

# A Study on Women, Gender Inequalities and Climate-Induced Migration in East Africa

A joint study by the Office of the High Commissioner for United Nations Human Rights – East Africa Regional Office and the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for Africa





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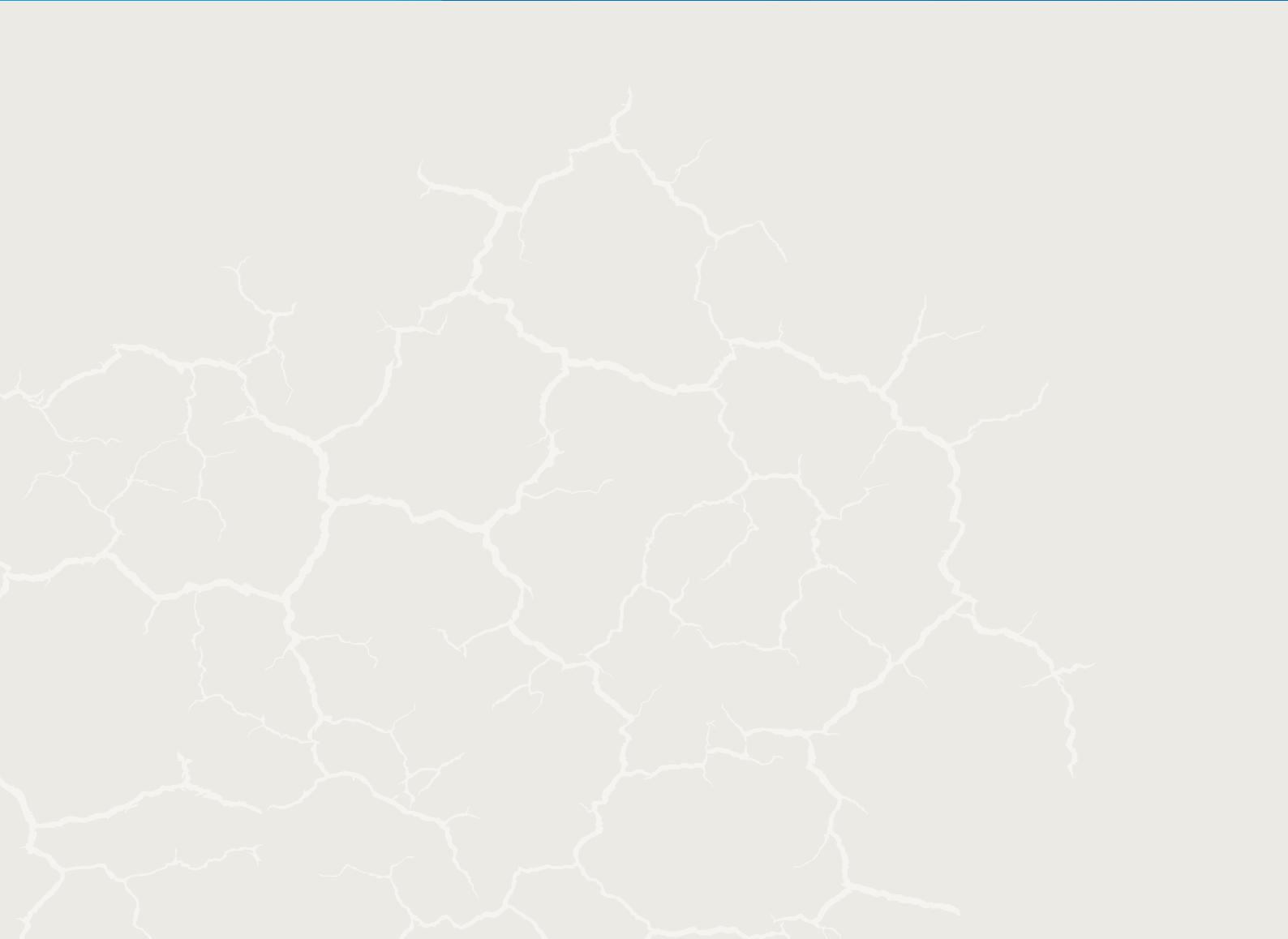
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# Abbreviations and acronyms

AU	African Union
ACPC	African Climate Change Policy Center
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Global Climate Change Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
NDC	National Determined Contributions
OHCHR EARO	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – East Africa Regional Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change





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# 1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

## 1.1 Introduction

This study report has been designed to influence policy action and decision making by development practitioners from governments, international organizations and other stakeholders. It promotes a clearer understanding of regional and international frameworks on climate change and migration, trends in climate change, disaster risk displacements and gender specific risks associated with climate change related migration.

The study also draws on reflections and lessons learned from climate change related migration and contributions of women in finding practical solutions to emerging challenges. The study examines migration related concerns, new opportunities and provides recommendations to inform policy and programmatic action to addressing drivers of climate change induced migration and the implications for women and gender inequalities in East Africa.

## 1.2 Background

Globally, environmental change is expected to have an increasing impact on internal and international migration. Forecasts of the number of people who will migrate either internally or internationally by 2050 due to climate change vary from 25 million to 1 billion, with 200 million being the most widely cited. Most of this mobility is expected to be in the form of internal migration<sup>1</sup>.

Human migration has featured in global outcome declarations on climate change since 2010. Notably, the Cancun Adaptation Framework under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) called on all countries to take “measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at national, regional and international levels”. In 2012, the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, held in Doha (COP18) underscored the importance of having an in-depth understanding of the impact of climate change vis-à-vis migration. In addition, the COP18 outcome report focused on approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance their adaptive capacity. Specific emphasis was made on the need to have a clear understanding of how impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of international migration and internal displacement.<sup>2</sup>

Climate change-related migration has increasingly become a fundamental concern globally, with implications on a wide range of rights including

the right to food.<sup>3</sup> In response, a number of policy approaches have been adopted to provide safeguards for the protection and promotion of the rights of groups such as migrants, including refugees, migrant women and migrant children..

Numerous obligations and responsibilities of States and non-State actors are enshrined in both international human rights law<sup>4</sup> and international environmental law,<sup>5</sup> as well as international policy commitments.<sup>6</sup> These instruments provide legal guarantees and safeguards for strengthening the protection and promotion of the rights of all people from the adverse effects of climate change, including climate induced displacements.

Analyses of trends have shown how gender shapes the causes, experiences, and consequences of migration in a changing climate. Meanwhile, evidence has shown how socially constructed gender norms influence movement patterns and affects who moves and who stays. This is particularly the case for women living in fragile or conflict-affected regions, including parts of East Africa.<sup>7</sup> In order to address the emerging concerns, the UN Decade of Action to Deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (2020-2030)<sup>8</sup> has called for more inclusive approaches to resolving global challenges, including gender inequality and climate change.<sup>9</sup> Women’s participation and leadership is key to addressing climate change and migration issues.

