MIGRATION ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND RISK REDUCTION (MECR)

IOM NIGERIA OPERATIONAL STRATEGIC APPROACH

2023 - 2027

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TABLE OF CONTENT

COVER
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1. IOM Nigeria Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction (MECR)

Climate change is profoundly reshaping contemporary migration patterns worldwide. People move in reaction to sudden and slow onset disasters linked to ecosystem loss and extreme weather events - each becoming more frequent, intense, and harmful. Climate change erodes communities' social, political, economic, environmental and demographic resilience. Migration has the ability to provide individuals, households and communities access to new resources with which mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. Migration can build resilience, provide individuals access basic human rights, and empowered them to engage in national development. When well-managed and made into a safe and accessible choice, migration can allow people adapt and mitigate the socio-economic pressures exacerbated by climate change.

Climate-induced migration may be triggered by a slow erosion of a community's or individual's resilience or a dramatic event that fractures resilience. Climate migration maybe manifested as forced displacement, economic migration, regular and irregular international or internal migration, circular migration, temporary migration and more. As a multi causal phenomenon, climate-migration can be sought after as a resilience-builder to mitigate or adapt to the depletion or destruction of a community's or individual's social, political, economic, environmental or demographic capital. Mobility patterns in Nigeria reflect these multi causal dynamics. As a host to wide range of internal and international human mobility trends, individuals move in, across and throughout Nigeria to seek protection, access economic opportunities, and to reach their aspirations. As the UN Agency for Migration, IOM is dedicated to ensuring that those on the move are protected, those displaced have access to durable solutions, and that legal pathways* are facilitated allowing migration to act as a catalyst to climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

As a cross-cutting priority area for IOM, Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk (MECR) is mainstreamed across all of IOM Nigeria's programmes and services. IOM's vision is to support States in their efforts to achieve orderly, safe and responsible migration, ensuring that all communities, have access to human rights and protection. Through a rights-based approach, IOM's portfolio of humanitarian, development, and peace (HDP) programmes work to provide solutions for people on the move, people to move and people to stay.

Guided by IOM's 10-year Migration Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and supporting IOM Nigeria's 2023-2027 Country Strategy, this document provides insight to how IOM Nigeria will over the next four years support the Government of Nigeria strengthen migration governance, ensure safe, orderly and regular human mobility, and build local and national resilience against the impacts of climate change. Supporting Nigeria's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, this document outlines how IOM Nigeria will sustain inclusive economic growth (Prosperity), strengthen environmental protection and resilience (Planet), support Nigeria's inclusive and equitable human development (People) and enhance Nigeria's' governance, peace and security (Peace).

This strategic document aims to present, guide and support how IOM will deliver transformative action to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change. Delivered in cooperation with national and international partners, it provides an overview into IOM Nigeria's approach to addressing the impacts of climate change and places an accent on how further investment in MECR programming protects those on the move, builds national and local capacities to prevent disaster, strengthen preparedness and enhance climate adaptation as peacebuilder.

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* Aligned to IOM 2024-2028 Strategic goals

2. Nigeria Context

According to the International Panel on Climate change (IPCC), Nigeria has experienced a temperature rise of 1.1 degrees Celsius since the late 20th century, which is higher than the global average. This increase in temperature has resulted in more frequent and intense heatwaves, negatively affecting agriculture, water resources, and human health. IOM has documented the human impact of these environmental changes, reporting through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme how Nigerians are compelled to migrate annually due to adverse climate conditions. In particular, the drying up of Lake Chad, a vital water source for over 30 million people in the region, has diminished by 90% since the 1960s, primarily due to climate change and unsustainable water management. This has not only led to a loss of livelihoods but led to conflict over scarce resources, resulting in the displacement of over 2.3 million people in the Lake Chad Basin, according to IOM's findings. Compounding these findings, the World Bank's Groundswell Report on Internal Climate Migration notes that without effective interventions as many as 85.7 million internal climate migrants (4.2 percent of the total population) could be on the move in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050* due to climate change. These statistics underscore the urgent need for comprehensive climate action and sustainable development strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect vulnerable populations in Nigeria.

