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Learning to live with climate change

How GIZ is supporting the Caribbean and Pacific regions, the Philippines and East Africa in the field of climate change-induced migration

Climate change is not only bringing extreme environmental changes. It is also threatening the livelihoods of millions of people around the globe. Farmers and fishing families are losing their ability to support themselves as aridity worsens and sea levels rise. Communities are being forced to take action to protect themselves against increasingly frequent natural disasters. This is one reason why people are having to leave their homes, voluntarily or because they no longer have any other option.

Developing countries are worst hit, particularly archipelagos and island states, like those in the Caribbean and the Pacific, as well as parts of Africa and Asia. Climate-induced migration is now a reality that is massively jeopardising human rights, including the right to adequate food, health and housing.

This is where our Climate Change and Migration project comes in. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), it was launched in 2017, and is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. In the Caribbean and Pacific regions, the Philippines and East Africa, we are

helping our partners address climate-induced migration in a sustainable way that fosters development. The goal is to lower the number of people who are forced to leave their homes in the wake of natural disasters, to improve voluntary and planned relocation, and to reduce the involuntary immobility of people who, for various reasons, are unable to migrate. We also aim to enhance the resilience and adaptability of the affected regions, and better protect individuals and communities against climate-induced migration. Our project is the first of its kind in this field and in these regions.

At international level, migration is firmly anchored in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an adaptation strategy. During the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, BMZ was actively engaged in setting up a working group on climate change-induced displacement. As a result, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts began work on climate-induced migration in 2017. The Global Compact for Safe and Orderly Migration, which Germany signed in 2018, recognises climate change as a root cause of migration.

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The Caribbean is one of the regions worst hit by climate change. The population of the Caribbean archipelagos suffers the impacts of hurricanes, extreme rain, droughts, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. In 2017, Hurricane Maria wreaked massive destruction on the island of Dominica. It was one of the worst tropical storms the world had ever seen. Many people lost their homes and were forced to flee. In general, climate-related disasters can be perceived to be responsible for increasing cross-border migration in the region.

At this difficult time, in 2017, we began work in the Caribbean. Many of those hit by Hurricane Maria were forced to seek shelter on other islands. Individuals are permitted to live and work in other Caribbean states without a visa or a work permit.

We are supporting the efforts of our partners in the Commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to draw up a strategic plan for climate change-induced migration. Climate change and migration are now an integral part of national and regional agendas in this part of the world.

In cooperation with partner countries, including Saint Lucia, Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, we are making people and decision-makers more aware of climate-induced migration throughout the region. A photo competition, for instance, and a virtual exhibition have helped climate change and its consequences to a

prominent place in the public consciousness. A documentary has sensitised the population to the impacts of COVID-19 and border closures on climate-induced migration.

We also support local communities on the ground. In Grenada we have renovated an emergency shelter. In Saint Lucia we have renatured mangroves and rivers to offer local people better protection against flooding.

Our activities bring people working in the climate, health and social affairs sectors together around the table in one working group. This allows them to pull together to address the challenges posed by climate-induced migration. One particular focus of the debates is the impact of climate-induced migration on gender equality. One case study from Antigua and Barbuda demonstrates the interconnectedness of climate change-induced migration and gender equality.

Our excellent cooperation and sound advisory services are generating knowledge on sustainable ways of managing cross-border climate-induced migration, and this can then be disseminated. Climate change and migration are firmly anchored in regional agendas. Awareness of this topic among many individuals and decision-makers in the region has been heightened, and many communities are now implementing climate change mitigation measures. This strengthens resilience, solidarity and regional cooperation in the Caribbean, and brings people one step closer to a safe and secure future.



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Kaboua John's voice trembles as he tells his story at the 2017 Bonn Climate Conference, where he has been invited by BMZ to act as a 'climate change witness'. 'My village is being taken back by the sea.' Experts say that Kiribati, a small Pacific state, most of whose land lies less than two metres above sea level, will be lost to the sea before the end of this century. Kaboua shows photos of his house, which is constantly threatened by the advancing sea. 'We are losing our home, our banana plantations, our drinking water. The groundwater mixes with the seawater and is getting saltier and saltier. But I don't want to lose my island, the beaches, my neighbours who always have a smile on their faces.' Kaboua John is one of many people in the Pacific region whose livelihood is acutely threatened by climate change. Extreme weather events, like tropical cyclones and droughts are becoming increasingly frequent, as sea levels rise inexorably.

The Pacific states vary widely in terms of history and geography. But they have one thing in common – freedom of movement for people and goods. They are heavily involved in international climate negotiations. They are keen that planned relocation and forced displacement in the wake of environmental disasters are managed sustainably, and this is something on which we are advising them. Since 2017, we have been working with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific. We also cooperate with national governments in Fiji, Tuvalu and Kiribati.

