles to their children (including daughters) significantly decreased (ibid.:90). This experience relates directly to several issues identified as urgent in both the Latin American, African and Asian contexts: land degradation, increased competition over land and grabbing of land, disadvantaging groups such as women. This case is relevant not only in terms of protection from discrimination, but also as an example of action with powerful economic and social consequences (e.g. enabling women to obtain mortgages or to maintain their property rights after divorce).

**Practice #11.** Expanding women's access to credit in Brazil was highlighted in view of the vital role of women as producers and entrepreneurs in ensuring food security. In 2019 the CAF Development Bank of Latin America partnered with Itaú Unibanco, the largest banking institution in Latin America, to expand credit access to small and medium enterprises owned by women. This scheme was launched in response to a study conducted by the bank which concluded that gender stereotypes, a lack of gender-disaggregated information and patterns of ownership had all contributed to limit access to personal and business loans for women (CAF, 2019). Access to credit has long been recognized as particularly vital for women in rural areas, who are most vulnerable to poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity. Therefore, Brazil's National Programme for Strengthening Family Farming has extended a dedicated credit line for rural women, regardless of their marital status – the Pronaf

Mulher (FAO, n.d.). This step is expected to improve women's access to resources necessary for investment in activities, diversifying their incomes and improving their skills in fields such as agrifood work, rural tourism, handcrafting and others (Government of Brazil, 2021).

### ***Other innovative practices reviewed***

- Partnership with Barefoot College in India: poor women can transfer solutions to their home communities (solar lamps);<sup>24</sup>
- Youth COP27 Platform showcasing initiatives and action taken by youth to serve populations exposed to vulnerabilities and local communities, and to promote global advocacy.<sup>25</sup>

**Prospects for IDM's role.** IDM's strong focus on the impact of food insecurity on the livelihoods and development prospects of those most affected by vulnerabilities has already helped to establish the gender- and age-sensitive perspectives central to the participants' discussions of the nexus between climate change, food insecurity and displacement. The invoked practices show that for this perspective to be sustained in responses to food insecurity, it is necessary to integrate it at the stage of issue identification, through the incorporation of women's and young people's concerns and needs, as well as through the use of gender- and age-disaggregated indicators. Furthermore, this perspective can be usefully streamlined into resilience-building measures (as shown in Practice #11).

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<sup>24</sup> See [www.barefootcollege.org/aboutmedia/let-there-be-light-the-business-partnership-training-women-to-illuminate-the-developing-world/](http://www.barefootcollege.org/aboutmedia/let-there-be-light-the-business-partnership-training-women-to-illuminate-the-developing-world/).

<sup>25</sup> See <http://youth-cop.com>.

### 3.2.5 Early warning/prevention: importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation

**Rationale.** Although the examples provided below give quantifiable evidence of the benefits of engaging multiple stakeholders in preventive and proactive activities, the shift towards prevention and burden-sharing in order to reduce long-term socioeconomic vulnerabilities and build lasting resilience permeated all the panels of the IDM session, most clearly seen in sections 2.2 and 2.3. It is worth noting, however, that there are already practices in which the application of various competences, brought by such stakeholders as governments, the United Nations system and non-State actors (such as diaspora), may not only enhance the quality and timeliness of a response (see Practice #12), but also transcend sectoral divisions (Practices #13 and #14) and offer more comprehensive solutions.

**Practice #12.** During the IDM, a reference was made to the case of Mongolia to provide evidence that early warning can reduce the devastating impact of climate events on those groups exposed to vulnerabilities. In 2018, a study was published on the impact of emergency actions launched in late 2017 to safeguard livelihoods of the poorest herding households by protecting their livestock (FAO, 2018). FAO collaborated with the Government of Mongolia to offer warnings of an upcoming harsh winter and pointing to several indicators of very negative impacts on livestock assets and consequently on herders' incomes. The government sounded an alarm by issuing a map in which 30 per cent of the country's area was under a high risk of devastating winter weather. FAO then approached the households most exposed to vulnerabilities with small herds and poor access to markets with supplies of feed and with compensation for destocking of herds to reduce the burden on these small-scale herders. The study concluded that "the overall cost of the livestock interventions came to USD 285 for each household involved. In return, each one benefited by USD 2,008, which gives a 7.1 benefit to cost ratio." More broadly, it was found that the successful intervention helped the herders maintain their dignity and self-confidence, as well as providing them with a "huge source of investment" that provided a foundation for resilience against future crises (ibid.:13).

