EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE PACIFIC AND POSSIBLE IMPACT ON CANADA

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The UN Migration Agency

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pacific Islands region is known as the "early warning system of the global community" due to its extreme vulnerability to climate change and disproportionately high disaster risk. Climate change impacts human mobility, leading to displacement and migration within and across borders in the context of either sudden or slow-onset disasters. Planned relocation is seen as a proactive solution to deal with the changing climate. This report, based on research undertaken by the International Organization for Migration funded by the Government of Canada, analyses the impact of climate on human mobility trends in the Pacific, with a specific focus on the effect these trends may have on migration to Canada.

Key findings

The following is a summary of key findings:

- In the Pacific, the effects of climate change permeate all aspects of community life and affect natural resource-based livelihoods, such as farming and fishing. Participants of focus group discussions (FGDs) articulated their concerns, and in some cases noted the inevitability of migration or relocation as a means to adapt or cope with the changing climate.
- The relationship between internal displacement, a form of forced migration and sudden-onset natural disasters in Pacific Islands is clearly evident. Tropical Cyclones Pam and Winston, striking Vanuatu in 2015 and Fiji in 2016 respectively, and Typhoon Maysak, which hit the Federated States of Micronesia in 2015, demonstrate the direct impact of environmental events on displacement.
- The relationship between voluntary migration, climate change and environmental degradation is less immediate. At present, voluntary migration is driven by economic factors, such as stable employment and income. Climate change and environment are said to be underlying or secondary drivers, recognized as imposing additional stress on the livelihoods of the rural poor, indirectly leading people to migrate.
- Internal migration from rural outer atolls to larger islands or from rural to urbanized centres is a significant trend in the Pacific that will be exacerbated by climate change. This can lead to challenges, such as labour market saturation, overcrowding, competition for resources and services, and the emergence of informal settlements. It is important at this stage to undertake planning to prepare for the impacts of accelerated internal migration flows in the context of climate change.
- For international migrants originating from the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America are the main destination countries. This is facilitated by preferential entry agreements (particularly by the United States for North Pacific Islands) and seasonal worker schemes (particularly by Australia and New Zealand for South Pacific Islands).

- Labour migration (especially “unskilled” and “semi-skilled”) will be the critical migration pathway, and investment is needed in skills development programmes to leverage the impact of labour mobility schemes as a long-term climate change adaptation strategy. This includes investment in skills development in countries of origin to meet skills shortages in countries of destination, and recognition/harmonization of qualifications throughout the region.
- Planned relocation is increasingly promoted as a climate change adaptation strategy among the Pacific Islands, including Fiji and atoll nations such as Kiribati. Consistent with the literature on the topic, key informants and focus group discussants emphasized the profound connection between communities and their land, which relegates the option of permanent relocation to a last resort.
- This connection to land also influences the perceptions of international migration. While focus group discussants stated that they would migrate overseas for labour opportunities, they often emphasized that this movement would be temporary, and that it would be important to have the option of returning home.
- If migration flows from the Pacific Islands to the Pacific Rim were to increase due to climate change, overall numbers of migrants would be expected to remain small and manageable for receiving countries. If the atoll States of Kiribati and Tuvalu had the opportunity to migrate permanently through an open access scheme, it is estimated that only 31,000 I-Kiribati and 2,200 Tuvaluans would have the desire and financial means to do so over a period of 25 years, amounting to just 1,300 migrants per year.
- Where planned relocation must take place, key informants provided a checklist of good practices that need to be incorporated to ensure that it is a durable solution. This includes in-depth consultation with communities and all stakeholders prior to relocation and where possible relocation within short distances and customary boundaries to avoid conflict related to land rights.
- The current stock of migrants illustrates that Canada is not currently a major destination country for Pacific Islanders, barring Indo-Fijians, some of whom migrated en masse prior to and following the coup d’Etat of 1987. FGDs in Fiji revealed that many are not familiar with Canada. Some participants had not heard of the country, and those who had possessed a minimal understanding, with the majority stating only that it was far away from the Pacific.
- Despite this, participants emphasized that if offered the opportunity to work in Canada, they would be happy to migrate there. Focus group discussants stated that the possibility of migrating to Canada was conditional on establishing specific employment opportunities in advance. There was no interest in migrating irregularly to Canada, and this was not considered an option in relation to climate change adaptation.
- In light of Canada’s policies of accepting skilled and unskilled migrants from beyond its immediate neighbourhood, and the historic and linguistic links with Pacific Islands, as well as existence of a small Fijian diaspora, migration flows from the Pacific to Canada could increase in the context of climate change if key destination States such as Australia and New Zealand become more restrictive and if Canada sought to engage more actively in the region.

Recommendations

The following is a summary of the report's recommendations for further research. These recommendations align with Canada's policy of supporting vulnerable developing States to adapt to climate change.[1]

- A comprehensive analysis and modelling of migration trends in relation to climate change in the Pacific, to support the design of evidence-based policy.
- Further qualitative research including interviews and FGDs with a broad sample of women, men and youth throughout the region who are currently or potentially impacted by climate change. This should be complemented by a quantitative dimension such as household surveys.[2]
- An assessment of the viability of migration as an adaptation strategy analysing the benefits and challenges of migration in the context of climate change, and exploring how policy reform could lead to strong management/governance of such migration. This should include migration as adaptation to slow-onset environmental change.
- The Government of Canada should conduct research into the viability of working with Pacific Islands to address issues related to climate migration by promoting skills development and recognition, as well as qualifications for key sectors in the region. A skills development policy would ultimately facilitate the dignified migration of people vulnerable to climate change in a well-managed manner. The starting point for this should be supporting research and data collection initiatives to address the lack of vital labour market information.

[1] For example, at the Conference of Parties (COP) 21, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada is making climate change a top priority and committed to providing 2.65 billion dollars towards the Green Climate Fund, making it the second largest contributor following the United States. Canada also included enhanced action on adaptation in developing countries as one of their eight key priorities for COP22 (Government of Canada, 2016c).

[2] Key themes include the following: (a) durable solutions in the context of climate change, including land rights; (b) gender dimensions of climate migration including gender-based violence; (c) social and cultural impacts of planned relocation including gender; (d) migration under the loss and damage framework; and (d) analyse how policies can support migration and identify/design/implement more good practices (such as temporary labour schemes).

