



Renewable energy systems supply displaced populations and their host communities in Yemen.  
Credit: Abyan, Yemen © IOM 2021/Rami Ibrahim.

# Policy Brief

Integrating displaced populations into national climate change policy and planning



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## Background, purpose and aims

This Policy Brief is produced under the auspices of UNEP's NDC Action project<sup>1</sup>, which supports 10 countries, four of whom (Bangladesh, Colombia, Jordan and Uganda) are home to significant populations of long-term displaced populations. The facts and analysis presented here build on discussions among humanitarian partners within the Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings (GPA) and at a session held at COP27, hosted by SEforAll, chaired by IOM and attended by UNEP, GPA and the NDC Partnership. The COP session focused on the main issues, needs and options to include displaced populations into national climate action policy and planning.

The Policy Brief highlights the importance of integrating human mobility, including displacement, in the policies and plans of ministries, departments and agencies responsible for climate, environment and development, including energy. And to better integrate climate, environment and development, including energy, in human mobility and displacement policies, planning and implementation.

The aim is to create a strategic and operational bridge between the humanitarian, development, climate change and environment fields. It is aligned with and aims at supporting the work of the Task Force on Displacement, within the UNFCCC's Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage and the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. It is also in line with IOM's Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, 2021-2030, and more specifically the targeted priority action to support "the mainstreaming of migration issues in regional, national, and local climate, environmental and related policies".

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<sup>1</sup> NDC Action is a 5-year project (2019-2024), funded by the German Government (IKI): <https://www.unep.org/ndc/>

*This brief is dedicated to the memory of Thomas Fohgrub, Strategic Lead of the Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings (GPA). Thomas was instrumental in shaping the agenda, ideas and arguments contained in this brief. He was visionary and collaborative, motivated to make an impact and skilled at bringing people together to affect change.*

# Key Terminology

## Who is a migrant?

An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from their place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students.

*IOM Glossary (2019). The present definition was developed by IOM for its own purposes and it is not meant to imply or create any new legal category.*

## Who is a displaced person?

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, either across an international border or within a State, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters.

*IOM Glossary (2019), adapted from the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, annexed to United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Francis M. Deng, Submitted Pursuant to Commission Resolution 1997/39, Addendum (11 February 1998) UN Doc. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, 5, para. 2 of the introduction.*

## Who is an internally displaced person?

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

*IOM Glossary (2019), adapted from the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, annexed to United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Francis M. Deng, Submitted Pursuant to Commission Resolution 1997/39, Addendum (11 February 1998) UN Doc. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, 5, para. 2 of the introduction.*

## Who is a refugee?

A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of their nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of their former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

*Source: Adapted from Convention relating to the Status of Refugees ((adopted 28 July 1951, entered into force 22 April 1954) 189 UNTS 137) Art. 1A(2).*

## What are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)?

The NDCs represent the commitment of Parties to the Paris Agreement for the reduction national of greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. "The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions."

*Source: UNFCCC*

## Just transitions

A set of principles, processes and practices that aim to ensure that no people, workers, places, sectors, countries or regions are left behind in the transition from a high-carbon to a low-carbon economy. It stresses the need for targeted and proactive measures from governments, agencies, and authorities to ensure that any negative social, environmental or economic impacts of economy-wide transitions are minimized, whilst benefits are maximized for those disproportionately affected. Key principles of just transitions include: respect and dignity for vulnerable groups; fairness in energy access and use, social dialogue and democratic consultation with relevant stakeholders; the creation of decent jobs; social protection; and rights at work.

*Source: IPCC glossary (2023)*

# What are the fundamental challenges and trends?

In 2022, there were more than 60 million new internal displacements (IDMC 2023) and as of mid-2022, over 30 million refugees (UNHCR 2022). Women and girls make up around 50 per cent of any refugee, internally displaced (IDP) or stateless population, and those who are unaccompanied, pregnant, heads of households, disabled or elderly are especially vulnerable (UNHCR 2023a). There are now more than 100m people overall displaced, ~75% of whom are hosted by low or middle-income countries and living in protracted circumstances. Host countries are struggling to meet the needs of IDPs and refugees, despite the efforts and support of UN agencies and humanitarian actors.