Jone Prasad, a fisherman from Narikoso in Fiji, has had to deal with the consequences of rising sea levels. The advancing tides not only threaten the homes of his community, but also its traditional way of life and its culture. It became impossible to live there anymore, making relocation inevitable. Intensive cooperation with the Government of Fiji allowed some of Jone's community to be saved from further disasters and resettled. This worked because Fiji had already laid the foundations in 2018. We drew up guidelines and regulations together to ensure that planned relocations were implemented in a sound and participatory manner. That marked a milestone. Fiji presented the outcome in 2019 at COP 25. The guidelines are now part of the country's national climate change mitigation legislation. Today, political actors in Fiji make planned relocations a top priority because their urgency is appreciated. Financing is assured by a fund set up in 2019 for relocation schemes, the first of its sort in the world.

Maria Kumar lives in a village in Tuvalu that is plagued by drought. Her harvests have been destroyed

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by the lack of water, making her future uncertain. Water shortages have forced people in Tuvalu to leave their home. We provided training in ecologically appropriate hydraulic engineering, securing the water supply in Maria's village and enabling residents to harvest their crops. The village is now well equipped to adapt better to climate change. Gender equality and social inclusion were also factored into our various advisory activities. The events we staged always looked at the interplay between migration, climate change and gender equality to ensure that this is taken into account as often as possible in the future. We produced an online manual that can be used as a model in many other regions. It looks, for instance, at the impacts of climate change on the health status of women and girls, enabling decision-makers to respond more appropriately.

The island state of Vanuatu in the South Pacific is hit every year by cyclones, earthquakes and flooding. With our support, Vanuatu was one of the first countries in the world to introduce legislation ensuring central management of internal migration resulting from environment disasters – an important step.

These examples demonstrate how communities and individuals can become more resilient and better cope with the challenges posed by climate change. The rules and guidelines for planned relocation in Fiji have been a resounding success. The excellent cooperation involving actors from a number of sectors, such as agriculture and food security, shows that climate-induced planned relocation needs to take a wide spectrum of issues into account. Fiji and Vanuatu are good role models for many governments in the region when it comes to planned relocation and internal migration. They give people hope of a better future.



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»No other country in the world is hit by so many tropical storms annually as the Philippines.«

The Philippines is a country that consists of an archipelago with over 7,000 islands. It is home to more than 100 million people, whose lives are overshadowed by the disastrous consequences of climate change. Extreme weather events such as Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 have hit the Philippines hard. Many people lost their houses and their livelihoods and became homeless. No other country in the world is hit by so many tropical storms annually as the Philippines. These storms are becoming ever more frequent and their impacts increasingly devastating, as is also the case in the Caribbean and the Pacific. Extreme rainfall causes flooding, as sea levels rise, yet the region is also affected by droughts. This is leading to a rise in

internal migration within the Philippines. This is why, in 2017, we launched our engagement in the Philippines, in close collaboration with our partners in the Commission for Population and Development (CPD), the government's central coordinating and decision-making body for population issues.

We advised the government on ways of integrating climate change and migration into national policies. Before 2017, discussions on migration were limited to international migration. Today the focus is on the vital issue of internal migration. CPD set up a sub-committee on internal migration – a major achievement. Studies on climate-related risks and workshops on climate change, the environment and migration have given government officials valuable knowledge. They can now share their experience with other countries. A wealth of information on internal migration, which is now available online, helps actors to devise appropriate measures. We have brought the issue of gender equality to many discussions.

Miguel Bautista lives in a small coastal village in the Philippines. He comes from a long line of fishermen, but rising sea levels and frequent flooding were threatening the village and his family's livelihood. They had to decide whether they were going to leave their home or make a stand against climate change. This was when our project team was able to support Miguel's village with a local climate change action plan that enabled them to develop appropriate solutions to address flooding and trained them in climate safety, allowing them to better protect their homes and their fishing boats. The local people worked with us to develop new fishing and farming methods in line with changed conditions. Today the village is a living example of resilience and community efforts in the face of climate change.

Manila is home to Sofia Manutouk, a committed activist. She aims to raise awareness among Filipino politicians of the challenges posed by climate change and to give the people affected a chance to tell their stories publicly. Sofia got together with CPD to bring climate change-induced migration into political discourse. With the Commission, our project team organised numerous events to make the consequences of climate change visible to decision-makers in the fields of climate change and migration, and to develop solutions to address these more effectively. Sofia continues to use her voice to draw the attention of Filipino policymakers to the concerns of affected individuals and to help ensure a sustainable future for vulnerable communities.



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East Africa is home to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region, which comprises Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Climate change is posing enormous challenges for the region. Somalia, for instance, suffered a long period of drought in 2022 which culminated in a famine that affected a large swathe of the country's population. Since the start of 2022 the percentage of undernourished Somalis has doubled.