INTRODUCTION

The Pacific Islands are extremely vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate change. Sudden-onset natural hazards,[3] such as floods, droughts and cyclones are common, along with geophysical hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes. In addition, slow-onset hazards like rising temperature and sea level, coastal erosion and salinity intrusion are occurring at an accelerated pace due to climate change, threatening the existence and livelihoods of the Pacific community and in turn, affecting migration flows within and outside the region.

This report aims to contribute to understanding of climate migration in the Pacific, and its possible effect on the migration of Pacific Islanders to Canada. This introduction will summarize key terms relevant to this paper and introduce the research methodology that was undertaken to reach our findings.

Key terminology

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its Article 1, defines climate change as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods". The report accepts the view presented in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Assessment Reports that this increased climatic variability has and will contribute to sea-level rise, coastal erosion, increased natural disasters and agricultural stress (IPCC, 1990, 2014).

The term "climate migration" refers to "the movement, within a State or across an international border, of a person or groups of persons, who are obliged to leave their habitual place of residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment due to climate change" (International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2016). The effect of climate change on drivers of migration (economic, social, political and cultural) can be both direct and indirect, and through proxies of climate change such as sudden- and slow-onset events.

The report defines three forms of human mobility in relation to climate change:[4]

- Displacement, which is a form of forced migration;
- Internal or international migration undertaken voluntarily;

[3] It should be noted that sudden-onset weather-related hazards cannot be attributed directly or only to climate change as these may occur due to natural variation as well. However, it is accepted that climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of these events.

[4] This distinction reflects the 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework agreement of the UNFCCC Sixteenth COP framing of the issue, in paragraph 14(f) that "invites all Parties to enhance action on adaptation under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, by undertaking, inter alia, the following: … (f) Measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at national, regional and international levels" (UNFCCC, 2011).

- Relocation of communities or individuals, which implies a permanent transplanting of communities and their assets in another location (IOM, 2014a). This may be spontaneous or "planned" through government support.

For all other key terms, the paper will use the definitions provided in the *Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) Glossary*.[5]

Methodology

The study undertook a qualitative approach, through key informant interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) with vulnerable communities. The key research questions are as follows:

(a) How do climate change and other environmental issues affect the Pacific? How are these effects and changes expected to develop in the medium to longer term?

(b) What is the relationship between climate change and displacement, migration and relocation in the Pacific and how is this perceived by communities who have experienced the effects of environmental change? What predictions can be made about the interaction of climate change and migration in the medium to longer term?

(c) Will climate change affect migration to Canada from the Pacific?

Nineteen key informants were interviewed in person and remotely between May and July 2016, spanning government, academia, international agencies and civil society. They were selected based on their specific expertise or engagement in either climate change or migration in the Pacific region. They included staff from IOM offices in Vanuatu, the Marshall Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. The interviews were semi-structured, reflecting the key research questions, but tailored to the expertise of interviewees. Interviews were recorded and summarized, then analysed during write-up. See Annex 2 for a list of organizations represented by interviewees.

To understand the country-level context, Fiji was selected as a case study, given its vulnerability to climate change (although it is acknowledged that the country is less vulnerable in comparison to atoll nations) and position as a source, transit and destination country for migration in the Pacific. It is also the biggest sending country in the region in terms of migration to Canada. IOM staff in Fiji supported the research by interpreting FGDs when participants shifted from English to Fijian. In Fiji, FGDs were conducted in Daku Village and Bau Island, which are experiencing the effects of climate change. In Daku Village, these were organized among men, women and youth, whereas in Bau Island, two focus groups were organized among men and women.

These communities were selected because of their contact with environmental challenges that are likely to be exacerbated due to climate change. It is noteworthy that Tropical Cyclone Winston took place less than three months prior to field interviews and FGDs, and perceptions of environmental hazards and their impacts were shaped by this event.

[5] Available from https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-environment-and-climate-change-evidence-policy-meclep-glossary

Limitations and scope of the study

This study was intended to be a rapid assessment into the relationship between migration, environment and climate change in the Pacific, providing some basic indications of the possible effect that these factors could have on immigration to Canada. The scope was limited by resources and time frame.

Additionally, any study conducted on the relationship between climate change and human mobility suffers from limitations. Migration is the consequence of multiple drivers at play; the Foresight report identified five such drivers: economic, social, political, demographic and environmental, where depending on the specific context, each factor contributes to the migration decision with varied influence (United Kingdom Government Office for Science, 2011). As environment is only one of several factors, the report argues that attributing migration wholly to or directly as a consequence of climate change is empirically impossible. Migration arises out of a complex decision-making process affected by several related factors, implying that it is essential to understand the entire socioeconomic and political context of the migrant or potential migrant in order to ascertain the influence of one factor in relation to others on the final decision to migrate. Often, the link between climate change and migration would be manifested indirectly on other drivers of migration.

As time and resources were limited, such an in-depth analysis through a household survey of the community context was not feasible, therefore making it challenging to predict the trends[6] in climate migration with a high degree of certainty and in turn, quantify its extent. The most feasible methodology was therefore to conduct key informant interviews with experts with a strong understanding of the issue and FGDs to seek the perceptions and opinions of the community on the broader effect of climate change on migration.

The study acknowledges that climate migration in the context of small island States, particularly atoll nations in the Pacific, may have an implication on human rights and legal frameworks. Despite its importance, this perspective, along with a detailed discussion on the system of land rights, remains outside the scope of the report.

[6] This is also complicated by the uncertainty of local-level impacts of climate change and how policies designed to address these may affect vulnerability and the capacity to adapt.

CLIMATE CHANGE AS A DRIVER OF HUMAN MOBILITY

DISPLACEMENT, MIGRATION AND RELOCATION

Displacement

There is a direct causal relationship between climatic events and displacement in the Pacific. The region has a "disproportionately high disaster risk" (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 2016), and displacement relative to population size is consistently high. This has manifested recently in several disasters, including Cyclone Pam in 2015, following which nearly 25 per cent of the population in Vanuatu fled their homes and 55 per cent of Tuvalu's population were displaced (IDMC, 2016). Over the last seven years (2008–2015), nearly 320,000 people have been displaced by sudden-onset events in the Pacific (IDMC, 2016).[7]

Displacement has certain specific characteristics in the subregion:

(a) Sudden-onset disasters cause the bulk of the displacement (Ferris, Cernea and Petz, 2011) e.g. tropical cyclones that hit Vanuatu and Fiji in 2015 and 2016 respectively, as well as Typhoon Maysak that hit the North Pacific in 2015. This is due to the inherent nature of sudden-onset disasters as they occur rapidly with little time for preparation.

