



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

Global South Summit on Climate Displacement

1 - 3 november 2023

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Rabat



AIRESS

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR
RESEARCH IN ECONOMICS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



IDRC · CRDI

International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.

Mediterranean Dialogue



Brief

Climate change displacement represents one of the greatest challenges to the global humanitarian and migration regimes, yet at the regional and global levels, governments struggle with inadequate policy and legal frameworks employing out of date definitions and inefficient response mechanisms, as well as overlapping, duplicative and siloed organizations. One commonly acknowledged gap is that which exists between development and humanitarian actors. Another is the gap between scientists, lawyers, economists, and policy makers, who all possess critical expertise, but who operate in academic and policy silos.

In the Caribbean, Central America, and Africa, the role of climate change in fueling displacement in countries like Venezuela, Mali, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso remains poorly understood, as are the intersections between climate change and other vulnerabilities such as poverty, instability, and the lack of basic rights. In the East and Horn of Africa, massive drought has displaced millions of people. North Africa and the Caribbean's positions as transit zones between the slow onset climate emergencies unfolding in Central America, the Horn of Africa, and the Sahel, on one side, and Europe and the United States and Canada, on the other, requires new policy solutions and innovative thinking.

Ahead of the Global Refugees Forum scheduled taking place in Geneva in December 2023, the Africa Institute for Research in Economics and Social Sciences (AIRES), the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) are organizing a workshop under the theme "Global south summit on climate displacement". Despite climate migration not being directly tackled in the initially announced thematic topics of the Global Refugees Forum, we strongly believe that it is a highly relevant and pressing issue that warrants attention and discussion in the global refugee context. This workshop aims to shed light on the challenges and posed by climate-induced migration and explore potential strategies to address its impact on vulnerable populations.

This conference aims at bringing together experts from academia as well as the decision-making spheres to discuss innovative assortment of key stakeholders to discuss and identify key recommendations for the global community to better address climate displacement emergencies. Key outputs from this event include:

- The development of a public statement on climate displacement and emergencies to present at the Global Refugee Forum.
- The development of a list of new and innovative recommendations to the global policy community.
- The presentation of the leMed- Friedrich Naumann Foundation and PCNS report on climate displacement in North Africa and the Sahel.
- The launch of the IDRC Research Chair on Forced Displacement in Morocco.

The conference is supported by Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC), The IDRC Research Chair at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Morocco, the IDRC Research Chair at the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) in the Dominican Republic and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.



Rationale

While climate mobility is a pressing global issue affecting millions of people, its discourse and study have historically been dominated by Western scholars. This dominance is attributed to several factors, including the concentration of research institutions, funding sources, and academic expertise in the Western world. As a result, much of the early research, theories, and policy recommendations surrounding climate mobility have been framed from a Western perspective. Hence, the lived experiences of communities in the Global South, who are often disproportionately affected by climate change and forced to migrate, can be overlooked, or misinterpreted. However, there is a growing awareness of the need to decentralize and diversify the discourse on climate mobility. Scholars and organizations from non-Western regions have been making valuable contributions to the field, emphasizing context-specific experiences, cultural considerations, and community-based solutions. Recognizing the intersectionality of climate change with social, economic, and political factors is crucial to understanding the complex drivers and impacts of climate mobility globally. The lack of funding and support for scholars from less economically privileged regions perpetuates an unequal distribution of research output and visibility. As a result, the narratives and perspectives emerging from these regions may be underrepresented or marginalized, limiting the overall understanding of climate-induced migration.

Efforts to bridge the knowledge gap are underway, with collaborations between Western and non-Western scholars leading to more inclusive research and policy frameworks. By acknowledging the diverse perspectives and experiences of those directly affected by climate mobility, the academic and scientific community can better address the challenges posed by this phenomenon and develop sustainable solutions that prioritize the needs and rights of vulnerable populations worldwide. A more inclusive and equitable approach to studying climate mobility will be essential in ensuring that policies and interventions effectively mitigate its adverse effects and promote resilience in the face of an increasingly climate-altered world.

For all the above-mentioned realities, it is important to create opportunities for scholars and researchers from countries concerned with the degradation of climate conditions, to voice their ideas and foster evidence based and context sensitive research in the field of climate migration. It is this specific motivation that drives the work of the IDRC chairs on forced displacement studies, working towards a more inclusive approach to climate migration.



