



2021 Economic and Social Council Humanitarian Affairs Segment

**Human Mobility in the Face of the Climate Crisis:
How prevention, protection and solutions can best respond to future trends**

**Co-organised by IDMC, IOM, UNHCR and PDD
and sponsored by the United States of America**

Tuesday, 22 June 13:00 – 14:30 CEST (link to join below)

This is one of the virtual side events to be convened on the margins of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), which builds on this year's HAS theme: *“Strengthening humanitarian assistance to face the challenges of 2021 and beyond: mobilizing respect for international humanitarian law, inclusion, gender, innovation and partnerships”*.

Background and objectives of event

Climate change is aggravating and adding to many of today's crises through a complex web of effects on weather and seasonal patterns, ecosystems and natural resources, as well as the associated risk of disaster, conflict and displacement of populations. People living in impoverished and fragile situations and facing discrimination, including displaced people and vulnerable migrants, will continue to be among those who are disproportionately affected.¹ While this is true around the globe, there are hotspot areas: In 2020, eight of the ten countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change² had an inter-agency humanitarian appeal and six of them also hosted a UN peace operation. All but two of them were heavily affected by displacement, accounting for a total of 5.8 million new displacements in 2020.³

Research shows how complex the relationship between climate change and conflict can be. 95 per cent of all conflict displacements in 2020 occurred in countries vulnerable or highly vulnerable to climate change⁴. Disasters due to sudden and slow-onset hazards routinely hit populations already uprooted by conflict, forcing them to flee multiple times, as was the case with IDPs in Yemen, Syria and Somalia and refugees in South Sudan and Bangladesh. Moreover, population movements in the context of disasters and environmental change, in particular when not effectively managed, can result in inter-communal tensions.

¹ UNHCR, [Global Appeal](#), 2021

² Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative, [Rankings](#), accessed on 3 June 2021

³ IDMC, [Global Report on Internal Displacement](#), May 2021

⁴ Ibid.

Learning how to prevent, anticipate and address these overlapping crises is already a key challenge for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors, and will become increasingly relevant in the coming years and decades.

Discussion points or guiding questions

The proposed side-event will bring together IDMC, IOM, UNHCR, PDD, WFP with Member States and representatives of displaced communities. Panellists will offer perspective and analysis on the impact of climate change, including in its interplay with conflict, on present and future population displacement and migration trends. The panel will shed light on how climate change affects different fragile contexts, across regions, including in Central Asia, the Sahel, Eastern Africa, and the “dry corridor” in Central America, with a focus on migration, displacement, livelihoods, and food security. It will also focus on how we can improve preparedness, anticipatory action, and protection of affected persons.

The discussion will be informed by an analysis of existing knowledge and data, and probabilistic modelling of future scenarios. Perspectives on ongoing research efforts and related evidence will provide a baseline to discuss their application for the achievement of humanitarian, and development objectives. They will also allow to highlight existing and potential gaps in protection and assistance to people affected by disasters, the impacts of climate change and related displacement, as well as propose approaches, tools and good practices to meet related challenges through stronger prevention, preparedness, response and durable solutions efforts.

Key concrete action points and recommendations/take away messages

Participants will receive information on, and have the possibility to discuss:

- The latest evidence on the linkages between climate change, disasters, conflict and displacement, and how these crises intersect to push people in a downward spiral of vulnerability.
- Data gaps and how to fill them, including through risk modelling and probabilistic analytics.
- Evidence from country contexts around the world where climate change interacts with fragility and conflict as a driver of displacement.
- Existing protection and human rights mechanisms available for people forced to move due to climate change and disasters and remaining gaps.
- Challenges these realities and scenarios pose to national and local governments, international and civil society actors working on displacement in complex contexts characterized both by conflict or tensions, and disasters and the impacts of climate change.
- Forward-looking, anticipatory approaches relevant actors are taking to plan for and better respond to displacement and migration, particularly contexts characterized by multiple natural and man-made hazards playing out over short and long periods.

Format of the side event

Virtual panel discussion focused on challenges and good practices, followed by a Q&A session.

Chair and moderator

Prof. Walter Kaelin, Envoy of the Chair, Platform on Disaster Displacement

Panel composition

Joelle Hangi, Co-Founder and Director of Refugee Artist and Authors

Andrew Harper, Special Advisor for Climate Action, UNHCR

Maria Teresa Miranda Espinosa, Information Management Coordinator, IDMC

Mohammad Qaseem Haidari, Deputy minister for coherence and disaster affairs, Afghanistan Disaster management Agency

Richard Danziger, Chief of Mission, IOM Somalia

Kyung-nan Park, Deputy Regional Director for Central America, WFP

Background Material

- <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/>
- <https://disasterdisplacement.org/portfolio-item/internal-displacement-in-the-context-of-disasters-and-the-adverse-effects-of-climate-change-submission-to-the-high-level-panel-on-internal-displacement-by-the-envoy-of-the-chair-of-pdd>
- [UNHCR Strategic Framework for Climate Action: https://www.unhcr.org/604a26d84/strategic-framework-for-climate-action](https://www.unhcr.org/604a26d84/strategic-framework-for-climate-action)
- [UNHCR Legal considerations regarding claims for international protection made in the context of the adverse effects of climate change and disasters: https://www.refworld.org/docid/5f75f2734.html](https://www.refworld.org/docid/5f75f2734.html)
- [UNHCR Story Map The displaced on the frontlines of the climate emergency: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/065d18218b654c798ae9f360a626d903](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/065d18218b654c798ae9f360a626d903)
- [UNHCR Climate Change Webpage and Factsheets: https://www.unhcr.org/climate-change-and-disasters.html](https://www.unhcr.org/climate-change-and-disasters.html) & <https://www.unhcr.org/search?comid=542e99259&tags=protectionchallenge>
- https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IDPersons/Pages/CallforInputs_IDPs_climate_change.aspx
- <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/internal-displacement-context-slow-onset-adverse-effects-climate-change-submission-international>
- <https://weblog.iom.int/position-human-rights-committee-opens-possibility-dignified-migration-context-climate-change>

Connection details to join the event

The event will be held as a Zoom webinar, please register using the following link by Monday 21 June, 18:00 CEST: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p3sESkVSTr-NddrhwyI2zQ

Connection details will be shared with registered participants upon registration.

Contact(s)

	<i>Focal Point 1</i>	<i>Focal Point 2</i>	<i>Focal Point 3</i>	<i>Focal Point 4</i>
Name:	Barbara Essig	Lorenzo Guadagno	Florence Geoffroy	Erick Mutshayani
Org:	IDMC	IOM	UNHCR	PDD
Email:	barbara.essig@idmc.ch	lguadagno@iom.int	geoffroy@unhcr.org	erickm@unops.org