(b) When natural disasters occur in the Pacific Islands, displacement is internal due to geography, remote location and lack of contiguous land borders (IDMC, 2013).

(c) Displacement tends to be protracted or prolonged. Key informants stressed that in order to understand climate change-related displacement and to draft evidence-based policies, research including data collection and analysis needs to be enhanced. An informant in Vanuatu stated: "The Pacific is at the forefront of impacts of climate change, and yet we are blind with lack of data ... we need data on displacement; who are displaced; where, how they are being displaced; who are being relocated; and what are the circumstances or arrangements for this." Initial steps have since been taken to draft displacement policies in Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea, according to key informants. These policies will also look at bridging the data gap on displacement and migration in the Pacific.

Migration

Migration has long been a key facet of the Pacific identity, with Pacific Islanders described as one of the most mobile groups anywhere in the world (ACP Observatory on Migration, 2012). Tongan anthropologist Epeli Hau'Ofa describes the rich pre-colonial history of economic and cultural exchange between Pacific Islanders facilitated by a highly developed seafaring tradition as a "world in which peoples and cultures moved and mingled, unhindered by boundaries" (1994). Migration is entrenched as a strategy to both seek out new opportunities, and adapt to circumstances of negative social, economic and political change. In this context, climate change is simply the most recent in a long line of circumstances that may lead people to choose to migrate.

[7] Representing approximately 3 per cent of the total population of Pacific countries represented in the IDMC database (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa).

Migration patterns tend to follow specific corridors: from smaller to larger islands or atolls; from rural to urban areas; within the region from one Pacific Island to another; or further afield, to Pacific Rim countries[8] and beyond, including Europe or Canada.

Internal migration and urbanization

Internal migration from rural outer atolls to larger islands or from rural to urbanized centres is increasing at a rapid pace. As a result, urban centres now house a large proportion of the population; Nauru, Palau and Marshall Islands all have urban populations that represent more than 70 per cent of the total population, with the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji and American Samoa not far behind with 50 per cent (Campbell and Warrick, 2014). Internal migration is driven by a combination of push and pull factors:

- Poverty;
- Land insecurity and disputes;
- Environmental change;
- Employment opportunities; and
- Availability of services, such as health (including water and sanitation facilities) and education.

The centralized structure of service provision compels those residing in smaller islands to move temporarily[9] to access hospital or schooling services that are often located on the largest island in a cluster.

People living in rural areas on the mainland close enough to cities often commute for work on a daily basis. While the primary driver of this is economic – the search for jobs – it often follows deterioration of traditional occupations such as farming and fishing, which is influenced by the changing climate. Many of those who lose livelihood opportunities in their communities of origin need to migrate in search of other opportunities.

Rapid urbanization poses several challenges. These movements add additional stress on resources in receiving areas, leading to overcrowding and labour market saturation. This, in turn, can prompt international migration for those with enough resources to move abroad. Additionally, in many countries, urban areas are characterized with squatter settlements with high levels of poverty and limited access to services. In this context, planning for accelerated internal migration flows especially to urban areas in the context of climate change is crucial. As one key informant noted, “If development does not improve, we will see more overcrowding in urban areas which will make vulnerability to climate events greater. There will also definitely be greater policy attention on this issue.”

Challenges caused by rapid rural–urban migration notwithstanding, if well-planned, migration is, and will be increasingly, an effective adaptation strategy. Several people mentioned that families facing climate change impacts will move to cities in search of additional income; they also noted that remittances from these families would be used for daily expenses, improving the quality of houses (e.g. shifting from wood to concrete, a stronger material in the face of some natural disasters) and for education and health needs; and finally, they noted that family members who had migrated to nearby cities provided a home away from home, and were often relied on when disasters struck.

[8] Pacific Rim countries include those countries located on the rim of the Pacific Ocean. Within the scope of this report, we refer predominantly to Australia, New Zealand and the United States as Pacific Rim countries. Papua New Guinea, at times considered as a Pacific Rim country, is considered as part of the Pacific Islands by the authors.

[9] Temporary migration is defined here as movement for short/brief periods normally spanning between one to three months.

International migration

International migration may be used as another means to adapt to climate change, in particular for the populations of the atoll islands whose land could disappear. Burson and Bedford (2013) examine the extent to which the existing "regional architecture of mobility" can absorb environmental migrants. They group Pacific countries into clusters of the United States, New Zealand and France, and emerging clusters under Australia and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. These clusters are "united by some past historical association… in which privileged rights of entry and stay… are conferred" (ibid.).

Under these clusters, citizens of Pacific Island States have varying degrees of privileged entry that influence current migration flows. This includes citizenship, rights of entry and quotas for permanent migration or participation in seasonal worker schemes. For example, Guam and New Caledonia are overseas territories of United States and France respectively, which means they have certain free movement and citizenship rights. Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau are part of the "realm of New Zealand" and have constitutional ties that allow for rights of entry. Additionally, through New Zealand's "Pacific Access Category", specific Pacific Island States (Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga and Fiji) have ballots for permanent residence. Some Pacific Islands have quota-based access to special employment visas, exemptions or visas on arrival based on schemes and agreements, such as New Zealand's Recognized Seasonal Employer scheme and Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme open to selected Pacific Islands. The United States' Compact of Free Association agreements with the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Marshall Islands allow all citizens of these countries to live and work in the United States with unlimited lengths of stay.

At present, many Pacific Islands have large shares (over 30%) of their population living abroad explained in part by these preferential entry arrangements especially with Pacific Rim countries (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 2015a).

Table 1: Countries and territories by share of total population residing abroad and key destinations (2015)

	Pacific Island	Percentage of total population abroad	Main destinations*
1	Guam	44.8%	Philippines, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau
2	American Samoa	41.8%	Samoa, Australia
3	Northern Mariana Islands	39.3%	Guam, Palau
4	Tokelau	39.0%	New Zealand, Australia
5	Niue	34.6%	New Zealand, Australia
6	Nauru	31.1%	Kiribati, Australia
7	Palau	26.6%	Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia
8	New Caledonia	24.4%	French Polynesia, Australia, Wallis and Futuna Islands
9	Wallis and Futuna Islands	21.7%	New Caledonia
10	Cook Islands	19.9%	New Zealand, Australia

Source: UN DESA, 2015a.
Note: *In order of importance.