Adopting a more gender-responsive or gender-sensitive approach will help foster women’s important role in leading sustainable transformations. A gender-sensitive approach seeks to assess the implications of any planned action for women, as well as men and people of

1 International Labour Migration Statistics A Guide for Policymakers and Statistics Organizations in the Pacific retrieved from [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms\\_371837.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_371837.pdf)

2 <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/cop18/eng/l04r01.pdf>

3 [https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Policy-paper-Human-rights-environment-gender-equality-en\\_1.pdf](https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Policy-paper-Human-rights-environment-gender-equality-en_1.pdf)

4 On the intersection between human rights and climate change, see: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change/reports-human-rights-and-climate-change-and-on-human-rights-the-environment-and-gender-equality>, see: [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/Final\\_HumanRightsEnvironmentGenderEqualityKM.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/Final_HumanRightsEnvironmentGenderEqualityKM.pdf)

5 <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/advancing-environmental-rights>

6 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

7 Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

8 World leaders, at the SDG Summit in September 2019, called for a Decade of Action, pledging to mobilize financing, enhance national implementation and strengthen institutions to achieve the Goals by the target date of 2030.

9 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/#:~:text=2020%20needs%20to%20usher%20in,and%20closing%20the%20finance%20gap.>



diverse gender identities—including legislation, policies or programmes— and to integrate their concerns and experiences into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all related policies and programmes.

It is against this backdrop that OHCHR EARO and UNEP Regional Office for Africa have produced this joint study on women, gender inequalities and climate-induced migration in East Africa.

### 1.3 Purpose

This study outlines the nexus of climate-induced migration and gender inequalities in East Africa in order to inform policy action, through pursuing specific objectives.

### 1.4 The Objectives of the Study

1. Examine legal and policy frameworks on climate change, migration and advancement of gender equality.
2. Analyze climate change and migration trends and emerging gender concerns, lessons learned and promising practices of solutions led by women.
3. Propose key recommendations to inform strategic policy direction and measures to address climate change migration and gender inequalities.

### 1.5 Scope of the Study

The study provides insights into how gender shapes the causes, experiences, and consequences of migration in the context of a changing climate. It also examines emerging trends in climate change in East Africa and seeks to identify the extent to which gender is mainstreamed in national level policymaking processes related to climate change

adaptation and mitigation. Finally, the study aims to identify challenges, lessons learned, promising practices and key recommendations to inform policy action.

### 1.6 Methodology

The study applies qualitative and quantitative approaches in analyzing data and information collected through a desk review of relevant documents. It draws on secondary sources of information from relevant publications and similar studies conducted in the East Africa region to inform analysis of emerging trends, lessons learned and key recommendations.

### 1.7 Desk review of relevant literature

Desk reviews entailed a review of laws and policy frameworks, publications on gender and climate change, reports and journals, to inform an analysis of climate, migration and its implications on gender inequalities.

### 1.8 Limitations of the study

Whereas the study analyzes climate induced migration and gender inequalities in East Africa, it specifically examines the implications of climate induced migration on women. It does not examine the impact of climate induced migration on boys and men or on people of diverse gender identities.





## 2. OVERVIEW

### OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION AND EMERGING TRENDS IN EAST AFRICA

#### 2.1 Overview of the legislative and policy context for climate change and migration

Numerous international and regional instruments are relevant to this study. The nine core international human rights instruments provide legal protection to everyone, including all migrants, regardless of their status. In addition, some individuals and groups are entitled to specific protection under international instruments, such as migrant workers and their families under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families adopted in 1990.<sup>10</sup> Refugees and asylum seekers are entitled to specific protection under international and regional refugee law.

#### Countries in East Africa:

- Burundi
- Comoros
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Djibouti
- Ethiopia
- Eritrea
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda

<sup>10</sup> In East Africa, Uganda and Madagascar have ratified the Convention. See: <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>

For instance, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol are the key instruments containing the rights of refugees and the legal obligations of States to protect them.<sup>11</sup> The 1969 Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa is the primary legal instrument on the protection of refugees in the continent,<sup>12</sup> and has been ratified by 46 out of 55 African States, including a majority of the countries in East Africa – Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Tanzania.<sup>13</sup> Likewise, the African Union adopted in 2009 the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), which recognizes persons displaced by natural disasters.<sup>14</sup>

The recognition of the effects of climate change has led to multiple advancements within the United Nations system. In 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted with almost universal membership (197 Parties). The UNFCCC gave rise to both the 1997 Kyoto Protocol<sup>15</sup> and the 2015 Paris Agreement.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), displacement is stated as a consequence of disasters.<sup>17</sup> All three agreements have the objective of preventing negative human effects on climate, stabilizing greenhouse gas production and enabling sustainable development.<sup>18</sup>

At the regional level, the African Union’s Agenda 2063 commits to climate change action that prioritizes adaptation and calls on member countries to implement the Programme on Climate Action in Africa, including a climate resilient

agricultural development programme. Agenda 2063 commits to building climate resilient economies and communities, and notes that participation in global efforts for climate change mitigation will support and broaden the policy space for sustainable development. In a bid to translate its commitments into action, the African Union Commission has elaborated the African union climate change and resilient development strategy and action plan (2022-2032).<sup>19</sup>

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat developed a Climate Change Policy and Strategy (2010) to guide Partner States and other stakeholders on the preparation and implementation of collective measures to address climate change in the region. The Policy prescribes statements and actions to guide adaptation and mitigation, reduce the vulnerability of the region, enhance adaptive capacity, and build socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems. EAC is developing a climate change bill and forest policy and strategy and exploring the establishment of an alliance on carbon markets and climate finance.<sup>20</sup> The Lake Victoria Basin Commission developed a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2023) that presents a roadmap for addressing and adapting to climate change impacts. The strategy sets out to conduct capacity building programs in the region with a focus on gender and youth dimensions and mobilize funds for implementation.<sup>21</sup>

11 <https://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html>

12 <https://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/african-union-refugee-definition>

13 <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36400-sl-OAU%20Convention%20Governing%20the%20Specific%20Aspects%20of%20Refugee%20Problems%20in%20Africa.pdf>

14 [https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36846-treaty-kampala\\_convention.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36846-treaty-kampala_convention.pdf)

15 The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 and entered into force in 2005. With 192 parties, the protocol aims the limitation and reductions of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions by industrialized countries in compliance with individual targets. See more at: [https://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol](https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol).

16 Adopted in 2015, the Paris Agreement has 192 parties and it aims at reducing global greenhouse gas emission the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees; support developing countries to adapt and slow climate change; and review commitments of State Parties every five years. See more at: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement>.

