

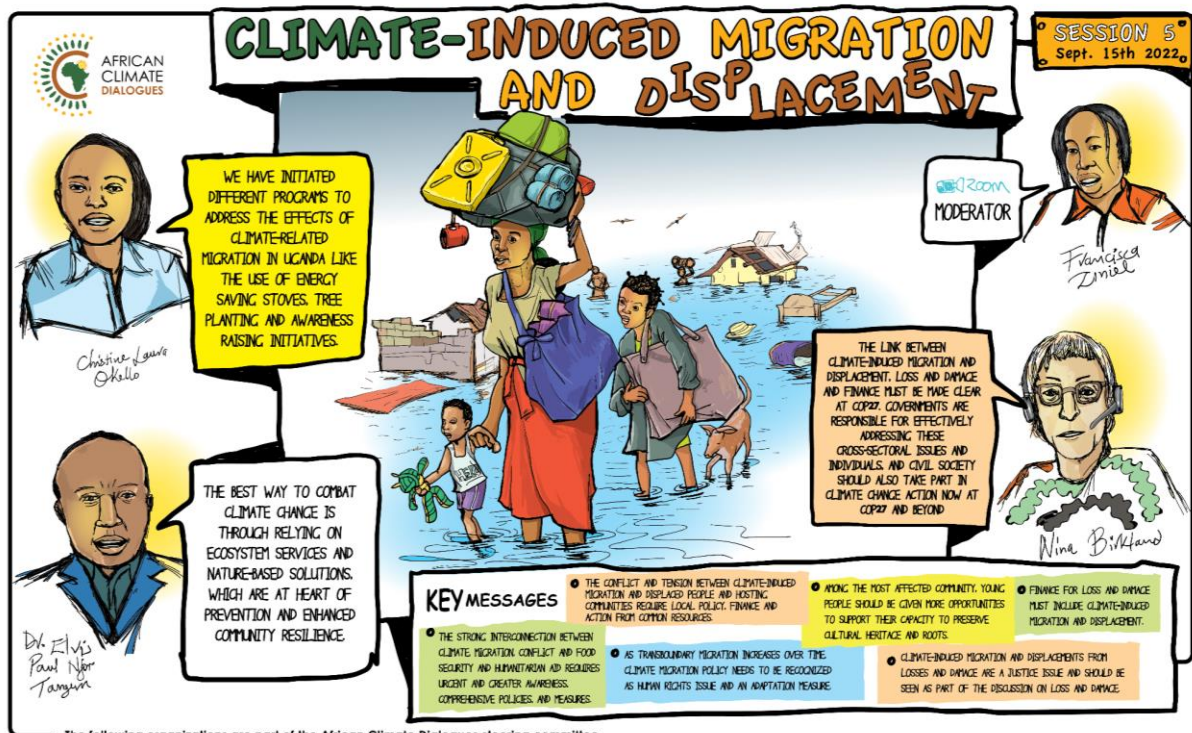
Newsletter

following the

'Climate-Induced Migration and Displacement'

Fifth African Climate Dialogue

15 September 2022 - Hosted on Zoom



CLIMATE-INDUCED MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

SESSION 5
Sept. 15th 2022

Zoom
MODERATOR

Christine Louise Okello

Francisca Zaniel

Dr. Elvis Paul Njeri Tangari

Nina Birkhead

KEY MESSAGES

- 1. THE STRONG INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE MIGRATION, CONFLICT AND FOOD SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN AID REQUIRES URGENT AND GREATER AWARENESS, COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES AND MEASURES.
- 2. AS TRANSBOUNDARY MIGRATION INCREASES OVER TIME, CLIMATE MIGRATION POLICY NEEDS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND AN ADAPTATION MEASURE.
- 3. AMONG THE MOST AFFECTED COMMUNITY, YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THEIR CAPACITY TO PRESERVE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ROOTS.
- 4. FINNACE FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE MUST INCLUDE CLIMATE-INDUCED MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT.

The following organizations are part of the African Climate Dialogues steering committee

African Climate Path and Justice Network | AFSA | CAFOD | Caritas Africa | CIDSE | EONECC | IOM | Friends of the Earth Africa | Friends of the Earth International | RESULTS | RESULTS | LEADERS IN DEVELOPMENT | SCIAF | This event is co-funded by the European Union

Sketch by Andrew Baingana

INTRODUCTION

Francisca Ziniel Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA) Ghana's Representative, welcomed the participants to the fifth Climate Dialogue session, on Climate - Induced Displacement and Migration. The impact of climate change on migration has been recognized as an increasingly significant phenomenon, especially in Africa, which requires multilateral cooperation to be effectively prevented and addressed. The World Bank estimates that without ambitious climate action and disaster risk reduction, climate-related disasters could double the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance to over 200 million each year by 2050. Sudden phenomena such as floods and heat waves, and slow-onset and long-lasting climate impacts such as desertification, droughts, rising ocean levels and ocean warming, are already causing migration and displacement and the number of vulnerable people will grow in the coming years, especially in specific places called 'hot spots' and larger areas such as the Sahel region. Several African populations are vulnerable to these impacts. This dialogue has created a space for discussion on the African context and potential solutions to climate change and environmental degradation to prevent forced migration ahead of the United Nations Climate Conference (COP 27) in Egypt.

