

Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (HMCCC) II

Building Resilience in the ECOWAS Region: Human Mobility as Climate Adaptation

Project name	Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (GP HMCCC II)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co Financed by	Swiss Development cooperation (SDC)
Project region	Benin, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
Political Partner	West Africa (ECOWAS) Economic Community of West African State
Executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	08.2024 – 04.2027
Financial Volume	BMZ 1.2 Million EUR, and SDC 0,8 Million EUR

The Challenge

The Global Programme on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (HMCCC) addresses challenges associated with climate-induced migration and displacement.

In the ECOWAS region over 7.5 million people have been internally displaced in 2022 due to extreme weather events and environmental changes. With economies highly dependent on climate-sensitive agriculture, communities are vulnerable to both sudden and gradual effects of climate change that threaten livelihoods.

Nine out of 12 ECOWAS countries are among the 30 most climate-vulnerable worldwide, where environmental degradation and conflict has worsened migration pressures. Gender dynamics also play a significant role, with women disproportionately impacted by climate change. However, strategies often overlook the root causes of gender inequality, limiting the effectiveness of efforts to empower women and marginalized groups.

Data availability is another challenge. Lack of gender disaggregated data is hindering the development of evidence-based, gender-responsive policies. While regional and international institutions provide valuable climate and migration data, gaps remain in local integration and application. The lack of cross-sectoral communities of practice further restricts systematic data use in policy development.

The ECOWAS Commission, through its Regional Climate Strategy (2022), prioritizes the nexus between climate change, human mobility, and security. However, it is still in the early stages of building the necessary structures to address these interconnected challenges effectively. To support the ECOWAS Commission long-term regional structures and capacities are needed to implement gender-responsive, city centric, conflict-sensitive approaches to human mobility.

Our Approach

The project addresses these challenges through a multi-level approach working with regional, national, and local actors to implement climate-resilient, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive HMCCC approaches. The approach is based on best practices developed in the first project phase (2017-2023) and focuses on four principles:



Enhanced Partnership

Strengthening impact through collaboration



Gender-Responsive Strategies

Integrating equity and diversity at every level



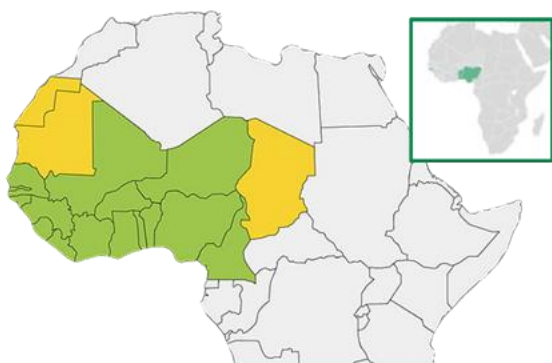
Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Using data to drive meaningful outcomes



A Human-Centered Approach

Upholding human rights for sustainable change



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



L to r.: Countries of HMCCC
implementation: West Africa
(ECOWAS Commission HQs)

Identification of the Sustainable
Development Goals

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How we do it

- Stronger Cooperation between ECOWAS and Member States on climate, migration and conflict – Bringing countries together to align priorities and take joint action.
- Develop gender-responsive plans and management tools based on multi-hazardous early warning
- Empowered ECOWAS Teams through training, research and knowledge exchange- Ensuring ECOWAS staff and partners have the skills to implement climate and migration solutions effectively.
- Stronger Voices in Policy – Supporting CSOs and think tanks to shape national and regional policies on climate-induced migration

Partners and Stakeholders

The principal political partner of the project component is the ECOWAS Commission, specifically the Directorate for Free Movement of Persons as well as the Directorate Environment and Natural Resources.



Other key stakeholders include:

- ECOWAS Regional Climate Centre (AGRYMET)
- Relevant Ministries in Member States
- National Early Warning Centers
- National Meteorology Institutes
- City networks
- Research Institutions

Resources

- **Website:** [Climate Change and Migration - giz.de](https://climatechangeandmigration.giz.de)
- [E-Learning on HMCCC](#)



Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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As at

September, 2025

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Picture credit:

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)

In cooperation with

Economic Community of West African States

(ECOWAS) Commission



ECOWAS COMMISSION
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