A disciplinary division and room for contribution

In their quest to understand the links between climate change and migration, researchers in environmental studies shed initial light on the subject. One of the most significant works in this field was published by Norman Myers and Jennifer Kent, both biodiversity specialists, in 1995. The book is titled «Environmental Exodus: An Emergent Crisis in the Global Arena» (Myers and Kent, 1995). The authors predicted that 200 million people would be displaced, fleeing the consequences of environmental degradation. They concluded that the combination of environmental degradation, poverty, and vulnerable living conditions would lead to a massive exodus from low-development countries. In the year of its publication (1995), the report estimated around 25 million environmental refugees. A first revision of this number in 2002 projected 50 million by 2010, with an acceleration thereafter due to the increase in impoverished populations. Projections continued to rise, reaching 200 million as climate warming intensifies. Other studies focused on projections followed Myers and Kent's work, sparking a new contentious debate about the relevance of these studies, especially as the methods used to produce statistics were criticized for their lack of objectivity.

The inability to verify or substantiate the accuracy of these predictions has drawn criticism from experts in social sciences and migration. Most subsequent scientific works have led to a central opposition between the maximalists and minimalists in the field of environmental migration. Suhrke (1994) is known for highlighting this fundamental division in her book «Environmental Degradation and Population Flows.» The minimalist school tends to consider climatic conditions as an important but not determining factor in human migration. This perspective is motivated by methodological limitations related to the empirical boundaries of identifying the measurable impact of climatic variables on migration decisions. In this approach, the climate is seen as a contextual variable that can potentially contribute to migration, but it is not necessarily a fundamental factor in human migration. The maximalist viewpoint, also known as the «alarmist perspective on environmental migration,» unlike the minimalist perspective, places climate change at the core of migration factors, considering environmental changes as a systemic driver of migration. Maximalists argue that the effects of climate change, such as natural disasters, rising sea levels, desertification, and changes in precipitation patterns, have profound impacts on the lives of vulnerable communities. These environmental impacts can result in livelihood losses, infrastructure destruction, food insecurity, and push populations to seek alternatives by migrating to safer or more conducive regions for their survival.

In addition to the substantial disciplinary divergence among researchers in migration studies presented by the maximalist vs minimalist schools, there is a more interesting ongoing academic dominance that goes unnoticed. The fact the climate mobility, just as its driven migration theories are dominated by the neoclassical tradition of economic factors and rational choices of individuals, which leaves few rooms to the adoption of a constructivist approach that can prove to be particularly relevant when it comes to building a grounded knowledge of the phenomenon of climate mobility. The Rabat workshops aims hence at providing an area for discussion on new academic tools that can enhance the research on climate mobility, particularly in the context of the global south.



Wednesday, November 1st

Internal workshop of participating IDRC Chairs

11:00 - 11:20

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Professor. Khalid Chegraoui, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences
- Caroline Ford, Director, Democratic and Inclusive Governance Division, IDRC, Ottawa

11:20 - 12:30

Roundtable of experts on climate displacement: Climate migration: Defining Terminology and Implications

- Dr. Desiree Del Rosario Sosa Alexandra, INTEC, Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Roula El-Rifai, Senior Program Specialist, IDRC, Ottawa (moderator)
- Heather Alexander, Research Network Coordinator, LERRN, Montreal
- Dr. Abebaw Minaye Gezie, Associate Professor of social psychology at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- Dr. Opportuna Leo Kweka, Dr. Opportuna Leo Kweka, University of Dar es-Salaam, Tanzania
- Dr. Tiga Alain Ouedraogo, Centre National de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST)
- Amal EL OUASSIF, Interim Chair Lead, Chair on Forced Displacement studies (FGSES).