As a critical actor in regional and continental partnerships, IOM will continue to support Nigeria's role as a leader in delivering and achieving successful and long-term programmes that protect mobile populations. Over the next four years, IOM Nigeria will double its efforts to collect evidence, share analysis and promote good practices addressing migration, displacement and cross-border movements due to environmental hazards. Whilst supporting the Government of Nigeria develop sound policy frameworks IOM will also increase its efforts to develop and establish wide-ranging disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities by mainstream MECR across the Organization's portfolio of programmes and partnerships. Through IOM's multi-pronged efforts, the Organization will strive to promote and deliver gender-inclusive and migrant-centred solutions that prioritise human security and human rights while responding to the challenges of climate change.
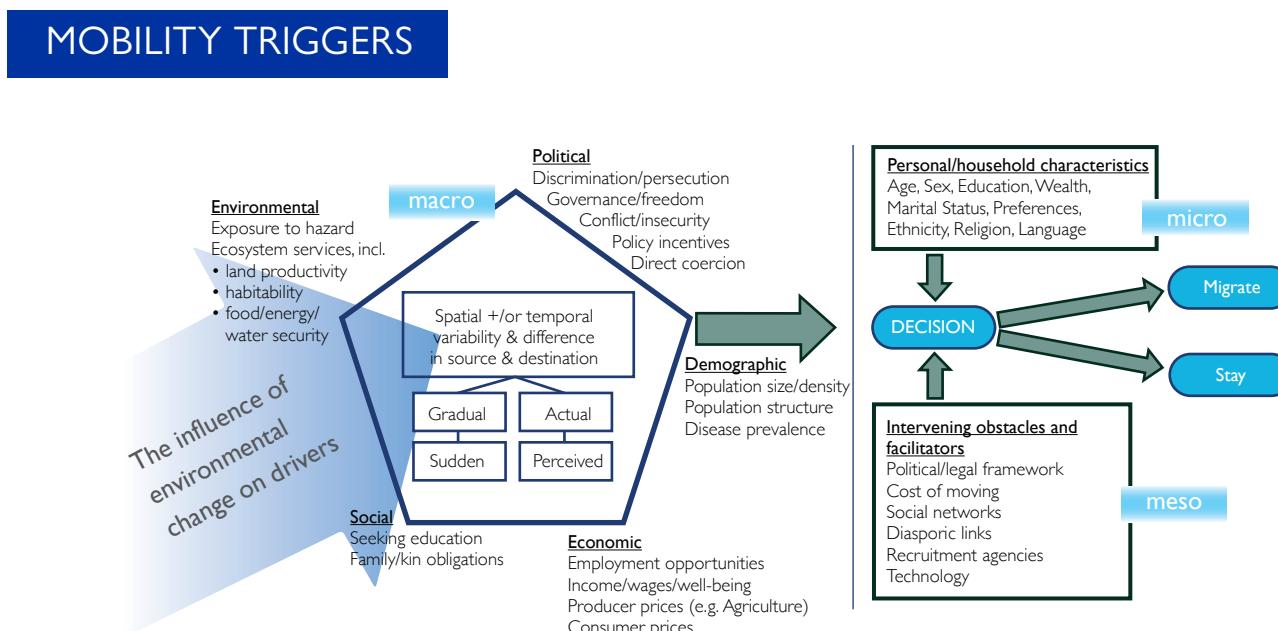

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* Groundswell : Preparing for Internal Climate Migration (worldbank.org)

3. Nigeria Strategic Approach

IOM Nigeria acknowledges that human mobility in the context of climate change and environmental degradation is multi causal, linked to communities' social, political, economic, environmental and demographic resilience. Climatic impacts, sudden- or slow-onset erode these societal capitals acting as mobility triggers (see table 1). Migration in the context climate change should not be considered as an option of last resort, but rather as an active contributor to DRR and CCA Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) to be sustained by a right-based approach.

Table 1: Driver of migration influenced by environmental factors

*Source: Foresight: Migration and Global Environmental Change (2011), Final Project Report, The Government Office for Science, London

IOM's projects and programmes ensure that people on the move, and their communities of origin, as well as destination fully benefit from internal and international migration, have equitable access to services and resources, and are empowered to contribute to national development. This encompasses promoting legal, physical, and material safety, along with access to basic services, livelihood opportunities, and inclusive local governance. It includes providing affected communities with access to multi-sectoral emergency life-saving support through various interventions such as shelter and settlement, livelihood cash-based interventions, water and sanitation facilities, and mental health and psychosocial support. It includes focusing on developing skills and employability of youth, women, and vulnerable individuals to build self-resilience through capacity-building programs and focusing on green jobs. Placing individuals at the heart of this response it also includes engaging in the prevention of irregular migration and protection of migrants, victims of trafficking and smuggling, and advocating for inclusive policy development towards high-quality migrant health. Equally enhancing the national-wide early warning systems to predict floods, drought and other disasters and establishing community response networks at the grassroots level provides critical prevention solutions.

Addressing migration and climate change also demands strengthening and/or establishing sound research, policies and operational solutions that guarantee the rights of mobile populations and allow for national and local resilience-building. Migration and climate change demands a holistic approach allowing for diverse operational and policy solutions in strengthening governance systems that facilitate safe and orderly migration and build national and local resilience.

IOM Nigeria is committed to building on the Government of Nigeria's already established achievements on international and internal migration and is dedicated to providing holistic support in adapting and responding to the realities of climate change.