Fifty-six per cent of Pacific Islander immigrants worldwide reside in New Zealand and Australia, with the former having nearly 20,000 more migrants from the Pacific (UN DESA, 2015b). North America, comprising United States and Canada, is the second most popular destination region, as it hosts 25 per cent of Pacific immigrants, although the United States has a far larger share than Canada (UN DESA, 2015b).

In terms of intraregional mobility, Table 1 demonstrates that the main destination for Pacific Islanders is often within the subregion. Fiji is a transit country for further international migration. It is also a destination for Pacific Islanders, specifically Melanesians who come to Fiji for both employment and education opportunities. Other forms of mobility, outside of employment, were also discussed during the key informant interviews. Marriage migration appears to be fairly common; while many also leave Pacific Islands as members of the British armed forces or as part of private security forces, serving in countries as far as the Middle East. Rugby clubs the world over also recruit Pacific Islanders from Fiji, Tonga and Samoa among others.

Regarding the main motivation for migration, several key informants stated that migration was prompted by the search for "greener pastures". They also indicated that climate change and hardships stemming from rural life may be factors that encourage people to seek economic opportunities abroad. The link between climate change and international migration has rarely been explored in detail, so despite the existence of basic statistics and anecdotal evidence around trends, there is no robust data collection on migration or understanding of the root causes, pull and push factors, and modelling of future climate migration trends.

The special visa regimes for Pacific Islanders to the United States, New Zealand and Australia described above provide excellent opportunities for temporary – and in some cases permanent – migration for people living in areas vulnerable to climate change-related hazards. This will have a dual impact of reducing pressure on environmental resources and provision of remittances to those left behind that can be channelled into disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities. Key informants reported that rural households and communities that were earlier dependent on income from plantations, and the copra industry were now benefiting heavily from remittances, received from family members working in urban areas and overseas. Some urge caution in overemphasizing the role of remittances, as it shifts responsibility from States to individuals and communities, whereas adaptation policies based on migration should ensure that the Government continues to provide support.

Another incentive for facilitating migration through the existing lenient immigration regime in Pacific Rim countries is that it may also ensure better integration of Pacific Islanders if relocation occurs, thanks to the "establishment of 'pockets' of their communities abroad which others can join over time" (McAdam, 2012). In fact, whether promoted through policies or not, many will choose existing destinations, particularly those who have the resources and the skills to move.

In this context, the Government of Kiribati has embarked on the Migration with Dignity policy to prepare its citizens living in environmentally-vulnerable areas for both in situ and ex situ adaptation. By providing education and enhancing skills, they hope all I-Kiribati will have the option of moving, and can be absorbed into the labour force of the host country. Key informants however emphasized that in-situ adaptation was the first priority, international migration is still very much a last resort option, and even then the strong preference is to remain in the Pacific.

"People in my village are very strong in the opinion that they don't want to go to another country."

– Citizen of Kiribati

This type of policy is gaining traction in other Pacific Islands, and regarded as the antidote to people becoming "climate refugees". Tuvalu, earlier staunchly against the idea of planned relocation and migration as a climate change response, has begun to open up to this option. A 2016 World Bank report has recommended Australia and New Zealand consider the provision of open labour market access to Kiribati and Tuvalu due to their acute climate change risks (Curtain et al., 2016). The impact of this on receiving States would be minimal, as the report's authors estimate only 31,000 I-Kiribati and 2,200 Tuvaluans would have the desire and financial means to migrate. Spread across a 25-year time period, this would amount to an average inflow of 1,300 people per year, amounting to approximately 0.6 per cent of Australia and New Zealand's combined permanent migration programme (Curtain et al., 2016).

Matching skills and jobs: an increasingly urgent challenge in the context of climate migration

The Migration with Dignity policy highlights the need for matching potential migrants with suitable employment opportunities overseas. One challenge is the absence of data on the labour skills of Pacific workers, which limits the ability of education policymakers, training providers and donors to ensure that skills development initiatives align with employer needs. The value of migration as an adaptation strategy is limited if migrants are unable to find employment due to a skills deficit. In this regard, it is critical to increase support to potential migrants (whether affected by climate change or not) through education and training programmes in areas that align with skill and labour shortages in potential destination States. One example of this is the Kiribati Australia Nurses Initiative (KANI), which was a pilot programme implemented between 2005 and 2014, aiming to "educate and skill I-Kiribati youth to gain Australian and international employment in the nursing sector" in light of Australia's severe labour shortages in this area (Doyle, 2014).

Skills enhancement must go hand-in-hand with recognition of qualifications and educational degrees to ensure that migrants do not have to settle for jobs below their skill levels, which appeared in discussions with key informants to be a common challenge for several Pacific migrants.

"Because of the failure of managing the climate change and migration nexus, there are people leaving and going abroad for whatever permit is available, whether it is a sweeper, a cleaner or a driver. And even though the Pacific migrants have qualifications, they will take these jobs because they need to survive."

– Representative from IOM Vanuatu

To address the challenge of skills standardization and recognition, Melanesian countries are working on skills accreditation frameworks to ensure that specific skill sets will be given the same job opportunities, remuneration and standards of work across all Melanesian countries. Such frameworks, as described by a key informant representing an intergovernmental body, "might actually be used by people who want to have a better future on islands that are becoming more difficult to live on because of climate change".

Planned relocation

Mass planned relocations are almost inevitable in the context of rising sea levels. The media and government officials from small island developing States often speak of "disappearing" or "sinking" islands, and the IPCC confirms that "sea-level rise poses one of the most widely recognized climate change threats to low-lying coastal areas on islands and atolls" (IPCC, 2014). With limited in-situ adaptation options, planned relocation either within the country or internationally is being considered, the latter potentially being the only option for nations composed entirely of atolls (Kiribati, Tuvalu and Marshall Islands).

Countries such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have begun the process for planned relocation, especially in the wake of and in fear of future devastating natural disasters, such as cyclones and volcanic explosions. At present, these government-led relocations take place mostly within the country, and often within a short distance, still inside the customary boundary of the village. Strong links between the land and people that are intricately connected through tradition, culture and economy complicates the decision to relocate. In many cases, planned relocation is perceived to be a last resort by many Pacific Islanders, rather than a proactive survival method. When planned relocation takes place, the process can have greater success if initiated by the community to be relocated or if it involves consultation with host and relocated communities. According to an informant in Papua New Guinea, "Nine out of ten relocation programmes go wrong because… they are not inclusive. It is very important to include the central authority, the local government authority, the communities themselves (including representatives from all the socioeconomic groups) and the potential host community."