Many of the almost 200 million people who live in the predominantly rural areas in the IGAD region depend on agriculture to make a living. Extreme weather, however, is threatening their livelihoods. In many places droughts are resulting in food and water shortages, which can aggravate conflicts over resources. To compound the situation, the region suffers high poverty and extreme fragility. Many people are unable to migrate because of their physical, financial, or social situation, leaving them effectively trapped in their home areas and often exposed to the risks of climate change without any sort of protection. In view of these challenges, in 2020 we began to cooperate with the regional organisation IGAD, which is based

in Djibouti, and with Nairobi-based ICPAC, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre. IGAD is working to promote food security and environmental protection, economic cooperation, regional integration, social development, and peace and security in the region. As a specialised IGAD centre, ICPAC builds subregional and national climate and weather service capacities, including early warning systems. With them, we are addressing climate change-induced migration, forced displacement and planned relocation.

Mohamed Abebe is a nomadic herder who lives in Somalia. The rainy seasons in his region are becoming more frequent and more intense as a result of climate change. Extreme rain meant that pastureland for his livestock was in short supply. His nomadic lifestyle became a fight for survival. To better protect people like Mohamed and his family from the consequences of climate change, we support our partners' efforts to implement existing regional migration policies. The framework on climate change and migration, and protocols on freedom of movement that are currently being produced take account of the



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right of citizens to enter other member states, move freely within these states, and live and work there. Herders like Mohamed could benefit in particular in the long term, since priority would be given to their freedom of movement, allowing them to seek out pastureland and water. Mohamed hopes that he will soon be able to migrate to Kenya, where he sees a better future for himself, his family and his animals. With our partners we have studied the impacts of drought on the livelihood of herders and farming communities and have drawn up future scenarios that enable us to better understand migration in the region. This supports our colleagues at IGAD and ICPAC, helping them hone and implement plans and strategies for dealing with climate change-induced migration.

Mara Chuke, a dedicated politician from the region of Moyale-Moyale, on the Ethiopian-Kenyan border, is fighting for a sustainable, climate-resilient future. We conducted a study that explored the financing options and actors involved in the field of climate change and migration. Activities relating to climate change-induced migration can now be better planned and financed. In talks, Mara has been able to effectively advise local representatives on ways of financing climate-induced migration, referencing our study on many occasions. With her total dedication to financing for climate action and migration, Mara has inspired many authorities to do more in this field.

In the region we have done much to launch a transformation in conjunction with our partners at IGAD and ICPAC. Our partners reap long-term benefits from our

cooperation. With them we are driving forward many activities to strengthen livelihoods, water supply, sustainable agriculture and safe migration in the region.

Our project team is implementing a wide spectrum of activities in and beyond the regions. At a time when the world had to fight the consequences of the pandemic every day, we realised that digital activities are indispensable to spread and share knowledge and ideas. One of our achievements has been to develop an eLearning course, which is intended to bridge a gap for our partners when it comes to climate-induced migration. This digital tool will give them the opportunity to expand their expertise very specifically and confront the challenges brought by climate change. Education and knowledge are key to managing change.

But that's not all. Gender equality is also a crucial component of all our activities, including eLearning. We firmly believe that gender equality is the cornerstone of a sustainable, inclusive future.

We are not only leaving our marks at a virtual level though. We are also pursuing research and have, for instance, examined 10 financing instruments for climate-induced migration. The results of this pioneering study were presented at a side event at COP 27 in 2022. The study provides a sound foundation for discussing financing at both national and international level.

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We have come to appreciate that in order to make a real impact we need to network and cooperate at national, regional and international levels. As a result, we have put out our feelers and established cooperation arrangements with respected institutions and organisations, including the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations University, the World Bank and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. Open discussion and cooperation with these bodies not only enhances our work on climate-induced migration in the regions, but also boosts engagement among national, regional and international cooperation partners.

In the Caribbean and Pacific regions, the Philippines and East Africa, we work with our partners to foster coordinated and holistic approaches to climate change-induced migration. The support we give partner organisations enables them to better cope with the challenges posed by climate-induced migration and helps them find sustainable solutions in future. Our close cooperation with regional and international organisations and institutions heightens the awareness of many policymakers regarding the urgency of climate-induced migration. Together, we generate and disseminate valuable knowledge. Our partners are trained to deal with climate-induced migration in a sustainable manner. We work together to develop policies and guidelines at national and regional level that simplify migration in the wake of climate change. At every opportunity we bring the important interplay between gender equality and migration to the political debates at national and regional level.

Our activities as a whole help strengthen the resilience and adaptability of the regions to climate change, as well as better protecting individuals and communities from climate change-induced migration. The personal stories of people from different regions clearly illustrate how important it is to tackle climate-induced migration together and achieve a sustainable future for all.

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