In 2023, IOM Nigeria launched a new four-year Country Strategy providing guidance and insight on how its operations contribute and support the Government of Nigeria's humanitarian, development and peace goals and priorities while addressing the needs and aspirations of migrants and displaced populations.

Framed around IOM institutional pillars of Resilience, Mobility and Governance , Nigeria's Country Strategy is anchored in IOM's long- and short-term strategic outcomes of IOM's West and Central Africa Regional Strategic Results Framework (SRF) priorities, the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mirroring IOM's institutional strategic pillars, IOM Nigeria's MECR Operational and Strategic Approach looks to support

Nigeria's Climate Change Policy, Nigeria's Migration Policy and Nigeria's Policy on Internally Displacement Persons (IDPs) amongst others. Equally IOM Nigeria's MECR Operational and Strategic Approach looks at supporting the Government of Nigeria achieve its policy goals under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which along with the Paris Agreement, contain vital targets towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

IOM's global institutional pillars: Governance, Mobility and Resilience:

Governance

Mobility

Resilience

The Government of Nigeria's migration and mobility governance is strengthened and aligned with national priorities, and global and regional standards and commitments.

Partnerships and national partners' capacities are strengthened to facilitate orderly, safe and regular migration and mobility of people and deliver operational solutions to migration challenges.

Resilience at individual and local levels for authorities and community members in areas affected by insecurity, climate change and unsafe migration is strengthened to withstand future shocks and stabilize at-risk communities.

Resilience

Within the scope of IOM Nigeria's 2023-2027 Country Strategy, a priority objective is the resilience of migrants, internally displaced persons, and local communities (Strategic Priority 1). Key to this pillar is reinforcing climate adaptation as a tool for enhancing the resilience of the population affected by climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters. This includes addressing the long-term impacts of human mobility and livelihoods in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters by developing joint programmes considering the root causes of vulnerabilities of affected populations and effective adaptation strategies integrating local knowledge. It involves promoting legal, physical, and material safety, and ensuring access to basic services, livelihood opportunities, and inclusive local governance. Operational support is given to increase direct assistance for those on the move, managing displacement caused by climate-related factors. Advocacy efforts aim to incorporate considerations of human mobility and environmental challenges into relevant governance instruments and policy processes at regional (ECOWAS), Federal, Governorate and LGA levels.

The Pillar also considers linkages between migration, rapid urbanization, climate change impacts, and environmental sustainability, emphasizing urban environmental and climate-smart practices. The strategic approach includes strengthening early warning systems, establishing community response networks, and contributing to climate action in communities, with a focus on green jobs and disaster risk reduction.

Mobility

The strategic Pillar of Mobility (Strategic Priority 2 of IOM Nigeria's 2023-2027 Country Strategy) emphasizes the protection of migrants and the optimization of benefits derived from internal and international migration, with a specific focus on contributing to the economic and social integration of Africa. It underscores the significance of promoting sound governance of internal and international migration. This involves creating a framework that safeguards the rights and well-being of migrants while ensuring that mobility contributes positively to the development goals of the countries involved.

An integral aspect of this strategic priority involves advocating for and supporting circular migration schemes, particularly in key sectors such as blue and green economic activities. Circular migration entails the temporary movement of individuals between their home country and a destination country, often for work purposes. This not only helps meet market demands but also contributes to climate change adaptation efforts and increases resilience in areas vulnerable to environmental degradation. By strategically harnessing mobility to support sectors sustainability, this strategic objective aims to create a win-win situation, where migrants benefit from improved opportunities, and destination locations experience economic growth while addressing environmental challenges. This approach reflects a comprehensive and forward-looking strategy to leverage mobility for broader societal and environmental goals within the African context.

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Governance

Efforts to enhance governance in migration are intricately linked with climate action, aiming to foster evidence-based processes at both national and regional levels. The primary objective is to strengthen government capacities by integrating migration considerations into policies and operations, with a specific focus on climate-induced challenges. This commitment is articulated in Strategic Priority 3 of Nigeria's Country Strategy, explicitly targets the enhancement of migration governance through anticipating, planning for, and constructively responding to migratory patterns, dynamics, and related emergencies exacerbated by climate change.

Central to this strategy is supporting the government in formulating and revising policies related to migration governance, especially in the context of natural disaster-induced migration crises and displacement heightened by climate impacts. The initiative further aims to cultivate strategic interagency coordination, ensuring collaboration among humanitarian, development, government, and non-governmental actors involved in migration governance. Beyond local efforts, the commitment extends to aligning Nigeria with international frameworks, notably the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), by developing lessons-learned, exchanging best practices, and actively participating in global and regional migration dialogues that increasingly incorporate climate considerations. Emphasis is also placed on implementing the ECOWAS Common Approach to Migration, focusing on the Free Movement Protocol and policy harmonization to address climate-induced challenges, including irregular migration, human trafficking, and the protection of migrants, with a dedicated emphasis on gender-responsive migration strategies.