When relocation occurs within existing customary land boundaries, the move is less challenging. If relocation were to occur outside of land boundaries in the Pacific, then durable solutions would need to be found to ensure that these communities have the permanent right to reside in this land. Vanuatu, Fiji and Papua New Guinea have been reported to have already relocated small communities in distant atolls.

While international planned relocation is yet to occur, the Government of Kiribati has purchased land in Vanua Levu in Fiji, with speculation that this land will ultimately be used for relocating I-Kiribati to Fiji. However, the Government of Kiribati's statements have tended to focus on the land's potential for farming (Dateline Pacific, 2016).

IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADA

Globally, Canada is a key destination for migrants including refugees, asylum seekers and labour migrants from the broader Asia-Pacific region. Unlike the United States, which receives a significant share of immigrants from bordering countries or those with geographical proximity, Canada's top three source countries are all in Asia (China, Philippines, India) (Government of Canada, 2015), demonstrating that it is a popular destination, and that Canadian policy is migrant-friendly and accessible to people from beyond its immediate neighbourhood. Immigration from Pacific Islands to Canada has, however, been limited.

Canada's distinct permanent residence programme allows entry to immigrants on four grounds: (a) through family sponsorship; (b) based on skills; (c) on humanitarian and compassionate grounds; and (d) as refugees. International students add to the migrant stock in Canada. Across all of these categories, Pacific immigrants are few. Table 2 provides a summary of Pacific Immigrants to Canada in 2015 under different visa categories that reflect the four grounds listed above, as well as temporary avenues. Only 376 migrants moved to Canada from Pacific Islands in 2015, the majority being from Fiji and having migrated as permanent residents.

Table 2: Pacific Immigrants to Canada in 2015 by visa category

	Permanent Residence	International Mobility Programme	Temporary Foreign Worker Programme	Humanitarian and compassionate grounds	International students	Total
Fiji	221	33	43	11	27	335
Papua New Guinea	7	0	0	0	10	17
New Caledonia	0	0	0	0	8	8
Tonga	10	0	0	0	0	10
Palau	2	0	0	0	0	2
Samoa	2	0	0	0	0	2
Solomon Islands	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vanuatu	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	**244**	**33**	**43**	**11**	**45**	**376**

Source: Compiled from Open Data Portal, Government of Canada, 2016a.

The statistics from 2015 are further contextualized when examining the current composition of Pacific migrants in Canada. According to the UN DESA's Database on Trends in International Migrant Stock (2015b), a total of a little over 28,000 Pacific migrants reside in Canada, with over 95 per cent originating from Fiji, and the remaining from French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga (2015b). The numbers from each country and territory are reflected in Table 3.

Table 3: Stock of Pacific migrants in Canada

Fiji	27,060
French Polynesia	141
New Caledonia	146
Papua New Guinea	587

Source: UN DESA, 2015b.

Fiji and Tonga have strong links with Canada through the Commonwealth, whereas New Caledonia and French Polynesia have links with Canada as they are Francophone. Papua New Guinea and Samoa, apart from being Commonwealth countries, are also on the list of visa-exempt countries for Canada. The Fijian diaspora in Canada is particularly unique as it is dominated by one ethnic group, the Indo-Fijians who moved to Canada after a period of political upheaval and a coup d'Etat in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1975, Canada was the leading destination for Fijian migrants as over 50 per cent of Fijian migrants moved to the country during that year. Apart from Pacific immigrants in the country, it is of interest to note that there are over 40,000 immigrants from Australia and New Zealand residing in Canada (UN DESA, 2015b). In the words of a key informant, "The relations between Australia, New Zealand and Canada remain quite strong." This relationship might prove useful in the context of climate migration.

CANADA'S POTENTIAL AS A DESTINATION COUNTRY

It is evident that at present, most migrants and potential migrants from the Pacific, whether affected by climate change or not, do not consider Canada as a primary destination country, especially relative to the United States, Australia and New Zealand. However, given the expected devastating impacts of climate change, there may be Pacific Islanders that consider migration to Canada, especially if employment opportunities are available. As climate migrants are likely to follow existing international pathways, characteristics such as the presence of a small diaspora in Canada, historical links such as the Commonwealth, or existence of a common language (French and English) may act as pull factors for some of the Pacific countries and territories identified above.

A key feature of Canada's immigration system and potential reason for its success is its acceptance of migrants based on economic considerations, such as the independent skilled worker (Hiebert, 2016). This makes Canada's immigration system unique as it allows entry not just on the basis of existing family ties with residents of Canada, but also to those who have no prior connections. While key informants stressed the importance of family connections for permanent residence, 60 per cent of permanent residence candidates are admitted on economic grounds, indicating that some Pacific migrants may also enter on this basis. In the future, many potential climate immigrants who receive skills training under programmes like the Migration with Dignity policy in Kiribati might meet immigration requirements to apply as independent skilled workers. If employment opportunities in Canada were available to Pacific Islanders, it is likely that these opportunities would be accepted. In this regard, certificates or degrees provided by training centres established by Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific would facilitate migration due to mutual recognition of equivalent qualifications among these Commonwealth countries. Similarly, participants in seasonal worker programmes in Australia and New Zealand have increased opportunities to develop skills that are applicable to Canada including English language skills and information technology (IT) competencies.[10]

Labour migration schemes set up by Canada that allow entry to Pacific Islanders could potentially fill critical skill shortages. The Canada Occupational Projection System identifies current and predicted labour shortages in areas including truck driving, nursing, natural therapies and heavy equipment operators (Government of Canada, 2016b). Targeted education and training programmes that facilitate labour migration while filling critical labour shortages as per the KANI programme piloted in Australia is a model that would align with Canada's broader economically focused approach to migration management.

[10] Participants in Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme have the opportunity to access add-on skills training including English, IT and first aid. Seasonal workers can also access Recognition of Prior Learning towards a qualification in the industry that they have been working in, for example horticulture or accommodation. For more information, see https://docs.employment.gov.au/node/33563

Canada could also become a destination for Pacific Islanders who are exempted from applying for visas when entering. These countries include Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Samoa. The first two have been identified by Burson and Bedford (2013) as having a "narrow range of opportunities for undertaking cross-border movement", and therefore the absence of visa restrictions to Canada may be a spur for potential climate migrants to choose the country as a destination. This would be constrained by the availability of resources and skills, as is the case with most international migration.

