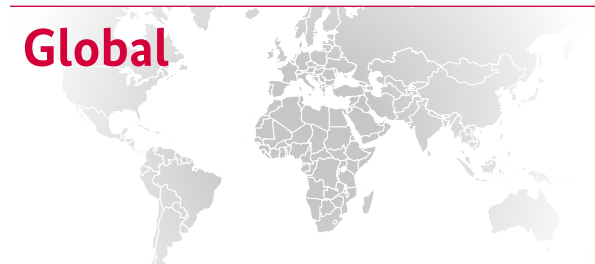




Human mobility as a result of climate change

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

Global



Project name	Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Climate changes with severe consequences

Climate change is already having a noticeable impact on our world: extreme weather events are becoming more frequent across the globe, and gradual changes in the environment result in severe risks to people's lives and livelihoods. The impacts of climate change are particularly felt by atoll and island states in the Pacific and Caribbean and coastal areas of the Philippines: rising sea levels, a drop in groundwater levels, and floods in populated areas rob inhabitants of their livelihoods and force them to leave their homes. Western and Eastern African countries are also heavily impacted, e.g. by longer dry spells and flash floods. In the future, the impacts of climate change will mean that an increasing number of people throughout the world will need to find a new place to live. But not all people who suffer from the impacts of climate change are able to move, for example people may not have the financial resources to migrate.

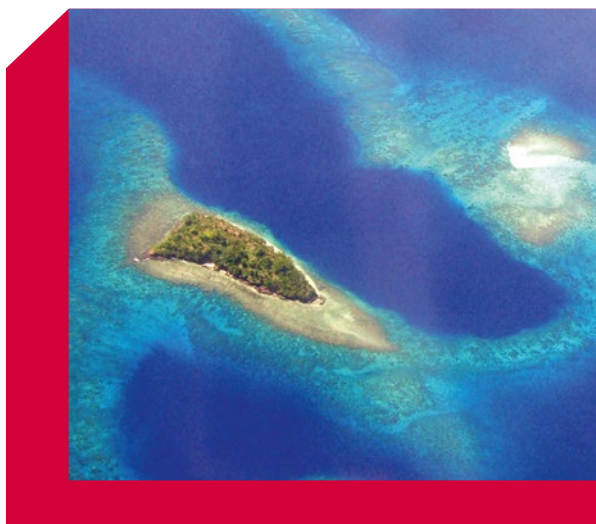
As a result, people may become trapped in vulnerable areas. Support for “trapped populations” is therefore required as well.

By implementing international agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), the international community is trying to find ways to manage climate-related migration more effectively in the future. Global responses to climate-related migration are still in the early stages. Currently, at the national level, there are very few concepts and measures to support people who are forced to leave their homes due to climate change. Governments, regional organisations and international development cooperation do not yet have sufficient knowledge and experience to respond to human mobility – migration, displacement and planned relocation – triggered by climate change.

New knowledge for managing climate-related human mobility

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





National and regional partners, non-governmental organisations and universities are setting up working groups and exchange programmes, supported by GIZ, to discuss the challenges of climate change in the partner countries themselves. If necessary, partners receive training to enable them to work more effectively, for instance in understanding how climate change acts as a driving force behind human mobility or how the potential positive effects of migration can be realised. GIZ and its partners are analysing studies, laws and climate risk assessments and filling research gaps. They are supporting the development of policy guidelines, studies and workshops. The results are published on information platforms and presented at international conferences and other opportunities for exchange. With new knowledge and strategies, partners are better able to address climate change and its impacts.

Research and findings from partner countries and regions are integrated into international processes on climate-related human mobility. GIZ is making this information available to German and international development cooperation and to experts from the research community, civil society and the private sector to develop needs-based approaches.

Our results: preparing governments to deal with climate migration

The programme has supported the development of several national policies: In the Philippines, it assisted national government agencies to incorporate human mobility in the context of climate change in its updated National Climate Change Action Plan. In Fiji, the government has launched guidelines for planned relocations and displacements in the context of climate change and disasters. Developed through a participative process, these policies ensure that the actors involved are guided by a human rights-centred approach when dealing with climate-induced mobility. It is uncertain exactly how migration will be influenced by climate change, so preparing for various scenarios is a sensible strategy. In seven workshops, stakeholders used the ‘foresight planning method’ to explore potential consequences of climate migration. In the Caribbean, these results were used by the regional Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission to anchor human mobility in the context of climate change sustainably in the organisation.

‘People have to resettle’

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

Josefa Saukitoga, Narikoso Village, Fiji, Pacific



The project is part of BMZ’s ‘Tackling the root causes of displacement, (re)integrating refugees’ initiative. The supported measures benefit forcibly displaced people and host communities alike. By taking a sustainable approach, the measures mitigate structural causes of displacement in the long term, such as social inequality or a lack of prospects. This project contributes to the sustainable management of migration caused by the impacts of climate change.

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