4. Operationalising IOM Nigeria Approach

Looking to the future, the following three-pronged approach will guide IOM Nigeria's strategic efforts to bring transformational change for societies, individuals on the move and their communities. Specific actions for implementing these solutions are set out in the table 2 below titled Harnessing the Power of Migration for a Better Future: towards Effective Action on Climate Mobility. This is not an exhaustive list, but a menu of options to encourage action, which prepares for and anticipates future climate mobility.

1. Solutions for people to move: well-managed migration, including regular migration and labour migration pathways, can represent a positive adaptation strategy to climate impacts in most vulnerable areas.

2. Solutions for people on the move: loss and damage linked to disaster displacement can be reduced and addressed by anticipating and preparing for an increase in scale, scope and frequency of disasters and including climate risks in humanitarian responses and durable solutions to end displacement.

3. Solutions for people to stay: promoting sustainable development measures, building community resilience and preventing and reducing disaster risks can help people adapt to climate impacts and offer them the choice to stay with dignity and in safety in their areas of origin.
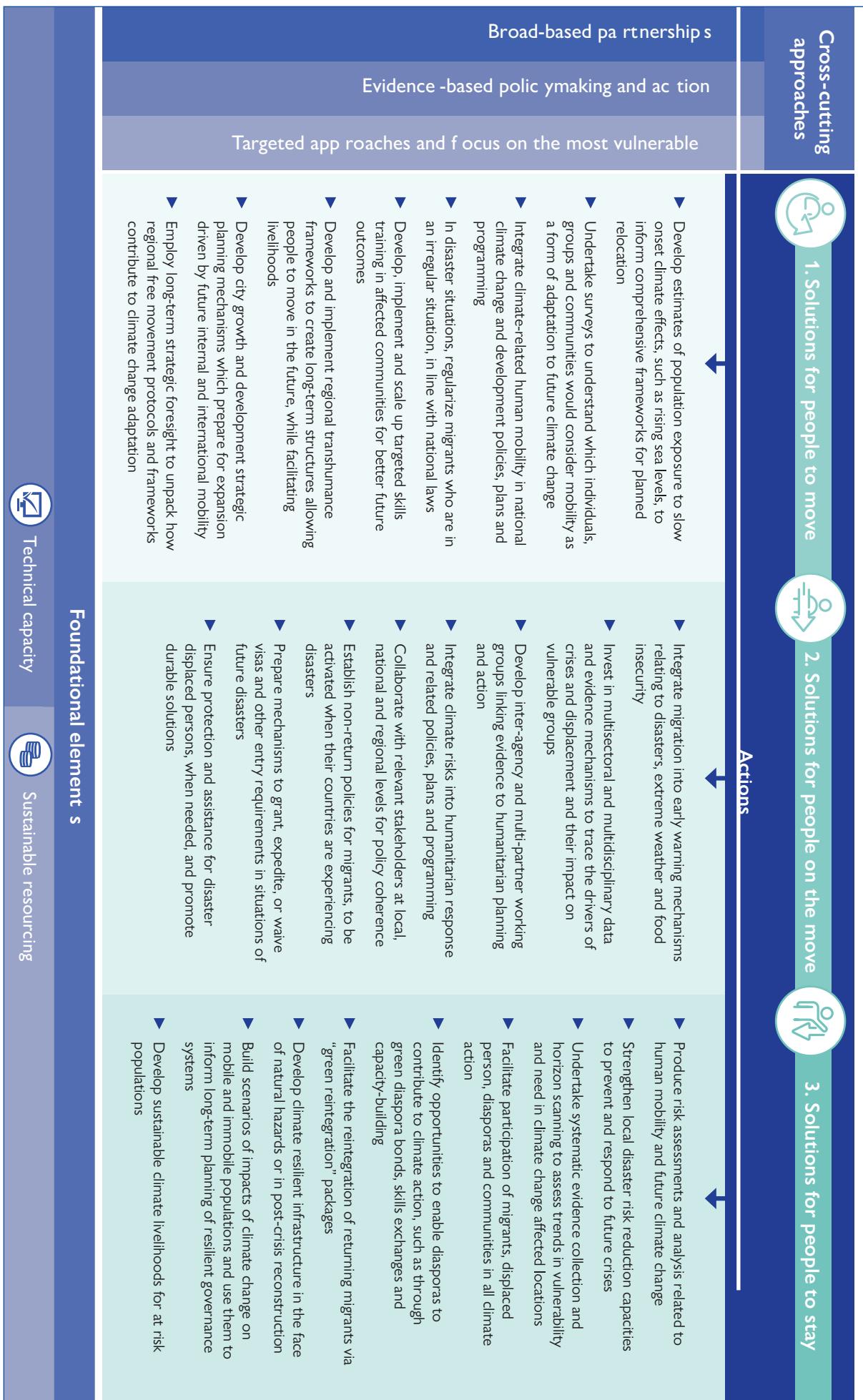
The proposed three-pronged approach is operationalised in the MECR Implementation Options chapter (page 12), which provide concrete policy and operational options to support the Government of Nigeria, communities and individuals to develop effective DRR and CCA capacities. Supported by a set of enabling factors to drive evidence-based programming, effective dialogue and policy discourse and localised action, the three-pronged approach aims to guide IOM Nigeria strategic operationalisation of MECR.

