

**Assessment of the OHCHR project on addressing the Human Rights,
Migration and Climate Change Nexus in the Sahel region:**

CLIMIS

**Promoting a Rights-based and Gender-sensitive Approach to Migratory
Challenges posed by Climate Change**

Evaluation Report

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External Consultants prepared this report. The views expressed herein are those of the Consultants and therefore do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of OHCHR.

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Table of Acronyms

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and People's Rights
ACMI	African Climate Mobility Initiative
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CBM	Cross-Border Migrant
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Country Common Assessment
CILSS	Comité permanent inter-État de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel
CLIMIS	Migration and Climate Change Project
CCM	Consultation Framework on Migration (Niger)
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CSDevNet	Climate and Sustainable Development Network
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DESIB	Development and Economic, Social Issues Branch
DEXREL	Donor and External Relations Section
DKK	Danish Kroner
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Union of West African States
EoY	End of Year
EQ	Evaluation Question
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
FENRAD	Foundation for Environmental Rights, Advocacy and Development
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FOTCD	Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division
FSIN	Food Security Information Network
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GE, DI & HR	Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion & Human Rights
HC	High Commissioner
HQ	Headquarters
HR	Human Rights
ICCC	International Conference on Climate Change
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
KOICA	Korean International Cooperation Agency
LNOB	Leave No one Behind
LOE	Level of Effort
MECC	Migration, Environment and Climate Change
MIDWA	Migration Dialogue for West Africa
MMC	Mixed Migration Centre
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission (Nigeria)
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NPO	National Project Officer
NOB	National Officer (B rank, i.e., with minimum 2 years' work experience)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
OMP	OHCHR Management Plan
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
PMS	Performance Monitoring System
PPMES	Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service
PROMIS	Protection of Migrants
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
RF	Results Framework
SPRPN	Supporting Police Reform Processes in Nigeria
TESPRRD	Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNISS	United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNMM	United Nations Monitoring Mechanism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN-SWAP	United Nations System-Wide Action Plan
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WARO	Regional Office for West Africa
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

Executive Summary

The CLIMIS Project

The CLIMIS project, launched by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2020, aims to address the human rights implications of climate change-induced displacement in the Sahel region, specifically in Niger, Nigeria, and Mauritania. The project received funding of DKK 10,000,000 (USD \$1,487,294.08), from Denmark and had its duration extended to 30 June 2023. It is a cross-sectoral project spanning two thematic units, with management divided between OHCHR Headquarters (HQ), its Regional Office for West Africa (WARO), and country presences in Niger, Mauritania, and Nigeria. Its objectives are to identify human rights protection gaps in the context of climate-induced migration in the Sahel region, promote a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migratory challenges caused by climate change, and support inclusive climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the Sahel region. CLIMIS maintains a commitment to combat discrimination and focuses on the human rights of specific groups including women, persons with disabilities, young people, and people of African descent.

The Evaluation

Background

This evaluation was conducted between March and September 2023 by a team of two external independent consultants. It aligns with OHCHR's evaluation policy and assesses the project's final results, generating lessons learned and providing actionable recommendations and insights into the potential design and implementation of a second phase of CLIMIS. It was managed by OHCHR's Policy, Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Service (PPMES), with an Evaluation Officer serving as the Evaluation Manager. A Reference Group, consisting of representatives from the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division (TESPRRD), Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) (both HQ and Country presences), Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL) and PPMES, provided advisory oversight to ensure the evaluation's grounding and relevance.

Methodology

The evaluation followed OHCHR's Evaluation policy, adhering to UNEG, OECD-DAC, UN Ethical Guidelines, and OIOS standards. It used a theory-based approach, CLIMIS Logical Framework, and OHCHR's Results Framework. Evaluation questions were based on OECD-DAC and UNEG criteria, including Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion, and Human Rights integration. Triangulated evidence was collected using a mixed methods approach, including 39 semi-structured interviews with staff and stakeholders from Global, Regional, and National levels (Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria). As this is a pilot project, the evaluation assessed the output and immediate outcomes of the project, at Regional level, (WARO), as well as in OHCHR HQ in Geneva, and in the three countries selected as pilot countries for the project. Secondary data came from various project documents, while Contribution Analysis techniques facilitated rigorous analysis.

Summary of key findings

Relevance

Alignment with OHCHR mandate and international policy framework on migration & climate change

The project's purpose responds directly to the call of OHCHR's policy framework to tackle the intersectionality of human rights, climate change, and migration. It directly addresses the Human

Rights Council (HRC) resolutions acknowledging the link between climate change and human rights, protecting migrants and focusing on vulnerable populations. Additionally, it covers resolutions addressing the gender equality (GE) and disability inclusion (DI) dimensions of climate change, links to the work of HRC special procedures on Climate Change & Migration, and ties into the broader international policy context in relation with OHCHR's mandate, by responding to a wide range of policies and conventions. Finally, it aligns with OHCHR's OMP (2018-2023) which in turn is aligned to the SDGs.

Project design

The project aimed to achieve three key outcomes: First, to enhance comprehension and monitoring of the interplay between climate change, human rights, and migration in the Sahel region (Outcome 1). Secondly, to empower local communities, national authorities, human rights institutions, and civil society organizations to embrace a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach when addressing migratory challenges (Outcome 2). Lastly, to foster collaboration with regional, national, and local authorities to address and mitigate human rights protection gaps for individuals affected or displaced by climate change (Outcome 3).

Regarding the project design, the assessment pointed out concerns related to the clarity of objectives, outcomes, and indicators, impacting its monitoring and reporting. While detailed information is provided in the body of the report, it is worth noting here that there is some ambiguity in how Outcome 1¹ aligns with its associated actions and results. Some results require a more cohesive approach, refined targeting mechanisms, less overlap, and more rigorous research. In Contrast, the actions and outputs planned for Outcome 2², particularly those related to capacity enhancement, are generally sound. However, certain outputs could benefit from improved communication methods and more thorough preparation. In addition, there could have been greater clarity in distinguishing between the objectives of Outcomes 2 and 3³. While both outcomes are similar in their focus on raising awareness, in practical terms, the main emphasis of Outcome 3 was on advocacy for the deployment of technical assistance.

Adequacy to the local context

CLIMIS has proven to be relevant at the regional level: The project effectively considered the regional context by drawing on thematic expertise and local knowledge, allowing National Project Officers (NPOs) to engage effectively with community leaders and national authorities. To optimize its impact in the future, CLIMIS should prioritize its alignment with local contexts. While the project has demonstrated relevance at the regional level, there is room for improvement at the national level. To enhance effectiveness, it is essential to refine the project's scope, clearly distinguish between adaptation and mitigation measures, and streamline implementation strategies for various types of migrants, and migration patterns. Incorporating mapping tools, conducting regional analyses, and adhering to rigorous research protocols are recommended as they will not only enhance the project's logic framework, but also enable tailored activities, ensuring a more effective engagement with community leaders and national authorities.

Adequacy of engagement with stakeholders

CLIMIS was aligned with the Human Rights Framework through collaboration with the HRC, Special Procedures, and the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, recognizing the link between climate change and displacement. Partnerships with the UN Network on Migration and the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) have demonstrated the organization's

¹ Outcome 1: "Increase understanding of and monitoring on the relationship between climate change, human rights, and migration in the Sahel region."

² Outcome 2: "Empower local communities, national authorities, national human rights institutions, and civil society organizations, to adopt a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migratory challenges."

³ Outcome 3: "Engage regional, national and local authorities to bridge human rights protection gaps for persons affected and/or displaced by climate change."

relevance, while greater collaboration with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and working with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) could increase impact. At the regional level, engagement with ECOWAS was limited, but collaboration with the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) and the UN Network for Migration in West and Central Africa improved understanding of migration dynamics and coordination among stakeholders. Interaction with the African Union (AU)'s African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) demonstrated commitment to human rights protection. Collaboration with the IOM MECC regional office, albeit belated, proved extremely important. At the national level, CLIMIS worked with ministries of environment, migration-related organizations, NHRIs and NGOs. However, increased engagement with development and planning ministries, parliamentarians, and community safety organizations, would have strengthened resilience-building, disaster preparedness, and policy advocacy efforts.

Coherence

The CLIMIS project and OHCHR's efforts are recognized as crucial complements to regional initiatives addressing the climate-migration-human rights nexus. At the regional level, CLIMIS has contributed to harmonizing and complementing OHCHR initiatives through partnerships with the UN Regional Network on Migration and joint activities with UN partners, including IOM. Although delayed, the project's engagement with ECOWAS and pursuit of shared funding initiatives demonstrate commitment to collaboration. Plans for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights further position CLIMIS as a key player in the nexus.

In Niger, the NPO's engagement in the Consultation Framework on Migration in Niger (CCM, i.e., SP/CCM), participation in the national review of GCM, and the mapping of actors involved in the field of migration illustrates existing collaboration on migration, but there have been less significant results in terms of the project addressing climate change-focused initiatives. In Mauritania, stakeholders show strong interest, but limited networks exist. In Nigeria, CLIMIS collaborated with UNCTs and entities like Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet) and (Foundation for Environmental Rights, Advocacy and Development) FENRAD, and contributed to a review of country's Climate Change Act of 2021 in relation to climate induced migration. Moving forward, there is a need to amplify the programmatic complementarity envisioned by CLIMIS, capitalizing on regional and country-level opportunities.

At the OHCHR global level, the project results provide valuable material to both the Climate Change Unit and the Migration Unit, for advocacy in international human rights, migration, and climate change-related fora. Despite initial discussions and contributions from the Protection of Migrants (PROMIS)⁴ project staff at the regional level during the project proposal stage, these anticipated synergies did not materialize in the implementation phase. At the national level, while there was potential for thematic synergies, efforts could have been made to strengthen coordination and collaboration with programmatic activities undertaken by the country offices.

Effectiveness

The project has largely achieved its intended results, although effectiveness varies across the outcomes and countries. Despite initial delays, monitoring, research, and community engagement have generated valuable data and increased understanding of the climate-migration-human rights nexus. Two publications were produced as part of the research and monitoring efforts. A training

⁴PROMIS is a joint initiative between the West Africa Regional Office of UN Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It aims to strengthen the fight against migrant smuggling in Western Africa, through a human rights-based approach.

module was developed, and though not fully translated into French⁵, the positive feedback received during and after the capacity-building workshops and engagement with key stakeholders, including at the time of the evaluation data collection, demonstrates the success in promoting human rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches to migration challenges.

In addition, OHCHR's engagement with authorities at various levels has demonstrated that it is increasingly recognised as a valuable partner in addressing gaps in human rights protection related to climate-induced migration. Although the technical assistance commenced later than expected, it showed excellent potential. For instance, at the time of the evaluation the NO in Nigeria was engaging with the Nigerian House of Representatives to review the country's Climate Change Act of 2021, creating an opportunity for better incorporation of human rights, displacement and migration into Nigerian legislation.

The extent of involvement of country presence heads, past and present, was found to influence the project's progress in the countries. Additionally, the origin of migrants (whether internally displaced or cross-border) played a crucial role in shaping the engagement of national authorities. Collaboration with thematic and geographic partners at all levels proved a good practice, particularly important for gathering momentum to approach national governments and regional bodies like ECOWAS, though the degree of success was uneven between countries.

Efficiency

CLIMIS' total income from 2020 to 2023 was \$1,487,294.08, from the Government of Denmark. This did not cover major in-country project resource requirements (such as office space, computers and vehicles), thus hosting country presences were expected to make up the deficit, a strategy that yielded mixed results. Given the initial disruption by Covid-19, the project effectively used two no-cost extensions to advance implementation. The spending pattern shows a good balance between maintaining staff during disruptions, investing in capacity and activities during the growth phase, and consolidating gains during the project's final phase. Overall, the project demonstrated sound financial management by closely aligning its expenditures with its operational context and progress, effectively managing its resources to complete activities.

The project's complex management structure, thematically split between two units at HQ, and geographically split between HQ, WARO and country presences,⁶ reflected an institutional priority of working across teams for institutional coherence, as well as the reality of the interlinkages between climate change and human rights. It produced strong analysis and reporting but created tensions in administrative and financial oversight, as well as shortcomings in providing sustained support to National Project Officers for high-level collaboration with national authorities.

The complexity of contractual procedures, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, led to significant delays. Monitoring and reporting structures were cumbersome due to the project's multi-layered thematic and geographical scope. CLIMIS was over-ambitious for its budgetary and time limitations, and implementation and monitoring were complicated by a problematically designed Results Framework. Communication within the cross-continental management team was hindered by the fact that not all the officers involved in the project at HQ spoke both project languages, i.e., French and English.

⁵ This was of concern because two of the pilot countries were francophone, however the intention was that the module would be fully translated once the final version was finessed after the pilots. It should be noted that in Niger and Mauritania workshop facilitation was conducted in French, and the slides used were in French.

⁶ In the case of Nigeria, by the Senior Human Rights Advisor based at the RCO.

CLIMIS was largely able to complete its activities, though performance varied between countries. The level of participation from both current and former country presence heads was identified as a significant factor influencing the project's advancement within the countries. Additionally, the origin of migrants (whether internally displaced or cross-border) played a crucial role in shaping the engagement of national authorities, particularly in Mauritania where the main preference for national authorities was cross-border Migrants.

Impact Orientation

Although the CLIMIS' orientation to impact is variable between project countries, and limited due to its short duration as a pilot project, as well as to the delays in its implementation, there is enhanced data, awareness and capacities to address the human rights migration and climate change in Sahel. While some stakeholders feel that OHCHR could go further in sharing its knowledge, tools and expertise on a human rights-based approach to climate change and migration, there was positive feedback on CLIMIS workshops across project countries.

Stakeholder capacity to carry forward project results was strongest in Nigeria, where for instance CSOs were equipped with new knowledge that empowered them further in their own work including the ability to write proposals for projects on the climate-migration-human rights nexus and the experience enrichment of collaborating with CLIMIS in community engagement.

Sustainability

The evaluation revealed strong stakeholder capacity and commitment to continue work on the project results and the issues they address. At the global level, the project engaged in extensive collaboration and consultations with prominent entities, highlighting global buy-in and commitment to its objectives. At the regional level, while CLIMIS played a limited role in directly building stakeholder capacity, its partnerships with the UN Regional Network on Migration and leadership in the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism fostered cooperation and inter-organizational ties. The planned collaboration with IOM through trainings and workshops further strengthened collaborative efforts.

Although the relationship with ECOWAS is still developing, the proposal for an MoU to encapsulate a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach is a promising step. The project's communication with ACPHR generated interest but needs to be followed up. In all three target countries, national authorities, international organizations and NGOs have demonstrated willingness to adopt a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach to managing climate-induced migration. The successful workshops held in 2022 fostered awareness and stakeholder capacity to confront the impacts of climate-driven migration on their lives.

The CLIMIS project despite its challenges has significantly enhanced OHCHR's capacity to address the climate-migration-human rights nexus. For instance, OHCHR staff at HQ, Regional and field levels have gained valuable expertise in the thematic area, acquiring new skills and knowledge. The implementation of CLIMIS also led to increased collaboration and partnerships with external partners, stakeholders and experts, resulting in a more comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to addressing the nexus. OHCHR has also gained a better understanding of the needs and concerns of the community in relation to the nexus, which will inform OHCHR's future strategies and interventions.

Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion and Human Rights Integration

In line with the project's priorities and objectives, there is good evidence that GE was taken into consideration throughout the implementation of CLIMIS, through the promotion of a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to climate-induced migration challenges, approaches to migration and inclusive climate actions for addressing protection gaps in the Sahel Region. The

project actively ensured participation of women in community awareness-raising initiatives and decision-making processes related to climate change and human mobility, including national adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction policies. In addition, the project collaborated with CSOs working on gender-specific initiatives, strengthening its efforts to empower women and promote gender equality in the context of climate change and human mobility. However, the level of participation of women differed between countries, due to prevailing patriarchal attitudes in certain communities. CLIMIS also addressed the disproportionate impact of the climate-migration-human rights nexus on women. For example, in its documentation and publications, the project has discussed at length the particular challenges faced by women as migrants, single parents in the absence of migrating spouses, and residents of migrant-hosting communities.

The evidence gathered from stakeholders revealed that persons with disabilities were included in monitoring and research interviews conducted in pilot communities. However, it became clear that Disability Inclusion was not as explicitly emphasised in the objectives of the project as Gender Equality. A more robust and systematic inclusion of disability inclusion in the results framework is strongly recommended for subsequent phases of the project. While data disaggregated by gender was available at country level, a disaggregation of data by disability was missing. Therefore, the benefits of the project were more evenly distributed among women than among people with disabilities.

Conclusions & Recommendations

1. Despite challenges, CLIMIS largely fulfilled its objectives as a pilot project, with varying degrees of success in the individual project countries, and shows excellent potential, it should therefore be continued and expanded, taking into account the evaluation results, in order to embed the Climate change-migration-human rights nexus as part of human rights work in the West Africa region.

Recommendation:

WARO should integrate the climate-migration-human rights nexus into its country programme/strategy, including budget allocations in the country cost plans. Such an approach will prove beneficial for the next phase of the CLIMIS project and the overall OHCHR work on the nexus in the Sahel Region.

2. The CLIMIS project promotes collaboration and synergies between OHCHR's Climate Change and Migration Units. Although the combination of CLIMIS' integrated management teams at HQ and in the field had advantages, splitting the project across several thematic and geographic areas while maintaining centralized financial and administrative control at HQ led to complications. Additionally, there could have been stronger collaboration between CLIMIS and other OHCHR projects in the West Africa region, and better integration with the country programme activities.

Recommendation: In the interest of addressing the current coordination challenges of the project, the next phase should be coordinated, managed, and administered at the regional level. This would also be in line with UN management reform. This could be complemented by technical support from OHCHR HQ, which would include; the provision of knowledge, expertise and capacity building, in order to ensure that all relevant thematic issues are thoroughly addressed, including cross-thematic challenges.

3. The CLIMIS project aligns with its Theory of Change and with OHCHR's mandate, prioritizing human rights solutions for climate-affected migrants. The evaluation team however observed some level of inconsistency and overlap in the Results Framework that hampered efficient reporting against planned Outputs and Outcomes. A problematically designed Results Framework means a problematically designed project.

Recommendation: Enhance the project's design by simplifying and streamlining the formulation of Goals, Outcomes, and Indicators in the Results Framework to ensure clarity and facilitate project Monitoring & Evaluation. Define clear and distinct deliverables for each output, and factor in a strategic approach for utilizing data collected throughout the project.

4. Performance analysis reveals significant delays and compromised quality for some outputs. This points to an overambitious design and a foundational base that could not withstand the impacts of bureaucratic delays.