17 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/climate\\_change\\_and\\_migration\\_in\\_vulnerable\\_countries.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/climate_change_and_migration_in_vulnerable_countries.pdf)

18 <https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>

19 [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/41959-doc-CC\\_Strategy\\_and\\_Action\\_Plan\\_2022-2032\\_23\\_06\\_22\\_ENGLISH-compressed.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/41959-doc-CC_Strategy_and_Action_Plan_2022-2032_23_06_22_ENGLISH-compressed.pdf)

20 <https://www.eac.int/environment/climate-change/eac-climate-change-policy-framework>

21 [https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2018\\_USAID-PREPARED\\_Lake-Victoria-Basin-Adaptation-Strategy-Action-Plan.pdf](https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2018_USAID-PREPARED_Lake-Victoria-Basin-Adaptation-Strategy-Action-Plan.pdf)

In 2018, the UN General Assembly endorsed its first negotiated global framework on migration in all its dimensions, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) (2018). In Objective 2 of the GCM, States commit to minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, including climate change. In GCM Objective 5, on enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration, States also commit to develop or build on existing practices for admission and stay for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin owing to sudden-onset natural disasters and other precarious situations. They further commit to cooperate to identify, develop and strengthen solutions for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin owing to slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation. In addition, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) (2018) also recognized climate, environmental degradation and natural disasters as some of the drivers of refugee movements.<sup>22</sup>

Moreover, the Human Rights Council (HRC) has adopted resolutions on human rights, climate change and migration, and an analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls upon member states for climate action, in addition to safe and regular migration.<sup>24</sup>

## 2.2 Trends in disaster-related internal displacements in East Africa

Despite significant progress towards sustainable development and contributing to less than 0.2 per cent of global carbon emissions (1990-2015),<sup>25</sup> East Africa remains vulnerable to climate hazards as a result of insufficient global ambition to limit emissions and mitigate climate change. The region's vulnerability to climate hazards is aggravated in some cases by dynamics of poor governance, lack of resources, ethnic disputes, commodity-based economies, population growth, and a lack of adequate health care, infrastructure, education facilities, communication services, financial markets, credit and capital services.<sup>26</sup> From October to December 2019, climate change-related events, such as the Indian Ocean Dipole-IOD,<sup>27</sup> the la Niña<sup>28</sup> phenomenon and the Pawan tropical cyclone,<sup>29</sup> caused extreme rainfall<sup>30</sup> and flooding in the region.<sup>31</sup> As a result, migration patterns shifted, and crop production has been negatively affected.<sup>32</sup> Pest outbreaks have also occurred. From the end of 2019 to early 2020, a desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) outbreak<sup>33</sup> was experienced across several East African countries<sup>34</sup> and the impacts continue to pose a serious risk to food security and livelihoods.<sup>35</sup>

22 <https://www.unhcr.org/5c658aed4>

23 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/Reports.aspx>

24 [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/climate\\_change\\_and\\_migration\\_in\\_vulnerable\\_countries.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/climate_change_and_migration_in_vulnerable_countries.pdf) and <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

25 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/climate-fuelled-la-nina-east-africa-will-drive-millions-hunger>

26 [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/original\\_0.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/original_0.pdf)

27 In general, 90 per cent of anthropogenic heat is absorbed by the oceans. The western part of the Indian Ocean, which borders East Africa, is the fastest-warming part in the tropical Ocean system (1.2 °C during the summer period).

28 La Niña refers to cooler than usual ocean temperatures in the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean, which occurs on average every three to seven years, and usually affects temperatures, precipitation, and storm patterns.

29 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0835-8>

30 <https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wea.3824>

31 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/climate-fuelled-la-nina-east-africa-will-drive-millions-hunger>

32 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/climate-fuelled-la-nina-east-africa-will-drive-millions-hunger>

33 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0835-8>

34 Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Tanzania

35 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0835-8>

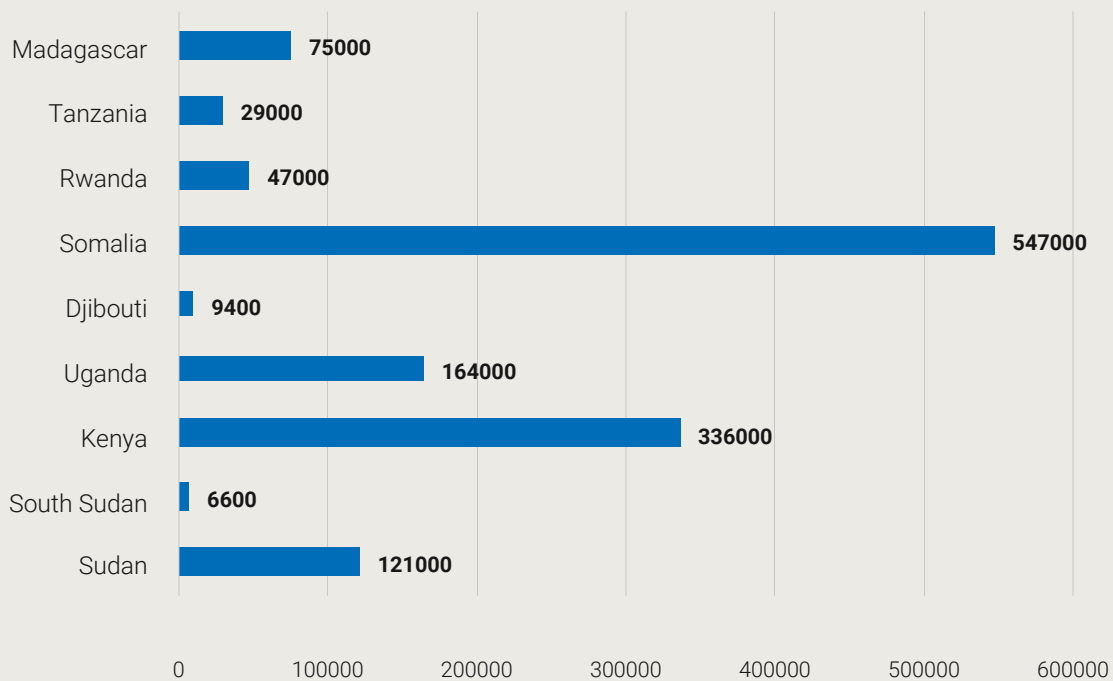
The impacts of these climate-related events have been further exacerbated by other factors in the region:<sup>36</sup> political instability; ongoing armed conflicts; limited financial resources and economic difficulties.<sup>37</sup> The interaction of climate change with these other drivers is believed to have increased migration<sup>38</sup> in the region. The World Bank's Groundswell report predicts that the East Africa sub-region could see up to 12.1 million migrants on the move by 2050.<sup>39</sup>

There is, however, no accurate reliable data on the number of women affected by climate-induced migration in East Africa. Evidence from the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration conducted in

September 2021 by the Economic Commission for Africa further affirms that, there is absence of data and recommended that African Member States should strengthen data collection through the integration of migration questions into national censuses and surveys to generate a better understanding of the profile of migrants; promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on regular migration pathways and labour migration to inform policies and identify opportunities in destination countries. These recommendations remain relevant and pertinent in establishing reliable data on the number of women affected by climate induced migration in order to inform evidenced based planning and policy making to respond to their specific gendered needs <sup>40</sup>.