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* IOM's 10-year Migration Environment and Climate Change Strategy

* "Loss and damage" can be understood as the consequences of climate change that go beyond what communities and individuals can mitigate or adapt to. Qi et al. (2023). International Institute for Sustainable Development. See also Thomas, A. (2022).

HARNESSING MIGRATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE: TOWARDS EFFECTIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE MOBILITY

Cross-cutting approaches

- Broad-based partnerships
- Evidence-based policymaking and action
- Targeted approaches and focus on the most vulnerable

Actions

1. Solutions for people to move

- Develop estimates of population exposure to slow onset climate effects, such as rising sea levels, to inform comprehensive frameworks for planned relocation
- Undertake surveys to understand which individuals, groups and communities would consider mobility as a form of adaptation to future climate change
- Integrate climate-related human mobility in national climate change and development policies, plans and programming
- In disaster situations, regularize migrants who are in an irregular situation, in line with national laws
- Develop, implement and scale up targeted skills training in affected communities for better future outcomes
- Develop and implement regional transhumance frameworks to create long-term structures allowing people to move in the future, while facilitating livelihoods
- Develop city growth and development strategic planning mechanisms which prepare for expansion driven by future internal and international mobility
- Employ long-term strategic foresight to unpack how regional free movement protocols and frameworks contribute to climate change adaptation

2. Solutions for people on the move

- Integrate migration into early warning mechanisms relating to disasters, extreme weather and food insecurity
- Invest in multisectoral and multidisciplinary data and evidence mechanisms to trace the drivers of crises and displacement and their impact on vulnerable groups
- Develop inter-agency and multi-partner working groups linking evidence to humanitarian planning and action
- Integrate climate risks into humanitarian response and related policies, plans and programming
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders at local, national and regional levels for policy coherence
- Establish non-return policies for migrants, to be activated when their countries are experiencing disasters
- Prepare mechanisms to grant, expedite, or waive visas and other entry requirements in situations of future disasters
- Ensure protection and assistance for disaster displaced persons, when needed, and promote durable solutions

3. Solutions for people to stay

- Produce risk assessments and analysis related to human mobility and future climate change
- Strengthen local disaster risk reduction capacities to prevent and respond to future crises
- Undertake systematic evidence collection and horizon scanning to assess trends in vulnerability and need in climate change affected locations
- Facilitate participation of migrants, displaced person, diasporas and communities in all climate action
- Identify opportunities to enable diasporas to contribute to climate action, such as through green diaspora bonds, skills exchanges and capacity-building
- Facilitate the reintegration of returning migrants via "green reintegration" packages
- Develop climate resilient infrastructure in the face of natural hazards or in post-crisis reconstruction
- Build scenarios of impacts of climate change on mobile and immobile populations and use them to inform long-term planning of resilient governance systems
- Develop sustainable climate livelihoods for at risk populations

Foundational elements

- Technical capacity
- Sustainable resourcing

5. Enabling Factors

IOM Nigeria seeks to bolster and develop transversal (cross-cutting) projects that strengthen data and evidence, deliver community action and promote policy and dialogue providing solutions for people to move, people on the move and for people to stay. Working across IOM Nigeria programmatic departments of Emergency and Post-Crisis, Peace and Development Coordination, Migration Management, and Policy, Governance, Liaison and Support IOM Nigeria intends to strengthen, adapt and implement activities and projects that secure individuals' human rights promoting migration, in all its forms as a safe and well managed avenue for resilience building. Driven by the enabling factors of Data and Evidence, Community Action, and Policy and Dialogue, IOM places emphasis on the added value in investing migration as a catalyst to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

DATA & EVIDENCE

Building solid evidence on the complexities and the inter-linked socio-economics nexus between climate change and migration is critical to understanding and framing local and national solutions. IOM Nigeria's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in close collaboration with the National Climate Change Council and Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs works to collect and develop knowledge on climate-induced migration. As the world's largest primary data collectors on human mobility, DTM programmes collect data from local communities and individuals on the factors driving their migration, their needs and their vulnerabilities. Working in collaboration IOM's Department for Peace and Development Coordination, Migration Management, and the Policy, Governance, Liaison and Support Department aims to shine a light on under-reported issues, analysing the emerging trends and challenges and work to strengthen data and evidence on migration and climate change.