Recommendation: Include a project start-up phase in the next project to factor in adequate time for the hiring and training of staff, mobilization of logistics and the putting in place of clear implementation plans with country presences, among other things. This will allow for more realistic observance of time frames and compliance with donor requirements.

5. The project lacks distinction between climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, which requires differentiated approaches in terms of research, monitoring, awareness-raising and technical assistance.

Recommendation: Meticulously articulate the project's scope prior to rollout. When selecting project countries, different climate-induced migration patterns should be taken into account, including different types of migration (e.g., Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) and Cross-Border Migrant (CBMs)), the distinction between adaptation and mitigation measures and the respective resources (funding, skills and expertise) needed for their implementation. Conducting detailed analyses that inform project design and site selection will also be instrumental in this process.

6. The project has demonstrated sound financial management by closely aligning its expenditure with the operational context and progress and managing its resources effectively to complete activities. However, the project budget was not sufficient to adequately address essential material and human resources such as office space, computers, vehicles and the resources needed to operate and maintain them, particularly in the pilot countries.

Recommendation: Rigorously tailor the scope of the project to the funds available, taking into account expenses at country level including adequate human resources, rent, vehicles, and other running and maintenance costs.

7. There were shortcomings in providing sustained support to National Project Officers for high-level collaboration with national authorities. For the purpose of building trust in the project and networks between duty bearers and rights holders, it is important that engagement with local and national authorities does not lag behind community engagement in the next phase of the project.

Recommendation: In the next phase of the project, DESIB should conduct initial training for National Programme Officers (NPOs)⁷ in the country presences and WARO, as part of the project start-up phase. This training is essential to equip NPOs with the necessary skills and knowledge, not only on the nexus, but also on the expertise needed for effective implementation and monitoring, and subsequently ensure that they have adequate high-level political and technical support.

8. There was collaboration between CLIMIS and other OHCHR projects, this could however be strengthened, particularly with regard to better integration and alignment with the country programmes. There was also limited interaction with other UN agencies and other

⁷ Such training should include ensuring that they understand the mission of OHCHR, the objectives of the project/programme, the purpose behind the activities and methodologies they have to implement and, for example, why they may be different from those of other organisations that supply tangible goods to their beneficiaries, what Chatham House rules are, what *Do no Harm* means, how to carry out their work in the face of cultural challenges and attitudes, etc.

organisations at the regional level. Nationally, while CLIMIS worked with several stakeholders, deeper ties with development ministries, safety organizations, and parliamentarians could have amplified impact, notably in Mauritania and Niger. In addition, the opportunity to network with the donor at regional and country level was missed. OHCHR could have reached out to the Danish embassies/diplomatic missions in Senegal, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria, creating the opportunity for them to report to their HQ in Denmark on CLIMIS activities, thus benefitting further from their support to the project (which can be funding but also political and or through expertise).

Recommendation: Forge additional and stronger collaborations within OHCHR and partnerships with pertinent entities including research institutions, UNCTs and relevant UN agencies, regional organizations, national authorities and CSOs. In addition, further invest in and prioritize the building/maintaining a Network with donors at regional and country level and engaging with embassies to this end.

9. Gender Equality features prominently within the stated goal and objectives of CLIMIS as well as within the CLIMIS Project Field Research Strategy. In line with these priorities, there is good evidence that it was taken into consideration throughout project implementation, including robust female participation in community engagements and in capacity building activities. There was also some evidence from stakeholders that persons with disabilities were part of monitoring/research interviews held in pilot communities, however Disability Inclusion was not as clearly articulated. GE and DI were also not consistently factored in throughout the Outcomes, Outputs and Activities in the original Results Framework, as would be optimal for systematic gender and disability mainstreaming.

Recommendation: Systematically mainstream GE & DI at all levels to ensure their incorporation into country-level workplans and M&E mechanisms. Allocate specific funds to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in the project. This can be in the form of a 'reasonable accommodation fund' to be included in the AWP/CP, which could cover expenses such as interpretation, transportation, or other necessary support, aiming at facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities.

I. Introduction

I.1. Project background

This background section presents the evaluators' understanding of the context of the project at the global and regional level as well as the project design according to the description in the development engagement document. This constitutes the basis against which the project will be evaluated.

I.1.1. The Climate-Migration-Human-rights Nexus in the Sahel Region

Climate change adversely affects the enjoyment of a broad range of internationally guaranteed human rights and States' ability to guarantee those rights, including to health, education, water, sanitation, food, housing, a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, self-determination and to life. In addition, climate change interacts with other factors that prompt people to move. Some become internally displaced while others cross borders. These latter face the greatest difficulties accessing their rights.⁸ Global projections of climate-driven migrants reach 216 million⁹ by 2050.

The Sahel region, one of acute and persistent vulnerability, is among the poorest, most environmentally degraded and most vulnerable to climate change in the world, not only because of rising temperatures and erratic rainfall but also due to poverty, food insecurity, rapid population growth, gender inequality and political instability. Projections of internal climate migrants in Sub-Saharan Africa reach 85.7 million by 2050, representing 4.2 percent of the total population.¹⁰ As a region with historically high levels of intra-regional mobility, climate change amplifies existing vulnerabilities here, often disproportionately impacting women and girls. Indeed, the Sahel vividly illustrates the strong interlinkage between climate change, migration and human rights violations, and yet research on this nexus – of the sort undertaken in this project – is far from comprehensive. In line with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights¹¹, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM),¹² UN member states have affirmed their commitment to addressing migration in a comprehensive manner. Putting these obligations into practice in West Africa means proactively protecting the rights of affected populations.

I.1.2. The International policy framework regarding the Climate-Migration-Human-Rights Nexus

The International Policy Framework for Climate-Migration-Human-Rights Nexus addresses the intersecting challenges of climate change, migration, and human rights through a number of crucial agreements and initiatives. These policies provide guidelines for managing and mitigating the impacts of climate change, protecting human rights, and managing migration.

- ✓ The Cancun Adaptation Framework (2010) was the first climate negotiation to recognize environmentally and climate-induced migration as an adaptation strategy, and an important step towards integrating climate migration into national and international policy planning.
- ✓ The Task Force on Displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on Loss and Damage of the UNFCCC supports efforts by countries to address climate-induced migration, responding to the need for recognizing and addressing this issue on a global scale.
- ✓ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is an international document that offers guidance related to disasters, including climate change-related ones. It aims to reduce disaster risk and promote the protection of all human rights in disaster risk management.
- ✓ The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) follows up on the Nansen Initiative and addresses the protection needs of people displaced across borders due to climate change and disasters.

⁸ Terms of Reference: Assessment of the Danish Funded Project on Migration and Climate Change (CLIMIS), 31 January 2023, p.2

⁹ Clement, Viviane et al, *Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration*. Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2021, p.xxi

¹⁰ Clement, Viviane et al, *Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration*. Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2021, p.xxi

¹¹ African Union, *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*, 1981

¹² UN General Assembly, *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (A/RES/73/195)*, 2018.

- ✓ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizes climate change as a major global challenge and commits States to urgent action. Notably, Goal 13 calls for urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts, while Targets 1.5 and 10.7 respectively aim to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate-related events, and to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration.
- ✓ The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) is a non-binding agreement that provides a comprehensive approach to international migration. It reaffirms the commitment to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status. Specifically, Objectives 2 on providing accurate and timely information at all stages of migration, and 5 on enhancing availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration, address the issues related to minimizing the adverse drivers of migration, and enhancing pathways for regular migration, respectively. The Compact encourages cooperation among countries and aims to improve the global governance of migration.
- ✓ The New York Declaration, adopted in September 2016, emphasizes the role of environmental and climate factors in driving migration and lays the foundation for addressing the impacts of climate and environmental migration.¹³

These policies and initiatives form a comprehensive international policy framework that integrates climate change, migration, and human rights concerns. They establish the imperative for States to address the impacts of climate change, including minimizing adverse drivers of migration, developing solutions for migrants affected by climate change, and prioritizing human rights in all these processes.

1.1.3. OHCHR mandate and work related to the Climate-Migration-Human rights Nexus.

OHCHR's mandate with regard to the climate-migration-human rights nexus articulates the intersectionality of these three areas providing a roadmap for States and other duty-bearers to protect and promote human rights jeopardized by climate change while ensuring that climate change and migration-related measures align with States' human rights obligations and do not encroach on migrants' enjoyment of these rights. It is consistent with the work of the HRC and UN Special Procedures mandate-holders which consistently addresses the connection between climate change and human rights,¹⁴ and draws on the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the GCM, both of which recognize climate change as a driver of migration. OHCHR engages with the UNFCCC WIM workstream on human mobility including migration, displacement, and planned relocation, and encourages cooperation among relevant policy areas to address human mobility effectively. In conclusion, OHCHR's mandate emphasizes a human rights-based approach to tackle climate change-induced migration. It calls for further research and analysis on climate change, its relationship with human mobility, and the ensuing impacts on human rights.

OHCHR's country presences have implemented projects and activities on human rights and climate change such as advocating for rights-based environmental action and supporting networks for the protection of environmental human rights defenders, including in Kenya, Mexico, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. In the Sahel region, OHCHR is addressing the nexus between human rights, migration, and climate change through monitoring, capacity-building and advocacy for a rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migratory challenges posed by climate change, with the support of the Danish government.¹⁵

¹³ [https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/environmental-migration-new-york-declaration#:~:text=The%20New%20York%20Declaration%20for.and%20Climate%20Change%20\(IOM\)](https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/environmental-migration-new-york-declaration#:~:text=The%20New%20York%20Declaration%20for.and%20Climate%20Change%20(IOM))

¹⁴ HRC resolution 7/23 underlines that climate change is a global threat with implications for the enjoyment of human rights, while resolution 10/4 recognizes climate change's impacts on vulnerable segments of the population. HRC resolutions 18/22 and 26/27 underline the role of human rights in policymaking on climate change. A recent resolution 35/20 emphasizes the need to protect migrants and persons displaced by climate change, with further resolutions, such as 38/4 and 42/21, addressing the gender and disability dimensions of climate change respectively.

¹⁵ OHCHR. (s. d.). OHCHR and climate change. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change>, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change>

1.2. The CLIMIS Project

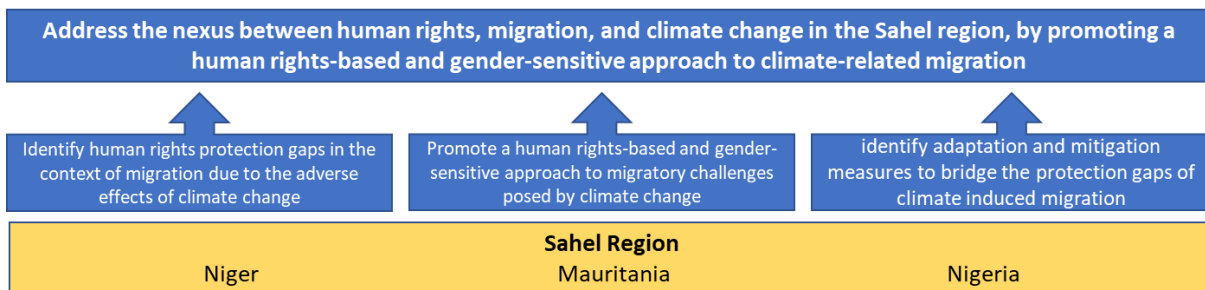
As part of its efforts to address the human rights implications of the escalating climate crisis, OHCHR launched CLIMIS, a pilot project specifically focussed on climate-related displacement in the Sahel, in 2020. This project aims to establish a benchmark for future OHCHR interventions in this field. It seeks to address the human rights, migration and climate change nexus in the Sahel region and specifically in three countries, namely Niger, Nigeria and Mauritania.

1.2.1. Characteristics

CLIMIS is funded through a contribution from Denmark of DKK 10,000,000 (ten million Danish Kroner). The project duration envisaged was from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, however no-cost extensions were later granted, shifting the project's conclusion to 31 December 2022, and then to 30 June 2023. Due to being programmatically sited within a thematic nexus of climate change, migration and human rights, CLIMIS is a cross-sectoral project, straddling thematic units at OHCHR HQ. Its conception and management are cross-continental, split between OHCHR HQ in Geneva, its Regional Office for West Africa (WARO) and its country presences in Niger, Mauritania and Nigeria. This also makes it a cross-organizational project, with complex lines of reporting.

1.2.2. Objective of the project

According to the Engagement document for CLIMIS binding the Danish Government and OHCHR, the objective of the project is to “Identify human rights protection gaps in the context of migration resulting from the adverse effects of climate change in the Sahel Region, with a focus on a selected number of pilot countries (Niger, Mauritania and Nigeria); promote a human right-based and gender sensitive approach to migratory challenges caused by climate change in the region; and support inclusive climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts to bridge protection gaps and ensure a right-based, gender-sensitive approach to the migration and climate nexus in the Sahel Region.” The project is articulated around three expected outputs as follows:



CLIMIS aligns closely with the OHCHR's OMP (2018 -2023) which is aligned to the SDGs. CLIMIS aligns with the pillars:¹⁶

- 'Enhance Equality and Counter Discrimination' and results NDI, ND2, and ND6, directly aligning with SDGs 5, 8, 10, 16.¹⁷
- 'Advancing Sustainable Development through Human Rights' and results D5, D8 & A2, directly contributing to SDGs 13, 17 and 16.¹⁸

¹⁶ The High Commissioner's Management Plan for 2022-2023 aligns an ambitious vision for promoting and protecting human rights with a proven results-based programming framework. It extends and updates the priorities, results and strategies that have guided UN Human Rights over the previous four years. In so doing, it sustains the six thematic pillars that undergird OHCHR's global efforts to advance the enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights.

¹⁷ NDI: Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to 'leave no one behind', including by addressing the root causes of inequality. / SDG 5, 10, 16; ND2: Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims. / SDG 10, 16; ND6: The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected. / SDG 8, 10.

¹⁸ D5: Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies. / SDG 13; D8: National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs. / SDG 17; A2: Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights. / SDG 16

It encompasses two frontier issues “Climate change” & “People on the move” illustrating OHCHR shift¹⁹ towards the concerns arising from the Climate-Migration nexus in relation with Human Rights.

1.2.3. Organizational structure of the project

The organizational structure was designed such that the project would be jointly managed in HQ, Geneva by the Migration Unit and the Environment and Climate Change Unit in the Development and Economic, Social Issues Branch (DESIB), with a Project Officer, while a Project Coordinator would be based at WARO in Dakar with a first line of reporting to the Head of the Regional Office, and a second to the Chief of DESIB at OHCHR HQ. Three National Project Officers were responsible for project implementation at country and community levels with a first line of reporting to the Head of Office & Representative of the High Commissioner in the case of Niger and Mauritania, and a Senior Human Rights Adviser in Nigeria; and a second to the Project Coordinator at WARO. This structure was maintained throughout the project however the HQ Project Officer position became vacant in 2022. In practice, there were significant delays in mobilizing key staff for both HQ and WARO. These are further explored under ‘Efficiency’ in the Findings Section (3.4.) below.

1.2.4. Importance of Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion

Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion are integrated into the project objectives as follows:

- “Promote a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migratory challenges caused by climate change in the region.
- Support inclusive climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts to bridge protection gaps and ensure a rights-based, gender-sensitive approach to the migration and climate nexus in the Sahel Region.”

In addition to maintaining its commitment to combat discrimination on any and all grounds, OHCHR’s ‘Spotlight populations’ focus on the human rights of particular groups and contribute to Agenda 2030’s guiding principle of ‘Leave No One Behind.’²⁰ The Spotlight populations identified are: women, persons with disabilities, young people, and people of African descent. CLIMIS objectives propose to embrace all these populations in its work in West Africa.

1.3. **Evaluation Background**

The evaluation began in the first week of March and ended at the end of September 2023. According to OHCHR’s evaluation policy, the subjects of evaluation within OHCHR are chosen using criteria such as their relevance to the OMP, strategic importance, and potential for generation of knowledge. The evaluation of CLIMIS is in line with regular project evaluation requests by PPMES.

1.3.1. Purpose, Objective and Scope

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the final results achieved, taking both a summative and a formative approach,²¹ extract lessons learned from the project cycle, and give recommendations. Specifically, the evaluation objectives are:

1. To identify areas of strength and of weakness in the planning and achievement of results, including in the integration of gender, disability inclusion and human rights.
2. To produce useful lessons learned, and good practices that illustrate successful and unsuccessful strategies in the achievement of results.
3. To produce clear and actionable recommendations for the future of the project, identifying actions and responsibilities for OHCHR to undertake towards these ends.

¹⁹ OHCHR shifts includes frontier issues that constitutes focused thematic human rights challenges that are addressed within each pillar. One of the shifts is composed of four Frontier issues. Frontier issues are emerging concerns selected by OHCHR because their impact on human rights needs to be better understood.

²⁰ OHCHR Management Plan 2022-2023, p.43.

²¹ In that it will look at results achieved or not achieved so far (summative) with a view to informing the project and the Migration and Climate Change Teams of Development and Economic, Social Issues Branch (DESIB), as well as the field presences involved.

The members of the Reference Group who were interviewed during the scoping phase emphasized that the evaluation should provide insights into how the project should be designed if a second phase were to be considered.

As this is a pilot project, the evaluation assessed the output and immediate outcomes of the project, at regional level, (WARO),²² as well as in OHCHR HQ in Geneva, and the three countries identified as pilot countries for the project.

1.3.2. Evaluation Criteria & Rationale

The following is a non-exhaustive list of key OECD/DAC criteria that guided the evaluation and constituted the context for its recommendations:

1. **Relevance** – the extent to which the project is relevant to better understanding the human rights, migration & climate change nexus in the Sahel region, the mandate of OHCHR, its comparative advantage, and the needs of stakeholders (both duty bearers and right-holders).
2. **Coherence** – the compatibility of the programme with other interventions, at global level as well as at the country/regional level, conducted by OHCHR and others;
3. **Effectiveness** – the degree to which the project’s planned results and targets are being achieved, at outcome and output levels;
4. **Efficiency** – the adequacy of the financial, organizational and management arrangements used in the project to achieve results;
5. **Impact orientation** – the extent to which the strategic orientation of the project points toward making a significant contribution to broader, long-term, sustainable changes;
6. **Sustainability** – the extent to which the net benefits of the programme continue, or are likely to continue;
7. **Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion and Human Rights** – the degree to which a human rights perspective, with a focus on gender equality and disability inclusion, has been integrated in the project, and the degree to which the results obtained have contributed to human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality on all prohibited grounds of discrimination, with emphasis on women’s rights.

The Evaluation Matrix given in Annex 7 presents the evaluation criteria and evaluation indicators and identifies the various sources that will be used to collect the evidence needed to answer the evaluation questions.