**Figure 1:**

**Trends of disaster related displacements in East Africa (adapted from the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019 (GRID 2019))**



36 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-020-0835-8>

37 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/climate-fuelled-la-nina-east-africa-will-drive-millions-hunger>

38 There is no universal legal definition of "migrant". OHCHR uses the term "international migrant" to refer to "any person who is outside a State of which they are a citizen or national, or, in the case of stateless person, their State of birth or habitual residence". See OHCHR, Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders (2014), available at: [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/OHCHR\\_Recommended\\_Principles\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/OHCHR_Recommended_Principles_Guidelines.pdf). In the context of this brief, migrant is also used to refer to those moving within the borders of a country.

39 <https://www.africaportal.org/features/climate-refugee-rights-east-africa-op-ed-victor-nyamori/>

40 [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources\\_files/africa\\_gcm\\_regional\\_review\\_report.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources_files/africa_gcm_regional_review_report.pdf)

Bar Graph 1 shows trends of disaster related internal displacements in East Africa.<sup>41</sup> Somalia continues to have the highest number of disaster-related internal displacements followed by Kenya and Uganda.

## 2.3 Gender-specific risks in the context of climate change-related migration

Like other regions in the world,<sup>42</sup> women in East Africa tend to carry the burden of domestic care and work, and have fewer opportunities to influence decision-making to mitigate and cope with climate change impacts.<sup>43</sup> In rural regions of East Africa in particular, where dependency on subsistence farming is high, women are the primary providers of food,<sup>44</sup> water<sup>45</sup> and fuel.<sup>46</sup> Climate change leads to resource scarcity, making these tasks increasingly difficult and dangerous. Women's socio-economic position and traditional role in society as caregivers also limits their movement to adapt to climate change; exposes them to discrimination and gender-based violence;<sup>47</sup> and prevents them from having equitable access to resources, services, information, employment, and decision-making processes.<sup>48</sup>

## 2.4 Climate change-related migration in East Africa

Climate change related migration is the movement or relocation, temporary or permanent, of persons due, in part or in whole, to the adverse effects of climate change, including crisis or disaster. It is triggered by a vast array of events, namely direct or indirect harm from sudden onset disasters,<sup>49</sup> slow onset disasters, and climate change-related conflicts.<sup>50</sup> Climate-related disasters may disrupt local security safety nets, leaving women and children unaccompanied, separated or orphaned due to the erosion and breakdown of normal social controls and protections.<sup>51</sup> For some, migration may be the only available adaptation strategy to cope with the adverse effects of climate change. The drivers and consequences of migration have a strong gendered dimension, linking it to entrenched and systemic gender-based discrimination and violence against women and people of diverse gender identities.

Some men are more able to cope with climate change by moving away from their families in search of alternative livelihoods,<sup>52</sup> sometimes traveling with some family members and taking with them the remaining resources they possess (e.g. livestock herds).<sup>53</sup> Women's capacity to use migration as a coping strategy is often limited, and with a lack of resources and freedom of movement, they may become trapped in areas where climate disaster risks are high.<sup>54</sup> Social norms as well as unequal access to information and education can also discourage women from migrating.

41 <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-report-internal-displacement-2019-grid-2019-0>

42 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.TIM.UWRK.FE>

43 <https://unfccc.int/gender>

44 They are responsible for growing, processing, managing, and marketing food and other natural resources.

45 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14735903.2017.1336411# JP%20RWEE%20Consolidated%20Annual%20Report%202019%20Final%20WEB%20version.pdf>

46 [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/climate\\_change\\_gender\\_and\\_development\\_in\\_africa.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/climate_change_gender_and_development_in_africa.pdf)

47 <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3883en/ca3883en.pdf>

48 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14735903.2017.1336411# JP%20RWEE%20Consolidated%20Annual%20Report%202019%20Final%20WEB%20version.pdf>

49 Brought by extreme weather events.

50 Conflicts over natural resources and land rights

51 <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/187211468349778714/pdf/796210WP0Build0Box0377381B00PUBLIC0.pdf>

52 GCS.pdf

53 <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1034&context=wjelp>

54 This is due to socio-cultural norms, restricted livelihood options, lack of access to formalized safety nets, fewer possibilities to benefit from technologies and information, lack of financial assets and limited rights to land and property

At the same time, due to socially constructed gender roles, women often carry the responsibilities as caretakers of their families and households even in the context of migration. Women who do not migrate often face a double economic burden: income generation and caring for the household.<sup>55</sup> They may take on new roles, such as working in sectors that were traditionally dominated by men (e.g. cash crop management),<sup>56</sup> while maintaining increasingly strenuous<sup>57</sup> household responsibilities.<sup>58</sup> They may also be more vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity: female-headed households have been observed to be more likely to experience food shortages than male-headed households.<sup>59</sup> Women are also up to 14 times more likely than men to be killed by natural disasters when their mobility is constrained.<sup>60</sup>

Ethiopia is experiencing one of the most severe La Niña-induced droughts in the last forty years following four consecutive failed rainy seasons since late 2020.<sup>61</sup> In 2019, an estimated 200,000 people lost their homes in Ethiopia due to drought and rainfall. The resulting overcrowded shelters and the lack of access to basic services increased the risk of gender-based violence. Women and girls also faced an amplified risk of sexual violence as they had to travel farther distances and more often to fetch water.<sup>62</sup>

Women living around Lake Victoria in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania are highly dependent on riparian villages and commercial centers. Their dependency on these locations and limited alternative options constrains their mobility, putting them at risk of rising lake waters.<sup>63</sup>

Women who migrate due to climate impacts may face heightened risk of violence. They may be forced to seek relief, shelter and adequate living conditions<sup>64</sup> in acutely insecure contexts, where they often face gender-based violence, including sexual violence, harassment, exploitation, health hazards, discrimination, human trafficking, and child, early or forced marriages.<sup>65</sup> In these situations, they often lack institutional support, social networks, safe working conditions, social protection, and general recovery support.<sup>66</sup> Limited access to healthcare can also impede women's access to life-saving health services,<sup>67</sup> including sexual and reproductive health,<sup>68</sup> and mental health<sup>69</sup> services, goods and information.



55 GCS.pdf

56 <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1034&context=wjelp>

57 These include sexual and gender-based violence, community expulsion, and inadequate infrastructure and systems used to provide health care, water and sanitation, or food.

58 GCS.pdf

59 Negesse, A., Jara, D., Habtamu Temesgen et al. The impact of being of the female gender for household head on the prevalence of food insecurity in Ethiopia: a systematic-review and meta-analysis. *Public Health Rev* 41, 15 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40985-020-00131-8>

60 <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3883en/ca3883en.pdf>

61 <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2022/6/62bb2d014/ethiopian-families-struggle-survive-amid-record-drought.html>

62 <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/world-vision-east-africa-region-situation-report-october-1-october-31-2019>

63 [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7987/environment\\_development.pdf?sequence=3](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7987/environment_development.pdf?sequence=3)

64 When passing through areas with higher levels of violence or when they end up in insecure areas or destinations which are usually unsafe evacuation centers, camps, poor urban areas, slums, and shanty towns

65 <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1034&context=wjelp>

66 [https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/topic/file\\_plus\\_list/rain\\_turns\\_to\\_dust\\_climate\\_change\\_conflict.pdf](https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/topic/file_plus_list/rain_turns_to_dust_climate_change_conflict.pdf)

67 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IDL-Information-Sheet-No.3-GBV-March-2018.pdf>

68 Sanitary products, such as during pregnancy, breast-feeding, or menstrual cycles

69 Anxiety and post-traumatic stress





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## 3. ANALYSIS OF MAIN FINDINGS

### 3.1 Introduction

This section highlights major findings of the study, key lessons learned from climate change-related migration and provides an overview on solutions led by women to address emerging challenges. It also provides insights on major obstacles affecting gender mainstreaming in climate change decision-making processes.