The Panel of Discussion

Nina M Birkeland (Senior Adviser, Climate change and displacement, NRC Geneva) - According to the statistics from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Africa has the highest figures of people who are affected by climate-related migration and internal displacement globally than by conflict and violence (2012 - 2021).

Climate disasters and environmental degradation that lead to displacement and migration are caused by multiple drivers such as political, social, and climate factors. Our understanding and actions should thus be holistic and take a cross-sectoral approach from the development, humanitarian, climate change, disaster risk reduction, migration, human rights and many other sectors.

It would be strategic to place climate-induced migration and displacement topic high on the COP27 agenda and in the Loss and Damage and finance discussions. Suggestions on how Advocacy engagement on this topic can be enhanced were also shared. These included creating and sharing strong joint messages about affected communities on the ground from CSO and research organizations also through side events, lobby meetings, civil demonstrations, and use of media and social media. For instance, the advisory group on human mobility and climate change as well as the climate migration and displacement platforms are seeking to develop joint messages for COP negotiations.

Financing climate-induced migration is also important. To ensure that the L&D finance does not repeat the same difficult criteria as the GCF, we need to make donors aware that the current mechanisms do not serve the most vulnerable. However, governments are responsible for addressing this climate-induced migration and without real and strong action at COP27, the other UN processes will be ineffective. See her presentation [here](#).

Francisca shared a video produced by Caritas Uganda in Bidibidi, Yumbe after the first keynote speaker. This video on the experiences of environment and climate-induced migrants and how they are integrated into the community through innovative climate and displacement initiatives. You can watch the video [here](#).

Christine Laura Okello (Humanitarian Emergency Coordinator, Caritas Uganda) - This input was focused on community action, with the initiatives undertaken by Caritas Uganda. Promoting clean cooking innovation with ECOCA Solar cooker is one of the Community actions being undertaken with a joint venture with Caritas Denmark, which is currently a pilot project in Bidibidi, Yumbe. To enhance response to climate and displacements this initiative includes; tree planting, protecting indigenous trees, promoting energy saving stoves (Iorena) and awareness raising. Key message from this sharing was the need to support climate vulnerable countries and communities with climate finance for addressing loss and damage to realise global stability from climate induced displacements. See her presentation [here](#).

Dr. Elvis Tangem (coordinator for the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) at the African Union Commission). He started by highlighting the ongoing conflict around natural resources and their use in Africa, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic and conflict in Europe. These have affected many lives and livelihoods, in particular of those living in small communities. He argues that this existential challenge is a struggle for livelihood, existence and human dignity and is affecting the youth the most. Even though the Sahel Region is characterized by Dry lands, the issue is not that dry lands are poor, but the lack of investment, focus and lack of priority for them. He argues that can be solved by ensuring that the dry lands are developed sustainably with various stakeholders on joint initiatives such as ecotourism and cultural tourism. Emphasis was made on the need for a multi stakeholder approach at the micro-macro level which could benefit from the creativity and collective inputs from the knowledge from specific and diverse geographic contexts.

In closing, he emphasized that the best way to combat climate change and enhance community resilience is through prevention rather than cure. Since 70% of the African continent is agrarian, enhancing agriculture and food systems is essential. There is hope for the youth, he said because there has never been a time when the world has been so concerned about climate issues as it is today.

KEY MESSAGES AND CALLS OF THE DIALOGUE

- The strong interconnection between climate, migration, conflict and food security and humanitarian aid requires urgent and greater awareness, comprehensive policies, and measures.
- The conflict and tension between climate-induced migration and displaced people and hosting communities require local policy, finance and action from common resources.
- As transboundary migration increases over time, climate migration policy needs to be recognized as a human rights issue and an adaptation measure.
- Among the most affected communities, young people should be given more opportunities to support their capacity to preserve cultural heritage and roots.
- Climate-induced migration and displacements from losses and damage are a justice issue and should be seen as part of the discussion on loss and damage.
- Finance for Loss and Damage must include climate-induced migration and displacement.
- Climate induced migration and displacement exacerbates the underlying socio-economic and developmental crises.
- Job creation and tree planting initiatives, according to agroecology and agroforestry principles, should prevent environmental degradation and community exclusion/migration.
- NGOs and Catholic institutions should need to call for greater solidarity around these issues and should equip communities with legal assistance and tools to provide policy input into various governance processes.
- To have a stronger voice, the actors involved in climate-induced migration and displacements should collaborate and build synergies.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the diverse and complex views shared during the dialogue, the ACD believes in the values of solidarity and climate justice which promote sustainable initiatives according to agroecology and agroforestry principles to prevent environmental degradation and community exclusion and migration. The participants in their respective roles were encouraged to work together with the relevant stakeholders to advocate, educate and create awareness on the climate-induced displacement and migration topic as there is the need for strong action at all levels ahead of COP27 in Egypt and beyond.

For more information on this particular dialogue please contact:

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