1.3.3. Management and Oversight

PPMES had overall managerial responsibilities for the evaluation, with the Evaluation Officer acting as the Evaluation Manager. They recruited evaluators, maintained communication with stakeholders, integrated feedback from the Reference Group, monitored the budget and adherence to the TOR, scheduled evaluation interviews, and ensured quality assurance. The Reference Group, chaired by PPMES, provided advisory oversight to ensure the evaluation's substantive grounding and relevance. It included representatives from Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division (TESPRRD), Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD), Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL) and PPMES. The Reference Group advised on evaluation design, stakeholder involvement, review and approval of evaluation products, and the post-evaluation dissemination strategy. Their expertise and oversight contributed to the evaluation's comprehensiveness and effectiveness.

²² It should be noted that WARO's active involvement spans from December 2021 to May 2023

I.4. Methodology

I.4.1. Evaluation approach

The evaluation approach is aligned with **OHCHR's Evaluation policy** and grounded within **UNEG Norms, Standards and principles** of Utility, Credibility, Independence, Impartiality, Ethics, Transparency and Quality. It also adheres closely to UNEG guidance on integrating Human rights, Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion in evaluations. The evaluation applied a theory-based approach and relied on contribution analysis, drawing upon the CLIMIS Logical Framework to develop a reconstructed initial Theory of Change as presented in Annex 1, and taking into account the OMP Results Framework as set out in the OMP 2018-2023. This Theory of Change was developed in the form of an intervention logic flowchart which is presented in Annex 5. It was updated as the existing logical framework did not allow for consistent reporting and has been used to assess the results chain and the mechanisms of change. It also assesses the causal pathways and deviations from what was intended, as well as exploring the risks and factors that supported or hindered the results to which the project contributed.

The team's evaluation approach is framed along the Evaluation Questions (EQs) provided in the ToR, which are structured according to the following criteria, taking into consideration OECD-DAC and UNEG guidance: Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact Orientation, Sustainability and Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion and Human Rights integration, as per the OHCHR Policy. The Evaluation Team developed an 'Evaluative Framework' in the form of an **Evaluation Matrix** (see Annex 7), to define clear evaluation criteria and indicators and identify the multiple sources from which the evidence needed to answer the EQs would be collected, grounding the evaluation on triangulated evidence. It should be noted, however, that this process was also subject to the limitations and evaluability constraints indicated in Section 1.4.4. Finally, the evaluation team's approach was, to the extent possible, **participatory** and **utilisation-focused**, tailoring the evaluation report to the needs of the target audience in terms of accountability and learning. The aim was to provide useful information to guide OHCHR's Strategy as laid out in its OMP 2018-2023, and future operations in specific fields related to the Climate-Migration-Human Rights nexus. The evaluation undertook to report at both project level and programmatic level (OMP). However, since this initiative was first conceived as a project, the evaluators assessed CLIMIS' contribution to the overall OHCHR Programme results.

I.4.2. Data collection strategy

The Evaluation Team used a mixed-methods approach to collect quantitative and qualitative data from secondary and primary sources as listed below:

- *Secondary data collection for Desk Review*

(i) **OHCHR sources:** Policy, strategy, and project documents (financial data, HR data, progress reports, annual workplans; end of year reports among other reporting documents).

(ii) **External sources:** National and international strategies and legislations; situational updates on beneficiaries from national authorities and OHCHR partners; studies on the climate-migration-human rights nexus, etc.

- *Primary data collection*

The data collection occurred during the second phase, from April 2023 to June 2023. The primary data was gathered through remote semi-structured interviews involving 38 individuals (17 women and 21 men), including OHCHR staff and key stakeholders at the Global, Regional, and National levels (Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria). The stakeholders included Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), National Councils for Human Rights (NCHR), National authorities, and local representatives from communities. A list of individuals interviewed is presented in Annex 10 while Table I below indicates the groups of stakeholders interviewed.

Table 1: Groups of key Respondents

	Details
OHCHR staff	DEXREL, PPMES, DESIB, Migration Unit, OHCHR Environmental and Climate Change Unit, Right to Development Section, Regional Office for West Africa (WARO), OHCHR Office in Niger, Senior Human Rights Advisor in Nigeria, OHCHR Office in Mauritania, UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria.
OHCHR partners	CSOs, UN Sister Agencies at Regional and Global level National Authorities, Local Authorities and CSOs in selected countries Local Community Leaders in selected project locations / beneficiaries
Donor	Denmark

1.4.3. Data analysis strategy

In this complex, combined evaluation it was a key challenge to ensure the effective incorporation of all relevant data into the analysis, as well as to obtain efficient and uniform analysis between team members. To this end the team collected evidence through a desk review and through semi-structured interviews based on the EQs. This enabled a structured and methodologically rigorous compilation of the various sources into a single location, ensuring consistency of coding and use of contribution analysis techniques for their analysis.

1.4.4. Limitations and Evaluability

The methodology faced the following limitations:

- The Development Engagement Document and its Results Framework, which constitute prime reference documents for the evaluation, do not provide much detail regarding the analyses behind the project Results Framework (such as stakeholders analysis, assumptions, country analyses or risks assessment). This made it challenging for the team to assess the project in light of the contextual issues it faced at the beginning, and their impact on the relationship between the activities and the planned results. The evaluation team has reconstructed a project Theory of Change and Intervention logic as presented in Annexes 1 & 5 respectively, underlining the contextual challenges, risks and assumptions.
- The evaluation team observed some level of inconsistency and overlap²³ in the Results Framework that hampered efficient reporting against planned Outputs and Outcomes. The team did its best to report under this Results Framework in Annex 6, but has proposed an updated and simplified intervention logic in Annex 5 that was used to assess project effectiveness, and is recommended for the implementation of future project phases.
- The pilot nature of this cross-sectorial and cross-organizational project entailed collecting and analysing cross-sectorial and cross-organizational data, making it difficult to obtain a comprehensive and accurate picture of project outcomes.
- Several factors affected the project from the start, including:
 - Contracting complexities that caused significant delays in the operationalization, mobilization and running of the project,
 - The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which imposed global travel restrictions throughout 2022, bringing the implementation of field-based activities to a standstill.

This combination of factors created irregularities in the management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project, including difficulties in the proper dissemination and exchange of information between HQ and field, eventually hindering timely implementation of the project and collation of documentation for the desk review. Consequently, the evaluation team noted that there was a lack of organization and consistency in how the project was monitored, and how documentation was managed, leading to difficulties in retrieving information for the evaluation.

²³ It was pointed out by HQ staff, however, that this was partly due to a lack of clarity within the Results Framework as to what was meant by 'monitoring' and how it related to creating partnerships, empowerment, and delivery of technical assistance.

- Due to the evaluation being conducted remotely, the team faced logistical difficulties connecting with some interviewees, including internet access and time zone differences. Thus, interviews were not held at community level, which represented a potential compromise in terms of reliability and insightfulness.

1.4.5. Ethical standards & principles (Integration of GE, DI & HR Issues)

The evaluation was managed in line with the relevant provisions of OHCHR Evaluation Policy, which require evaluations to refer to both the OHCHR normative framework and standards of good practices. Thus, the evaluation team applied the **UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation** while also ensuring compliance with **OECD-DAC standards** to comply with evaluation standards in the UN system and the UN Ethical Guidelines for evaluations, while drawing upon guidance from the **OIOS guidelines for evaluation** policies in the UN system, and from the document **Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation**.²⁴

2. Main Findings in line with Evaluation Criteria

The findings summarized below follow the criteria set out in the evaluation Terms of Reference, as well as the evaluation questions (EQ) set out in the Inception Report.

2.1. Relevance

The evaluation found the project to be in line with OHCHR's mandate and the OMP as well as with the international policy context, in terms of such instruments as the GCM and the SDGs. The scope of the project as well as its intervention logic were also highly relevant, however regarding the project design, the assessment pointed out concerns related to the clarity of objectives, outcomes, and indicators, impacting its monitoring and reporting. CLIMIS has effectively tailored its approach to the regional context by utilizing its thematic expertise and local insights. However, there is room for improvements in terms of design, such as refining the scope and making a clearer distinction between adaptation and mitigation measures. Additionally, introducing tools for improved project logic and tailored activities will further enhance CLIMIS' relevance.

The stakeholder engagement efforts and collaborations, including partnerships with major global entities have showcased the relevance of CLIMIS' work. However, it would be beneficial to expand collaborations at regional and national levels, particularly with developmental bodies and policymakers.

EQ1: How does the project align with the Office's mandate, OMP, the GCM and the SDGs?

The project's purpose—"Addressing the human rights, migration and climate change nexus in the Sahel region: promoting a rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migratory challenges posed by climate change"²⁵—is a direct response to the OHCHR mandate to understand and tackle the intersectionality of human rights, climate change, and migration. OHCHR's mandate, in line with the 2030 Agenda, recognizes that human rights are essential to achieving sustainable development that leaves no one behind and acknowledges their centrality to all its dimensions: social, economic, and environmental.²⁶

Resolutions alignment:

²⁴ Detail of Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation - Towards UNEG Guidance. (s.d.).

<http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/980>

²⁵ OHCHR, CLIMIS Prodoc

²⁶ OHCHR. (n.d.). OHCHR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/sdgs>

The CLIMIS project directly addresses HRC mandates in several resolutions. It acknowledges the link between climate change and human rights (Resolutions 7/23, 10/4, 18/22, and 26/27), focuses on vulnerable populations (10/4), and emphasizes the need to protect migrants and displaced persons due to climate change (35/20). The project also covers the gender (38/4) and disability (42/21) dimensions of climate change, signifying its broad alignment with the cited resolutions. It also serves HRC Special procedures on Climate Change and Migration (including for Migrants and Internally Displaced People (IDP)).

International policy context related to OHCHR mandate.

On Migration: The CLIMIS project ties into the broader international policy context in relation with OHCHR’s mandate by responding to the calls for action in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Global Compact for Migration. The table below shows the GCM objectives²⁷ which align with CLIMIS objectives:

CLIMIS Objectives	GCM objectives
Identify human rights protection gaps in the context of migration resulting from the adverse effects of climate change in the Sahel region (via research and monitoring and reporting activities)	(1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies; (7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration; (3) Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
Promote a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migratory challenges posed by climate change in the Sahel region notably (through capacity building and awareness raising)	(17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration; (16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
Support inclusive climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts to bridge protection gaps and ensure a rights-based, gender-sensitive approach to the migration and climate change nexus in the Sahel region (based on technical assistance and cooperation)	(15) Provide access to basic services for migrants (2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin; (23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Also, as a member of the United Nations Network on Migration, OHCHR is well-positioned to use CLIMIS outputs to influence discussions and action plans in this area across the UN system.

On Climate: Boosting OHCHR's role in the UNFCCC's WIM, CLIMIS tackles climate-induced migration in vulnerable regions, enriching risk management and fostering stakeholder dialogue. It also catalyses proactive support, particularly for the Task Force on Displacement. Key in recognizing loss and damage evidence, CLIMIS facilitates action at critical points, focusing on funding mechanisms and the Santiago Network's progress.

Specific objectives alignment:

Objective 1: Mobilizing research, monitoring and reporting activities: OHCHR has undertaken research and prepared reports on human rights protection gaps in the context of climate-induced migration, notably in the thematic report A/HRC/38/21²⁸, A/HRC/37²⁹ and A/HRC/53/34.³⁰ The first objective of the CLIMIS project mirrors these efforts. The research findings can feed directly into the workstreams of the Special Rapporteur on climate change and human rights, the UNFCCC WIM and the Migration initiatives and networks with which OHCHR is aligned.

²⁷ United Nations General Assembly. (2018). Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. United Nations. Retrieve from https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

²⁸ OHCHR. (2018). A/HRC/38/21, Addressing human rights protection gaps in the context of migration and displacement of persons across international borders resulting from the adverse effects of climate change and supporting the adaptation and mitigation plans of developing countries to bridge the protection gaps, retrieved from: [A/HRC/38/21 \(undocs.org\)](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/SlowOnset/A_HRC_37_CRP_4.pdf)

²⁹ OHCHR. (2018). A/HRC/37/CRP.4 The Slow onset effects of climate change and human rights protection for cross-border migrants. Retrieved from https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/SlowOnset/A_HRC_37_CRP_4.pdf

³⁰ OHCHR (2023) Providing legal options to protect the human rights of persons displaced across international borders due to climate change. Retrieved from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G23/073/25/PDF/G2307325.pdf?OpenElement>

Objective 2: Mobilizing capacity-building and awareness-raising: OHCHR encourages a rights-based, gender-sensitive approach in climate action and policymaking. The second objective of CLIMIS strongly aligns with this, and the project countries and more broadly the regional level can directly benefit from awareness-raising and capacity-building activities in this area.

Objective 3: Mobilizing technical assistance: This objective relates directly to OHCHR's mandate, which calls for inclusive and rights-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. The project could contribute to the WIM's efforts to promote action on climate change-induced loss and damage as highlighted in the WIM's functions, but also to collaborate with its regional and national partners to integrate human rights in environmental laws and policies, and to ensure that climate action is consistent with existing human rights agreements, obligations, standards, and principles.

Alignment with OHCHR's OMP and related SDGs

The CLIMIS project aligns closely with the OMP³¹ which is in turn aligned with the SDGs. Regarding the thematic area 'Enhance Equality and Counter Discrimination', CLIMIS supports ND1, ND2, and ND6. By identifying human rights protection gaps and promoting a rights-based approach (ND1 & ND2), the project helps combat discrimination and ensures justice for victims, directly aligning with SDGs 5, 10, and 16. It specifically targets the protection of migrants, particularly in vulnerable situations (ND6), contributing to SDGs 8 and 10.³²

In 'Advancing Sustainable Development through Human Rights', CLIMIS equally aligns with D5, D8, and A2. The project champions human rights in the face of environmental and climate challenges (D5), contributing to SDG 13. It uses data collection and disaggregation to promote human rights and the SDGs (D8), linking to SDG 17. The project's support for inclusive climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts aligns with strengthening national mechanisms for redress and accountability (A2), thereby supporting SDG 16.³³ It encompasses two frontier issues 'Climate change' & 'People on the move,' illustrating OHCHR's shift³⁴ towards concerns arising from the climate-migration-human rights nexus.

EQ2: To what extent does the project design address the human rights protection gaps of climate change-driven migrants in the Sahel region considering OHCHR's mandate and expertise? Does the project design remain valid and pertinent?

The following analysis of the CLIMIS project design derives from the reconstructed Theory of Change and Intervention Logic, drawing upon the original project Result Framework. It discusses the relevance of the project design in terms of scope, as well as its outputs and their intended outcomes or impacts, with regard to addressing the human rights protection gaps of climate change-driven migrants in the Sahel, **and** with respect to both duty bearers and right-holders, in the light of OHCHR's mandate and expertise. It should be noted that the evaluation team took into account the pilot nature of the project and its potential replicability.

Scope

³¹ OHCHR (2021) OMP 2022-2023. (s. d.). Retrieve from https://www2.ohchr.org/english/OMP_22_23/

³² ND1: Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to 'leave no one behind', including by addressing the root causes of inequality. / SDG 5, 10, 16; ND2: Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims. / SDG 10, 16; ND6: The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected. / SDG 8, 10.

³³ D5: Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies. / SDG 13; D8: National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs. / SDG 17; A2: Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights. / SDG 16

³⁴ OHCHR shifts includes frontier issues that constitutes focused thematic human rights challenges that are addressed within each pillar. One of the shifts is composed of four Frontier issues. Frontier issues are emerging concerns selected by OHCHR because their impact on human rights needs to be better understood.

The project was conceived to address the human rights protection gaps of climate-induced migrants in the Sahel as a whole. Therefore, its design did not explicitly outline the targeted aspect of the migration cycle (before, during, or after movement); the type of geographical migration (IDP vs CBM); the specific climate change events driving migration (sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters) or the countries and types of communities to be targeted. Nonetheless, under Output 3.1., the Results Framework planned for an evaluation report that would include a case study on the Sahel, highlighting the slow onset effects of climate change and human rights protection for cross-border migrants in its report to the HRC. This allowed for some flexibility in refining the project design that led to a concerted approach to its implementation, ending with the selection of 3 countries:³⁵ Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria. Within these countries the project chose a wide array of migrant communities as follows:

Country	Communities	Type of migrants		Migration patterns			Climate determinant	
		IDPs	CBMs	Origin	Transit	Destination	Slow-onset Disasters	Sudden-onset Disasters
Nigeria	Benue State	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mauritania	Nouadhibou	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Niger	Tahoua region, later expanded to Agadez region	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The CLIMIS project successfully addressed various types of climate-induced migration prevalent in the region, effectively targeting a wide range of migration scenarios and potential human rights protection gaps. This comprehensive approach covered the diverse needs and issues faced by different groups of migrants affected by climate change. Notwithstanding, in practice there is a need to prioritize, and the evaluation shows that national authorities demonstrated a more genuine interest in addressing the human right gaps of IDPs, which they felt they had more grasp on, while the issue of cross border migrants was something they felt compelled to address as a highly politicized priority.

The ambitious scope of the project also came with inherent risks including dealing with multiple types of migration, each with its own complexities that presented problems of resource allocation, coordination and implementation, impacting project results. The proposed engagement in one community seemed appropriate for a better understanding of the root causes of human rights gaps. This also laid the ground for engaging in awareness-raising activities and capacity-building. However, in terms of monitoring, since OHCHR did not necessarily plan for a comprehensive and systematic approach for continuous monitoring and reporting. Finally, the project did not distinguish whether actions were related more to adaptation or to mitigation of climate change. This distinction might have tailored project activities better.

³⁵ The selection process was not carried out in a particularly systematic or institutionally coordinated way however it was limited to three countries due to budgetary constraints, and selection criteria included:

- The presence of a country office. This was the case for Niger and Mauritania but not for Nigeria. Country presences were preferred for the following reasons:
 - They would reduce recruitment delays as these would otherwise have to go through UNDP which tends to be a slow process. This was particularly important in view of the challenge of recruiting people with knowledge and experience relevant to the climate change-migration-human rights nexus.
 - The project needed additional support because the donor did not provide funds to cover the payment of rent, vehicles, security, or equipment e.g., computers and the country presences selected could provide that kind of hosting.
 - In some country offices work was already being advanced on projects that were thematically relevant to CLIMIS.
- The safety of the working environment in terms of political conflict, esp. at community level. For this reason, countries like Mali and Chad were not selected.

OHCHR HQ contacted heads of country presences throughout the Sahel region to find out if they would be interested in the project and set up calls with those interested to discuss how they could utilize the opportunity, and if they had existing work on these issues. Ultimately four or five were interested, and the three project countries were selected from among them.