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30

Organizing the pitch for the Global Refugees Forum in Geneva

(identified key messages ahead of the event)

All present chairs (Moderator: Heather)

15:30 - 15:45

Coffee Break

15:45 - 17:30

Wrap up session

All Chairs (Moderator: Heather)



Thursday, November 2nd

Rethinking Climate Mobility: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

09:15 - 09:30

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Professor. Khalid Chegraoui, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences
- Caroline Ford, Director, Democratic and Inclusive Governance Division, IDRC, Ottawa

09:30- 10:00

Keynote address

- Isabelle VALOIS, Canadian Ambassador for Morocco and Mauritania
- Reybet Degat Francois Claude Marie, Representative in Morocco of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency
- Youness Benakki, Secrétaire Général du Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental

10:00 - 11:30

Panel I: Navigating the Language of Climate Migration: Terminologies and Challenges

- Massiel Estefania Cairo Castillo, Consejo Nacional de Cambio Climatico, Republica Dominicana
- Akim AL MOUKSIT, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences
- Dr. Amir Abdul Reda, Professor of Comparative Politics, focused on migration and refugees studies (FGSES)
- Chair: Dr. Sâ. Benjamin Traoré, Professor of Law and human Rights (FGSES)

11:45 - 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:00

Panel II: Beyond Borders: Exploring Global Climate Mobility Patterns

- Andrea Maria Calazans Pacheco Pacífico, Universidade Estadual da Paraíba
- Juan Cesario Sala Rosario, Dominican Republic
- Dr. Vivian Mozine Rodrigues, Professor, Universidad Vila Velha
- Chair: Sheila Milagros Báez Martínez, Consultora, República Dominicana

13:00 - 14:15

Lunch Break



14:15 - 15:30

Panel III: Climate-Driven Displacement: Building Resilience and Adaptive Solutions

- Dr. Opportuna Leo Kweka, University of Dar es-Salaam, Tanzania
- Ranjan Kishor Panda, Steering Group Member, Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), Convener, Water Initiatives
- Hachim El Ayoubi, migration and mobility, Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental-Maroc
- Chair: Dr. Abebaw Minaye Gezie, Associate Professor of social psychology at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

15:30 - 15:45

Coffee Break

15:45-16:30

Wrap up Session

Written conclusions of day I and main takeaways – Rapporteur (TBD)

Friday, November 3rd

Humanitarian Responses to Climate-Induced Migration: Challenges and Innovations+ Report presentation

9:30 - 11:00

Panel I: FNF Report presentation: Climate change and migration: Understanding factors, developing opportunities in the Sahel Zone, West Africa, and the Maghreb

- Roger Albinyana Managing Director. European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed).
- Xavier Aragall, Programme Manager of the Euromed Survey at IEMed.
- Amal El Ouassif, International Relations Specialist at Policy Center for the New South.
- Anna Ferro, Senior Manager Migration, and development at CeSPI- Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale.
- Chair: Valeria Sinisi Garcia, Project Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee Break



11:15 - 12:15

Panel II: Governance of Climate Mobility: Bridging International Divides

- Dr. Adugna Girmachew Zewdu, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- Dr. Desiree Del Rosario Sosa Alexandra, INTEC, Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Giovanna Gini Antonella, Expert in Climate Change and Human Mobility
- Chair: Dr. Norman Sempija, International Relations and Political Science (FGSES)

12:15 - 13:30

Panel III: Lessons from lived experiences: stories told by women agricultural workers in the Souss Region in Morocco.

- Bouchra Chetouani, Social worker and 5 selected women to tell their stories on how drought and water scarcity affected their work.

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 - 15:20

Official Launch of the IDRC-FGSES Chair on forced displacement

- Prof. Khalid Chegraoui, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Science
- El Ouassif Amal, Interim IDRC Research Chair on Forced Displacement Studies (FGSES)
- Caroline Ford, Director, Democratic and Inclusive Governance Division, IDRC, Ottawa
- Heather Alexander, Research Network Coordinator, LERRN, Montreal

15:20- 15:50

Closing remarks and key takeaways from day II

16:00-19:30

City Tour

20:00

Dinner



Panels' Description

Navigating the Language of Climate Migration: Terminologies and Challenges

Panel Title: Navigating the Language of Climate Migration: Terminologies and Challenges

In this thought-provoking panel, experts from diverse fields will delve into the intricate web of terminologies and challenges surrounding climate migration. As the world faces the reality of climate change-induced displacement, understanding and defining the language used to describe this phenomenon becomes crucial. It is important to explore the complexities, uncertainties, and implications of the words we use to discuss climate migration. The objective is to enhance understanding, sensitivity, and communication surrounding climate mobility.