POLICY & DIALOGUE

Government ownership of CCA and DRR initiatives is vital to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness. As the world becomes increasingly mobile and interconnected, policies and measures that restrict mobility are likely to result in increased impoverishment, hardship and vulnerability. IOM Nigeria's Migration Management Departments works to promote the positive contributions of migration, strengthening leadership of the state to protect internal and international migrants. By integrating MECR into national policies and legislative frameworks that align with international commitments IOM's Emergency and Post-Crisis, Peace and Development Coordination and Policy, Governance, Liaison and Support Departments will work with Nigeria's government, from local to national levels, to develop policies that address climate-induced migration. Crucially this requires supporting the Government of Nigeria implement and realise its international commitments on climate change under the SDGs, the Paris Agreements, the Sendai Framework, the African Union 2032 Climate Strategy…etc. It also requires supporting the government fully adopt the Migration Governance Indicators to develop contextually appropriate policies that promote migration as a catalyst for change.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Working directly with communities in developing localised DRR and CCA frameworks is central to IOM's approach. Implemented through a Community Based Planning (CBP) approach, local communities are empowered to develop DRR and CCA strategies with other local stakeholders ensuring the uptake and sustainability of the process through community ownership. IOM community approach prioritises enhancing communities' awareness and understanding of climate change and enabling them to create responsive plans and make more flexible and context-appropriate decisions. In collaboration with local government institution IOM works to embed new knowledge and understanding into existing community structures to expand and strengthens those structures as well as institutional mechanisms.

IOM's Emergency and Post-Crisis, Peace and Development Coordination, Migration Management Departments work to promotes stable and socially cohesive communities, enabling for resources and social services to be equitably accessed. Placing an accent on MECR activities allows for programmes that enhance protection services and help to secure the rights of those affected by climate change, promoting safe migration and providing those in areas of origin and destination capacities to reduce conflict and manage natural resources.

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6. Partnerships and coordination

Recognizing the strategic value and importance of whole-of-government and whole-of-society solutions to mobility challenges, IOM is committed to a path of continuous engagement and collaboration. This commitment involves building upon its established relationship with the Federal Government of Nigeria. Furthermore, IOM maintains a strong connection with the State Governments in regions where it has an operational presence.

In addition to these governmental ties, IOM places significant emphasis on partnerships with various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), as well as with civil society organizations. This multi-faceted approach ensures a robust and comprehensive strategy to address mobility issues.

7. MECR Implementation Options

Data-Backed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Integrating DRR indicators into DTM assessments can play a pivotal role in better understanding how different gender groups are impacted by disasters, which regions and communes are most affected (hot spots) and how to strengthen DRR.

Enhancing IOM's DTM tools which captures community perceptions of underlying social tensions, access to services, needs and the intentions of IDPs and host communities, can provide vital data to build community resilience to disasters. Targeting specific regions DTM can conduct analysis to inform programming about populations at risk of riverine flooding, or communities at high risk of drought-induced displacement.

In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources in Nigeria, Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), Federal Ministry of Environment DTM is able to overlay and interpolate GIS data from Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) and other data sources such as the FAO's AQUASTAT, Think Hazard - Nigeria - River flood and AGRICA on areas at risk of riverine flooding and drought with population data to provide estimations on populations at risk. IOM's disaster risk data has the ability to inform national and local government with information to strengthen Early Warning Systems, enabling national and regional contingency planning to minimise displacement and unsafe migration.

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Integrated Climate-Conflict Data Toolkits & Early Warning Systems (EWS)

Developing a stronger understanding of how low-intensity communal resource conflicts escalate or are manipulated is critical to strengthening peacebuilding efforts. Greater expertise in early action to prevent escalation of conflicts can be grounded in effective mapping and monitoring. IOM has developed a Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) in the context of the Nigeria that when enhanced with early warning data provides a powerful tool to track transhumance movements and establish early warning systems.

By enhancing IOM's population tracking tools with data collection points in key seasonal transhumant locations IOM is able to deliver temporal analysis on transhumance movements. Working with local pastoral associations and regional groups such as Pastoral Resolve (PARE), the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN), the Gan Allah Fulani Development Association of Nigeria (GAFDAN) among others IOM can identify the migration routes and establish data collection points. Once established IOM works through a CBP approach to engage to establish integrated climate-conflict data toolkits.