### 3.2 Lessons learned from climate change-related migration and reflections on solutions led by women in East Africa

Media and official reports often depict women as victims of disasters, yet women are often on the frontlines in combating climate change. In East

Africa, women's local knowledge and experiences mean they hold the potential to lead efforts to strengthen preparedness and drive responses to climate change-related slow and sudden onset disasters. Due to their critical role in agriculture, food security, livelihoods, income generation, and natural resource and household management,<sup>70</sup> they are equipped to meaningfully contribute to the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and practices and to address inequalities, ultimately contributing to building more resilient communities.<sup>71</sup>

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70 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

71 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report-v0.4.pdf>

## Promising practices: Women's groups in Uganda

Several women's groups in Uganda train members in conservation agriculture practices, share information on climate resilience and environmental protection, and provide a platform to amplify women's voices for them to lead on climate solutions.

- The Gomba Women's Environment Project in Uganda
- The Women's Climate Centers International (WCCI)
- The Uganda Muslim Women's Association

### 3.3 Women who stay: transforming community structures

When men leave their families to cope with the consequences of climate change by searching for alternative livelihoods, women often take on new roles in their families and communities. They may transform their environments and lead new approaches to mitigate and address the effects of climate change.

#### 3.3.1 Knowledge of local context and village networks

Women who live in villages in rural regions of East Africa may form and tap into vibrant, varied and nimble social networks of mutual insurance and risk-sharing village organizations, such as informal mutual help groups and local formal associations.<sup>72</sup> Through these networks, women

gain access to food, livelihoods, and village savings and loans groups that provide safety nets in the face of climate impacts, addressing some of the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their homes. Their perspectives include not only their personal experiences but also a responsiveness to the needs of their families and communities.<sup>73</sup> They demonstrate an acute awareness of their shifting environment, regularly reporting on direct weather changes (such as flooding), and are often part of community level initiatives.<sup>74</sup> These connections with internal village groups, combined with unique local knowledge, and broader awareness of the different climate change impacts, give a majority of local women a unique capacity to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.<sup>75</sup>

72 <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/42207/Working%20Paper%2080%20Perez%20et%20al%20.pdf>

73 [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/GenderResponsive/A\\_HRC\\_41\\_26.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/GenderResponsive/A_HRC_41_26.pdf)

74 Women develop groups among themselves generating large influence on other women and girls, increasing their active participation in their communities. There are a wide range of groups which include informal mutual help groups and formal associations that enhance access of women to food, labor and cash.

75 <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/42207/Working%20Paper%2080%20Perez%20et%20al%20.pdf>

### 3.4 Gender-inclusive climate-smart agriculture

Many women possess significant and unique local knowledge and capacities regarding their ecosystems, sustainable land management practices, and indigenous plant varieties in terms of nutritional and medicinal values as well as genetic plant resources to adapt to varying climatic conditions. Some of this knowledge comes from different sources, including local agricultural groups and their communities, in addition to an increased access to information.<sup>76,77</sup> For example in Uganda, the government has adopted parish development models which seek to take services closer to the people, where agriculture interventions are taking place. This has led to increased delivery of extension and advisory services to farming groups, leading to improved information access by women. As such, the women have increasingly harnessed the potential to support the development and are prime users of climate-smart agriculture (CSA)<sup>78</sup> practices. When given greater access to information, land and services, women's asset ownership in East Africa is positively linked to the adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices (see box). This has led to greater productivity, improved income security,<sup>79</sup> enhanced entrepreneurial skills, greater market access, increased access to employment opportunities, improved wages, and more conscientious use of natural resources,<sup>80</sup> ultimately leading to the improved resilience of the women.<sup>81</sup> CSA approaches can therefore help women manage climate risks better, reduce the occurrences of climate induced migration, enhance the community's food security, and enable the social and economic growth of the region.

### 3.5 Women who migrate: new roles and opportunities

Women who cope with climate change by migrating may take on new roles and responsibilities that empower them to effectively participate in sustainable development.

Migration may be an opportunity for women to gain access to more secure alternative livelihood resources such as new educational and career opportunities and food, health and hygiene related services.<sup>82</sup> New social connections and benefits from exposure to diverse cultures, skills and knowledge can make women more aware of climate issues, diversify their income sources, and increase their social status.<sup>83</sup> This can open new entry points for women to effectively participate in climate action and other sustainable livelihood activities.<sup>84</sup>



76 Local agricultural groups are an essential source for information regarding CSA and, especially for women, they also enhance their access to labor.

77 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

78 CSA, as defined by the FAO (2010), integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) by jointly addressing food security and climate challenges. CSA is composed of three main pillars: 1. Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes. 2. Adapting and building resilience to climate change. 3. Reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, where possible.

79 [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/climate\\_change\\_gender\\_and\\_development\\_in\\_africa.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/climate_change_gender_and_development_in_africa.pdf)

80 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

81 [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/GenderResponsive/A\\_HRC\\_41\\_26.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/GenderResponsive/A_HRC_41_26.pdf)

82 <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1034&context=wjelp>

83 <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1034&context=wjelp>

84 <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1034&context=wjelp>

### 3.6 Overview of key obstacles to gender mainstreaming in climate change policy action and programming

#### Obstacle 1. Insufficient gender-disaggregated data analysis

The absence of sufficient gender disaggregated data and other data to assess intersectional discrimination is a major obstacle in designing effective responses to address climate induced migration and gender inequalities. Studies on climate change and climate change-related migration continue to be gender-blind, with few studies making the link between migration, environment and gender.<sup>85</sup> Sex/gender- and age-disaggregated data on gendered drivers of mobility and impacts of climate change and climate change-related migration on men and women and people of diverse gender identities is still not recorded effectively because these variable incidences are challenging to track. Furthermore, few studies take into account women's and other minorities contributions to climate change prevention and adaptation, leading to a common portrayal of women and minority groups as victims, and underestimating their potential as agents of change.

Further, there is still no systematic statistical data at the national level, including on the origins, the frequency, and the length of such occurrences, in order to formulate meaningful and effective policies.

#### Obstacle 2. Policymaking at national level still requires strong gender-mainstreaming to address gender equality and climate change issues.