Climate change is compounding this situation. According to the World Bank's 'Groundswell' report (Clement et al. 2021), climate change could contribute to the movement of 216 million people within their own countries by 2050, unless concrete climate and inclusive development actions are taken. The report focuses on six regions and highlights that amongst these six regions, the majority (40%) of this internal movement is likely to take place in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the IPCC AR6-WG2 report (IPCC 2022), IDP and refugee settlements are disproportionately concentrated in regions (e.g., Central Africa) that are exposed to higher-than-average warming levels and specific climate hazards, including temperature extremes and drought. At the same time the IPCC points out that these populations frequently inhabit settlements that are intended to be temporary but can be protracted across generations, while facing legal and economic barriers on their ability to adapt or migrate away from climate impacts.

There are multiple climate-related impacts and risks that interact with non-climate and environmental factors facing protracted displacement of populations; but these risks are currently not sufficiently well understood. Both host and displaced communities rely heavily on the goods and services provided by the same ecosystems to access food, water, energy and income opportunities. Healthy ecosystems also act as buffers against extreme weather events. However, climate and non-climate drivers have degraded and are further degrading these ecosystems, increasing exposure and vulnerability to slow-onset events and processes (sea level rise, increasing temperatures, land degradation, etc) and sudden-onset events (floods, cyclones, storms, etc.). Since AR5 there is increased evidence that climate hazards associated with extreme events and variability act as direct drivers of involuntary migration and displacement and as indirect drivers through deteriorating climate-sensitive livelihoods (high confidence; IPCC 2022).

The enjoyment of human rights by displaced populations and their communities is directly affected by the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation throughout the displacement cycle, in places of origin, transit and destination. Climate change impacts are likely to exacerbate underlying causes of vulnerability, especially for those already facing societal inequality because of their gender, age, class, indigeneity and/or disability. States have the duty to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all individuals under their jurisdiction. Protecting the rights of those adversely affected by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters due to natural hazards, including displaced persons, should therefore be prioritized (IOM 2021).

Access to clean and sustainable energy is also a major challenge in situations of displacement (UNHCR 2023b; Haselip and Bourbon de Parme 2020). In fact, the vast majority of the world's displaced people do not have access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern sources of energy: an estimated 94% of displaced people in camps do not have access to electricity and 81% rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking (GPA 2022). According to research carried out in the United Republic of Tanzania by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, the burden of fuel collection among refugees in the Nyarugusu camp falls mostly on women (85%). However, the prevalence of cases of violence perpetrated in the forest, and the fact that collecting wood has become an income-generating activity, may help explain why more men participate in this task than is reported in non-camp settings (Rivoal and Haselip 2017).

Millions of displaced people live in the dark, surrounded by smoke and pollution, unable to access basic electricity services or sustainable cooking solutions. As is the case more broadly in lower-income countries, daily cooking responsibilities are largely held by women and girls who suffer health impacts from household air pollution including emphysema, cataracts, cancer, and heart disease, as well as economic impacts for example the inability to achieve a complete education (CCA 2023). The GPA estimate that the total energy and environmental investment funding requirements listed in current humanitarian response plans, as a partial example covering 28% of global refugee populations, was estimated at US\$300 million for 2021. To cover all refugee energy needs globally between 2022 and 2030 would require over US\$10 billion without accounting for the needs of IDPs in the same period. Without substantial investment and decisive political action, SDG7 is highly unlikely to be achieved in displacement contexts by 2030 (GPA 2022; Rosenberg-Jansen and Haselip 2021).