Intervention logic

The outcomes of the CLIMIS project align closely with its Theory of Change and are highly relevant in relation to OHCHR's mandate as presented under EQ1. The Theory of Change posits that by empowering rights-holders, capacitating duty-bearers, and raising overall awareness, human rights-based solutions can be identified and implemented for migrants affected by climate change. However, the outcomes of the CLIMIS project warrant a more critical examination. The evaluation identified the formulation of Objectives, Outcomes, and Activities in the Results Framework as convoluted and not easily comprehensible. This complexity resulted in confusion among the project teams, hindering the ability to effectively monitor, report, and evaluate Outcomes and Outputs. Also, the performance indicators at the Outcome and Output level, while relevant, were not clearly formulated. The Reconstructed Intervention Logic presented in Annex 4 offers a revised formulation based on the initial RF in order to clarify these aspects. This may serve future similar initiatives. The following section presents an analysis of the Project Objectives and assesses the relevance of the design of its expected Outcomes, Outputs and related activities:

1. Identify human rights protection gaps in the context of migration resulting from the adverse effects of climate change in the Sahel region (via research and monitoring migrants' rights): This objective is highly relevant. The OHCHR, given its mandate and considerable expertise in identifying and addressing human rights protection gaps, is well-positioned to conduct research and monitoring in the Sahel, an area highly susceptible to climate change impacts. However, due to the project's wide scope and the complex, diverse issues faced by climate-induced migrants in the Sahel, research needs to be comprehensive and nuanced to better reflect protection gaps to be addressed. Potential enhancement could be derived from partnerships with regional research entities specializing in migrant data collection, and policy and legal research organizations, supplementing the research component with robust, locally contextualized, and data-driven understanding of the migration-climate change nexus.

Outcome 1: involving research and monitoring: The main goals under this Outcome, which involve (i) research (ii) monitoring and reporting, are highly relevant. However, the articulation of these goals around the three proposed outputs and their corresponding activities is confusing, as is the sequencing, which the evaluation did not find consistent with the goals. Upon analysing the design of each activity, the evaluation team question why Output 1.1. and 1.3 were not merged, in order to start with the research component of this first objective before engaging in monitoring and reporting activities.

Output 1: The planned mappings were of high relevance as a starting point for the project at country level. Nonetheless, the design of these mapping tools also serves the "Assessment report on the relationship between Climate Change, Human Rights, and Migration in the Sahel Region drawing on field data collection" (Output 1.3) and could have been integrated within it. An exhaustive regional-level mapping of related laws, policies, and programs was needed but not planned. In addition, the design of these mappings did not consider existing materials on the topic by UN sister Agencies such as IOM or on-going initiatives working on the nexus in the three countries.

Output 1.2: Regarding the monitoring and reporting activities, the tools developed using the 'Manual on Human Rights Monitoring,'³⁶ for communities and experts allows for the capturing of good insights that can be valorised within the regional and global processes identified.³⁷ However it was not tailored to the migrants categories targeted, especially in the case of Niger where a wide range of categories was finally targeted, and within them more specific groups e.g., men, women, girls, children, persons with disability and the aged. It could have been envisaged this activities to provide a more detailed and balanced view of the migrant's situation and ensure a more defined and uniform reporting (from the three pilot countries) at the end of

³⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/policy-and-methodological-publications/manual-human-rights-monitoring-revised-edition>

³⁷ The evaluation considers the tools developed to be good, but the NPOs suggested additional questions to be included in the "Compilation of feedback received from pilot countries' colleagues, January 2022."

each mission.” This may have helped to promote harmonization of findings, simplify analysis, identify similarities and differences among countries, and create opportunities for targeted responses.

Output 1.3: Assessing the design of the Activity related to the production of the first report which was finally published in November 2021 seems conceptually redundant rather than complementary to the Evaluation report planned under Output 1.3. and finally published in November 2022. More targeted material could have been developed instead to support Activity 1.2.3. on “engaging with and providing inputs to regional and global processes.” It identifies the most relevant platforms at the global level; however, it could have been more comprehensive by incorporating specific regional processes right from the beginning, or by explicitly encouraging their inclusion.

Output 1.4: Finally, focusing specifically on the design of activities aiming to undertake “An evaluation report on the relationship between climate change, human rights and migration in the Sahel region” the overall design was highly relevant, although there is room for improvement in the design of the research study. More could have been planned with regard to the regional analysis of the situation, and more rigorous research protocols could have been elaborated.

2. Promote a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migratory challenges posed by climate change in the Sahel region (notably through capacity-building and awareness-raising): Again, this is very relevant. OHCHR promotes a rights-based, gender-sensitive approach in its operations. Capacity-building and awareness-raising activities in this area are effective means to empower both duty bearers and right-holders, making them more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and effective in addressing them. The focus on gender sensitivity acknowledges the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls, who often face additional social, economic, and political barriers. A formal partnership could also have been envisaged, notably with other UN agencies such as IOM, UNEP or UNDP, as well as with NHRIs.

Outcome 2: The main goal under this Outcome which involves (i) Strengthening the capacity of duty bearers and (ii) Raising awareness of local communities, national authorities, NHRIs and CSOs to promote a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach, is also highly relevant, as well as its sequencing. Raising awareness while preparing for strengthening capacity and engaging in training based on pilots, was really important in practice aiming to shape relevant and tailored material.

Output 2.1 & 2.3: These Outputs related to training were appropriate at country level. The level of disaggregation of the Activities in relation to Output is appropriate and therefore easy to monitor. Activities of coordination with other stakeholders of regional and global processes and plans for online diffusion of the training material such as on UNITAR website / UNCCC Learn while achieved would have been planned.

Output 2.2: This was well designed but could have entailed the development of specific communication products and their dissemination, however the evaluation shows that some materials were developed.

Output 2.4: The intended purpose of this output is unclear, particularly in terms of whether it aims to foster a regional dynamic. With regard to Output 2.2., the development of specific targeted communication products could have been planned. This output could have been planned under Outcome 3 in order to create momentum at the regional or national level that would also involve parliamentarians.

3. Support inclusive climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts to bridge protection gaps and ensure a rights-based, gender-sensitive approach to the migration and climate change nexus in the Sahel region: This objective is well-aligned with OHCHR's mandate to ensure inclusive and rights-based responses to climate change. By providing technical assistance, the project can help build capacities and systems that respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of climate migrants in the Sahel region. Technical assistance alone may not be adequate to bridge protection gaps and ensure a rights-based approach. That requires meaningful cooperation with other key institutional stakeholders, NHRIs' recognition of affected communities, and robust accountability mechanisms to ensure that the assistance translates into tangible improvements in lives. While the project collaborated with numerous NGOs under Outcome 2, it could have benefited from strategic

partnerships with NGOs specifically advocating for migrants' rights and climate change adaptation and mitigation. These happened to some extent in Nigeria but should be strengthened and replicated in the other countries. Additionally, specific planning cooperation of the project activities with UN sister agencies such as IOM, UNHCR, UNDRR, etc. could have further strengthened project outcomes.

Outcome 3: the goal being for authorities to bridge rights gaps, protect climate-affected individuals, promote gender-sensitive, rights-based approach to migration and climate change involving awareness and advocacy and technical assistance.

Output 3.1: this currently exhibits overlap with Outputs 2.2. and 2.4. concerning awareness-raising, but its implementation primarily revolves around advocacy. To address this, Output 3.1 could be split into two distinct components. The first component should focus on advocacy and include the development of specific advocacy materials building on monitoring and reporting materials. The second component should concentrate on targeted technical assistance. This approach would allow for more effective support by enabling the identification of potential legal or strategic opportunities to bolster the successful implementation of technical support initiatives.

Risks and assumptions:

The project showed a good anticipation of potential risks:

Political risks: NPOs engaged effectively with leaders at the community level which allowed for the building of trust. At the national level there was also engagement with authorities, identifying appropriate counterparts.

Stakeholder engagement: To ensure effective stakeholder participation and mitigate the risk of inadequate awareness and networks, the CLIMIS project developed an appropriate communications strategy at the country level, and after 2022, at the regional level. It targeted a diverse range of stakeholders, ensuring that they were informed about the project objectives, but it could have communicated better about the end of the project, notably with the communities engaged.

Inadequate awareness and networks: The project also leveraged, to a certain extent, existing partnerships with UN system organizations, the Regional Network on Migration, Regional Mixed Migration Working Group, Regional Resilience Working Group, Regional Protection Working Group, Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, and key UN entities such as IOM and UNCT.

Recruitment: Finally, while it remains a challenging issue, the project demonstrated good anticipation of recruitment challenges in terms of capacity within the region. However, there could have been better anticipation of the contractual issues associated with recruitment.

Current relevance of the project:

The project retains its validity and relevance in the selected countries and at the regional level where there is still a need for continued advocacy and technical assistance, although there is room for simplifying and improving its design, as mentioned above. If capacity-building of duty bearers can be strengthened in Phase 2 of CLIMIS and the same level of engagement achieved with national authorities as with local communities, and if other project design modifications from this evaluation are implemented, then it is recommended, in subsequent phases, to expand monitoring activities to additional communities in the pilot countries. Finally at the regional level, the project remains pertinent as several gaps persist in ensuring a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach to migration management in the region.

EQ3: Have the strategies used to achieve the project' results been adequate to the local context and stakeholders?

Adequacy to the local context

The strategies implemented by the CLIMIS project have demonstrated their adequacy to the local context and stakeholders. The project design took into account the sociocultural and political context of the selected countries and the wider Sahel region. Integration of HQ-based units allowed for the effective utilization of thematic expertise, leading to the production of robust analysis, reporting, and training material. The project deployed NPOs with relevant experience who implemented project activities at country-level, tailoring them to the specific needs of the individual countries. The selection of communities was also informative to the project, however enlarging the scope of monitoring & reporting activities in Mauritania could have given a more comprehensive picture of the local context as in the other two countries. Ultimately, transitioning project coordination to the regional level enhanced alignment with regional initiatives despite recruitment delays.

Adequacy of engagement with stakeholders

At global level: CLIMIS demonstrated relevance by engaging with various actors at global level. It actively participated in discussions and initiatives related to climate change, migration, and human rights. The project engaged with the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures, aligning its efforts with the Human Rights Framework, collaborated with the UNFCCC WIM and its Task Force on Displacement, recognizing the intersection of climate change and forced displacement, and participated in the UN Network for migration, General Assembly's International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). There was technical collaboration with IOM's MECC division which has a proven track record in that thematic and leads the expert group on human mobility. A gap identified was collaboration with the UNDRR responsible for producing the Words into Action guidelines on Disaster Displacement, where OHCHR could potentially help strengthen a gender-sensitive and human rights approach.³⁸

At regional level: The CLIMIS project demonstrated relevance in engaging with various regional actors, contributing to a comprehensive approach in addressing climate change, migration, and human rights in the Sahel region. To some extent, the project actively collaborated with ECOWAS and (UNOWAS), aligning its efforts with regional initiatives and frameworks. Engagement with the Mixed Migration Centre (4Mi) in Dakar further enhanced understanding of migration dynamics in the region. Collaboration with the UN Network for Migration in West and Central Africa facilitated coordination and knowledge-sharing among relevant stakeholders. The project's engagement with the ACHPR underscored its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in the context of climate change-induced migration. Collaboration with the IOM MECC regional office was highly relevant considering their ongoing work on the thematic, and migrants within the region. However, it is important to note that this collaboration only materialized towards the end of the project.

At national level: The CLIMIS project demonstrated relevance in engaging with various national-level stakeholders in Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria. The following tables shows the different categories of stakeholders with which the project engaged in each country:

National level	Mauritania	Niger	Nigeria
Environment Ministries and international organizations that deal with environment and climate change	x	x	x
Ministries and organizations that deal with migration, external and internal	x	x	x
Development and planning ministries			
National human rights institutions	x	x	x
Organizations in charge of population safety prior to disastrous situations, such as civil defence and humanitarian agencies			x
NGOs involved in climate change mitigation and adaptation	x	x	x
NGOs involved in migration management and assistance to migrants	x	x	x

³⁸ <https://www.undrr.org/words-into-action/disaster-displacement-how-reduce-risk-address-impacts-and-strengthen-resilience>

Parliamentarians		x	x
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The project actively engaged with environment ministries and international organizations working with environment, climate change and migration, both external and internal. Collaboration with NHRIs demonstrated commitment to upholding human rights in the context of climate change and migration. Engagement with NGOs involved in climate change mitigation and adaptation, migration management and assistance to migrants, further enhanced the project's effectiveness. The project could also have involved development and planning ministries for better engagement at the national level and for a more comprehensive approach with regard to the SDGs. Greater collaboration with organizations in charge of population safety prior to disastrous situations such as civil defence and humanitarian agencies would have strengthened the project's resilience-building efforts and preparedness for climate-related disasters. Engagement with parliamentarians, which began in Nigeria, also needs to be strengthened in order to raise awareness, advocate for policy change and ensure legislative support for addressing the impacts of climate change-related migration.

2.2. Coherence

The CLIMIS project envisioned synergies with other OHCHR initiatives to prevent redundancy. The global reporting benefitted multiple units and regional collaborations were foreseen, e.g., with the Protection of Migrants (PROMIS) project. While there are synergies at the national level, there is potential to further strengthen coordination with other OHCHR projects and programs. CLIMIS has been recognized as pivotal to regional Migration-Climate Change initiatives and has enriched OHCHR efforts through key partnerships and collaborative actions. Although engagement and collaborations in countries like Niger, Mauritania, and Nigeria indicate synchronization, there's a call for enhanced programmatic harmonization and leveraging of regional and national opportunities.

EQ4: To what extent have there been synergies and interlinkages – that avoid duplication of effort – between the project and other existing projects and/or programmes within OHCHR?

The CLIMIS project has made efforts to foster synergies and interlinkages with other existing projects and programs within OHCHR to avoid duplication of effort. An overview is given below:

Office Level: The project had a focus on increasing expertise and synergies between the Climate Change and Migration units. Additionally, it encouraged a decentralized approach with a regional focus to facilitate collaboration and coordination among different units and projects. The project also planned for GE, DI and HR considerations that are transversal to OHCHR's work.

Global Level: Project reporting served both the Climate Change and Migration units, providing material for advocacy in international fora related to human rights, migration and climate change including the Special Procedures of the HRC, UNFCCC's WIM and its Task Force on Displacement, UN Network for Migration, IMRF, and PDD. The project offered opportunities to develop research methods, training materials and communication products that could benefit a broader audience.

Regional Level: At the regional level, during the project proposal stage, there were some contributions from the PROMIS project staff, and discussions on potential synergies between the projects. However, this did not materialize during the implementation stage. However, some degree of synergy exists between the CLIMIS project and PROMIS project, which aims to strengthen the capacities of West African states to develop a human rights-based response to smuggling of migrants and to effectively respond to human rights violations related to irregular migration. This suggests the transfer of expertise and collaboration at the regional level, enhancing the impact and avoiding duplication of efforts.

National Level: While there may be a disconnect between the usual work of Country Presences and the CLIMIS project in terms of thematic focus, there are some synergies related to migration.

Further efforts could be made to strengthen coordination and collaboration between the project and other existing projects and programs within OHCHR at the national level.

EQ5: To what extent has the project synchronized and harmonized with other regional initiatives concerning the Migration-Climate Change nexus, considering OHCHR's unique strengths?

The CLIMIS project and OHCHR's efforts in this realm are seen as essential complements to other regional initiatives addressing the migration-climate change nexus. OHCHR, with its ability to promote gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches to climate-induced migration initiatives, has a vital role to play in this regard.

Regional Level: Despite the Project Coordinator's delayed appointment to WARO, the project contributed to harmonizing and complementing OHCHR initiatives on the nexus. Its partnership with the UN Regional Network on Migration and co-leadership in the UNMM fostered effective collaboration. Joint activities with IOM such as trainings and workshops strengthened inter-organizational ties. The project's pursuit of shared initiative funding demonstrates commitment to collaboration, though opportunities with UNHCR remained unrealized. The relationship with ECOWAS is nascent due to capacity constraints, yet the recent adoption of its first climate strategy signifies progress. The Regional Representative actively pursues various agenda items for ECOWAS-associated projects. Plans for an MOU encapsulating a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach to migration and climate change are being explored. The project's engagement with the ACHPR has sparked interest, positioning CLIMIS as a key relay for the nexus. While gender consideration is transversal to all the initiatives CLIMIS seek synergy with, no specific initiatives were undertaken in relation to DI.

Country Level: Despite setting the stage for potential collaborations, CLIMIS requires additional work in a subsequent phase to effectively address climate-induced migrants' needs. COVID 19-induced delays impacted its contribution to the 2021 NDCs, and the three selected countries are yet to engage fully on this issue. However, CLIMIS stands as a key advocate for a gender-sensitive, human rights approach, focused on community-driven solutions to climate change impacts, and involve in all three countries women-led civil society organizations in the awareness raising sessions. But in all three countries there were no evidence the project specifically addresses DI.

In Niger, the engagement of the NPO in the Consultation Framework on Migration in Niger (CCM, i.e., SP/CCM) and participation in the national review of GCM, and the mapping of actors involved in the field of migration in Niger, testify to the harmonization of the CLIMIS approach with ongoing initiatives on migration. However, this is less so on the climate change front where institutional and legal frameworks are also weaker. In Mauritania, it is worth mentioning that fewer networks on migration and climate change exist at the national level, but there is a strong interest from stakeholders, and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)'s readiness to support such initiatives is significant, notably collaborating with IOM and UNHCR who initiated work on the thematic. However, the National Project Officer has only been able to attend one meeting with them so far. In Nigeria, CLIMIS' engagement with various organizations including CSDevNet, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Studies, FENRAD, WISE, and the CC Act Review Working Group underscore diverse efforts being made to address climate change adaptation. This signals synchronization with ongoing effort to address the nexus. The project's continuous engagement and regular meetings with the RCO highlights its commitment. Given these regional and country-level opportunities, the complementarity and harmonization envisaged by CLIMIS should be programmatically amplified moving forward.

2.3. Effectiveness

The project has largely achieved its intended results, satisfactorily actualised its Theory of Change and fulfilled its Results Framework, although effectiveness varies across activities and countries. Engagements with both rights holders and duty bearers took place, capacity building workshops were held, and publications were produced. Despite initial delays, monitoring, research, and community engagement have resulted in the production of valuable data and increased understanding of the migration and climate change nexus.

EQ6: Have the project Outputs and Outcomes been achieved in accordance with the stated plan?