Canada maintains a positive view of migration, stemming from the policies adopted in the 1980s to diversify the immigrant base, in terms of source countries and "type of arrival", preserving the basic principle that immigrants are expected to contribute to the country (Hiebert, 2016). As one key informant argued, "Canada has the luxury of choosing its migrants." The absence of contiguous borders with any other country apart from the United States implies that it is relatively free from mass arrivals, allowing it to maintain total control over who enters (Hiebert, 2016). This gives room to Canada to open its borders on ethical, humanitarian and compassionate grounds, as is the present case with Syrian refugees. Key informants also noted that Canada's history in expediting entry visas for those affected by earthquakes in Haiti and Italy (as far back as in the 1980s) also testifies that the country might be willing to assist Pacific Islanders in times of desperation. Canada hence has a "friendly" image of a country that welcomes immigrants and refugees, which might sway the migration decision of Pacific Islanders in its direction.

The current Government of Canada views climate change as an urgent issue that needs to be addressed. In terms of its position on the nexus between climate change and human mobility, Canada is also one of the founding members of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, the follow-up process to the Nansen Initiative. This may lead to a more defined approach in terms of facilitating migration and/or extending support to Pacific Island States through preferential entry agreements.

FIJI CASE STUDY

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION IN FIJI

In Fiji, all three types of human mobility linked to climate change are evident (migration, displacement and planned relocation). The Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Program (PACCSAP) reports that sea level has risen at a rate of 6 mm per year since 1993, and that temperatures have increased in Suva at a rate of 0.15°C per decade. Key projections included less frequent but more intense cyclones, changing rainfall patterns and more extreme rainfall days, and increased sea-level rise, which will in turn exacerbate storm surges and coastal flooding (PACCSAP, 2015). Daku Village and Bau Island, where FGDs took place, have both experienced environmental challenges in relation to climate change, and have had contact with climate change adaptation projects. Up until 2015, Daku Village was impacted by high tides, which regularly flooded approximately 40 houses and community buildings, and eroded the shoreline. In 2015, USAID funded a floodgate, which has been successful in mitigating these inundations. Bau Island is an eight-hectare island located 15 minutes off the main island of Viti Levu. The island has been impacted by soil erosion and rising seas, and they are currently upgrading their seawall that spans the perimeter of the island.

Participants in FGDs cited instances of salinity intrusion, inland flooding and shoreline erosion as key environmental concerns. Tropical cyclones were frequently mentioned as a climate change effect expected to threaten Fiji, a view likely influenced by the recent occurrence of Tropical Cyclone Winston. Other events observed by participants in FGDs included extreme heat and heavy rains, alongside warm sea temperatures caused by El Niño. Environmental degradation was also mentioned by participants in Bau Island due to logging and improper waste management.

Focus group participants in both Daku and Bau were particularly aware of sea-level rise as a climate change impact that would affect them in the future. On Bau Island, some participants expressed the desire for an emergency shelter to respond to potential future cyclones, as well as improved seawalls in response to continued sea-level rise. A more pessimistic view also prevailed; some felt that even with seawalls, flooding could not be curtailed.

> *"Maybe in another 10 years, there will be no Bau Island because of the water, the rain and these climate changes."*
>
> *– Community member, Bau Island*

The day-to-day effects of climate change were also discussed, with the male members of Bau Island noting that climate change is affecting planting and harvesting times, as well as fishing. This view was also reflected among the women in Bau Island. Similarly in Daku Village, the youth observed that climate change had reduced not only the size of the catch, but also the size of the shellfish, while some species appeared to be extinct in the area. The effects of climate change were not limited to fishing. Focus group participants noted that due to flooding and salinity intrusion, the plantations needed to be shifted. Coconut trees were also becoming harder to plant, implying that fewer leaves were available for weaving traditional fans and affecting the women as it reduced their income. These anecdotal examples of climate change and environmental change affecting livelihoods are consistent with the broader literature on this topic, and are vital to understanding the climate change and migration nexus.

Displacement

Fiji has experienced significant displacement in recent months following Tropical Cyclone Winston, which hit on 20 February 2016. By 4 March, it was reported that 54,000 people were sheltered in evacuation centres (UN News Centre, 2016).[11] While neither Daku Village nor Bau Island was severely impacted by Tropical Cyclone Winston, the displacement this event caused was a key theme throughout the field research in Fiji. Multiple key informants noted how this event had shifted attitudes toward relocation (Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs, International Federation of the Red Cross). Communities that were in the path of Tropical Cyclone Winston and experienced significant displacement had requested permanent relocation options following the cyclone. The broader significance of this is that communities that do not initially want to move may change their minds rapidly in the wake of major environmental events, despite the fact that, as one key informant noted, cyclones are unlikely to follow the same path twice.

Migration

Rural-to-urban migration and international labour migration are occurring in Fiji. The consistent theme among those interviewed was that this migration was occurring in pursuit of "greener pastures". Focus groups in Daku and Bau village painted rural-to-urban migration as highly circular, and land ownership and connection with the land was mentioned as something that makes people reluctant to leave their villages, or eager to return to them after a period of work. The chief of Bau Island stated that "People leave Bau Island for work, but they don't leave Fiji." Women interviewed in Daku village had husbands working in urban areas in Fiji, and they would either return on weekends, or the women would meet them in the cities where they worked. The youth in Daku village did, however posit that with climate change, they are likely to increasingly seek work in urban areas, namely Suva, and potentially migrate there more permanently for the sake of their own children.

> *"For me, it's better for me to migrate because we cannot stop climate change."*
> *– Youth of Daku Village*

Planned relocation

Relocation of vulnerable coastal communities in Fiji is increasingly framed as a climate change adaptation option by national media, politicians and experts (Chaudhary, 2015). At the time of writing, 63 villages had been earmarked for relocation, a number that has been augmented by the severe impacts of Tropical Cyclone Winston (Swami, 2016). Additionally, the Government of Fiji is in the process of developing National Relocation Guidelines.

Of the relocations that are already complete, results have been mixed. Vunidogoloa is a coastal village that relocated 2 km inland in 2014. Key informants from the Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs noted that traditional healers had lost abilities and moved back to the original village, despite it being prone to severe flooding. This anecdote relates to a broader theme raised by many key informants and some FGD participants, which is that strong and profound connections between communities and their land is one of the factors that makes permanent relocation or migration a last resort.

One person interviewed had played an active role in planning the relocation of Narikoso, a 27-household coastal village in Kadavu. The relocation is still underway; however, it has already been pointed out by Ministry of I-Taukei officials at this early stage that the social impacts are

[11] Those affected also relocated from their original homes temporarily, moving into relatives' homes until they received materials to build back on their original sites.

expected to be less significant because the site for the new village is adjacent, only a five-minute walk away. It is also important to note that these planned relocations focus on I-Taukei villages that are likely to have the option to move within their customary land boundaries. In Fiji, 57 per cent of the population is I-Taukei Fijians, and I-Taukei land comprises 91 per cent of the land in Fiji.