IOM prevention programmes are then enhanced through localized alert system supporting community preparedness capacities. Using large networks of existing key informants to share and receive information related to transhumance events such as conflicts over water resources or irregular pastoralist movements IOM EWS in the locations along the migration route.

Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)

Leveraging DTM community-based data collection tools, IOM is able identify priority communities highly exposed to disaster risk, and in coordination with local government support to establish of village-level Disaster Risk Management Committees (DRMCs). By engaging local communities in data collection programmes, IOM is able to work directly with affected communities in knowledge-building, facilitating the establishment of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) interventions that utilise local knowledge, resources, and leadership.

Hazard mitigation planning is conducted to reduce the impact of natural disasters, including drought, by reducing loss of life and property. Multi-hazard risk and vulnerability assessments through a problem tree analysis examine the individual risks of specific hazards (drought, flood, etc.), as well as the risks of successive hazards, compound risks of multiple coinciding hazards, and the potential for interacting risk relationships.

Accompanied by a large-scale capacity building programmes developed in coordination with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, CBDRR interventions aim to work with all segments of the community, including women, girls, persons with disability (PWD), the elderly and minorities to scale-up indigenous DRR and CCA efforts. CBDRR interventions are strengthen by building the Government's capacity to implement DTM and deliver Social Cohesion programmes that strengthen preparedness and early warning systems.

Durable Solutions: Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) and Social Cohesion

Restoring agricultural value chains and flood-resistant irrigation infrastructure demands an approach that integrates rural and urban engagement via meaningful socioeconomic networks. Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) projects aim to bolster stability in areas of origin – urban and peri-urban – by targeting the most critical demographic stressors while strengthening and extending informal and formal local institutions into the fragile periphery.

INRM networks forge ties between locally credible institutions that regulate access to, and usage of, natural resources. Examples include Water User Committees, Canal and Irrigation Committees, Farmer Cooperatives, Pastoralist Associations or Livestock Broker Networks – especially in locations where institutional effectiveness has been eroded by protracted conflict, mass displacement, and natural hazards.

IOM's INRM interventions are targeted at deepening inclusivity (especially youth, women and IDPs), enhancing technical capacity (to include the introduction of groundwater recharge, water catchment/harvesting, sustainable fodder production, renewable energy, and other climate-conscious methods), and connecting structures across all demographics. INRM interventions creates avenues for IDPs to re-engage in productive agricultural livelihoods. With the enhanced technical capacity, INRM networks can put into practice newly acquired skills and knowledge by leading the implementation and management of a community priority linked to natural resource management. This may take the form of infrastructure, service delivery, or goods.

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Durable Solutions: Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Climate Adaptation

Through a CBP approach, IOM targets priority areas, in close coordination with governmental counterparts as well as the affected communities based on level of environmental degradation and economic and social impact on the surrounding communities. Considering the intrinsic linkages between groundwater recharge and poor land use, IOM works to ensure that efforts aiming to reverse land and soil degradation and foster adaptation practices linked to sustainable economic development among rural communities, further contributing to the sustainable aquifer recharge in the target areas.

Through a two-fold approach IOM works to establish climate resilient infrastructure that promotes stability, equitable access to natural resources and income generating activities. This includes the construction of physical infrastructure for gully erosion control; construction of physical and biological infrastructure for sand dune stabilization; community-based reforestation of degraded land, including through the establishment of tree nurseries; and soil conservation and land restoration efforts, including degraded hillside plantation.

Noting the importance of the livestock and crop production sectors in rural Nigerian economy, IOM works to promote the engagement and empowerment of women and youth in CCA. Young women, especially when displaced, have difficulty accessing income generating opportunities because they face exclusion related to age, gender, and social status. IOM interventions aims to enhance the conditions of key livelihood sectors that increasingly absorb women. This includes capacity building for target communities on disease prevention, animal husbandry, and climate-smart animal husbandry practices; the establishment of community animal health workers (CAHW), providing essential care for livestock to reduce the prevalence of treatable diseases resulting in livestock death; and improved access to fodder through the establishment of fodder banks.

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Durable Solutions: Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Climate Adaptation

The cyclical nature of hazards, intensified by climate change, coupled with an unsustainable use of groundwater resources, exacerbates water stress in Northern Nigeria. To break the cycle of water stress fuelling conflict, an approach including both improved access to water through infrastructure and the establishment of equal opportunities to access affordable water through tariff systems, and water user committees, is crucial. Aligned with IOM's commitment to the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA) and building on IOM's Social Cohesion programmes, IOM is well positioned to improved water supply systems in specific locations across the country. To ensure sustainability and to reduce the environmental footprint, special attention is placed on groundwater recharge and work with partners providing technical support on the eco-systems approach to nature-based solutions.