In line with the first Outcome, monitoring missions were conducted on the basis of a prior mapping exercise. These missions were aimed at gaining an understanding of the human rights situations of climate-driven migrants in pilot communities and their priorities for change, and working with them in advocacy to state authorities at local, regional and national levels in order to support their attempts to create resilience to climate shocks while simultaneously improving the awareness and capacity of the authorities to respond to their needs, ultimately creating a productive dynamic between community and state.

Missions began late due to delays in contracting and the restrictions of COVID 19³⁹ but were effectively conducted. Protocols and templates were designed by HQ and reviewed by WARO and by NPOs and adapted to the various country contexts. NPOs went into local communities in collaboration with NHRIs and local CSOs, initially on a monthly basis, and later, every two months,⁴⁰ to engage with community members, conduct interviews and collect data.⁴¹ Methodology included conducting FGDs with different interest groups e.g., women separately, to enhance understanding of vulnerability from an intersectional perspective. WARO encouraged NPOs to collect lived experiences from community members who were willing to share, while placing a strong emphasis on obtaining informed consent.

It should be noted, however, that female participation in CLIMIS activities on the ground varied from country to country. According to evaluation interview reports about project engagements in Niger and Mauritania, there was roughly two-to-one representation in favour of men in interactions at the local government level, as well as at the community level.

In addition, cultural norms posed challenges during community monitoring visits in Niger. These challenges manifested in a way that made it difficult to allocate equal time for interaction with women. As a result, the intended balance in engagement was not fully achieved, impacting the overall mainstreaming of gender equality. This suggests inadequate preparation on behalf of the project for the gender challenges inherent in the socio-cultural terrain of the selected communities, as well as a need for more support to NPOs. Evaluators strongly flag the need for more support *on the ground*

³⁹ While COVID 19 (compounding contractual delays) was certainly an important obstacle to project kick-off, it should be noted that within the same period, other projects managed by WARO, notably PROMIS, continued with a relatively robust degree of implementation despite the pandemic, as noted by these extracts from a progress report: “Whilst the implementation of the regional UNODC-OHCHR migration project ‘PROMIS’ has been severely affected by the COVID crisis it has managed to make progress at different levels... During the COVID 19 crisis, WARO, through the PROMIS project, supported 6 CSOs and 1 NHRI that received a grant to strengthen access to justice for migrants in the West-African region” (p.17), and “Despite the pandemic and thanks to the flexibility and adaptability the office was once again able to keep a very ambitious program with a very high implementation pace...” p.44, End of Year Progress Report – Regional Office for West Africa (2020)

⁴⁰ There was concern about community fatigue given their regularity and the fact that they raised expectations about forms of assistance that could not be fulfilled by OHCHR. There was evidence, however, that they helped to build trust. For example, in Nigeria, extremely sensitive personal information relevant to the project was divulged by female migrants during monitoring missions.

⁴¹ As explained in interviews with HQ, “...their objective (the National Project Officers) is not to collect a comprehensive data set but to understand the story and help us more effectively tell it on how people’s human rights are being affected by climate-related displacement... in a lot of ways, people don’t care about the statistics at all. If they did, we’d be doing a lot more to address climate change-related displacement... And that is not potentially where our added value is, or where we perceive it to be... The purpose of the data we are trying to collect is more narrative-oriented, and more towards building relationships and networks across multiple stakeholders to address the human rights impacts of climate-related displacement... It’s rare in these intergovernmental spaces... that people actually feel emotions rather than go through the rote work of advocating their pre-determined positions. They need that story and narrative. That’s why we try to bring people and their stories into different spaces.”

in the next phase of the project, in the form of regular, ideally quarterly, field visits by management, in order, among other things, to ensure that the project's commitment to GE, DI and HR considerations are fulfilled.

The degree to which NPOs in each of the three countries balanced or integrated the research aspect of community engagement with that of supporting migrants in advocacy was not easy to ascertain, but it appeared that in some cases they had difficulty understanding that their role was not only as collectors of data but as facilitators of change. Without going into the field, it was challenging for evaluators to obtain a comprehensive picture of the degree to which community members felt that these engagements had not only extracted data from them but had supported them in rights-based advocacy to state authorities, however there were positive reports from Nigeria where a stakeholder from an important collaborating NHRI mentioned that without CLIMIS intervention the people in the communities where they had conducted monitoring missions would not know their rights or who to contact about them. In addition, police in Mauritania asserted that CLIMIS had helped improve dialogue between host communities and migrants through its activities in raising awareness with the local administration and security forces.

A large body of data was generated through these missions including two publications,⁴² elements of which have been shared through various platforms and fora.⁴³ The first of these was based primarily on secondary research since field visits had not yet begun. As previously noted, evaluators found its section on the relevant international policy framework too brief and lacking in information on the status of policy/legal frameworks in the Sahel, and on the role of regional political and economic unions, with only a brief reference to ECOWAS. The second publication was based on primary field research as detailed above and provides further insights and enhanced understanding of the climate change, migration and human rights nexus in the Sahel. In addition, unpublished data from FGDs in the communities was utilized at country level. Evaluators were informed that this influenced many actions at the UNCT level in Nigeria, particularly on farmer-herder disputes, and was additionally used by the Resident Coordinator's Office during the COP meeting to give examples of how they had coordinated on climate issues.

Project documentation and interviews with stakeholders indicated a robust fulfilling of the second Outcome through awareness-raising during community interactions, engagement with duty-bearers and key stakeholders at national level, and delivery of capacity-building through workshops. While evaluators were unable to interview community members directly, feedback they received from other stakeholders and from CSO staff who had been involved in monitoring missions indicated an appreciable level of success in this regard. At the national level, OHCHR successfully built connections with government actors and other key stakeholders and participated in meetings and UN collaborative processes. Key stakeholders in Nigeria mentioned how OHCHR had presented research they had done in Benue State at the RCO meetings and talked about their stakeholder workshop, however these processes were not equally effective in all three countries.

A team at HQ developed a training module on climate change and migration in 2022 using a human rights-based, gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive approach to migratory challenges.⁴⁴ Piloting of

⁴² *Human Rights, Climate Change and Migration in the Sahel*, published in November 2021, and *Advancing a rights-based approach to climate change resilience and migration in the Sahel*, published in December 2022.

⁴³ These include (1) UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, through OHCHR participation in COP26 (launching the 2021 report) and COP27⁴³ (presenting recommendations from the 2022 draft report). (2) A side event of the Human Rights Council session in 2022 where HQ shared findings from the 2022 report. (3) The UN Migration Network.⁴³ (4) Activities organized during the General Assembly's International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to measure progress in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. (5) the Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM) held in Rwanda. (6) The session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) held in The Gambia.

⁴⁴ It covered a wide range of issues on the nexus including the multicausality of migration, migrants in vulnerable situations in the context of climate change, concrete state duties and obligations, and HRBA to climate change action, policies and strategies.

the module in Dakar⁴⁵ led to quality refinements but it was of concern to evaluators that the module and trainers' guide were not translated into French. It should be noted however that in Niger and Mauritania workshop facilitation was conducted in French, and that the slides used had been translated into French, the intention being that the module would be fully translated once the final version was finessed after the pilots, and approval had been given by the publications committee. In addition to this module, OHCHR has also developed narrative and communications advocacy materials related to a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to climate change-related migration, including two web comics highlighting the power of migrant and local communities working together to fight climate change and environmental degradation.⁴⁶ Training workshops were held in 2022 in Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal⁴⁷ and provided spaces where community representatives, local and national authorities could meet, helping to even out the prior disparity in the progress of the project between community- and policy engagement. During evaluation interviews there were several instances of positive feedback about these workshops from participants.⁴⁸ Moreover, according to CLIMIS staff interviewed, the workshops produced a wide-ranging set of key recommendations that were practical and tangible and should be taken into account in the design of Phase 2.

Of concern, however, was that there were people who came to the CLIMIS workshops, whose identity was uncertain. Other workshop participants were apprehensive that these individuals might be informants, given the degree of politicization of migration issues in Mauritania and the fact that the project was working with cross-border migrants. This compromised the effort of the workshop to provide a safe space where everyone could talk freely and attain the workshop goals while ensuring the safety of civil society, a priority for OHCHR as a human rights agency. This situation, once again, points to inadequate support for the project on the ground (with regard to planning the workshop among other things) particularly in a country where the project faced specific political complexities. It was clear that, especially in Mauritania and Niger, NPOs would have needed more support for their work.

In compliance with the third Outcome, OHCHR successfully built connections with government actors and other key stakeholders at national level, simultaneously promoting networks between them. In this way the project linked government authorities to CSOs and other UN organisations that could help them respond to the rights of climate-driven migrants. Ongoing community engagement also enabled OHCHR to bring relevant issues to the attention of local and national authorities, shedding light on specific human rights risks posed by climate change and related migration. Evaluation interviews with CLIMIS stakeholders at regional and national levels provided good evidence that awareness had been raised through these activities. For example, an NHRI representative in Nigeria said that collaborating with OHCHR had enabled them to work in areas where they could previously not go due to lack of funds, thus facilitating the work of the NHRI and giving them a networking advantage. In Niger, the Consultation Framework on Migration (SP/CCM) played a crucial role in heightening awareness at government levels and in maintaining regular discussions on the topic. Specifically, the secretary of the CCM (SP/CCM) mentioned that he was interested in initiating a dedicated working session or group on this issue.

⁴⁵ The module was further piloted during sessions devoted to the issues covered by this project during two training workshops organized at the regional level in Dakar in 2022: one was an OHCHR training targeting NHRIs from the Sahel, and the other, a seminar co-organized by OHCHR and the René Cassin Foundation and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, targeting judges and lawyers, government officials, law enforcement authorities, members of international organizations, journalists, academics and civil society organizations.

⁴⁶ Evaluators were provided with documentation related to the draft outline of the CLIMIS training module: instructional objectives, main body of text and description of the training module but did not see the comics.

⁴⁷ Dates and locations of workshops were as follows: Mauritania – 21 / 22 June 2022; Niger – 12 / 13 June 2022; Nigeria – 22 May 2022; Senegal (Regional) – 2022

⁴⁸ One stakeholder said: "The most effective element of the training was learning about the nexus. It opened our eyes... the connecting line between the three; it's something I never actually looked at... It was a wonderful learning; powerful. The facilitation was wonderful, as were the general arrangements and organisation of the workshop. Key stakeholder, Nigeria, evaluation interview.

Technical support in terms of influencing national or regional policy/legislation began relatively late in the project. In March 2023, WARO finalized a guiding tool on how to provide technical capacity-building in drafting climate-related policies. At the time of this evaluation, the Country Presence in Nigeria was engaged in a process with the Nigerian House of Representatives to review the country's Climate Change Act of 2021 for the purpose of identifying areas where human rights, displacement and migration could be incorporated, while mainstreaming gender due to the impact of climate change on women.⁴⁹ It would be beneficial for Niger and Mauritania to replicate such initiatives. At global, regional and national levels, meetings with relevant government authorities, NHRIs, UN entities, CSOs and other stakeholders allowed OHCHR to be recognised as a valuable partner in capacity-building and technical assistance activities.

Notwithstanding, the fact that engagement with local and national authorities lagged behind community engagement represented a lack of synchronization within the project design that made progress on the third Outcome uneven over much of the life of CLIMIS and promoted community fatigue with monitoring visits, as was pointed out during evaluation interviews. If communities had been able to see some degree of responsiveness from their local authorities, or action related to the human rights issues they were facing (and that were being monitored by the project), then the objectives of those visits and of the project would have been clearer to them.

Evaluators therefore advise that the next phase the project match levels of community engagement to levels of policy engagement in terms of awareness-raising and capacity-building of local and national authorities. If the latter is not progressing, then the former should be put on hold while work on the latter is intensified. It is critical that these elements of the project are advanced in tandem. This will help build trust and enhance partnerships. In terms of policy engagement, legal and policy reviews should be targeted as the foundation for policy-related capacity-building efforts. Meanwhile, a recommendation that came out in all CLIMIS workshops was to have meetings with all the national ministries relevant to the project at the same time, because there were always different ministries attending workshops and meetings with the project, e.g. ministries of the environment; migration; disaster.⁵⁰ In summary, although it was only in the latter stages that this aspect of the project really began to take off, it has the potential to yield excellent results in a second phase.

EQ7: For the results achieved, what were the enabling or disabling factors and processes? What good practices have been identified and lessons learned?

Factors that shaped the progress and results of the project are as follows:

- Institutional capacity at all levels: Delays in contracting staff for the project at HQ, WARO and at country level proved a **disabling factor**, negatively impacting the progress of the project. In addition to this, the ability of national and local authorities to strategize, allocate resources, and legislate in the realm of migration and climate change influenced the project's performance. In Nigeria, where institutions are better equipped and CSOs have well-established and influential networks, more progress was made in advocacy. In Niger, the CCM (SP/CCM) played a crucial role in heightening awareness at government levels and maintaining regular discussions on the topic. Specifically, the secretary of the CCM (SP/CCM) planned to initiate a dedicated working session or group on this issue.

⁴⁹ This process was slowed down by the Nigerian General Election in February 2023 and its aftermath. However, work continues on this in Nigeria where OHCHR is currently engaging in a critique of the Act in collaboration with a lawyer and with an academic that is a climate change legal expert, who works at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies and was part of the working group that developed the Climate Change Act. This will hopefully set a precedent for the incorporation of concerns related to the Climate Change-Migration-Human Rights nexus into further national policy and legislation.

⁵⁰ In this context an OHCHR officer said, "This is important if you want to make sure this dialogue takes place in the long run, and that the project contributes to this process, eventually leading to legislative and policy change where, if we talk about policy in national adaptation plans, governments will not only speak of climate change effects, but also of migration that takes place in that context, which so far is not the case in any of the legislations." Evaluation interview.

- Managerial support at national level: An **enabling/disabling factor** that was perceived to affect the progress of the project was the extent of interest, involvement and support of the heads of country presences to whom NPOs reported,⁵¹ both past and present. It was noted that this correlated palpably to the progress and performance of the project in each of the three countries.
- Migrant origin in the different pilot countries, i.e., whether they were internally displaced people (IDPs), or cross-border migrants (CBMs) could count as an **enabling or disabling factor**, reflecting discrimination which OHCHR has a mandate to address, regardless how difficult. Judging from information in the CLIMIS publications as well as from evaluation interviews, it is clear that national governments are less interested in and feel less responsible for cross-border migrants than for internally displaced persons within their countries, thus, for example, it was easier to advance the aspects of the project that required engagement with national authorities in Nigeria, where it focused primarily on IDPs as opposed to Niger and Mauritania. In Mauritania the project was centred on Sierra-Leonean CBMs,⁵² while in Niger it worked with both IDPs and CBMs.⁵³ Regional stakeholders interviewed agreed that attitudes towards IDPs as opposed to CBMs depended on the migration policies of individual host countries – which respond to different priorities – as well as on the programming of the international community.
- Collaboration with thematic and geographic partners at all levels proved to be an **enabling factor** and a **good practice**. The project collaborated with local CSOs in their research and monitoring engagements. The benefits of collaborating with other OHCHR projects in WARO have already been mentioned above. In terms of external partners, while evaluators recognize the hazards of divergent standards and political misalignment with respect to the integrity of OHCHR’s mandate, they caution against OHCHR being too held back by these things to explore fully the potential benefits of collaboration, especially with regard to expanding the project’s resource base, enhancing sustainability, and, above all, gathering greater momentum with which to approach national governments and regional political/economic unions like ECOWAS and the AU. In Nigeria, the Country Presence was able to create a network of NGOs and CSOs on climate change and is drafting a working document to engage government institutions and to arrange for meetings they can attend as a united front, in the hope of being taken more seriously.

In Niger, the CCM (SP/CCM) serves as an important avenue to bolster OHCHR's involvement. Indeed, one of the **lessons learned** from the struggles of CLIMIS should be the dangers of a small project with a large scope operating in too much isolation. This is not to say that there was no collaboration; there was, and its benefits were cited during various evaluation interviews, however it was restricted mainly to national level, where awareness-raising activities were conducted in communities as part of advocacy efforts, teaming up with CSOs and climate actors to propagate CLIMIS discussions and recommendations. This was particularly helpful considering the project’s limited resources. However, collaboration at regional level could have been better. An additional benefit of seeking out collaboration is that it helps strengthen OHCHR’s overall visibility and mandate.

EQ8: Have any unexpected results emerged from the CLIMIS project with regard to the Climate-Migration-Human rights nexus?

Unexpected results emerging from CLIMIS with regard to the Climate-Migration-Human rights nexus include:

⁵¹ The National Project Officers reported directly to HQ before the Project Coordinator was in place, and then to her from December 2021. In Niger and Mauritania where there are OHCHR offices, they also reported respectively to their heads and deputy heads of office, and in Nigeria where there is no OHCHR office, the NPO reported to the Senior Human Rights Advisor of the RCO.

⁵² Sierra-Leonean nationals who had migrated to Nouadibhou in Mauritania.

⁵³ Nigerian nationals who had migrated from the north of their country to Bouza in the Tahoua region of Niger.

- The fact that the project fared best in the only country where there was not an OHCHR office, i.e., Nigeria. This demonstrates that the presence of a country office does not necessarily need to be a deciding factor in the selection of project countries.
- The creation of an internal network of thematically relevant CSOs in Nigeria. This came about as a direct result of the CLIMIS workshop held in Abuja. Recommendations from this workshop led to a follow-up meeting with colleagues in Dakar and Geneva, during which the suggestion came up to create a network, and to update each other about what the different organisations were doing individually and collectively. These organisations were all key stakeholders who had been active in data collection for CLIMIS and had participated in the workshop. So far there are no government institutions in the network but there are plans for the possible creation of a separate group for that.
- Project staff interviewed expressed surprise at the knowledge base and level of engagement of youth in Niger in CLIMIS workshops and in climate change issues in general. Youth constituted a highly engaged sector of civil society; they attended the COP and were very critical about lack of accessibility to climate funds etc.⁵⁴ However the same was not observed in Nigeria or Mauritania.
- Under the auspices of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage Task Force on Displacement, and in collaboration with partners including the Platform for Disaster Development (PDD), IOM, and UNHCR, OHCHR has been tasked to develop a training session on human rights, climate change, and migration. In this endeavour, the Office is drawing from the content of the module completed by the project in order to ensure synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. The training session is being finalized as this evaluation is in progress, within the first half of 2023. An online version of the training module will be available on the 'UNFCCC: Learn' platform hosted on the UNITAR website, while the in-person version will be adapted to the regional context and piloted in the Sahel.
- As a result of its fruitful collaboration with OHCHR, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nigeria has created a database where they document human rights violations related to climate-change induced migration. They have also published a well-received report that was launched at the end of the project.