While all I-Taukei have a claim to their customary land, it is estimated that 10 per cent of the population live in informal or squatter settlements in Fiji (Mitchell et al., 2016). For climate-vulnerable informal settlements, adaptation options including relocation are complex due to unclear legal status of these communities. This issue was identified as an area for further research in multiple interviews. Internal planned relocation is a being increasingly touted as a viable climate change adaptation strategy in Fiji; however, there is still significant research to be done to understand how planned relocation can be designed to best protect community interests and serve as durable solutions.

FIJI AND MIGRATION TO CANADA

Despite large waves of Indo-Fijians migrating to Canada in the 1970s and 1980s, Canada is no longer a major destination country for people emigrating from Fiji. Between 2005 and 2014, a total of 2,977 Fijians became permanent residents in Canada, an average of 298 Fijian migrants per year. However, of the Pacific Islands, Fiji has the highest rate of migration to Canada. The most significant wave of migration to Canada from Fiji occurred following the 1987 coup when Indo-Fijians migrated to Canada and the United States as a result of the political uncertainty. In the 1990s, Australia became the key destination country for emigrants from Fiji, in part due to Australia's shift to a skills-based immigration programme, as well as perception of greater job opportunities and cultural ties, such as those fostered through sport (Lal, 2003).

The focus of migration on New Zealand and Australia as the major destination countries was confirmed through the field research. In FGDs in Bau and Daku, many participants only had a vague understanding of what or where Canada is. It was described as a "cold, rich country", and many participants stressed that it was far away. Other observations included that it was relatively "safe", more so than the United States. The consistent findings were that people were not actively seeking out opportunities to migrate to Canada, nor did they consider it a potential destination country.

Participants were quick to add that they would migrate to Canada if there were a specific labour migration opportunity: "If there are opportunities in Canada that you know about, I would migrate for them." The men's focus group in one village noted that they heard about an opportunity to work as fisherfolks in Canada and "were lining up to go"; however, the opportunity fell through.[12] Throughout the FGDs, the notion of migration to Canada was predicated on establishing a specific formalized work opportunity and motivated by "greener pastures." There was no interest in migrating irregularly to Canada, and this was not perceived as an option in relation to climate change.

While Canada is not a priority destination country for the Fijians we spoke to, it is clear that there is a strong interest in labour migration opportunities in high-income States, and Canada is considered desirable on this level. As an English-speaking country with potential workers in vocations currently experiencing labour shortages in Canada, such as truck drivers, Fiji could be a valuable labour source country. Assuming climate change is increasingly a stressor on livelihoods in the region, eagerness for these opportunities will increase; however, Australia

[12] There was some confusion among FGD participants as to whether the fishing opportunity was in Alaska, or Canada, or whether Alaska was within Canada.

and New Zealand are likely to remain the priority destination countries, especially in light of the distance to Canada and absence of a significant Pacific diaspora.

These migration dynamics may be different for Indo-Fijians. As noted above, following the 1987 coup and political unrest in Fiji, there was significant emigration of Indo-Fijians to Canada creating a vibrant diaspora there. One key informant noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Bainimarama, Indo-Fijians are in fact moving back to Fiji as they feel there is more security around access to land. However, it is reasonable to suggest that Indo-Fijians may migrate in the future if their access to land is threatened, or perceived to be insecure. With the high number of planned relocations expected due to environmental hazards and climate change, and potential political factors that may change the situation for Indo-Fijians in relation to land rights, it is possible that Indo-Fijians may opt to migrate, particularly if they have connections with the Indo-Fijian diaspora in Canada in the future.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the literature broadly depicts the Pacific as a region that is highly vulnerable to climate change and a range of sudden and slow-onset natural hazards, with notable variability between Pacific Islands, exemplified by the specific risks faced by atoll States. Participants in FGDs from Bau Island and in Daku Village in Fiji were aware of climate change and cited anecdotal examples of climate change and environmental change affecting livelihoods, with some participants framing climate change as an inevitable phenomenon that would eventually make their villages vanish.

A key finding from the research is that the primary driver of voluntary migration in the Pacific is economic, while the main driver of displacement and planned relocation is environment/climate change. However, economic factors are in turn exacerbated by underlying environmental stressors, such as loss of land and livelihoods. As such, while participants may have framed migration as being motivated by "greener pastures", the perception of greener pastures abroad was linked to socioeconomic pressures at home that are intertwined with climate and environmental change.

It is evident that at present, migrants from the Pacific, whether affected by climate change or not, do not consider Canada as a primary destination country. This came out in interviews and FGDs, throughout which New Zealand, Australia and the United States were consistently cited as priority destination countries. Despite this, many focus group participants demonstrated a willingness to migrate to Canada if there were clear job opportunities. It was also speculated that in light of interacting push factors including climate change, Canada could become an especially important destination for those Pacific Islands that are exempt from applying for visas when entering.

For the Fijians that we spoke to, Canada is not a major destination country. However, if migration options to Australia and New Zealand become less viable, for example through increasingly restrictive policies, Canada could become a potential destination, particularly in light of the existing Indo-Fijian diaspora there. It was observed that Canada is one of the leading States in terms of promoting action on climate change. Not only does this give Canada a positive image, which might sway the migration decision of Pacific Islanders in its direction, it also suggests that Canada will have the political will and forethought to develop sound migration management policies in the context of climate change. Additionally, as part of the Government of Canada's climate change policy of providing support to developing States, it could consider working with Pacific Islands to address issues related to climate migration. As a country that accepts large numbers of skilled migrants and international students, one specific route for this may be promoting skills development and skills recognition in the Pacific, thus facilitating the dignified migration of people vulnerable to climate change in a well-managed way that complements Canada's immigration system and broader national priorities. A starting point for this would potentially be the establishment of labour market information systems in key States, ensuring comprehensive data on skills and education levels informs education and skills recognition programmes. Indeed, Kiribati has specifically requested such a system to inform their National Labour Migration Plan, which was formed around the need to proactively encourage labour migration opportunities in light of climate change-related stressors.