Considerable work has already been done to establish a global framework for guiding State Parties to the UNFCCC on gender mainstreaming in climate change interventions. It is important to take cognizance of some of these measures such as the elaboration of the five-year Lima work Programme on gender and its action plans which placed particular emphasis on promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the UNFCCC process, it also encouraged states to advance its implementation at national level.<sup>86</sup> The Gender Action Plan places particular emphasis on the need for better understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and stakeholders at all levels, as well as women's full, equal and meaningful participation in UNFCCC processes.<sup>87</sup> Whilst these frameworks are in place, requisite capacities in mainstreaming and addressing gender inequality and climate change need further strengthening.

#### Examples of gender disaggregated data surveys

- The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) baseline surveys
- Farm characterization (IMPACT Lite) surveys
- The Living Standards Measurement Study–Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS–ISA).

85 <https://dialogochino.net/en/climate-energy/8206-women-bear-the-brunt-of-climate-migration/>

86 <https://unfccc.int/documents/200912>

87 <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstreams/the-gender-action-plan>

## Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) on climate action

As of March 2021, 191 NDCs have been submitted, with 8 Parties having submitted their second NDCs.

All African countries, except for Libya, have developed NDCs.

Only a few countries in Africa most affected by climate change include migration within their NDCs to manage effects of climate change, as a possible adaptation strategy and leveraging remittances and transfers from migrants and diaspora.

Only three African countries – Malawi, Mauritania and Senegal – mention finance or finance instruments to support women’s adaptation and mitigation actions in their NDCs.

UNFCCC NDC Registry: <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

The Government of Ethiopia has taken important steps in setting up and strengthening institutions, governance arrangements for climate change and gender, including through the establishment of Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) units and gender directorates in different sectoral ministries. Evidence shows that, despite these efforts to mainstream gender and climate change across all ministries’ work, these units have had challenges to do so in practice.<sup>88</sup>

In Kenya, the Government enacted the Climate Change Act 2016 established a Climate Change Council headed by the President to guide the mainstreaming of climate action at national and county governments. The act also established a Climate Change Directorate (CCD) to coordinate implementation of climate action. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) prepared the Second National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018-2022, which seeks to further the achievement of Kenya’s development goals by providing mechanisms to realize low carbon climate resilient development. It emphasizes sustainability, while prioritising adaptation and enhanced climate resilience for vulnerable groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized and minority communities.<sup>89</sup>

In spite of the progress made, key challenges impeding national action plan policy implementation include: Lack of a subsidiary legislation for reporting under the Climate Change Act 2016 to guide on reporting, lack of standardized form of activity data collection and reporting instruments across all sectors, unavailability of Data and uncoordinated data sharing mechanisms, data collection systems to ensure data availability, data quality control and assurance protocols and limited funding for reporting requirements by the Government Establishment of institutional frameworks at both national and county level.<sup>90</sup>

Although efforts have been made by UN and AU Member States to align their domestic plans of actions with climate change related frameworks, such as the Lima Programme of Work and Gender Action Plan, more needs to be done to better respond to the challenges of climate change, gender inequality and migration in, inter alia, East Africa. The gender mainstreaming policies that are already in place are too broad and do not clearly define the problems they aim to address, such as bringing gender perspectives into policy development and monitoring of norms and standards.<sup>91</sup>

88 <https://cdkn.org/story/feature-mainstreaming-gender-and-climate-change-into-ethiopian-development>

89 [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/584v80xdctyuopk/AADFFu\\_xw4XXeZVdRxPb2vXra/NCCAP%20Implementation?dl=0&preview=Kenya.NCCAP.2018\\_2022.pdf&subfolder\\_nav\\_tracking=1](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/584v80xdctyuopk/AADFFu_xw4XXeZVdRxPb2vXra/NCCAP%20Implementation?dl=0&preview=Kenya.NCCAP.2018_2022.pdf&subfolder_nav_tracking=1)

90 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MRV\\_Webinar\\_Presentation\\_Kenya\\_Experience.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MRV_Webinar_Presentation_Kenya_Experience.pdf)

91 [https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/ACPC/Gender-Climate-Change/gender\\_analysis\\_of\\_climate\\_change\\_in\\_africa.pdf](https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/ACPC/Gender-Climate-Change/gender_analysis_of_climate_change_in_africa.pdf)

In addition, State Parties to the Paris Agreement recently submitted new and enhanced NDCs. Those submitted thus far have largely failed to fully address gender and migration (see box xx). Moreover, the composition of UNFCCC constituted bodies is not gender-balanced, as of 2021, with only 33% women<sup>92</sup> among which 15% are Africans.<sup>93</sup>

## Global Compact on Migration

Global Compact on Migration (GCM) is the first-ever inter-governmentally negotiated UN agreement on a common approach to managing international migration. It is based on a collective realization that no single government can effectively govern migration alone – whether fully realizing the potential of global mobility or protecting people from the most pernicious aspects of migration – without cooperation, whether bilaterally, regionally, or globally.

While not legally binding, the GCM's guiding principles, objectives and actions find their root in established obligations and principles, underpinned by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 and international law.<sup>94</sup>

Findings from the International Migration Review Forum 2022, revealed that, the Global Compact on Migration is still not meeting the challenge of taking a gender-responsive approach to migration, or to its implementation. Specific concerns raised included; lack attention to gender and other intersecting forms of discrimination. The stakeholders highlighted a wide range of recommendations including urgent need for States to recognize migrant women's agency and leadership, a call to ensure that, migrant women's voices are heard when assessing migration

policies going forward and in setting gender, race, labor rights, climate and other indicators for GCM implementation. The forum recommended for the need for gender-responsive policy to be reflected across all elements of migration policy (and related labor, economic, finance, climate, development policy).<sup>95</sup> With this hindsight, it is critical to ensure that, National Action Plans for the Implementation of GCM take into consideration the gendered aspects of climate induced migration ensure that the specific challenges and needs of those affected are addressed in a comprehensive and integrated complementary manner in both climate change national laws and policies as well in National Action Plans for the implementation of GCM. For example, there is need for climate adaptation measures to address the drivers of climate-related migration.

States have an obligation to plan and prepare for natural disasters, extreme weather events and slow-onset processes. Article 11 of the ICESCR, for example, requires States to take appropriate steps to ensure for all people the right to an adequate standard of living. People are more likely to leave their homes if they are not provided adequate protection and assistance to adapt to climate harms. Efforts to address the causes of forced migration in the context of climate change should seek to protect rights, strengthen social protection systems, reduce disaster risk and exposure, and increase adaptive capacity.<sup>96</sup>

### **Obstacle 3. Continued restrictive traditional social gender norms and access to resources and decision making in East Africa**

Cultural and social norms hinder women and girls in East Africa from greater participation in policy- and decision-making positions, especially in the political and economic realms. Harmful practices

92 <https://unfccc.int/news/overrepresentation-of-men-in-un-climate-process-persists>

93 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2020\\_03\\_adv.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2020_03_adv.pdf)

94 <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/global-compact-for-migration#>

95 Summary Report- International Migration Review Forum 2022 Informal Interactive Multi-stakeholder Hearing Monday, 16 May 2022 Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York, retrieved from [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources\\_files/Summary%20Report%20-%20IMRF%20Multi-stakeholder%20Hearing%20-%2016%20May%202022.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources_files/Summary%20Report%20-%20IMRF%20Multi-stakeholder%20Hearing%20-%2016%20May%202022.pdf)