2.4. Efficiency

CLIMIS funding came principally from the Government of Denmark while hosting country presences were relied upon to make up resource deficits, e.g., rent, vehicles, and other running and maintenance costs. After initial disruptions by Covid-19, the project effectively used two no-cost extensions to continue. Overall, sound financial management was demonstrated. The project's complex management structure ensured a strong thematic base but led to challenges in administration and deficits in support to officers on the ground. CLIMIS was over-ambitious for its scope but was largely able to complete its activities with variable performance between countries. Causes discerned for this disparity included varying levels of support at leadership level in the country offices, the degree to which stakeholders perceived the project as beneficial, the origin of migrants in project communities, and the skillsets and networks of NPOs.

EQ9: Have the financial, organizational and management arrangements used in the project to achieve results been adequate to the project strategies, priorities, context and stakeholders?

⁵⁴ "To see this force gave some hope for the future of the project or to really bring this nexus thematic to the table, raise awareness among them... Ok you know about climate degradation, what does it mean in terms of migration? Making this link with civil society – for me this was the most surprising and good result. It was amazing." CLIMIS staff, evaluation interview.

Financial management:

The CLIMIS project's total budget from 2020 to 2023 was \$1,487,294.08 in voluntary contributions by the Government of Denmark. However, certain in-country project costs like office rental, vehicles and computers were not included in the budget due to donor requirements. As a result, the project had to rely on leveraging the resources of the hosting country presences to address this shortfall.

This had been agreed to during the pilot country selection phase with the heads of the country presences interested in being part of the project. The degree of success of this strategy varied across different presences, particularly when there were changes in the leadership of the presence. Such transitions occasionally led to a shift in priorities and, in certain instances, resulted in a decrease in these additional resources to be provided. By relying on resources over which it had inadequate control (and a collaborative resourcing strategy with which it perhaps did not adequately engage), the project proved over-ambitious in scope. With regard to the funds of \$1,487,294.08 within its control, total expenditure over the life of the project was \$1,441,452.33, yielding a net surplus of \$45,841.75, or about 3% of the total income.

2020: The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in minimal activities and consequently, low expenditure, which totalled \$529,905.36 (36.6% of total expenditure). Majority of these expenses were for staff costs, indicating maintenance of key personnel despite the slowdown.

2021: The year marked a turning point as recruitment ramped up across the three countries and for technical staff at HQ in the last quarter, triggering an increase in expenses, particularly staff costs. Research and monitoring operations also began, contributing to the increased expenditure.

2022: The project scaled up sharply as reflected in the expenditure spike to \$716,138.54 – about 50% of total project costs. This reflected the hiring of a Regional Coordinator as well as the maintenance of a Project Officer hired in 2021, who left after the first quarter of 2022. In addition, national workshops and research were undertaken in 2021. A rise in staff costs and travel expenses underscores intensified operations and active stakeholder engagement.

2023: While monitoring missions in Nigeria and Niger continued, activities in Mauritania slowed down due to contractual issues that led to gaps in the last months of the project. Advocacy activities were more concentrated at the country level. Expenditure for the year was reduced to \$195,408.43 (13.5% of total expenditure), which aligns with the winding down of certain project components.

Despite the initial disruption by Covid-19, the project effectively used its non-cost extensions to ramp up operations, grow its staff, and advance its work program. The spending pattern shows a good balance between maintaining essential staff during disruptions, investing in capacity and activities during the growth phase, and consolidating gains during the final phase. In conclusion, the project demonstrated sound management of the financial resources within its control by closely aligning its expenditures with its operational context and progress, effectively managing resources to complete activities.

Organizational management:

The complex management structure of CLIMIS reflects its genesis,⁵⁵ through which it came to be administratively and financially based at HQ in Geneva within the Migration Unit in collaboration with the Environmental and Climate Change Unit; and managed from WARO in Dakar. The project

⁵⁵ The concept originated from WARO during work on the PROMIS project: "Work on climate change from a human rights perspective... was unique in those days... We saw that one of the key factors of migration in West Africa was climate change. So, the idea was, why not develop a project that works more specifically on human rights and climate change? We developed a concept note and project proposal that we initially submitted to KOICA, the South Korea development cooperation based in Dakar." (OHCHR staff, Evaluation interview.) The process required validation by HQ. HQ realized the Migration Unit was also working on something related, so they suggested a more global project. But by that time, it was too late for KOICA funding, and the Migration Unit had an opportunity to source funding from the Danish government instead. The proposal was prepared under some time pressure, and the funding was received.

aimed to interest OHCHR country offices in working in the thematic areas of the climate-change-migration-human rights nexus and to seed a change in OHCHR priorities by establishing it as an area of focus, although these motives were not directly articulated in the objectives. OHCHR's usual operational approach for field-based projects is to integrate everything at the country office level in terms of management, with linkages to and support from HQ.

According to HQ staff, in the case of CLIMIS, there were recruitment challenges at regional and national levels, and country offices indicated that they did not have the administrative capacity to manage the budget for the project, thus HQ attempted to ease the burden by retaining this control, a situation that persisted despite the eventual appointment of a Project Coordinator to WARO in December 2021 because, given UMOJA requirements, WARO had no administrative capacity in its own right. From evaluation interviews, however, it is clear that WARO expected a robust degree of collaboration with HQ in all aspects of project administration, and was ultimately disappointed in this regard.

An important advantage of the integrated teams between HQ and the field was that the substantive thematic expertise resided within the HQ-based units while, at the regional level, there was a good understanding of the socio-political context, a combination which produced strong analysis and reporting. However, retaining financial and administrative oversight at HQ proved institutionally problematic, and the multifaceted management structure was challenging because it attempted to balance management duties and reporting lines between: (1) Thematic areas, i.e. between different OHCHR units/teams; (2) Geographic areas, presenting the challenge of coordinating reporting structures between HQ in Geneva; WARO in Dakar; OHCHR offices in Niger and Mauritania; and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) of the UNCT in Nigeria. Bearing in mind that the management and monitoring of the project was already complicated by the problematic design of the Results Framework,⁵⁶ this balancing act created a number of issues including the following:

- Not all staff involved in the project at HQ level spoke French, the language of two out of the three project countries. This created difficulties in communication and reporting processes, and there was no budget for the hiring of translation and interpretive services.
- Administrative and contractual procedures were complex and slow in both HQ in Geneva and at the regional level, where they had to go through UNDP in Dakar.
- Delays in recruitments at HQ and regional level as well as periods of leave by key HQ staff in the latter stages of the project necessitated the hiring of temporary staff and consultants to advance project implementation and complete deliverables. Contracting processes did not always go smoothly and were at times subject to contention between HQ and regional levels.
- There were logistical problems with reporting processes such as internet connectivity. In addition, some project sites in Nigeria were situated within conflict zones, which are particularly challenging environments in which to operate.
- At the stage of transitioning project management from HQ to the regional level, there were delays in the recruitment of a Project Coordinator. In the interim period the NPOs were hired, and direct lines of communication established between them and HQ.
- Some project staff interviewed indicated that NPOs on their own were not senior enough to liaise successfully with national authorities, or be taken seriously by them, and that they would have needed sustained backup from the RCO, however not enough intra-UN liaison and coordination was undertaken on behalf of the project to make that happen.⁵⁷ This would appear to highlight insufficient networking which evaluators recommend should be remedied

⁵⁶ The Results Framework lacks clarity, features numbering errors, and has areas of overlap in its outcomes, outputs, and activities, making it difficult to report on; a fact that has also proven a significant challenge in this evaluation process. Evaluators were informed that it is based on a format provided by the donor and was submitted with the project proposal and approved in the funding agreement.

⁵⁷ "National authorities would only meet with the Resident Coordinator. It was a question of hierarchy. We would have needed the Resident Coordinator to actually introduce the NPOs. But also, within the UN structure there was a bit of a lack of interest to carry it forward." CLIMIS project staff during evaluation interview.

in the next phase of the project, through high-level OHCHR interactions with relevant UNCTs/RCOs that are strategically sustained over the life of the project.⁵⁸

- It was similarly pointed out that the task of NPOs to carry out monthly community visits and clarify OHCHR objectives and methodology without delivering on community expectations for tangible assistance would have been less challenging if they had received more orientation and support, however such support was not always forthcoming from their Country Presences, and their administrative links with HQ were too distanced from their reality on the ground to represent a comprehensive source of support. According to some accounts from evaluation interviews, WARO's budgetary constraints restricted its capacity to provide sufficient support to NPOs on the ground in this regard. According to others, adequate funds were provided therefore it was more of a planning than a budgeting issue, moreover support could have been strengthened using virtual communication.

Given CLIMIS' geographical context and stakeholders, evaluators have expressed concern regarding the level of dissension that has been observed between project management levels. Specifically, evaluation interviews have highlighted an overconcentration of administrative and project management responsibility at headquarters, which may not be adequately balanced by collaborative efforts with regional management at WARO. Evaluators also questioned why data from PROMIS or other WARO-based projects could not have been incorporated (with appropriate measures to ensure compliance) into the initial CLIMIS evaluation report, rather than relying mainly on secondary data. This suggests a need to enhance collaboration with other OHCHR projects in West Africa, as well as with other UN agencies and regional/national stakeholders in research and monitoring activities. During evaluation interviews, examples were given of successful collaborations between PROMIS and other partners in data gathering, which may provide valuable insights for potential collaboration opportunities within CLIMIS.

As mentioned above, the multi-layered thematic and geographical scope of the project presented several advantages, however it also introduced challenges in terms of monitoring and reporting structures, which became complex and cumbersome. The requirement for a steering committee that would include donor representation and would hold regular meetings was not met, resulting in a missed opportunity for enhanced coordination. Frequent contact and enhanced collaboration with the donor coordination unit (DEXREL) throughout the implementation of the project would have improved the flow of information between the entire project team.

In addition, networking with the donor at regional and country level would have been a great opportunity for the project them to involve them in the implementation of activities. In future, OHCHR could engage the Danish embassies/diplomatic missions in Senegal, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria, involve them in meetings and workshops, and communicate with them about OHCHR's activities. This positive feedback on CLIMIS from their embassies in the pilot countries could potentially constitute a source of motivation for continued funding for the project.

Few project activities were completed within the original time frame, however with the addition of a year and a half through two no-cost extensions, CLIMIS was able to achieve most of its outcomes, though performance differed from country to country. Outcome 3 is of the most concern in this regard because the levels of collaboration with and technical support provided to government authorities in the pilot countries was inadequate in Niger and Mauritania, and only gathered serious momentum in Nigeria in the latter stages of the project. Overall, Nigeria has made the most progress

⁵⁸ A strategic plan for continuing such interactions is important for buttressing RCO support as there were instances of RCO-led introductions of NPOs to authorities in pilot countries in Phase I of CLIMIS, however some project staff interviewed were of the opinion that these on their own were not sufficient to empower NPOs for sustained and effective interactions with national authorities on behalf of the project.

on project objectives, and Mauritania the least. Causes discerned by evaluators for this disparity include:

- Differing levels of interest in and support for the project at leadership level in the country presences.
- The degree to which stakeholders perceived CLIMIS as directly beneficial to their country. During evaluation interviews there was a notable number of stakeholders in Nigeria who stated how urgently their country needed the project, and their appreciation of and commitment to it came through clearly from their responses.
- The origin of migrants included in the project in terms of whether they were internally displaced or cross-border. National authorities and stakeholders in general seemed more invested in the problems of internally-displaced migrants, and this was the nature of the migrant communities selected in Nigeria while the reverse applied in Mauritania.
- The skillset, commitment and individual performance of National Project Officers, and the degree to which they were able to liaise with authorities at high levels. In this regard, it was clear from project documents and from interviews with stakeholders that that for engagement with local communities' gender balance and inclusion of women is important. The fact that Nigeria is an anglophone country may also have been an advantage as English was the dominant language of the project.

2.5. Impact Orientation

It is premature to obtain comprehensive evidence of impact especially on the scope described by EQ11 from a pilot project whose implementation was significantly delayed. Thus, evaluators would like to note that it is more practicable – as well as fairer to the project – to consider CLIMIS' *potential* for impact rather than that achieved so far. While the project's contribution to the protection and fulfilment of human rights of migrants was variable between project countries, there was extremely positive feedback on CLIMIS activities across the board, as well as specific instances of true impact, suggesting good potential for subsequent phases.

EQ10: What, if any, evidence is there of stakeholder capacity to carry forward project results?

At the global level, OHCHR has shared data from the CLIMIS project in various international fora as previously mentioned, however it is too early to tell what impact this has had on stakeholders at that level. Collaborations with stakeholders at regional level only concretely began in 2022 once the Project Coordinator was at post in WARO. OHCHR began to chair the UN Regional Network on Migration together with IOM, became co-leads of UNFCCC with UNODC, co-chairs of UNMM with IOM at regional and global levels, and part of the Working Group for Migration and Climate Change, and collaborated with regional partners in April 2022 to host an event for the donors on migration, environment and climate change. Activities and collaborations like this will have seeded potential for impact with regard to OHCHR sharing its knowledge and expertise on a human rights-based approach to climate change and migration.

Some stakeholders interviewed felt, however, that OHCHR needed to be more active and vocal and make better use of existing platforms in sharing its rights-based approach through stronger collaboration at all levels, to effectively equip other stakeholders including sister UN agencies with the RBA and disseminate tools for other agencies and regional stakeholders to design and utilize RBA in an informed way. This will strengthen the regional technical dialogue on the climate-migration-human rights nexus.

At national level, stakeholders unanimously praised the CLIMIS workshops across all three countries. However, evidence of their capacity to carry forward project results varied between

countries. Evaluation interviews with stakeholders in Nigeria revealed clear evidence of stakeholder capacity to carry forward project results. Some examples of this have already been given under EQ8 above (Effectiveness) and more are given under EQ12 below (Sustainability). The most exciting feedback on CLIMIS workshops was from CSOs who reported that things they had learned had empowered them further in their own work.⁵⁹ As mentioned in Annex 6, in addition to the training workshops, stakeholders mentioned other information-sharing opportunities provided by CLIMIS.⁶⁰ In addition, CSOs collaborating with CLIMIS in community engagement have learned about and gained important experience in the thematic area of the climate change-migration-human rights nexus as well as in applying a human rights-based approach in their work. These are new skills that they will continue to apply with or without CLIMIS and OHCHR.

In Niger and Mauritania, however, capacity to carry forward project results appears more localized to communities. CSOs indicated a need for subsequent actions to effectively integrate workshop recommendations and a human rights-focused methodology. Yet, a common observation across all three countries is the limited empowerment of local authorities. Other information dissemination opportunities offered by CLIMIS in Nigeria were also a feature missing in Niger and Mauritania.

EQ11: To what extent is the project making a significant contribution to broader and long-term promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights of migrants in the Sahel region in the context of climate-related migration? Or, how likely is it that it will eventually make this contribution?

The strategic orientation and design of CLIMIS built in the potential for it to make a significant contribution to broader and long-term promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights of migrants in the Sahel region. As indicated through the examples above from Nigeria, it is already making a contribution to some degree, however it is highly localized and cannot yet be deemed significant in a holistic context due to the pilot nature of the project and the delays in its implementation. It is also too early to be able to make an assessment of GE, DI & HR indicators with respect to this criteria. There are very promising developments, however, such as the current engagement of OHCHR in Nigeria with the House of Representatives to review the country's Climate Change Act of 2021 for the purpose of identifying areas where human rights, displacement and migration can be incorporated.

Evaluators recommend a programmatic regional approach for the next phase of the project, which will strengthen impact at all levels by grounding CLIMIS better within its regional context and facilitate links with other relevant regional OHCHR projects. At the regional level, CLIMIS should be able to increase its impact in the next phase by building on its successes and ensuring their replication in all its project countries, strengthening existing collaborations and strategically engaging with such platforms as the ECOWAS regional consultative process on migration, the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA). It is also recommended that OHCHR intensify sharing of its knowledge base and dissemination of tools on RBA approaches to climate change and migration in order to maximise impact.

⁵⁹ This is demonstrated by these quotes from key stakeholders in Nigeria who were interviewed for the evaluation:

"As a result of the workshop I worked on two proposals on climate change and sent them to (a donor). They are on the nexus between climate change and migration, for my state, for young people to take leadership and advocacy for the government to embark on projects that will mitigate the impact of climate change in the state. I am still waiting for the response."

"...the people that were approached from government sectors (i.e., resource people at the workshop) brought in a kind of information that wasn't in the public domain. I, for the first time, was able to understand that there are some funds that come into the country for implementation of certain thematic areas that you need to apply for through a government agency. But that component of engagement, working with government... is something I was hearing for the first time! How to get such funding was also shared. The way they came in and presented themselves was very unique. Although it wasn't a project with money, people were eager because it opens the door to learning, participation."

⁶⁰ *I also appreciate, there was information sharing of opportunities for training for youth, shared on a platform by (OHCHR) It helped me to share it with our young people who have taken advantage of working with the UN."* Key stakeholder in Nigeria, evaluation interview.

2.6. Sustainability

The CLIMIS project amplified OHCHR's proficiency in the nexus, and strengthened the expertise of staff. However, in order to achieve wider impact, it is essential to formalize the approach adopted for this project and improve the dissemination of project results. In addition, the optimisation of resource use and expertise can be achieved through strategic collaborations with donors and other partners. The evaluation indicates robust stakeholder capability and dedication, with global collaborations showcasing commitment. While direct stakeholder capacity-building at the regional level was limited, partnerships and collaborative efforts bolstered cooperation, paving the way for promising future engagements.

EQ12. How did the project strengthen stakeholder capacity to foster commitment to continue working on the project results and the issues addressed by the project?

The evaluation shows evidence of stakeholder capacity to foster commitment to continue working on the project results and the issues addressed by the project:

At global level: The CLIMIS project involved extensive collaborations and consultations, notably the communication of human rights protection gaps and gender imbalances, faced by climate-induced migrants with globally recognized entities such as the Human Rights Council, UNFCCC's WIM Task force on displacement, the General Assembly's IMRF, IOM / MECC, UNHCR, PDD, and the UN Network for Migration. These collaborations demonstrated strong global buy-in and commitment to the project's Objectives and Outcomes, providing a solid foundation for continuity and sustainability. Nonetheless more effort could be done to also consider advocating for DI protection.

At regional level: While the activities carried out at the regional level set the stage for lasting impact and sustainability, CLIMIS had a limited role in directly building stakeholder capacity and engagement at the regional level. This can be partially attributed to the relatively short time in office of the Project Coordinator, which left little time for substantial engagement. Through its partnership with the UN Regional Network on Migration and shared leadership in the UNMM, CLIMIS fostered a platform for cooperation. Additionally, the project's collaboration with the IOM via trainings and workshops solidified inter-organizational ties and demonstrated a commitment to collaborative work. Although the relationship with ECOWAS is still developing primarily due to ECOWAS' capacity constraints, important strides have been made. ECOWAS' recent adoption of its first climate strategy is a sign of growing engagement and the Regional Representative's active pursuit of ECOWAS-associated projects shows a steadfast commitment to this relationship. The consideration of an MoU to encapsulate a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach to migration and climate change is a promising move. This would not only formalize cooperation but also establish shared principles and objectives. The project's communication with ACPH has garnered interest and strongly positioned CLIMIS for future collaboration. It sets the stage for further enhancing stakeholder capacity and promoting the migration-climate change-human rights nexus.

