



GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GFMD) QUITO, ECUADOR

CIVIL SOCIETY DAY, 22 JANUARY 2020

Background note

Theme 4

Climate-related migration and displacement

Introduction:

Over the past decade, there has been significant progress in the scientific understanding of the ways in which climate change may affect human mobility. Sudden- and slow-onset disasters are increasingly causing displacement within and across borders, and yet, as the UN ASG recently pointed out, “definitively linking climate change to specific displacement remains difficult.” Increasing numbers of people are at risk of displacement and/or in need of mobility options for sustainable livelihoods. This means that when climate change causes displacement, or compels migration, or leads to people making migration decisions under very constrained circumstances, that there is a need for further development and implementation of legal and policy frameworks and good practices that address the rights and protection of people affected. Several international initiatives and processes, including the Nansen Initiative/Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), the Global Compact for Migration (most specifically Objectives 2 and 5), and the Task Force on Displacement under UNFCCC, address aspects of these issues and point toward progress towards addressing protection concerns; for example, some states include disaster displacement and addressing climate change in their national planning for migration policies.

However, significant gaps remain, and with effects of climate change accelerating more rapidly than previously anticipated, it is imperative that a variety of tools—good practices and policies as well as legislation – are developed and implemented. That’s why this year’s CSD theme “Civil society transforming global migration governance: Strengthening means of implementation and enriching partnerships for migrants and communities” is particularly relevant.



Objectives/focus of the break-out session:

- Taking stock of existing tools especially as related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/Sendai Framework, PDD, Task Force on Displacement, and the GCM;
- Identifying and learning from challenges;
- Channelling knowledge into new or stronger partnerships for advocacy based on points i and ii; and
- Learning and enriching partnerships and advocating through partnerships.

The session will also try to overlay discussions on mixed migration, access to services, and regular pathways in order to find complementarities.

Objectives of the morning session

Acknowledging ongoing work and progress / Identifying gaps and challenges

- How are people in the communities/regions where you work **experiencing climate/environmental changes**?
 - How are changes experienced across different genders and age groups? What actions or policy reform could be taken to address the challenges experienced by specific identity groups?
 - Where people have been displaced in the context of climate change, what have been the protection responses of states, civil society and other actors?
 - What kinds of partnerships have assisted community members to recover, rebuild, adapt? (We want to be thinking about displacement arising from sudden onset causes, where displacement may be either temporary or permanent)
 - How are changes, and their effects on resources and livelihoods, affecting people's decisions about whether or when to migrate, where to go, who should go, etc.?
- What examples of labour migration in the context of climate change are we aware of? Where and how have policies facilitating internal and cross-border mobility been linked with policy objectives targeting climate change?
- What policies, practices, and legal frameworks currently exist to address these challenges? What policies would be needed to address them, including in relation to the GCM/other frameworks?
 - What good practices exist?



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- What is planned or envisioned in connection with the GCM, especially Objective 2 (subsection) and Objective 5? How might these initiatives link up with what is being done at national and/or regional levels through DRR, regional temporary protection and stay arrangements?
 - How have civil society actors been involved in planned relocations (both successful and unsuccessful), either in response to longer-term slow-onset processes such as sea level rise or drought or in response to sudden-onset disasters?

Objectives of the afternoon session

Enriching partnerships and advocating through partnerships

- How do different contexts affect communities' and civil society's ability to organize, advocate, and campaign?
- How can affected communities (*people at risk of displacement, those that have experienced displacement, and those that have managed to avoid displacement*) effectively communicate their experiences and knowledge to inform other communities at risk of displacement, agencies, donors, local and national authorities, individuals and other communities in their thinking around climate-related response and programming?
- What is the role of community advocacy (including in driving national and international responses to climate change), and what can be learned from the various approaches and successes?
- What access to national and international mechanisms do local communities have in order to obtain assistance in addressing the challenges they face, and how can the role of these mechanisms be strengthened?

The wrapping-up of this session will focus on developing messages for:

- a) the **Common Space**, referring to the themes of the govt roundtables (in particular, RT 1.1 on pathways to safety, RT 3.1 on arrival cities, and RT 3.2 on rural transformation and development) and Common Space Themes 1 (reducing vulnerabilities) and 2 (role of cities);
- b) for the **Dialogue on GCM implementation** on the last day, in relation to GCM Objectives 2 and 5.