In addition, the financial viability of investing in sustainable energy solutions in humanitarian settings is undermined by a combination of: the remote location of many of the proposed projects; the perceived temporary nature of the humanitarian response; relatively small project sizes; high overhead costs; the unique set of rules and regulations associated to working in such settings; the local community's ability and willingness to pay; short term budgets; and associated termination clauses in long term agreements between humanitarian actors and commercial service providers. As such, traditional approaches to financing energy programmes cannot be supported by the risk-return characteristics of humanitarian settings. Therefore, alternative financial mechanisms are required, such as blended finance, supply side and end-user subsidies, amongst others (NRC 2022).



A community leader in Al Houtah expresses his gratitude for the rehabilitation of the sewage system, noting it is the first of its kind since 1980. Credit: Yemen © IOM Yemen 2021.

# Global and regional policy architecture: weaving the multiple threads

There is a wide range of policy fields relevant to displacement and climate action: from human mobility to development and Disaster Risk reduction (DRR), climate change and energy. These different threads of policies multiply as we look at different levels of governance, from global, to regional and national. Coherence between the different policy fields at the different levels is essential to ensure that these different threads come together as a strong web to fulfil the needs of people displaced (UN 2021).

As per the UN Commitment 20 of the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement (UN 2022), we must “support Governments to ensure climate risks are integrated into policies and investment decision-making, and to ensure that displacement risks and associated protection needs are systematically considered within policies, strategies and plans relevant to DRR, climate change action, urban planning and development, including by assisting in drafting or revising the policies in line with the State’s commitments under the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change”. Amongst the relevant policies, several recognise the linkages between human mobility and displacement related needs, and climate change, as presented below.

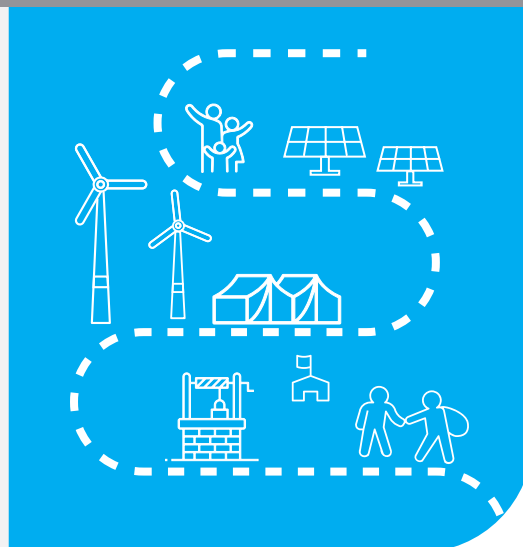
UN Member States agreed on the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in Sept. 2016, pledging solidarity and a shared responsibility for the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees. They committed to ease the impact on developing countries hosting the majority of IDPs and refugees by adopting a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) that aims to shift from shorter term humanitarian aid to longer term developmental solutions. This was further elaborated in the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, both agreed in 2018, which actively consider the impact of the environment on human mobility and of human mobility on the environment and also highlight the role of renewable energy in assisting the displaced (Mach 2019). This came a year after UN Member States agreed the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the importance of including migration in development strategies in order to commit to protecting the rights of all migrants and leaving no one behind is explicitly recognized (IOM 2023). For example, in relation to Goal 7 on access to affordable and clean energy, it is essential to recognize the importance of planning local energy development in tandem with policies on human mobility including displacement (UN 2021). This includes addressing the multiple drivers of migration, including economic and environmental. This also contributed to facilitating environmentally sustainable socioeconomic opportunities for displaced persons (OHCHR 2022).