Throughout the research process, it became clear that there are many important areas for further research that will enable evidence-based policy development and planning. In some countries in the Pacific such as the Marshall Islands, key baseline data on migration trends is not available. Addressing this is the first step towards comprehensive analysis and modelling of migration trends in relation to climate change. This should be complemented by in-depth qualitative research interviewing women, men and youth being impacted by climate change. Key themes for such research include the gender dimensions of climate migration including gender-based violence, the social and cultural impacts of planned relocation, and durable solutions in the context of climate change. It is vital that lived experiences are given a central space in research.

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ANNEX I

Actors, policies and interventions in the context of climate migration in the Pacific

The **Nansen Initiative** is a State-led process initiated by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland aimed at producing standard guidelines or operating procedures to address cross-border displacement. Following five regional consultations and one global consultation, the Nansen Initiative concluded in 2015, and 109 States endorsed the final Protection Agenda. A new phase of the Initiative started in 2016 under the chairmanship of Germany and Bangladesh, focusing on the implementation of the agenda through the new Platform on Disaster Displacement.

IOM has established a specialized **Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC)** division to drive research in this area. One initiative of this has been IOM's "Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP)" project, which analyses migration as an adaptation strategy across the globe.

The **Pacific Climate Change and Migration Project** is another initiative to examine trends in climate migration. It is a regional project implemented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme. The project gathers data on community attitudes to climate change-induced migration to assist with the development of climate change responses and national action strategies needed in mitigating the risk of displacement.

The **Government of Kiribati**'s "Migration with Dignity" policy is cited as the only national-level policy that addresses climate migration in the Pacific. The policy aims to systematically formulate and implement strategic interventions that facilitate effective and sustainable labour migration solutions to the challenges posed by climate change. This includes the creation of employment opportunities abroad, mobilization of the diaspora in receiving countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, and improvement of skills through education and vocational training (McNamara, 2015).

Fiji is currently finalizing the National Relocation Guidelines, developed in coordination with different stakeholders (McNamara and Jacot Des Combes, 2015).

The Federated States of Micronesia's Nationwide Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy references environmental migration. It acknowledges the role environmental migration will play in the changing environment as an adaptation strategy, while also recognizing that it will need to be managed to ensure the protection of those involved.

Seasonal worker schemes, such as New Zealand's **Recognised Seasonal Employers Scheme** and Australia's **Seasonal Worker Programme** and other bilateral agreements allowing for unrestricted movement or immigration in certain cases, can be applicable in the case of climate migration. In addition to those schemes and agreements, economic partnership with the European Union; the PACER+ agreement with Australia and New Zealand and the Compact of Free Association with the United States are also relevant as they have implications on labour migration. While these agreements have obstacles – such as immigration restrictions – that prevent them from being effective mechanisms to address movement in the context of climate change, they may provide the basis for facilitating climate migration.

ANNEX 2

Organizations of key informants

- Citizen of Kiribati
- Coral Reef Alliance
- GIZ
- International Federation of the Red Cross
- IOM Fiji
- IOM Marshall Islands
- IOM Papua New Guinea
- IOM Vanuatu
- Makoi Women's Vocational Training Centre
- Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs
- Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources
- Pacific Islands Development Forum
- Pacific Islands Forum
- Paramount Chief of Bau Island; Bau tikina and the Kubuna Confederacy
- UNICEF
- University of the South Pacific
- Wilfrid Laurier University

ANNEX 3

FGD Questionnaire

Note: Prompts to be used only in case there are no immediate responses from the community. Italicised text indicates corresponding research question in the report and are not to be directly posed to FGD participants. Underlined text indicates instructions.

WARM UP: Demographic profile (try to limit to 5 minutes)

1. Please describe the main occupations and the main sources of your income/ of the community.
2. What are the main challenges your community has had to face?

How do climate change and other environmental issues affect the Pacific? How are these effects and changes expected to develop over the medium to long term?

1. Describe how climate change and environmental issues affect your community? Has this changed from the past? Do you think this will change in medium to long term?

   PROMPTS:

   A. Floods and storm surge
   B. Sea level rise
   C. Salinity intrusion
   D. Droughts
   E. Irregular rain

2. Describe how this has impacted your economic situation and social well-being now versus before.

   PROMPTS:

   Has your community had to deal with any of the following?

   A. Lower income
   B. Inadequate food intake/hunger
   C. Ill health of household members
   D. Family problems
   E. Conflicts within the community

3. What is the impact of climate change and environmental issues on men, on women, on youth and on elderly? How has the situation changed from the past? Will this change in the next 15 years?

4. Have you changed your daily activities in response to climate change and environmental issues? If yes, how?

   PROMPTS:

   A. Increase food production
   B. Reduce consumption/ reduce expenditure
   C. Start new activities (e.g. poultry farm, fishing)
   D. Take loans
   E. Rely on others for help

What is the relationship between climate change and displacement, migration and relocation in the Pacific and how is this perceived by communities who have experienced the effects of environmental change? What predictions can be made about the interaction of climate change and migration in the medium to longer term?

1. To deal with the challenges of climate change and environmental issues, have you considered migration or relocation?
2. Are people moving from this village?
3. Are men, women or youth more likely to migrate?
4. If yes, why did they go? Where do they move to? Do they move abroad?
5. For how long do they stay away? What jobs do they have there?
6. Do they send money home? If yes, how do you use it?
7. How do people who stay behind adjust?
8. Do they come back?
9. Do you think more people will migrate in the future? Why?
10. How do you feel about migration? Would you migrate?

IF YES:

1. Where would you go?
2. How would you migrate?

PROMPTS:

A. What modes of transport would you take?
B. Who would you contact?
C. How would you pay for it?

IF NO:

1. Why not? What makes you stay?
2. What is the impact of migration on this village?
3. Are people moving to this village?

Will climate change affect migration to Canada from the Pacific?

1. What are the destination countries for people moving overseas? Do you have some examples from here? Why do you think people chose those countries?

   PROMPTS:

   A. Would people move to other islands in the Pacific?

   B. Would people move to big countries in the region?

   C. What about beyond the region?

      1. If Canada hasn't been mentioned (if yes, skip to next question): Have you heard of Canada?
      2. If yes: What do you know about Canada?
      3. Is Canada an attractive destination country? Does it have greener pastures? Why?
      4. If no: Why not?

   PROMPTS 1–5:

   A. Cost

   B. Distance

   C. Employment opportunities

   D. Educational opportunities

   E. Community links

How do existing policies, institutional frameworks and interventions address climate change related migration?

1. Do the government, community associations and NGOs do something to solve this problem? What?


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YEARS
International Organization for Migration