**Practice #13.** The Government of El Salvador, supported by the United Nations system, developed a comprehensive Humanitarian Response Plan

for the period of August 2021 to December 2022 in which attention was paid to the humanitarian assistance needs of a target population of 912,000 persons (OCHA, 2021). The document identified as requiring urgent intervention an increase in the number of people facing crisis levels of food insecurity due to the challenges associated with COVID-19 restriction measures and the impact of various tropical storms. One of the four population groups targeted for response was defined to include internally displaced people, asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and returnees. The Humanitarian Response Plan named explicitly as a specific objective to “strengthen and contribute to the timely access of essential and integrated services for food security, protection, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, education and shelter for affected people”. A noteworthy feature of the document is its adoption of a coordinated multisectoral approach, in which other needs of the targeted families are addressed alongside food security. During the IDM, the adoption and implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan was noted as a case of multi-stakeholder cooperation in meeting the needs of populations exposed to vulnerabilities and serves as testimony to the government’s resolve to reduce food insecurity through building resilience of the affected persons.

**Practice #14.** Bangladeshi diaspora in the United Kingdom, the largest globally, has been at the forefront of activities to render assistance and offer solutions to the impacts of climate change on its vulnerable home country. During the IDM, a diaspora representative noted that although remittances had been a crucial lifeline for many disaster-stricken communities, there is a need to shift from reactive to proactive measures. The first condition for engaging diaspora in forward-looking action for the benefit of the country of origin is rallying like-minded activists, guided by a collective vision. Second, pooling of resources, such as expertise and unique contributions, is essential. These were the approaches that helped create the Bangladeshi Diaspora Climate Group. The Group cooperates with the IOM London office, which brought together 25 British Bangladeshi leaders from across a number of sectors, including humanitarian aid, climate finance, sustainable land use, waste management, law, renewable energy and decarbonization. The organization brings together sustainability specialists to work with partners in Bangladesh, putting together expertise and skills to develop local solutions.



### ***Other innovative practices reviewed***

- Regional task force on preventive action established with IOM and other agencies in Asia-Pacific;<sup>26</sup>
- Initiative of Spain and Senegal to consolidate the international drought resilience (early warning) alliance at COP27.<sup>27</sup>

**Prospects for IDM's role.** The shift towards more systemic and proactive solutions, requiring the inclusion of a variety of stakeholders, is at the core of the IDM formula, in which international organizations, States and non-State actors are engaged in an open dialogue to “identify comprehensive approaches and measures for advancing international cooperation”. It is therefore timely to consider the promotion of the dialogue at a more technical level dedicated to the dissemination of some of the identified good practices to other regions and to the extension of the dialogue on issues of shared concern among different groups of stakeholders.

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<sup>26</sup> See [www.preventionweb.net/blog/progress-policy-address-disaster-displacement-asia-and-pacific](http://www.preventionweb.net/blog/progress-policy-address-disaster-displacement-asia-and-pacific).

<sup>27</sup> See <https://english.news.cn/20221108/b605a6cf4b3d4d2589534f72328445cb/c.html>.



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# SECOND INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION SESSION 2022

Overlapping Global Crises: The Impacts  
of Food Insecurity and Climate Change  
on Migration and Displacement

24–25 October 2022

International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)  
and Online

**10:00 – 18:00 (CEST)**



# AGENDA

## Background

This IDM will be timely, in the lead up to the 27th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), taking place in Egypt, and building on the successful outcomes of the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), to strengthen action to address the complex interlinkages between climate change, food security and human mobility. IOM understands these links through the wide lens of human security and is committed to putting people exposed by vulnerabilities at the centre of its responses. Food security, water security, environmental security and livelihood security are all affected by climate change and can influence mobility patterns. In 2022, we have witnessed the combined impacts of climate change and food insecurity, and the proliferation of acute situations across the world, leading to disruption in food supply chain and rising prices of grain, fertilizer and energy. This has resulted in compounded risks for communities already under severe stress, especially in low-income countries, and leads to protracted displacement and increased humanitarian needs. These situations call for longer-term development, adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies to avert and minimize displacement, strengthen the resilience of migrants and communities and promote sustainable societies and livelihoods.

This session will offer delegates a space to exchange good practices, lessons learned and recommendations that can support governments and other stakeholders to develop and implement preparedness and response plans, policies and programmes to address global crises linked to climate change and food security.