96 OHCHR's Key Messages on Human Rights, Climate Change and Migration retrieved from [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/Key\\_Messages\\_HR\\_CC\\_Migration.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/Key_Messages_HR_CC_Migration.pdf)



such as gender-based violence (GBV) and early/forced marriages are some of the main causes in countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia which generates gender inequality, school dropouts, poor reproductive health, and limited opportunities for women and other gender minorities to have more participation within society.<sup>97</sup>

Additionally, women may have limited access to education,<sup>98</sup> information<sup>99</sup> and climate-smart agricultural practices,<sup>100</sup> which impacts women’s adaptive capacity, migration, and food security.<sup>101</sup> Women in East Africa also endure restricted access to productive land, land ownership and long-term land user rights.<sup>102</sup> Furthermore, they may have less access to agricultural extension services and other inputs, which limits their adaptive capacities,<sup>103</sup> such as practicing climate-smart agriculture.<sup>104</sup>

While women have important roles in the economies of East Africa, for example through participating actively in the production of goods and services and comprising the majority of workers in the healthcare field, most women in the region end up working in the informal sector, being paid less than men in the cases in which they receive a salary.<sup>105</sup>

Further, women’s participation in decision-making continues to remain weak, especially at community and family levels, due to the gender stereotypes and norms which inhibit their participation and engagement in decision making.<sup>106</sup> Since women’s experience with the impacts of climate change is different from men’s, their participation in the development of climate change policies and frameworks is fundamental for the enhancement of such instruments.<sup>107</sup>

There are progressive steps and efforts to increase women’s representation in decision-making positions across the region which are worthy taking note of. For instance, Ethiopia has increased the number of women in key Cabinet positions as well as appointed a female President for the first time in 2018 and data from Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, also show progress in women’s representation.<sup>108</sup>

### Female representation in national parliaments in 2021<sup>109</sup>

Rwanda.....	61.3 per cent
Ethiopia.....	38.8 per cent
Uganda .....	34.9 per cent
Tanzania.....	36.7 per cent
South Sudan.....	28.5 per cent
Djibouti.....	26.2 per cent
Kenya .....	21.6 per cent

### Female representation in ministerial positions in 2021<sup>110</sup>

Rwanda.....	54.8 per cent
Ethiopia.....	40.0 per cent
Seychelles.....	45.5 per cent
Uganda .....	34.5 per cent
South Sudan.....	33.3 per cent
Kenya .....	30.4 per cent
Eritrea.....	17.6 per cent
Djibouti.....	13.0 per cent

97 [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/AFR/images/3781\\_15\\_E\\_web.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/AFR/images/3781_15_E_web.pdf)

98 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

99 such as regarding weather and climate information

100 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

101 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14735903.2017.1336411#>

102 [InvestigatingtheGenderGapinAgriculturalProductivity.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf)

103 This makes them less likely to use improved seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides

104 <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/42207/Working%20Paper%208%20Perez%20et%20al%20.pdf>

105 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

106 <https://www.eac.int/gender/gender-and-women>

107 [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/PB1\\_Africa\\_Overview-Gender-Climate-Change.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/PB1_Africa_Overview-Gender-Climate-Change.pdf)

108 <https://www.idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/womens-economic-empowerment-east-africa>

109 <https://www.ipu.org/news/women-in-politics-2021>

110 <https://www.ipu.org/news/women-in-politics-2021>



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#### **Obstacle 4. Restricted pathways for safe and regular migration**

Some States have developed a multitude of discretionary measures at the (sub-) regional level to exceptionally admit groups of people compelled to move in the context of disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation based upon humanitarian and solidarity principles. Yet, concerted efforts need to be made to develop or build on existing national and regional practices for admission and stay, including regularization programs, for those who have moved as a result of the adverse impacts of climate change, including women, in order to minimize, amongst others, their situations of vulnerability.

In addition, to address the situations of vulnerability of those who are unable to access migration as an adaptation strategy, further efforts are required to expand and enhance the availability of regular pathways for safe migration based on human rights and humanitarian grounds.<sup>111</sup>

#### **Obstacle 5 – Challenge of irregular migration and absence of legal safeguards for protection of migrants**

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recognizes that the rights of all migrants, both in regular and in irregular situations should be protected. Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Tanzania, South Sudan and Kenya have not yet ratified the ICRMWs. International human rights laws obliges states to provide effective mechanisms to prevent and provide redress to human rights harms resulting from the adverse effects of climate change on migrants. It also obliges state actors to provide legal safeguards for protection of all migrants including those affected by climate change and natural disasters. Climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives should address gender specific concerns of women affected by climate change induced displacements.

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<sup>111</sup> See United Nations Network on Migration, "Guidance Note: Regular Pathways for Admission and Stay." <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/resources/guidance-note-regular-pathways-admission-and-stay-migrants-situations-vulnerability-0>



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# 4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 4.1 Conclusion and key recommendations

This section provides selected conclusions and recommendations to guide governments, international organizations and other stakeholders on measures to undertake in order to strengthen gender mainstreaming in climate change policy and programmatic action to address drivers and challenges of climate change induced migration and inequalities in East Africa.

### **1. Eliminate gender discriminatory laws and practices**

Women, girls and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) community are affected by discriminatory laws and practices, hindering the enjoyment of their human rights and leading to GBV and other violations. Discriminatory laws should be reviewed and

eliminated at national and regional level, while harmful practices need to be prohibited under national law and perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Concerted efforts should be made to strengthen law reform processes to repeal restrictive provisions in domestic laws which perpetuate structural discrimination ; embark on programmes to influence positive behavioral and social norms in order to eliminate discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes; and to adopt measures to address unequal distribution of unpaid care work between women and men.

Gender equality cannot be achieved without the participation of men and boys. Engaging men and boys within communities in programs to transform discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes is key for successful long-term change.

## 2. Alignment of policy frameworks with international and regional normative standards on gender, climate change and migration

Promote the ratification and implementation of regional and international instruments<sup>112</sup> on human rights, migration, gender and climate change.<sup>113</sup>

Identify synergies and gaps between existing regional and international legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms on migration, gender and climate change in order to integrate a human rights-based approach and contribute to a more coherent, comprehensive and effective response.<sup>114</sup>

Implement gender-related actions in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)<sup>115</sup> and NDCs.<sup>116</sup>

Take advantage of key opportunities in recent developments related to the human rights of migrants, such as working with the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement<sup>117</sup> (2020-2021), which has paid particular attention to internal displacement and climate change.<sup>118</sup> The follow-up and review process of the GCM, including the regional reviews and International Migration Review Forum held in 2021 presents good opportunities to assess progress in the implementation of the GCM at the national, regional and global level. Equally, the GCM encourages all Member States to develop ambitious national responses for the implementation of the Global Compact, and to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level, such as through the voluntary elaboration and use of a national implementation

plan.<sup>119</sup> The GCM follow-up and review process presents opportunities to develop GCM national action plans and to mainstream migration, climate change and human rights issues, such as equality and non-discrimination, in all relevant national laws, policies and programmes. Additionally, guidance and jurisprudence from the United Nations human rights mechanisms provides guidance to judicial processes at national level. For example, the United Nations Human Rights Committee ruling on a complaint by an individual seeking asylum from the effects of climate change, which stated that countries may not deport individuals who face climate change-induced conditions that violate the right to life.<sup>120</sup>