At country level: The CLIMIS project has been instrumental in strengthening stakeholder capacity at the country level, fostering commitment, and ensuring that the project's results are effectively utilised, and the issues addressed.

Niger: In Niger, the project enhanced stakeholder engagement through active participation in the Consultation Framework on Migration (CCM), contributing to national reviews of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), and mapping key actors involved in migration. This harmonized the CLIMIS approach with ongoing initiatives, addressing migration-related concerns. However, there was less emphasis on climate change aspects due to weaker institutional and legal frameworks.

Mauritania: The national-level networks focusing on the intersection of migration and climate change are relatively fewer in Mauritania. Despite this, stakeholders showed strong interest in this theme.

The project benefited from the Resident Coordinator's Office's readiness to support such initiatives, especially in collaboration with IOM and UNHCR, who had initiated some work on this topic. The only drawback was that the National Project Officer could attend only one such meeting.

Nigeria: The project synchronized its efforts with organizations such as CSDevNet, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Studies, FENRAD, WISE, and the Climate Change Act Review Working Group, focusing on climate change adaptation. Regular engagements with the RCO underpinned the project's commitment to addressing climate migration issues. While the project involved women-led civil society organizations, the evaluation did not find any evidence of involvement of organizations specifically advocating for people with disabilities.

In summary, national authorities, international organizations and NGOs in all three countries indicated strong interest in exploring the topic and in adopting a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach to managing climate-induced migration, however formal commitments are still in the nascent stages, or regarding DI inexistant. The successful workshops held in 2022 amplified this interest, building capacity among relevant stakeholders to confront the impact of climate-induced migration. In Nigeria and Niger, national authorities displayed genuine interest in integrating this approach into their policy frameworks. In Mauritania, NGOs, National Human Rights Commissions, and the Bureau of the Resident Coordinator showed interest in incorporating this approach into their operations.

EQ13. Are OHCHR staff in HQ and the field able to continue working on the issues addressed by the project? How effectively is the project building necessary capacity within OHCHR?

Despite the challenges encountered, the CLIMIS project has bolstered the capacity within the OHCHR to continue addressing the migration-climate change nexus. Key indicators of this are as follows:

The project has provided OHCHR staff at both HQ and field levels with valuable expertise in the thematic area. Staff engagement in the development of comprehensive research methodologies, awareness materials and advocacy strategies has contributed to skill enhancement. This was observed through the application of knowledge gained from the project in their work. The production of a range of project outputs such as research methodologies, stakeholder mappings and training materials, as well as experience in strategizing the promotion of gender sensitive and human rights-based approaches at regional, national and community levels within a complex set-up, is a testament to capacity building within OHCHR. The potential for these resources to be utilized and scaled in future initiatives indicates enduring project impact. The departure of a key project staff could have posed a setback, however the adaptability demonstrated by the Migration Unit and Climate Change unit at OHCHR ensured that knowledge and skills were transferred and retained within the organization. This resilience underscores the internal capacity built as part of the project. The late but critical appointment of a Project Coordinator helped harmonize efforts across the project, leading to stronger alignment with OHCHR's migration and climate change initiatives. This contributed to OHCHR's capacity to manage such projects.

While the CLIMIS project has enhanced OHCHR capacity, notable setbacks can serve as areas for improvement. Firstly, the project outputs, such as research methodologies, stakeholder mappings and training materials were not formalized into accessible working documents which potentially limited their impact. Developing a standard process for formalizing and disseminating these outputs could enhance their utility and longevity. Secondly, there is a lack of guidance for their implementation and adaptation that could hinder OHCHR staff from effectively utilizing and adapting them to their specific contexts. A comprehensive guide or set of instructions for each output could

improve their usability and uptake. Lastly, opportunities were missed for partnership building. Establishing more strategic partnerships with external organizations could have bolstered the project's expertise and resources and generated more opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaboration, expanding the project's reach and impact.

2.7. Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion and Human Rights Integration

GE was taken into consideration throughout implementation of CLIMIS. While the level of female participation in community and policy engagements varied across countries, there were commendable achievements in integration of vulnerable communities.

On the other hand, evaluating the results for DI proved to be more difficult as it had not been included in the project design. However, some efforts were made to mainstream disability in the project activities. This could be further enhanced through inclusion and mainstreaming in the project design in the next phase.

EQI4: In what ways has the project planned activities linking to results that contribute to Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion? What strategies on this could be adopted by the Office for future interventions in the areas covered by the project?

Gender Equality

Gender Equality features prominently within the stated goal and objectives of the CLIMIS project. The goal is: "To address the human rights, migration and climate change nexus in the Sahel region by promoting a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to climate-related migration," while the second and third objectives are:

- *"Promote a Rights-based and Gender-sensitive Approach to Migratory Challenges posed by Climate Change in the Sahel Region."*
- *"Identify adaptation and mitigation measures to bridge the protection gaps and ensure a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to the migration and climate change nexus."*

In addition, CLIMIS maintains a commitment to combat discrimination and focuses on the human rights of specific groups including women, persons with disabilities, young people, and people of African descent.

In line with these priorities, there is good evidence from project documents, from CLIMIS publications and from evaluation interviews with project staff and stakeholders that GE was taken into consideration throughout the implementation of CLIMIS. In terms of project staff composition there was a fair gender balance at HQ, regional and national levels, especially considering recruitment challenges at national level.

The CLIMIS Project Field Research Strategy stipulates the need to incorporate a gender analysis in all project activities. In compliance with this, the project actively ensured participation of women in community awareness-raising initiatives and decision-making processes related to climate change and human mobility, including national adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction policies. In addition, the project collaborated with CSOs working on gender-specific initiatives, strengthening its efforts to empower women and promote gender equality in the context of climate change and human mobility.

As indicated under the Efficiency section, however, it should be noted that, to the extent to which it could be quantified, female participation in CLIMIS activities on the ground varied from country to country, being lower in Niger and Mauritania and higher in Nigeria. In addition to this, patriarchal attitudes in some project communities interfered with the project's ability to ensure gender equity in its methodology for community engagements, indicating a need for more support to NPOs and a stronger WARO field presence in the next phase of the project.

The following quotes from stakeholders in Nigeria during interviews demonstrate evidence of robust female participation in CLIMIS activities:

“Women formed the majority of the capacity-building (meaning, in this particular context, community interactions) because men are on the move... they were at ease and vocal at meetings... Women have more flair for having knowledge than men. When you invite people to occasions like this a lot of women turn up. Men are often in the farm... We partnered with women groups, and they joined forces with us and went into communities.”⁶¹

“Women were highly represented... (they were) even more than men in the last meeting we held. Women leaders came, from women’s environmental programmes. Those that came from the Ministry were women deputy directors. The USAID rep was a woman.”⁶²

In spite of the participation of women throughout the project, and despite Gender Equality being highlighted in the project goal and objectives, one concern is that it is not consistently factored in throughout the Outcomes, Outputs and Activities in the original Results Framework, as would be optimal for systematic gender mainstreaming. Without going into the field for this evaluation it was difficult to obtain a full picture of the consistency of women’s participation in all three countries, however in terms of strategies to adopt for future interventions, consistently mainstreaming Gender Equality at all levels including activities will ensure its systematic incorporation into country-level workplans and into monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at that level. As things stand, while there has been reporting on Gender Equality at regional and country levels, it does not match up with rigorous mainstreaming at the project design level.⁶³

Disability Inclusion

Disability Inclusion is not as clearly articulated as Gender Equality in the project goal and objectives unless it is assumed to be covered under ‘human rights’ and ‘rights-based approaches.’ In the breakdown of the project objectives into Outcomes, Outputs and Activities, it is less represented than Gender Equality.

In Nigeria, FGDs were held with persons with disabilities, and reports from some stakeholders indicated that persons with disabilities were part of monitoring/research interviews held in pilot communities: “There are people living with disabilities in the communities.... They were also in the meetings. Everyone contributed based on their understanding of the issues concerned.”⁶⁴ In the case of Mauritania it was agreed between HQ and NPOs that in order to avoid their work becoming redundant and repetitive they would focus each time on a different group of people with vulnerability. For this reason, they held FGDs with distinct groups including people with disabilities, older people, and women.

⁶¹ Key stakeholder, Nigeria. Evaluation interview.

⁶² Key stakeholder, Nigeria, Evaluation Interview.

⁶³ This is further demonstrated by the following analysis:

Outcome 1: Gender is altogether missing. It should also have been present not only in the Outcome, but also in Output 1.1. and Activity 1.1.1 in the description of the mapping, where gender-disaggregated data should have been stipulated. It should also have been factored into Activity 1.1.2., ensuring that research and analysis of existing legal and policy frameworks in the Sahel would take into account the degree to which gender considerations were factored into such frameworks. This would have tied in well with Output 3.1.

Outcome 2: Gender is only partially integrated. In Output 2.1. there is no mention of gender. In Output 2.2, GE considerations are present but not translated to activity level. Gender is altogether missing from Outputs 2.3. and 2.4. and their activities. This is an important omission because these outputs are on strengthening national institutions to address human rights in the context of climate change. The opportunity was missed to specify, for example, working with CSOs that have a gender focus, or that have knowledge and experience in the particular issues affecting women in migrant communities in the pilot communities. While these things did happen on the ground to some extent, results may have been even stronger and better distributed across project countries if it had been specified at this level.

Outcome 3: GE considerations are present in this Outcome, and in Output 3.1, but are not transferred to the activity level. In Activity 3.1.1. it could have been specified that meetings with national and regional authorities in selected countries should include women working in those institutions and/or women from national and regional CSOs with a gender focus, and/or who have experience working with these institutions. In Activity 3.1.2 it could have been specified that the technical support provided would take into consideration policy gaps with regard to the specific needs of female migrants and females in migrant communities.

⁶⁴ Key stakeholder, Nigeria. Evaluation interview.

A more accurate understanding of this aspect could have been gained if evaluators had been able to conduct field visits. However, during evaluation interviews, it was revealed that apart from the mention of DI in the Results Framework and project planning documentation, most CLIMIS staff were unaware of its significant incorporation into the implementation process, and that the project could have been more systematic in addressing DI.

The first report published under CLIMIS,⁶⁵ addresses DI in the context of defining a human rights-based approach to address the differential effects of climate change. Similarly, in the second report,⁶⁶ DI is addressed within the methodology section as part of the human rights-based approach to data gathering in communities. However, stakeholders would have benefited from further analysis on the human rights impacts of climate change-related migration in the Sahel for persons with disabilities.

In summary, although Disability Inclusion was not incorporated in the overall project design, the efforts made could be strengthened by integrating DI mainstreaming strategies into the next project design, particularly in throughout the results framework.

EQ15: Has the migration and climate change programme been monitoring data disaggregated by sex, age and disability? Do the benefits of the migration and climate change programme accrue equally to women, persons with disabilities and other groups in situations of vulnerability?

The CLIMIS Project Field Research Strategy and the Template for Interview and Mission Reports designed by WARO stipulate the collection of gender- and age-disaggregated data,⁶⁷ and there is matching evidence in reports by National Project Officers of gender-disaggregated tracking of community participation in FGDs. There has also been gender disaggregation of participants in CLIMIS workshops. However, these measures do not seem to have been mainstreamed from the HQ level. In addition, there is no mention of gender disaggregation in the Results Framework, demonstrating inadequate factoring in of gender disaggregation at the project design stage. While this has fortunately not translated into an absence of gender disaggregated data at implementation level, it could have been more rigorously tracked with better mainstreaming from the design stage. In interviews at HQ, it was acknowledged that levels of disaggregation were low, and that data was gender-disaggregated to the extent possible, perhaps implying resource limitations. With regard to disaggregation by disability, no evidence of this was found during the evaluation.

The particular needs and vulnerabilities of women as migrants, as single parents in the absence of spouses who have migrated, and as residents in communities hosting migrants, are discussed in detail in CLIMIS project documentation and publications. In addition, as discussed under EQ14, women have played an active part in the CLIMIS project as stakeholders. It can thus be concluded that the benefits of the project accrued equally to women in some of the project communities. However, this was harder to ascertain with regard to persons with disabilities. The CLIMIS Project Field Research Strategy also identifies persons with other gender identities as part of the interest groups to be covered by the gender analysis in all project activities however there was not sufficient evidence on this at implementation level available to evaluators to be able to ascertain whether the benefits of the project accrued equally to them.

⁶⁵ *Human Rights Climate Change and Migration in the Sahel*, OHCHR, 2021, p.30

⁶⁶ *Advancing a rights-based approach to climate change resilience and migration in the Sahel*, OHCHR, 2022, p.10

⁶⁷ "Based on the project goals, it is also key to incorporate a gender analysis in all project activities. This means: identifying both violations of the equal human rights of women, girls, and persons of other gender identities and the ways that particular human rights violations or risks may differentially impact women, men, girls, boys, and persons with other gender identities; collecting gender- and age-disaggregated data; and using gender-sensitive language." Draft CLIMIS Project Field Research Strategy p.1., WARO, 23.02.21.

3. Lessons Learned

- Ambitious scope: Having an over-ambitious project scope and design can significantly impact the implementation and success of a project.
- Advantages and disadvantages of cross-cutting project structure: It is important to strike a balance between HQ expertise and decentralized regional focus, as fostering interlinkages between HQ and regional offices can result in beneficial collaborations and the infusion of new expertise. While synergies can be fostered in cross-thematic projects like CLIMIS, enhanced coordination is important to bridge the gap between routine work in the country presences and cross-thematic projects. Additionally, collaboration with thematic and geographic partners at all levels was an enabling factor. Using existing nexus-related initiatives, like the PROMIS project can enrich CLIMIS by drawing on established knowledge and experience, helping tailor the project to the context and in approaching relevant regional stakeholders.
- Consequences of problematic Results Framework: A problematically designed Results Framework means a problematically designed project. It complicates project implementation and hinders reporting.
- Synchronizing engagement at community and policy levels: It is important to synchronize engagement at both community and policy levels. Although there were delays in engaging with local and government authorities' community engagements went ahead. While this helped build trust with the communities, it led to a misunderstanding of the purpose of these engagements and created a sense of fatigue among community members. Therefore, the engagement efforts should strike a balance between collecting data and empowering communities for their own human rights advocacy.
- Impact of buy-in of heads of office: The interest and sustained support of the heads of office/Senior Human Rights Advisors was not something to take for granted. While it is important to note that pilot countries were selected on the basis of expressions of interest by heads of office, it is equally important to note that changes in those heads of office had the potential to transform the degree to which CLIMIS was prioritized. Ultimately, it was found that their involvement or lack thereof correlated directly to the progress and performance of the project in each of the three countries. Within this context, it is risky to rely on resources in host countries over which project management has little control especially in the absence of binding agreements and systematic, sustained communication.
- Inadequate support at field level: Inadequate support at country level on the ground, especially in politically complex settings can result in situations and events that can compromise the safety of field staff and stakeholders along with the standards, principles and reputation of OHCHR.
- Impact of migrant origin: The origin of migrants (IDP vs. CBM) could count as an enabling or disabling factor in advancing the aspects of the project that required engagement with national authorities however it is important to note that this reflects discrimination which OHCHR has a mandate to address, regardless how difficult.

4. Good Practices

- Providing proof of concept: The concept of creating a productive, human rights-based dynamic between communities and national Governments to address the issues faced by climate-driven migrants is a novel and practical one that has great strategic potential in the mitigation of the effects of an expanding global threat. OHCHR's commitment to promoting recognition of the climate-migration-human rights nexus and building networks, awareness and capacity through the CLIMIS project has produced tangible evidence that this strategy can succeed.

- Working with the complexities of the nexus: Despite its inherent challenges, OHCHR took on a cross-sectoral and cross-continental project that inevitably mirrored the complexities of the climate-migration-human rights nexus, and is willing to continue the project and learn from its outcomes and from this evaluation to improve the next phase. In the process, it explored new territory with regard to the dynamics of working across thematic sectors which can serve to inform future cross-thematic initiatives.
- Gender balance: OHCHR was attentive to gender equality in the staff composition of the CLIMIS project and in the project design and implementation. Employing a female Project Coordinator at regional level and one female NPO despite difficulties with recruitment at country level translated into tangible outcomes with regard to engaging with women over issues of vulnerability in migrant communities.
- Bridging the power divides of the nexus: OHCHR workshops in Senegal, Niger, Mauritania and Nigeria constituted rare opportunities to bring together duty bearers and rights-holders in the climate-migration-human rights nexus, which proved productive and led to some sustainable outcomes among participants.
- Building networks: CLIMIS built enduring and useful networks between OHCHR, migrant communities in the Sahel, local and national authorities in those countries as well as CSOs, other UN agencies and relevant stakeholders.
- Sharing knowledge and enhancing capacity around the nexus: Through materials produced under CLIMIS, OHCHR has advanced knowledge about the climate-migration-human rights nexus, and through working in three pilot countries in the Sahel it has strengthened regional capacity within OHCHR and among stakeholders, to conduct related work. In particular, it has fortified capacity as well as the networks of certain NHRIs in the project countries.
- Impacting policy on climate change and migration: CLIMIS has been able to influence the integration of the human rights needs of climate-driven migrants into legislation in Nigeria.

5. Conclusions

1. Despite challenges, CLIMIS largely fulfilled its objectives as a pilot project, with varying degrees of success in the individual project countries, and shows excellent potential, it should therefore be expanded, taking into account the evaluation results, in order to embed the Climate change-migration-human rights nexus as part of human rights work in the West Africa region.
2. The CLIMIS project promotes collaboration and synergies between OHCHR's Climate Change and Migration Units. Although the combination of CLIMIS' integrated management teams at HQ and in the field had advantages, splitting the project across several thematic and geographic areas while maintaining centralized financial and administrative control at HQ led to complications. Additionally, there could have been stronger collaboration between CLIMIS and other OHCHR projects in the West Africa region, and better integration with the country programme activities.
3. The CLIMIS project aligns with its Theory of Change and with OHCHR's mandate, prioritizing human rights solutions for climate-affected migrants. The evaluation team however observed some level of inconsistency and overlap in the Results Framework that hampered efficient reporting against planned Outputs and Outcomes. A problematically designed Results Framework means a problematically designed project.
4. Performance analysis reveals significant delays and compromised quality for some outputs. This points to an overambitious design and a foundational base that could not withstand the impacts of bureaucratic delays.