The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to tackling the causes and effects of climate change. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The recent Synthesis Report by the UNFCCC on NDCs under the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC 2021), which synthesizes information from the 165 latest available NDCs, representing all 192 Parties to the Paris Agreement, highlights the importance of energy in mitigation measures: “domestic mitigation measures for renewable energy generation were most frequently mentioned by Parties, followed by measures for improvement in the energy efficiency of buildings. For the Parties that communicated new or updated NDCs, renewable energy generation continued, as in their previous NDCs, to be the most frequently indicated mitigation option, with the share of Parties indicating this option sharply increasing since their previous NDCs (from 55 to 87 per cent).” The same report also indicates that NDCs, in their adaptation component, propose efforts “responding to human mobility needs and addressing forced displacement.” As of March 2022, 39% of Parties refer to human mobility in their NDCs, with significant variations in the degree of integration and related actionable provisions. The majority of these Parties are from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and South and Central America (SLYCAN Trust 2022). Article 8 of the Paris Agreement refers to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage caused by climate change, where the concept of mobility and ‘averting’ loss and damage through mitigation efforts is referenced. From this comes the Task Force on Displacement, within the UNFCCC’s Warsaw International Mechanism.

## The Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings (GPA)

The GPA is the global inter-agency initiative to promote actions that enable sustainable energy access and use in displacement settings, as laid out in the Global Plan of Action Framework. The GPA strives to remove barriers to energy access in humanitarian settings by providing a collaborative agenda for energy, development, and humanitarian partners to deliver concrete actions for SDG 7 in displacement contexts. It promotes and contributes to the humanitarian sector's transition to renewable energy, which will increase efficiency and reduce costs and carbon emissions. Hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the GPA Coordination Unit galvanises collective action towards the GPA's realization and is governed by a Steering Group made up of relevant UN agencies including IOM, WFP, UNHCR, UNEP and UNDP.



Inclusion of human mobility in NDCs would also be important on the one hand to take into consideration linkages between mitigation and human mobility; and on the other hand, in the context of adaptation goals. While the NDC is a country's pledge and may outline adaptation goals, the NAP process is a domestic planning process that can set out 'how' NDC adaptation goals can be implemented (Mombauer, Link and van der Geest 2023). COP16 established the process to formulate and implement NAPs to identify medium and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs (UNFCCC 2023).

It is essential to ensure that local realities inform the making of climate policies, e.g. NDCs and NAPs that include the needs of people on the move. This is especially important for NAPs that enable adaptation at sub-national levels, including the local level and will therefore impact these same realities once implemented. Furthermore, having a NAP can assist in securing adaptation funding under several UNFCCC aligned channels and may also be key in attracting Multilateral Development Bank funding for related activities (Thornton 2022). Therefore, integrating human mobility, including displacement, in NAPs could also support funding for addressing human mobility.

Regional cooperation can complement existing international mechanisms in promoting and supporting the integration of human mobility and displaced populations into otherwise sovereign national climate action. For example, the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy (RCS) and Action plan (2022-2030) (ECOWAS 2022) defines three expected results regarding human mobility including that the "integration of human mobility in national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions and national communications of Member States is ensured". Another example is the Pacific Regional Mobility Framework (draft) that is being developed by Pacific Islands Forum members that aims to provide a coordinated approach to climate-induced human mobility in the Pacific region. The framework takes into account the unique socio-cultural, economic, and environmental contexts of Pacific Islands, integrating aspects of mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

In 2022, Ministers of Environment, Ministers of Interior and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the East African Community (EAC) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and States of East and Horn of Africa signed the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment & Climate Change (EAC and IGAD 2022). This first, regional, high-level Declaration on the topic of Migration, Environment and Climate Change has a strong focus on inclusive, climate-smart development. In this declaration, States committed to enhance action and cooperation to avert, minimize, and address displacement in the context of climate change. The Declaration includes more specific commitments, including to address drivers of mobility, to support countries hosting migrants and disaster displaced persons, and to establish an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change, Environment and Migration to monitor implementation.



