

Financing Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change: Insights from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

The Eastern Caribbean, a region comprised of Small Island Developing States (SIDSs) that are highly vulnerable to climate change, is increasingly grappling with the challenges posed by the movement of people as a result of climate impacts. Human mobility in the context of climate change (HMCCC) is the umbrella term used to describe changes of residence due to the effects of climate change and includes migration, displacement and planned relocation. While there are no reliable figures for HMCCC in the Eastern Caribbean, there is evidence of internal and cross-border displacement and migration. In 2017, the destruction wrought in Dominica by Hurricane Maria resulted in the displacement of 35,000 to 50,000 people within the country or across borders. Displacement is also occurring even when there is no extreme weather event to trigger it. For example, in 2016, the large deposits of Sargassum on the coastline in Antigua made living conditions untenable and forced several families to leave their homes.

A characteristic feature of the SIDSs of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is that their population and infrastructure are concentrated in coastal areas, which makes HMCCC a pressing issue requiring action and recognition. During the development of the OECS Commission's HMCCC Strategic Plan 2020-2023, the Commission and the Member States identified that access to finance is critical in

successfully addressing the social, economic, livelihood and environmental impacts of HMCCC. It allows both proactive and reactive measures to be carried out to alleviate the issues arising from climate-induced mobility.

The OECS Member States have been successful in accessing various forms of climate finance, as detailed in Figure 1. A total of 158 projects received funding amounting to more than USD 1.7 billion between 1996 and 2021.

However, climate finance and projects in the Eastern Caribbean have mostly focused on mitigation, adaptation and resilience building. Much of the funding sources available are biased towards these broad topics, and there is little evidence of finance aimed at addressing migration, displacement and planned relocation. Similarly, human mobility is not explicitly visible as an area of focus in climate project goals in the OECS.

An explicit focus on HMCCC in climate finance would increase recognition of the specific challenges that human mobility poses for human wellbeing and help align programmes to ensure targeted responses. Without this, it is unlikely that issues associated with the movement of people can be fully addressed.

There are, however, clear linkages between human mobility and the current focus of climate finance and projects in the region on mitigation, adaptation and resilience building. Climate disasters cause infrastructure loss and damage which leads to communities being displaced and support being needed, as shown in Figure 2. Funded mitigation and adaptation measures create resilient communities, which reduces the number of people who are displaced. Consequently, finance that considers slow or sudden onset events and addresses adaptation, mitigation or livelihoods is relevant to HMCCC.



Figure 1: Access to funding (number of projects and total value in million USD) by OECS countries and the OECS Commission between 1996 and 2021