Beyond Borders: Exploring Global Climate Mobility Patterns

As climate change continues to impact different regions around the world, human mobility becomes an inevitable consequence. The panel of experts will shed light on the dynamics of climate-driven migration and explore how it transcends national borders. The panel will analyze case studies, trends, and challenges faced by communities experiencing climate-induced displacement, offering insights into potential solutions and international cooperation. The objective is to strive to understand the complexities of global climate mobility and its implications for a sustainable and resilient future.

Climate-Driven Displacement - Building Resilience and Adaptive Solutions

Climate change poses a growing threat to communities around the world, driving environmental challenges such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and shifting climate patterns. In response to these changes, populations are being displaced, their homes and livelihoods threatened. «Climate-Driven Displacement: Building Resilience and Adaptive Solutions» is a vital discussion that brings together experts and stakeholders to delve into the multifaceted issues surrounding climate-induced migration and the strategies essential to foster resilience and adaptation.

Lessons from lived experiences: stories told by women agricultural workers in the Souss Region in Morocco.

This panel is rich of compelling stories and experiences of women agricultural workers in the Sousse Region, in Morocco. These resilient women will share their firsthand accounts of challenges, and the impact of climate change on their livelihoods. Through their narratives, we will gain a deeper understanding of the intersectionality of gender, agriculture, and climate change in this region. Join us as we explore the valuable lessons derived from these lived experiences and discuss strategies to empower and support women agricultural workers in the face of environmental uncertainties. This panel aims to foster empathy, dialogue, and solidarity towards building a more sustainable and inclusive future for all.



FNF Report presentation: Climate change and migration: Understanding factors, developing opportunities in the Sahel Zone, West Africa, and the Maghreb

The panel is a part of a series of presentations done in Europe and Africa, following the launch of the FNF-IEMed co-edited report on climate change migration. The report delves into the complex relationship between climate change and migration in the regions of West Africa and Maghreb. It explores the factors driving climate-induced migration, including environmental challenges, socio-economic disparities, and political dynamics. Through in-depth analysis, the report sheds light on the implications of migration for communities in the Sahel and Maghreb, as well as potential opportunities for sustainable development and adaptation. Authors will present key findings, case studies, and policy recommendations that aim to foster resilience and empower affected populations.

Governance of Climate Mobility: Bridging International Divides

In this panel, experts tackle the pressing issue of the governance of climate mobility and its potential to bridge international divides. As climate change increasingly drives human displacement across borders, effective governance mechanisms become paramount in addressing the challenges posed by climate mobility. The panel aims for a thought-provoking dialogue to explore solutions for creating a collaborative and inclusive framework. The aim is to discuss the role of international cooperation, legal frameworks, and policy interventions in ensuring the protection of climate migrants' rights while fostering global solidarity.



MOHAMMED VI POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University is an institution oriented towards applied research and innovation. Focused on Africa, it seeks a position at the forefront of these fields and become a university of international standing. UM6P applies a «learning by doing» approach and develops strong partnerships with world-class universities to promote leadership and training in targeted research areas. By contributing to the training of a new generation of researchers, entrepreneurs, and leaders, UM6P is committed to position Morocco and Africa at the forefront of technology and humanities fields.

HUMANITIES, ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES CLUSTER

The Social Sciences, Economics and Humanities Cluster at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University is a teaching and research ecosystem that closely brings together three entities:

- Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences (FGSES); offering Undergraduate, master's as well as Ph.D. programs,
- The Africa Institute for Research in Economics and Social Sciences (AIRESS); geared towards research,
- The Public Policy School (PPS); offering executive education programs for decisionmakers in both public and private sectors.

Each of these entities fulfills its own mission; using the knowledge and experience shared among a community of professors, researchers, scholars as well as public decision makers. And all three entities have a common goal. They contribute to the development of the African continent and endow public policies with solid knowledge as well as highly skilled professional profiles that critically address issues facing the continent and the globe.

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - AIRESS

The ambition of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in the area of research is to propose renewed and efficient responses to public policy issues, as they arise today in the African continent, by mobilizing all the resources offered by the human and social sciences. The Africa Institute for Research in Economics and Social Sciences - AIRESS - represents a single entity, embracing all research projects in economics and social sciences. This entity constitutes a common space, an ecosystem shared by researchers, intended to create the conditions for the emergence of research programs focused on specific issues. The Institute represents the scientific environment in which PhD students in various disciplines pursue their trajectories. PhD programs are hosted in the Institute, and the PhD grants are assigned in the name of AIRESS.