# Examples of implementation at the national level

The NDC Partnership brings together more than 200 members, including more than 115 countries, developed and developing, and more than 80 institutions to create and deliver on ambitious climate action that helps achieve the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As of late 2022, the NDC Partnership had received Request for Support Letters and/or Partnership Plans from Jordan, Belize and Armenia that made explicit reference to human mobility. These included:

- From Armenia the NDC Partnership received a request to analyze opportunities that gender-asymmetric migration creates in climate change adaptation.
- In Belize, where the Government requested to undertake a national climate vulnerability assessment of human settlements and refugee flows. In terms of outcomes, this will help Belize take steps towards protecting communities from damage caused by flooding and sea level rise through implementation of the Land Use Policy and supporting green and grey infrastructure.
- A project concept note for enhancing resilient livelihoods and food security of host communities and Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon through the promotion of sustainable agricultural development. That project is planned to focus on forestry and rangeland rehabilitation activities, providing work to 1,000 families for a period of 4 months to restore up to 1,110 ha of forest and rangelands in the governorates of Irbid, Jarash, Balgaa, Madaba, Karak, and Taffeila.

Otherwise, various climate action and environmental improvement projects have been developed and implemented in situations of displacement. For example, in Bangladesh, which is prone to natural hazards, with some regions being heavily dependent on humanitarian support, requiring extensive assistance and access to life-saving services, thus placing a significant load on an already resource-constrained delivery system. To improve the living conditions in Cox's Bazar of the affected population and its environmental performance, IOM has been looking at alternative power sources (IOM 2022) to address the electricity needs in the camps.

Bangladesh's updated NDC (Bangladesh, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change 2021) summarizes a series of NDC-related achievements and initiatives, including the Ashrayan Project providing shelter for landless and homeless people. Under the project, 442,608 families have been rehabilitated in 22,640 barracks and 0.26 million houses. Additionally, 4,409 families are being rehabilitated in Khuruskul, Cox's Bazar. Besides enhancing disaster resilience, the project also focuses on mitigation through implementing 1.58 million tree plantations, rainwater harvesting, Solar Home System based alternate power sources, improved cook stoves etc. Besides this, 50,104 families have been rehabilitated by the Cluster village project, where 0.455 million trees have been planted.

A key GPA initiative is the Decarbonising Humanitarian Energy (DHE) Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) that has been created to facilitate a Centralised Clean Energy Service (CCES), which aims to (a) reduce energy consumption and costs for individual client organisations, (b) support a simplified involvement of the private sector to increase its investment capacity, (c) coordinate the grouping of multiple projects together ("bundling") to achieve economies of scale and unlock innovative financing mechanisms, (d) produce a suite of evidence-based communications materials that promote lower carbon operations, and (e) open opportunities to improving energy access to the displaced and local host communities. In mid-2023 it was decided that the MPTF could also be used as a vehicle for financing household-level energy access projects in situations of displacement.

## Bangladesh: sustainable energy in Cox's Bazar



Credit: Bangladesh © IOM 2018/Olivia Headon.



Credit: Bangladesh © IOM 2021/Mashrif Abdullah Al.

The town of Cox's Bazar in southeastern Bangladesh struggles to provide reliable power to its residents and more than 900,000 Rohingya refugees hosted in informal camps and spontaneous settlements. To improve the living conditions of the affected population and its environmental performance, IOM has been looking at alternative power sources to address the electricity needs in the camps. IOM teams in Cox's Bazar are implementing a sustainable approach to generating energy as part of the Organization's Environmental Policy, which seeks to align IOM's activities with global environmental standards and improve environmental sustainability, resource efficiency and quality management. Field teams are harnessing solar energy to power its facilities inside and outside the Rohingya refugee camps, addressing the urgent Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs of host communities and refugees. Besides enhancing disaster resilience, the project also focuses on mitigation through implementing 1.58 million tree plantations, rainwater harvesting, Solar Home System based alternate power sources, improved cook stoves etc. Besides this, 50,104 families have been rehabilitated by the Cluster village project, where 0.455 million trees have been planted.