Leveraging solar-powered systems, IOM can construct or rehabilitate water supply infrastructure in strategic location to reduce competition of water resources. Once installed, the running cost of a solar power supply system is low as the power source is free and the maintenance costs are limited. Whilst a solar power supply system has a higher installation cost as compared to a traditional diesel generator system, the solar power supply system has an estimated lifespan of 25 years, with initial costs being recuperated within three years.

To support sustainability IOM delivers training of Water User Committee (WUC) to strengthen local ownership and ensuring equitable access to water infrastructure to all community members, setting up water tariffs, and promoting conflict resolution. Water is sold at tariffs to cover, at a minimum, routine operational and maintenance costs. The community contributes to the construction of the infrastructure through provision of labour and other locally available resources. Modalities are site-specific, with technical guidance including monitoring being provided by the Federal Ministry of Power, Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Federal Ministry of Environment.

Social Cohesion and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

Environmental reconciliation rests on the assumption that the natural environment's inherent characteristics can act as incentives for cooperation and peace, rather than violence and competition. Conflict mediation methods that place environment issues at the centre of the discourse demonstrate how shared or equitably managed resources have greater net benefits than monopolized resources.

Environmental reconciliation efforts allow for shared understanding of climate-adaptive methods to be established for productively co-managing ecosystems. Enhancing IOM's already established Social Cohesion programmes allows for communities to established shared consensus on natural resource management revitalising locally credible informal institutions across community structures for peaceful management of natural resources. The aim is to build on established local committees, such as Farmer Cooperatives, Pastoralist Associations and Livestock Broker Networks.

Supporting these efforts IOM is dedicated to delivering environmental mediation trainings with a view to improve community understanding of climate sensitive approaches to natural resources management as means to mitigate conflict. Emphasis is placed on women. Capacitating women to lead social cohesion efforts across communities as the ability to enhance the mediation role of women through 'environmental diplomacy'. For example, enhancing cohesion between women groups and amongst community members, through reforestation activities. Activities led by women have the ability to galvanise different members of the community under reforestation activities, community cleaning and proper waste disposal with the provision of cleaning tools. Providing women, the possibility to take the lead on this cascading of knowledge and social environmental activities increases their recognition, visibility, and legitimacy within the community.

Propositions established through Social Cohesion activities aim to progressively address issues arising from the impacts of climate change. IOM then works to with identified stakeholders to obtain consensus on natural resource management arrangements and their sustainability.

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Knowledge Management and Research on DRR and CCA practices

In line with global trends to identify and scale up good practices on climate change adaptation, IOM Nigeria can work to collect data on present indigenous practices that reduce risk and support climate adaptation. As technical partner to the Government of Nigeria and as a member of the UN community, IOM is strategically placed to identify good local practices that would benefit from scale-up to prevent unsafe migration, prepare and respond to disasters. Building the capacity of community practices and bolstering present small-scale initiatives into wider programmes allows for locally led risk reduction and climate adaptation programmes to be locally owned and sustainably adopted.

Promoting knowledge generation and information sharing, by undertaking research and bringing together national, regional and global experts, practitioners and policymakers is critical to addressing the multi-dimensional humanitarian and development challenges linked to climate change. For example, IOM supported the Migration Dialogue for West Africa regional consultation process, where different governments were brought together to deliberated on a regional approach to environmental migration and disaster displacement. Leveraging IOM established research on climate change, IOM strives to continue working through an inter-ministerial approach to better understand and respond to climate impacts on local labour markets, agricultural practices, disaster management response frameworks to deliver safe avenues for livelihood diversification, and the protection to those who are displaced or at risk of being displaced, and safe routes to those able and willing to migrate.

Climate Change and Migration Policy Coherence and Research

The GCM calls on States to reduce risk that trigger mobility and include migrants in disaster risk management efforts. The specific relevance of mobility in disaster management is increasingly embraced within operational inter-agency initiatives, such as the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), which IOM co-chairs since 2021. CADRI is a global partnership that integrates mobility considerations in the delivery of multisectoral capacity development services to support States' efforts in DRR and CCA.

IOM Nigeria works with the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning and it's National Bureau of Statistics to strengthen comparable data systems that support the development and enhancement of national policies and strategies to address climate-induce migration. Developing and enhancing data and data systems is critical to effectively supporting the Government of Nigeria and the United Nations mainstream data on climate migration (migrants and IDPs) into development and humanitarian planning helping to prevent, prepare and respond to disasters. Having stock data on migration flows also allows for the effective monitoring and measuring of the achievement of Nigeria's SDGs. The collection of data also plays a critical role in supporting the Government of Niger report on the Sendai Framework. Equally healthy and versatile data systems can play a critical role in supporting Niger enhance its Migration Governance Frameworks (MiGOF) under the Migration Governance Indicator (MGI) tool.

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