

Strengthening climate-resilient, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive approaches to human mobility in the context of climate change

The Challenge

Over the past decade, climate change has become an immediate and intensifying threat across Africa. It is driving widespread displacement, migration, and increasing vulnerability. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 29.9 million people were displaced due to disaster globally in 2025. In Sub-Saharan Africa, disaster displacement rose from 6 million people in 2023 to 7.8 million in 2024 before declining to 2.9 million in 2025 – remaining well above the ten-year average (IDMC 2025).

Climate change acts as a risk multiplier, exacerbating existing challenges such as conflict, poverty, and political marginalisation, thereby increasing pressures for human mobility across the continent. This impact isn't felt equally: women and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected, even as global and African policies try to catch up to this reality.

The African Union Commission (AUC) recognises the strong interlinkages between climate change, human mobility and security. However, its institutional coordination on this nexus is still evolving. As a cross-cutting issue, climate mobility requires effective coordination across the Commission's different mandates and policy responses to ensure coherent continental action and coordinated support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU Member States. Similarly, some RECs have taken important steps such as facilitating free movement or integrating disaster risk reduction into regional frameworks. However, approaches remain uneven, capacities vary across regions and countries, and coordination is often limited.

Responding effectively requires stronger policy coherence across sectors and governance levels, enhanced cooperation among regional and continental stakeholders, and greater peer learning to harmonize approaches and build resilience.

Our Approach

The Global Programme on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (HMCCC II) supports the AUC in strengthening continental governance on climate mobility. It assists the AUC in developing continental policy frameworks, enhancing institutional coordination, and supporting RECs and African Union (AU) Member States to implement climate-resilient, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive approaches to climate-induced mobility.

Project name	Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (GP HMCCC) II- AUC Component
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-Financed by	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Project region	African Union (AU)
Lead Political Partner	African Union Commission (AUC)
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Key Partners and Stakeholders	African Union Commission • Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development (HH) • Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Development (ARBE) • Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) • AU Coordination Committee on Migration (AUCCM) RECs secretariats and technical units
Budget	EUR 800.000
Duration	02/2025 – 12/2026

Strengthening continental coordination

The project supports the AUC in strengthening institutional coordination on climate mobility through the African Union Coordination Committee on Migration (AUCCM). By bringing together AUC departments and institutions with complementary mandates as well as RECs Secretariats, it promotes coherent policy development and coordinated action across the climate-mobility nexus.

Developing continental policy frameworks

The project advances the development of continental policies, strategies and guidance that strengthen governance on human mobility in the context of climate change. These frameworks provide a common reference for RECs and AU Member States while promoting climate-resilient, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive approaches.

Promoting regional cooperation and peer learning

The project facilitates dialogue and exchange among RECs to strengthen regional cooperation, enable experience sharing, identify good practices and encourage greater policy coherence across Africa.



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Right: A man standing on the side of a boat in a flooded area

Left: Rural farmers tending crops in African field

Strengthening institutional capacities and knowledge

Through technical assistance, knowledge generation and capacity development, the project enables institutions like AUC and RECs to integrate climate mobility into migration, climate, disaster risk reduction and other relevant policies and processes.

Strengthening Africa's voice in global dialogue

The project supports the AUC in leveraging continental and international policy processes to promote African priorities on climate mobility, strengthen partnerships and ensure greater coherence between continental and global policy frameworks.

Success Factors

Inclusive policy development and ownership

HMCCC supported the AUC in developing its first Continental Strategy and Action Plan on human mobility in the context of climate change (2026–2036). The process brought together migration and climate change experts from AU departments, RECs, Member States, local governments, civil society, academia, think tanks, and youth and development partners to ensure broad ownership and legitimacy.

Building on existing mechanisms and framework

The project builds on existing AU coordination mechanisms and continental policy frameworks, thereby strengthening institutional coherence and creating a solid foundation for long-term climate mobility governance.

Bridging global, continental and regional action

The project connects policy processes across the AU, RECs, Member States and international forums, strengthening coherence, promoting mutual learning and supporting to bring African priorities into global discussions on climate mobility.

Results

Strengthening continental governance

The Continental Strategy and Action Plan establishes a common continental framework to strengthen governance of climate-induced human mobility and guide coordinated action by the AUC, RECs, AU Member States and partners. It provides a shared vision and strategic direction for integrating climate mobility into migration, climate, disaster risk reduction, peace and security, and development policies, while promoting climate-resilient, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive approaches.

Institutionalising coordination on climate mobility

The project strengthened institutional coordination by supporting the AUCCM as the principal platform for addressing climate mobility across the AUC organs and institutions. Climate mobility has become a standing thematic priority within the AUCCM, while RECs participation has been institutionalised within its work. Regular coordination mechanisms and thematic working groups now provide a structured framework for collaboration among AU departments, specialised institutions and RECs.

Strengthening regional cooperation and policy coherence

The project strengthened collaboration between the AUC and RECs through regular dialogue, peer learning and technical exchanges. Regional experiences and priorities have informed continental policy development, while exchanges among RECs have promoted mutual learning and stronger cooperation on climate mobility across Africa.

Positioning Africa in global policy dialogue

The project supported the AUC's engagement in continental and international policy processes on climate mobility, including the African Climate Summit, the Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, and UNFCCC processes. This helped bring African priorities and perspectives into global discussions on climate mobility.

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