## Somalia: sustainable water resources management to minimise climate-induced displacement



Credit: Doolow, Somalia © IOM 2023/Ismail Salad Osman.



Credit: Somalia © IOM 2022/Claudia Rosel Barrios.

IOM has led efforts to [Reduce Climate-Induced Displacement Through Infrastructure and Innovations for Water Capture in the Agro-pastoral Sector](#).

Competition over access to land and water is the structural driver of most violent conflicts in Somalia. Climate change and environmental degradation further reduce scarce water resources, forcing communities to migrate and confront one another for control over diminishing ecological yields. Through multi-sectoral and cross-expertise collaboration, IOM, UNEP and SIPRI are implementing and advancing policy to reduce environmentally induced displacement and conflict in target locations in Galmudug State through tangible investments in physical water infrastructure and pragmatic innovations for water and energy capture in the agropastoral sector, bolstered by sustained dialogue and enhanced natural resource management.

## Yemen: comprehensive WASH support in situations of conflict

In Yemen, IOM is Delivering a [Comprehensive WASH Support](#). Even before the war, Yemen was considered a water-scarce country. After seven years of conflict, the situation has worsened. The destruction of water systems, fuel shortages and lack of maintenance have affected 40% of the country's hydraulic assets. In response to severe water scarcity during 2020 and 2021, IOM carried out the construction and rehabilitation of groundwater extraction systems that have benefited more than 350,000 people affected by the conflict. Most of these projects have included implementing pumping systems powered by solar energy to provide reliable and affordable access to clean water for communities affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in areas where fuel and electricity supply is either non-existent, erratic, or too expensive.



Credit: Yemen © IOM Yemen 2021.



Credit: Yemen © IOM Yemen 2021.

## Uganda: electronic waste management in situations of displacement

In Uganda's Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, IOM, Innovation Norway and partners teamed up for the [Electronic Waste Management Project](#) to transform management of solar electronic waste in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement situated in Uganda's northwestern region. The project, "Greening Humanitarian Responses Through Recovery, Repair, And Recycling of Solar Products in Displacement Settings", will give new life to disused solar lanterns and their batteries, whilst creating jobs, supporting livelihoods, and providing business opportunities for refugees and host communities. Bidibidi Refugee Settlement is home to an estimated 270,000 refugees, most of whom have fled the violence and insecurity in South Sudan. Ultimately, the project seeks to enhance environmental sustainability in the settlement by minimizing improper disposal of solar products. It also aims to provide evidence to replicate in other settings, and to scale up beyond solar products and to other types of e-waste. The partnership sensitizes communities on proper electronic waste disposal and provide solar repair services. Solar products and services have been/and are increasingly provided to refugees as part of efforts to supply them with clean energy through portable and low-cost solutions.



Credit: Uganda © IOM 2022/Abubaker Mayemba.



Credit: Uganda © IOM 2022/Abubaker Mayemba.



Children in Lahj happy because water has become available in their area.  
Credit: Yemen © IOM Yemen 2021.

## Conclusions and policy recommendations

While national climate policies, including NDCs and NAPs, are the main expression of unilateral climate action taken by Member States, they are subject to competing priorities. In making of these policies, it is thus essential to ensure the integration of human mobility, including displacement.

Indeed, displaced populations remain, in almost all countries, outside the scope of national climate action and development. This state of ‘permanent temporariness’ results in far lower levels of access to clean energy and higher exposure to climate risks, compared to the surrounding host communities (World Bank 2020, text box 1.2). The international community should be encouraged to include displaced populations in NDCs and NAPs, while addressing the adaptation needs of highly vulnerable communities. Doing would align well with the Global Compact Refugees, for example, where two of the four objectives are to “ease the pressures on host countries” and “enhance refugee self-reliance”. Investment in energy access projects, technology upgrading, and ecosystem-based adaptation would have significant positive spill-over effects for host communities as well as the displaced populations themselves.