Day 1: Global food security crisis due to conflicts, weather extremes, economic shock and impact on migration	
10:00 – 11:00	Opening session
	<p><b>Opening Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr António Vitorino, Director General, IOM</li> <li>• Video message from Mr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Qu Dongyu, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>• Mr Janez Lenarčič, European Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission</li> <li>• Mr Abdirahman Abdishakur, Special Presidential Envoy for Drought Response, Somalia</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Dialogue</b></p>
11:00 – 13:00	Panel 1: What do we know? – Climate change, food insecurity and human mobility and the role of oceans, water and land
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr António Vitorino, Director General, IOM</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr João Gomes Cravinho, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Portugal</li> <li>• Ms Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</li> <li>• Ms Loretta Hieber-Girardet, Chief of Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity-Development Branch, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Dialogue</b></p>
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch Break

<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	<b>Side-Event: How a gender-responsive approach can better equip us to respond to climate change, food insecurity and migration? UN-Women / IOM</b>
	<p><b>Opening remarks:</b> Mr Reinhard Hassenpflug, Councillor for Migration Affairs, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations, Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Giorgia Prati, Migration and Climate Change Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>• Ms Jenna L. Hennebry, Ph.D., Professor, Balsillie School of International Affairs Wilfrid Laurier University (Canada)</li> <li>• Mr Shakirul Islam, Chairman, Ovivashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP)</li> <li>• UN-Women – Chairing</li> </ul>
<b>15:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Panel 2: Understanding the role of women and youth in mitigating the impacts of climate change-driven food insecurity on migration and displacement</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Rachel Snow, Chief, Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</li> <li>• Mr Abdihakim Ainte, Senior Adviser to the Federal Government of Somalia's Special Envoy for Drought Response</li> <li>• Ms Adriana Quinones, Director a.i. Geneva Liaison Office, UN-Women</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Dialogue</b></p>
<b>16:30-18:00</b>	<b>Panel 3: Strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable to economic adversity: upskilling, financing jobs and the green economy</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Amy E. Pope, Deputy Director General for Management and Reform, IOM</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon. Eduardo Jose A. de Vega, Undersecretary (Deputy Minister) For Migrant Workers' Affairs, Philippines</li> <li>• Ms Michelle Leighton, Branch Chief of the Labour Migration Branch (ILO)</li> <li>• Mr Vladimir Gjorgjiev, Chief of Mission, IOM Azerbaijan</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Dialogue</b></p>

Day 2	
10:00 – 11:30	<b>Panel 1: Building resilient and adaptive migration pathways to contribute to food security and promote regular migration in the context of climate change</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Cécile Riallant, a.i. Director of Department of Peace and Development Coordination (DPDC), IOM</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Andrés Perez Esquivel, International Affairs Director of Migrations Directorate, Argentina</li> <li>• Prof. Walter Kaelin, Envoy of the Chair, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), to present the PDD-IOM Baseline mapping results</li> <li>• Mr Andrew Harper, Special Adviser on Climate Action, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Dialogue</b></p>
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Panel 2: Migrants' voices – Testimony of migrants impacted by climate change</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr Manuel Marques Pereira, Head of the Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction (MECR) Division, IOM</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Jerome Oberreit, Executive Director, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)</li> <li>• Ms Rashid Begum from Barisal district, one of the most climate-vulnerable coastal districts in Bangladesh. Supported by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)</li> <li>• Mr Shehab Choudhury, co-founder of the Bangladeshi Diaspora for Climate Action (BDCA). Diaspora Representative – supported by the IOM MECR projects in IOM London and IOM Washington</li> <li>• Ms Rose Kobusinge, Youth Messages on Migration and Climate Change from the Kampala Conference</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Dialogue</b></p>
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch Break



15:00 – 16:30	<b>Panel 3: Food Insecurity and Systemic Risk: What Can We Learn from the COVID-19 Health Crisis to Address the Multiple Impacts of Climate Change for Populations on the Move</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Monica Goracci, Director, Department of Programme Support and Migration Management, IOM</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Omnia El Omrani, COP27 President Envoy on Youth</li> <li>• Dr. Luz De Regil, Head of the Unit on Multisectoral Action in Food Systems, World Health Organization (WHO)</li> <li>• Ms Verena Knaus, Global Lead, Migration and Displacement, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</li> <li>• Sri Hari Govind, Youth Adviser to Children, Cities and Climate Action Lab, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Steering Committee member at Healthcare Information for All (HIFA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Dialogue</b></p>
16:30-17:30	<b>Debate: The road to COP27: greater recognition of the reality of human mobility in climate change negotiations, including the consequences of food insecurity</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ambassador Caroline Dumas, Director General's Special Envoy for Migration and Climate Action, IOM Video from Mr Sameh Shoukry – Egyptian President-Designate of COP27</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Co-facilitator of the first IMRF Progress Declaration (OHRLLS)</li> <li>• Hon. Beatrice Anywar Atim, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda</li> <li>• Mr Luigi Soreca, Ambassador, Special Envoy for External Aspects of Migration, European Union</li> <li>• Ms Pefi Kingi, Pacific Regional Focal Point for Migration, South Pacific Islander Organization (SPIO)</li> <li>• Ms Koko Warner, Manager of Adaptation Division, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Dialogue</b></p>

17:30 – 18:00	Closing session
	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi, Chief of Staff, IOM</li> <li>• Ms. Francisca Mendez, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Mexico</li> </ul>

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