5. The project lacks distinction between climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, which requires differentiated approaches in terms of research, monitoring, awareness-raising and technical assistance.
6. The project has demonstrated sound financial management by closely aligning its expenditure with the operational context and progress and managing its resources effectively to complete activities. However, the project budget was not sufficient to adequately address essential material and human resources such as office space, computers, vehicles and the resources needed to operate and maintain them, particularly in the pilot countries.
7. There were shortcomings in providing sustained support to National Project Officers for high-level collaboration with national authorities. For the purpose of building trust in the project and networks between duty bearers and rights holders, it is important that engagement with local and national authorities does not lag behind community engagement in the next phase of the project.
8. There was collaboration between CLIMIS and other OHCHR projects, this could however be strengthened, particularly with regard to better integration and alignment with the country programmes. There was also limited interaction with other UN agencies and other organisations at the regional level. Nationally, while CLIMIS worked with several stakeholders, deeper ties with development ministries, safety organizations, and parliamentarians could have amplified impact, notably in Mauritania and Niger. In addition, the opportunity to network with the donor at regional and country level was missed. OHCHR could have reached out to the Danish embassies/diplomatic missions in Senegal, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria, creating the opportunity for them to report to their HQ in Denmark on CLIMIS activities, thus benefitting further from their support to the project (which can be funding but also political and or through expertise).
9. Gender Equality features prominently within the stated goal and objectives of CLIMIS as well as within the CLIMIS Project Field Research Strategy. In line with these priorities, there is good evidence that it was taken into consideration throughout project implementation. There was also evidence of robust female participation in community engagements and in capacity building activities. There was also some evidence from stakeholders that persons with disabilities were part of monitoring/research interviews held in pilot communities, however Disability Inclusion was not as clearly articulated. GE and DI were also not consistently factored in throughout the Outcomes, Outputs and Activities in the original Results Framework, as would be optimal for systematic gender and disability mainstreaming.

6. Recommendations

Management, Administration and Monitoring

1. WARO should integrate the climate climate-migration-human rights nexus into its country programme/strategy, including budget allocation in the country cost plans. Such an approach will prove beneficial for the next phase of the CLIMIS project and the overall OHCHR work on the nexus in the Sahel Region.
 - It will also be important to ensure sustained commitment of the thematic leads and heads of entities in HQ, regional office and relevant country presences. This will solidify achieved outcomes and boost advocacy within the UN and nationally, embedding this approach in UNSDCFs, influencing climate strategies including NDCs, and guiding national migration policies.
2. In the interest of addressing the current coordination challenges of the project, the next phase should be coordinated, managed, and administered at the regional level. This would also be in line with UN management reform and could be complemented by technical support from OHCHR HQ, which would include; the provision of knowledge, expertise and capacity

building, in order to ensure that all relevant thematic issues are thoroughly addressed, including cross-thematic challenges.

- To facilitate this, WARO should be equipped with its own M&E section and commensurate human resource capacity and should plan for more regular meetings with HQ and with Country Presences, in order to streamline reporting and improve communication across thematic and geographical areas, overcoming language barrier issues through adequate resourcing and planning.

Design, Strategy and funding

3. Enhance the project's design by simplifying and streamlining the formulation of Goals, Outcomes, and Indicators in the Results Framework to ensure clarity and facilitate project Monitoring & Evaluation. Define clear and distinct deliverables for each output, and factor in a strategic approach for utilizing data collected throughout the project. This should include:
 - Developing communication products that are tailored to a variety of audiences such as briefing papers, factsheets, one-pagers, and policy briefs.⁶⁸
 - Strengthening the research component by developing more comprehensive research protocols that enable data disaggregation by gender, age, disability and demographics representing groups in vulnerable situations.
4. Include a project start-up phase to factor in adequate time for the hiring and training of staff, mobilization of logistics and the putting in place of clear implementation plans with country presences, among other things. This will allow for more realistic observance of time frames and compliance with donor requirements.
5. Meticulously articulate the project's scope prior to rollout. When selecting project countries⁶⁹, different climate-induced migration patterns should be taken into account, including different types of migration (e.g., IDPs and CBMs), the distinction between adaptation and mitigation measures and the respective resources (funding, skills and expertise) needed for their implementation.
 - Conduct detailed analyses including country analyses, stakeholder analyses, needs- and risks assessments to inform the design and project site selection.
 - Subsequently, conduct a joint refinement process between WARO, HQ, and designated OHCHR offices. Involve national authorities and key partners to garner local insights for community choices.
6. Rigorously tailor the scope of the project to the funds available, taking into account expenses at country level including adequate human resources, rent, vehicles, and other running and maintenance costs.
 - In situations where country offices are required to contribute additional resources, this should be integrated in the Annual workplan and cost plans for the respective country presence. country presences, formal co-resourcing agreements should be drawn up that cannot be affected by changes in staff or priorities. These should be strategically managed through regular communication between project management and the heads of country presences.
7. In the next phase of the project, DESIB should conduct initial training for National Project Officers (NPOs) in the country presences and WARO, as part of the project start-up phase. This training is essential to equip NPOs with the necessary skills and knowledge, not only on the nexus, but also on the expertise needed for effective implementation and monitoring. In

⁶⁸ CLIMIS has already begun such an initiative in Nigeria, with the country office collaborating with the Environmental and Climate Change Unit to produce a short piece that captures some of the key findings and elements of the project, for awareness-raising, and for generating interest from potential donors.

⁶⁹ With regard to country selection, evaluators recommend including Nigeria again due to stakeholder buy-in and to the notable successes achieved in the pilot phase. Recent political events make Niger a hazardous choice while negligible outcomes from Mauritania necessitate review and re-strategizing if it is to be considered again. Senegal and other countries covered by WARO could be considered as potential new sites for the next phase.

addition, ongoing high level political and technical support should also be provided to them. This will ensure that their engagement with local and national authorities is as effective and timely as their engagement with the communities.

Within this context the following measures should be taken:

- Quarterly field trips by WARO to the project countries should be budgeted for along with quarterly trips by HQ staff.
- HQ should initiate interactions with RCOs within project countries to set up meetings that include OHCHR staff from WARO and Country Presences, including NPOs themselves. This can be done within the context of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in each country.

The links thus formed between RCOs and Country Presences and particularly with NPOs, must be systematically maintained through regular, scheduled interactions throughout the life of the project. WARO should monitor this and reach out to HQ for further involvement if NPOs are facing challenges working with national authorities.

Collaboration, Networking and Partnerships

8. Forge additional and stronger collaborations within OHCHR and partnerships with pertinent entities including;
 - Research institutions to enhance the quality of research outputs,
 - UNCTs and specific UN agencies involved in raising awareness and advocating for better management of climate-driven displacement such as IOM, UNHCR, UNDRR, etc.; regional organizations like ECOWAS and ACHPR; national authorities such as ministries of interior, planning and environment, NHRIs. and CSOs.
 - Invest in and prioritize the building/maintaining a Network with donors at regional and country level and engaging with embassies to this end.

Mainstreaming GE and DI

9. Systematically mainstream GE & DI at all levels to ensure their incorporation into country-level workplans and M&E mechanisms. Allocate specific funds to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in the project. This can be in the form of a 'reasonable accommodation fund' to be included in the AWP/CP, which could cover expenses such as interpretation, transportation, or other necessary support, aiming at facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities.

Management responses to the evaluation recommendations

Management, Administration and Monitoring

Recommendation 1. WARO should integrate the climate climate-migration-human rights nexus into its country programme/strategy, including budget allocation in the country cost plans. Such an approach will prove beneficial for the next phase of the CLIMIS project and the overall OHCHR work on the nexus in the Sahel Region.

- It will also be important to ensure sustained commitment of the thematic leads and heads of entities in HQ, regional office and relevant country presences. This will solidify achieved outcomes and boost advocacy within the UN and nationally, embedding this approach in UNSDCFs, influencing climate strategies including NDCs, and guiding national migration policies.

Management position on recommendations: Accepted

Management comments:
 OHCHR is currently developing its strategies for the West Africa Regional Office, and the country presences in Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria. In doing so, the Office is taking into account the present recommendation in view of reflecting the particular issue of climate-induced migration in its results framework.
 Even though WARO has not integrated a specific regional result on climate change and sustainable environment, it will integrate the issue of climate-induced migration as a crosscutting issue throughout its regional programme.

Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
1. Inclusion of the nexus as a crosscutting issue in the strategy, WP and CP for WARO	WARO	February-April
2. Inclusion of the nexus as a crosscutting issue in the strategy, WP and CP for country presences	Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria	February-April

Recommendation 2. In the interest of addressing the current coordination challenges of the project, the next phase should be coordinated, managed, and administered at the regional level. This would also be in line with UN management reform and could be complemented by technical support from OHCHR HQ, which would include: the provision of knowledge, expertise and capacity building, in order to ensure that all relevant thematic issues are thoroughly addressed, including cross-thematic challenges.

- To facilitate this, WARO should be equipped with its own M&E section and commensurate human resource capacity and should plan for more regular meetings with HQ and with Country Presences, in order to streamline reporting and improve communication across thematic and geographical areas, overcoming language barrier issues through adequate resourcing and planning.

Management position on recommendations: Partially accepted

Management comments:

The management team agrees with the importance of increased ownership and leadership of the project at regional and country level, especially given the particular nature of the project's region- and country-specific actions and activities. This project was coordinated from HQ because the relationship between the donor and OHCHR as well as the reporting obligation was at that level. The funding was thematic and not for the region. OHCHR's programming needs to be flexible in order to accommodate different sources of funding and donor relationships.

It is important to further take into account that a potential continuation of the project, with a coordination role for WARO, would require that WARO is equipped with the necessary project management and administrative capacity. In the absence of new funding, the means may not be available to fully build up the necessary infrastructure to coordinate this important stream of work.

In the meantime, and in close coordination with WARO, the thematic sections of OHCHR are committed to continue to provide knowledge, expertise and capacity building in a coordinated manner, in order to ensure that all relevant thematic issues are thoroughly addressed in relevant plans and strategies at the global, regional and country level.

Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
1. HQ support to WARO and relevant country presences in the planning process	Environment and Migration Teams	Ongoing as requested
2. HQ support for development of knowledge, expertise and capacity-building	Environment and Migration Teams	Ongoing as requested

2. Design, Strategy and funding

Recommendation 3. Enhance the project's design by simplifying and streamlining the formulation of Goals, Outcomes, and Indicators in the Results Framework to ensure clarity and facilitate project Monitoring & Evaluation.

Define clear and distinct deliverables for each output, and factor in a strategic approach for utilizing data collected throughout the project. This should include:

- Developing communication products that are tailored to a variety of audiences such as briefing papers, factsheets, one-pagers, and policy briefs.
- Strengthening the research component by developing more comprehensive research protocols that enable data disaggregation by gender, age, disability and demographics representing groups in vulnerable situations.

Management position on recommendations: Partially accepted

Management comment: We recognize the value of the recommended strategies for improving project clarity, the results framework, communications and research strategies. These strategies would need to align with the overall objectives of the project to advocate for changes that would benefit people in the context of climate change related human mobility. However, action in this regard would be 1) contingent upon the renewal of the

<p>project for its second phase where we see a promising opportunity to incorporate these actions, 2) availability of resources in a second phase to include additional outputs, and 3) need to take into consideration the project design criteria and the reformulation of indicators (noting phase I was designed in line with the criteria and indicators set by the donor).</p>		
Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
<p>Consult the OHCHR’s project support unit (located in PPMES), on the next phase project proposal, including revisions to the Results Framework and other aspects, to ensure alignment with the recommendations and enhance project effectiveness.</p>	<p>DESIB, WARO and PPMES (Project management)</p>	<p>If / when additional funds become available for a phase 2.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4. Include a project start-up phase to factor in adequate time for the hiring and training of staff, mobilization of logistics and the putting in place of clear implementation plans with country presences, among other things. This will allow for more realistic observance of time frames and compliance with donor requirements.</p>		
<p>Management position on recommendations: Accepted</p>		
<p>Management comment: Contingent upon the renewal of the project for a phase 2, we would include a project start-up phase with advice and collaboration from Human Resources. A project start-up phase was part of the initial proposal but its effectiveness was inhibited by COVID and a number of administrative delays.</p>		
Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
<p>The recommendation is not actionable at this time.</p>	<p>DESIB & WARO & HR</p>	<p>If / when additional funds become available for a phase 2.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5. Meticulously articulate the project’s scope prior to rollout. When selecting project countries, different climate-induced migration patterns should be taken into account, including different types of migration (e.g., IDPs and CBMs), the distinction between adaptation and mitigation measures and the respective resources (funding, skills and expertise) needed for their implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct detailed analyses including country analyses, stakeholder analyses, needs- and risks assessments to inform the design and project site selection. • Subsequently, conduct a joint refinement process between WARO, HQ, and designated OHCHR offices. Involve national authorities and key partners to garner local insights for community choices. 		
<p>Management position on recommendations: Partially accepted</p>		

Management comment: This recommendation is largely consistent with the process applied to develop Phase I of the project including consultations with FOTCD, and OHCHR country presences. Contingent upon the renewal of the project for a phase 2, we would seek to comply with the spirit of this recommendation to plan effectively. However, we note that some actions described above may not be feasible to carry out until additional project staff are onboarded, both from a capacity standpoint and because there is value to including the staff in these analyses and assessments in order for them to build their network and assume ownership of the project. In the absence of dedicated project staff, WARO will continue to support the elaboration of a new project proposal and involve national and regional actors in its elaboration.

Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
<p>While the recommendation is not actionable at this time, it will be taken into account in the next phase of the project.</p> <p>OHCHR’s project support unit (located in PPMES) will also take this recommendation into account for the development and review of new projects in related areas of work and in general.</p> <p>WARO and relevant country presences - in coordination with OHCHR’s project support unit (PPMES) - will support the elaboration of project proposals including through liaison with key national and regional partners.</p>	<p>DESIB & WARO & selected country presences</p>	<p>If / when additional funds become available for a phase 2.</p>

Recommendation 6. Rigorously tailor the scope of the project to the funds available, taking into account expenses at country level including adequate human resources, rent, vehicles, and other running and maintenance costs.

- In situations where country offices are required to contribute additional resources, this should be integrated in the Annual workplan and cost plans for the respective country presence. Country presences, formal co-resourcing agreements should be drawn up that cannot be affected by changes in staff or priorities. These should be strategically managed through regular communication between project management and the heads of country presences.

Management position on recommendations: Accepted

Management comment: Contingent upon the renewal of the project for a phase 2, we would tailor the scope of the project to the funds available, taking into account expenses at country level, as well as in regional and HQ offices, while considering requirements from donor.

Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
While the recommendation is not actionable at this time, it will be taken account in the next phase of the project.	DESIB, WARO, selected countries of implementation, and Finance	If / when additional funds become available for a phase 2.
<p>Recommendation 7. In the next phase of the project, DESIB should conduct initial training for National Project Officers (NPOs) in the country presences and WARO, as part of the project start-up phase. This training is essential to equip NPOs with the necessary skills and knowledge, not only on the nexus, but also on the expertise needed for effective implementation and monitoring. In addition, ongoing high level political and technical support should also be provided to them. This will ensure that their engagement with local and national authorities is as effective and timely as their engagement with the communities.</p> <p>Within this context the following measures should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly field trips by WARO to the project countries should be budgeted for along with quarterly trips by HQ staff. • HQ should initiate interactions with RCOs within project countries to set up meetings that include OHCHR staff from WARO and Country Presences, including NPOs themselves. This can be done within the context of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in each country. • The links thus formed between RCOs and Country Presences and particularly with NPOs, must be systematically maintained through regular, scheduled interactions throughout the life of the project. WARO should monitor this and reach out to HQ for further involvement if NPOs are facing challenges working with national authorities. 		
<p>Management position on recommendations: Partially accepted</p>		
<p>Management comment: The management team agrees that should a phase 2 of the project take place, additional efforts should be made to train the national project officers and support their engagement with RCs / UNCTs as well as relevant political actors at national and regional level.</p> <p>However, the management team does not favor a prescriptive approach with respect to periodic travel and believes quarterly missions to each project country might exceed staff capacity, budget constraints, and be inconsistent with OHCHR’s sustainable environmental management objectives. While sufficient staff travel should be included in a phase 2 and would be essential for its success, such travel should be on an as needed basis and consistent with OHCHR’s sustainability efforts.</p> <p>Additionally, given the specific relationship between RCOs and OHCHR presences in their countries, it is recommended that regional and country presences initiate interactions with RCOs to set up meetings that include HQ.</p>		

Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
<p>While the recommendation is not actionable at this time, it will be taken account in the next phase of the project.</p> <p>OHCHR's project support unit (located in PPMES) will also take this recommendation into account for the development of new projects in related areas of work and in general.</p>	DESIB &WARO METS	If / when additional funds become available for a phase 2.

Collaboration, Networking and Partnerships

<p>Recommendation 8. Forge additional and stronger collaborations within OHCHR and partnerships with pertinent entities including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research institutions to enhance the quality of research outputs, • UNCTs and specific UN agencies involved in raising awareness and advocating for better management of climate-driven displacement such as IOM, UNHCR, UNDRR, etc.; regional organizations like ECOWAS and ACHPR; national authorities such as ministries of interior, planning and environment, NHRIs. and CSOs. • Invest in and prioritize the building/maintaining a Network with donors at regional and country level and engaging with embassies to this end. 		
<p>Management position on recommendation: Accepted</p>		
<p>Management comment: The management teams continue to advance efforts to forge additional and stronger collaborations and partnerships with relevant entities.</p>		
Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain existing partnerships and explore potential funding opportunities for a Phase 2 2. Update the existing partner mapping document to include relevant partners in line with the recommendations and in preparation for a phase 2 	DESIB, WARO and country presences	Ongoing

Mainstreaming GE and DI

<p>Recommendation 9. Systematically mainstream GE & DI at all levels to ensure their incorporation into country-level workplans and M&E mechanisms. Allocate specific funds to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in the project. This can be in the form of a 'reasonable accommodation fund' to be included in the</p>

AWP/CP, which could cover expenses such as interpretation, transportation, or other necessary support, aiming at facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities.		
Management position on recommendation: Accepted		
Management comment: Contingent upon the renewal of the project for a phase 2 and availability of funds provided.		
Key actions	Responsibility	Time-frame
Consult the OHCHR's project support unit (located in PPMES), on the next phase project proposal, including revisions to the Results Framework and other aspects, to ensure that gender and disability is effectively mainstreamed.	DESIB & WARO	If / when additional funds become available for a phase 2