A report published by Chatham House in 2022 highlighted the need for clear political leadership, vision and coordination within and between host Governments UN agencies and the donor community to ensure rights and access among displaced populations in host countries (Grafham, Lahn and Haselip 2022). The report highlighted the following points as crucial to enable progress on the integration agenda:

- The right to work, the right to move freely, and humanitarian cash assistance/programming continue to be central in determining the success of climate action projects
- Importance of country response plans to enable UN organizations to outline, prioritize and actively fundraise for climate action and environment projects through a planned and costed approach
- Importance of localization and engagement of local businesses /organizations to improve energy access and environmental improvement projects, therefore allowing response plans to also support livelihoods.

However, it is important to emphasise the national sovereignty of host countries and that the UN and INGOs should respond to their requests for assistance, on their terms. This is especially so for countries hosting large numbers of refugees as opposed to IDPs who are their own citizens. In any case the deployment of global resources should always be directed at the request of UN Member States, e.g. be demand-driven and align with broader national development goals. With this in mind, we conclude with some actionable recommendations to move from ad-hoc to systematic collaboration and support to Member States, through:

- Collaboration to support countries, where requested, to draft MoUs between the relevant Ministries to enable the design and implementation of projects for impact, covering both mitigation and adaptation-side actions.
- Improving the alignment, synergies and coherence across actions to advance joint adaptation and mitigation efforts across the NDCs and NAPs, including long-term planning across different ministries for displaced and marginalised vulnerable groups.
- Understanding and addressing the root causes of vulnerability, including ecosystem and environmental drivers of displacement, through comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability assessments, including with disaggregated data and analysis on gender.
- Support to ensure the integration of human mobility, including displacement, in relevant climate change policies, including NAPs and NDCs, for example through the implementation of the supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines on the National Adaptation Plan Process on Addressing Human Mobility-Related Challenges and Opportunities in the Context of Climate Change. UNEP currently has more than 20 ongoing projects where one-on-one support is provided to countries to advance their NAPs.
- Improving in-country inter-ministerial coordination bodies and multi-stakeholder engagement processes under NDCs and NAPs that address many data- and knowledge-sharing gaps and barriers.

Dedicated project funding would enable UNEP and IOM to respond to country requests by delivering on the following activities, aligned with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2025):

- Work in partnership to secure sustainable climate financing for displaced persons and host communities, requested or approved by host governments. This would involve:
  - Gathering and analysing primary data and evidence on addressing ecosystem and environmental drivers of displacement to coordinate integrated projects that deliver clean energy and adaptation benefits in fragile, vulnerable countries using existing tools available in displacement contexts such as the DTM Energy Module, working in partnership with local IOM operations.
  - Developing and submitting proposals for financing by relevant climate and energy donors, liaising with relevant line ministries in host countries.
  - Engage government, practitioners and civil society stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of NDCs and NAPs so that mobility options could be better integrated within adaptation planning processes.
  - Undertake specific requests by governments at national level for example undertaking comprehensive climate vulnerability assessments of vulnerable human settlements and refugee flows that responds to the environmental and climate drivers of displacement, how climate change will affect mobility, and avert involuntary displacement, including with disaggregated data and analysis on gender
  - Facilitate ways to address the many data, evidence and knowledge gaps and barriers towards effective mitigation and adaptation in displaced or at-risk communities, especially gender, social inclusion, and ecosystem drivers of displacement.
- Maintain UNEP's role as a Steering Group member of the inter-agency 'Global Platform of Action' on SDG7 in situations of displacement, advocating the low-carbon and climate resilient development agenda in HQ-level humanitarian fora.
- Provide science-based knowledge products, as and when required, on the topic of environmental and ecosystem drivers and dimensions to migration, internal displacement and relocation efforts.

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Makeshift and improvised shelters at the Ladan displacement site pictured in May 2023. Credit: Doolow, Somalia © IOM 2023/Ismael Salad Osman.

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