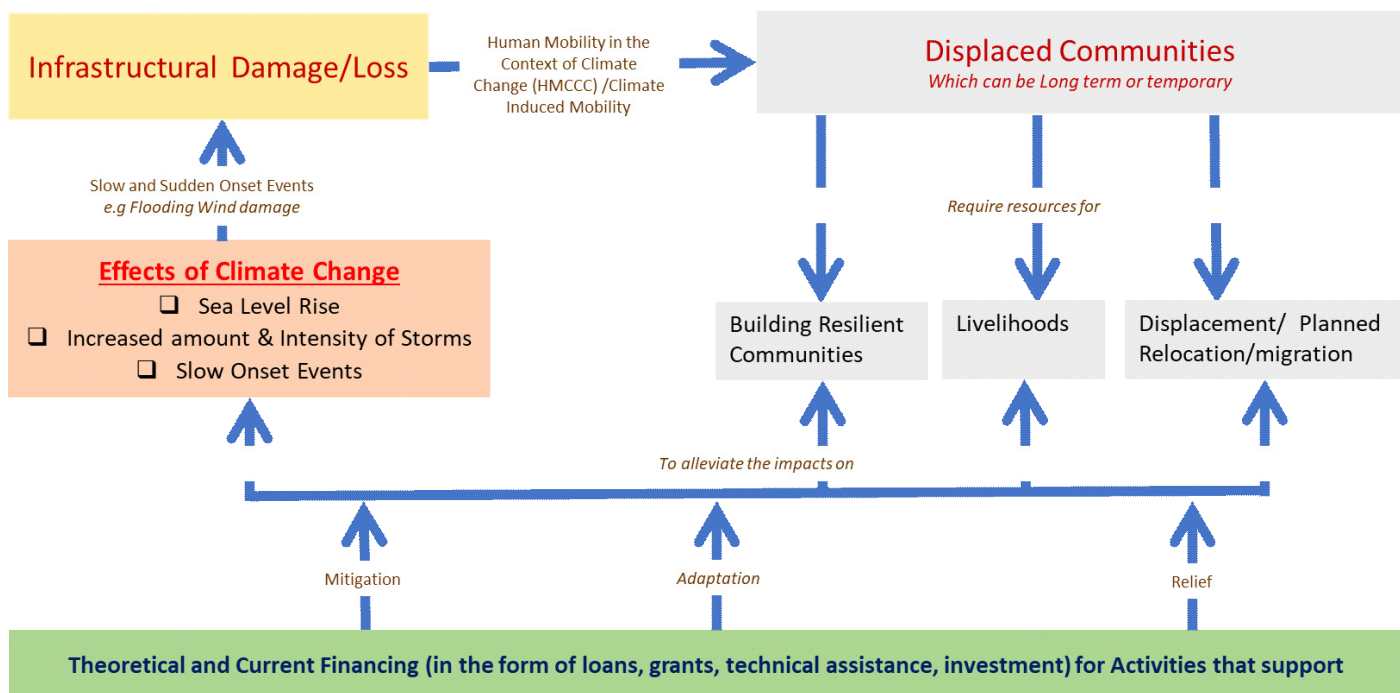


Figure 2: Linkages between human mobility and climate change. Finance is pivotal to adapting, mitigating and providing relief.

With this broader understanding of the relationship between HMCCC, adaptation, mitigation and resilience building, there is potential for climate finance sources already active in the OECS to broaden their scope and more explicitly include resources dedicated to migration, displacement and planned

relocation. As seen in Figure 3, there are various options for the major funding schemes that are undertaking projects in the Eastern Caribbean to expand their funding scope to include a focus on HMCCC.

Funds	Scope	HMCCC ACTION AREAS					
		Building Resilient Communities		Livelihood Impact	Human Mobility		
		Adaptation	Mitigation	Livelihood Support	Displacement	Planned Relocation	Migration
EF	Theoretic funding scope						
	Current funding scope				1		
GCF	Theoretic funding scope						
	Current funding scope						
GEF	Theoretic funding scope						
	Current funding scope	14	65	62			
UKCIF	Theoretic funding scope						
	Current funding scope	7					

Key

The numerals represent the total number of projects supported in the past

Name of Fund

Theoretic Funding Scope

- Explicitly covered
- Potentially covered
- Coverage out of the scope of the fund

Current Funding Scope

- Funding available
- Only limited funding available
- Not funded yet

EF- Emergency Assistance Fund; GCF -Green Climate Fund; GEF-Global Environment Facility
 UKCIF -United Kingdom Climate Investment Fund

Figure 3: Gap analysis of selected climate finance facilities

Recommendations

Climate finance focused on supporting climate-induced mobility is still in its infancy. It is yet to be articulated in any meaningful way in the global, regional and national climate funding landscape. To remedy this challenge, a number of recommendations were identified in the study *Options to Finance Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change in the Eastern Caribbean*, commissioned by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in partnership with the OECS Commission.

First, HMCCC issues should be included in adaptation and resilience building initiatives across the region. The OECS Commission should undertake an evaluation of its programmes with the aim of giving greater visibility to HMCCC interlinkages across its work portfolio. Once such synergy and alignment have been built, HMCCC can be given greater and much needed prominence, and a multidimensional approach can be adopted.

Second, HMCCC should be given greater visibility in the strategies, policies, projects and budgets of the OECS Commission and OECS Member States. The OECS Commission should seek the support of national governments in the Eastern Caribbean to have HMCCC spending or allocation

reflected explicitly in national budgets. In the medium to long term, this will support greater prioritisation of this area in the climate change finance landscape. In the long term, it will help to increase visibility and penetration.

Last, global, regional and national funding sources should include climate-induced mobility as a thematic area eligible for funding. Dedicated finance for HMCCC would help to develop both proactive and reactive measures to ensure targeted responses that address the issues associated with the movement of people. Broadening the existing scope of finance to more explicitly include resources dedicated to migration, displacement and planned relocation would help address HMCCC in the Eastern Caribbean. Additionally, the Loss and Damage Fund recently established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) provides an opportunity to incorporate specific finance to address HMCCC, and human mobility should be explicitly included in the funding scope.

*Further information on the recommendations can be found in the full study *Options to Finance Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change in the Eastern Caribbean*.*

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