## 3. Awareness raising and capacity building

Strengthen capacities of relevant East African national ministries, to incorporate a whole-of-government approach and a whole-of-society approach through capacity development training and information sharing programmes for all relevant actors including CSOs and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to develop gender-responsive actions in recovery and response to climate change-related migration. There is need to create compulsory capacity-building and training programs with a gender perspective in international human rights law for members of the judiciary and other legal professionals.<sup>121</sup>

112 [https://gojil.eu/issues/101/101\\_article\\_yoshida.pdf](https://gojil.eu/issues/101/101_article_yoshida.pdf)

113 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

114 This should include, amongst others: the UN Security Council, UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, the Global Compact on Migration, the Global Migration Group's Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality, the Global Compact on Refugees, the UN Human Rights Council Ruling, the African Union's Migration Policy Framework for Africa (2018 – 2030), the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (2018)

115 National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) enables countries to identify and implement strategies regarding climate change. They are country-driven and gender-sensitive. More at: <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans>

116 Within the context of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and Gender Action Plan, the Sendai Framework, the Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, resolutions put forth by the Human Rights Council the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda, the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala, 2009),

117 Established on 23 October 2019, the panel aims to increase global attention to internal displacement, develop concrete recommendations for Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders on how to better prevent, respond, and achieve solutions to internal displacement. More at: <https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/content/high-level-panel>

118 2020 submissions by Member States addressed displacement linked to several issues, including conflict and violence, disasters and climate change, technological disasters and development-induced displacement, and individual persecution, as well as increased risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More at: [https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/sites/www.un.org.internal-displacement-panel/files/synthesis\\_report\\_-\\_submissions\\_hlp.pdf](https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/sites/www.un.org.internal-displacement-panel/files/synthesis_report_-_submissions_hlp.pdf)

119 [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/a\\_res\\_73\\_195.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/a_res_73_195.pdf)

120 [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25482#:~:text=GENEVA%20\(21%20January%202020\)%20%E2%80%93,violate%20the%20right%20to%20life.](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25482#:~:text=GENEVA%20(21%20January%202020)%20%E2%80%93,violate%20the%20right%20to%20life.)

121 Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – Human Rights Council 38th session

Ensure that training, awareness raising, and information programmes address situations of vulnerability, including the risk of gender-based violence, sexual abuse and trafficking in disaster-prone areas.<sup>122</sup> Create forums through which women, individually and in groups, communities, and networks can exchange information on migration.

Mainstream gender perspectives across policies, accompanied by targeted gender-responsive national policies and plans for implementation, including in the development of new and updated NDCs.

#### **4. Inclusive participation in decision-making**

Protect and promote civic space for women's organizations, feminist movements and women human rights defenders working in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and migration.

Empower women's agency and collective voice to increase equal participation and substantive inputs of women in decision and policymaking in local, community, national, regional and international institutions, processes, negotiations and policies related to climate change issues and migration.<sup>123</sup>

Document progress and positive outcomes periodically in order to clearly showcase the added value of women's participation.

Develop leadership and technical skills of women, including temporary special measures, and provide opportunities for them to showcase their capabilities.<sup>124</sup>

#### **5. Access to justice for climate migrants**

Ensure access to justice for those affected by climate change: States are required to provide effective mechanisms to prevent and redress human rights harms resulting from the adverse effects of climate change, and from climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other human rights instruments require access to justice including effective remedies.

This is critical for migrants who are often unable to access justice due to the irregular and precarious conditions they face during migration. Judicial and other redress mechanisms are particularly important for migrants and those relocated to address grievances and be adequately compensated for their losses.

States must be accountable for their contribution to human rights harm regardless of where they occur. Accountability should also include businesses and actors that have contributed to the causes of climate change or violated human rights in their mitigation and adaptation actions.

#### **6. Climate financing and humanitarian funding accountability mechanisms**

Design more gender-responsive financing instruments and resource mobilization strategies, like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund to enhance gender equitable distribution of financial resources<sup>125</sup> including strengthening climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

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122 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IDL-Information-Sheet-No.3-GBV-March-2018.pdf>

123 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report-v0.4.pdf>

124 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IDL-Information-Sheet-No.3-GBV-March-2018.pdf>

125 [https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/ACPC/Gender-Climate-Change/gender\\_analysis\\_of\\_climate\\_change\\_in\\_africa.pdf](https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/ACPC/Gender-Climate-Change/gender_analysis_of_climate_change_in_africa.pdf)

Establish accountability mechanisms to make gender-responsive budgeting and financial audits<sup>126</sup> mandatory. Require inclusion of women in consultations, action and leadership training to reflect their needs and concerns.<sup>127</sup>

## **7. Rights protection for women migrants**

Develop and implement gender-responsive mechanisms to guarantee the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, particularly women migrants.

Enforce investigation and prosecution measures to prevent and eliminate systemic discrimination, sexual and gender-based violence, harassment, physical abuse, and sex and labor trafficking of women who move owing to climate change.

Improve planning and management of temporary shelters in a way that is gender-responsive, meets human rights and humanitarian standards, and train staff in gender-responsive approaches.

## **8. The expansion of safe and regular migration pathways**

Create or expand safe and regular pathways for admission and stay based on humanitarian and human rights grounds in order to facilitate admission and stay in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, including through the provision of temporary residence and work permits, humanitarian visas and temporary protection status or by relaxing visa requirements and fees.

## **9. Invest in gender-inclusive climate-smart agriculture**

Set up legal structures to secure, codify and legally enforce women's rights to land tenure through legal advocacy and capacity-building of communities to recognize and support women's equal access, use and control of land and resources.<sup>128</sup>

## **10. Improved gender-disaggregated data**

Ensure the systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex/gender, migratory status and other factors<sup>129</sup> to understand the gender-specific impact of climate change and migration and develop evidence-base policies.

Build on pioneered initiatives, like Rapid Gender Analyses (RGAs), gender and conflict analyses, and use the Human Rights Marker and Gender Marker to better monitor and evaluate climate-induced migration and its impact on women's rights and gender equality.

Compile and disseminate experiences, lessons learned, and promising practices related to activities on climate change, migration, and gender.

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<sup>126</sup> [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/climate\\_change\\_gender\\_and\\_development\\_in\\_africa.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/climate_change_gender_and_development_in_africa.pdf)

<sup>127</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/GenderResponsive/A\\_HRC\\_41\\_26.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/GenderResponsive/A_HRC_41_26.pdf)

<sup>128</sup> GCS.pdf

<sup>129</sup> <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-and-2030-agenda-guide-practitioners>



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