

Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (HMCCC)

Pacific Component

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognises migration as a strategy for adapting to climate change. The Task Force on Displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) has been explicitly addressing the issue of human mobility in the context of climate change since 2017. The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) also acknowledges climate change as a driver of migration and demands that we improve our understanding of and find solutions for migration in the context of climate change and natural disasters.

Project name	Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)
Project region	The Pacific: Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	2017 - 2023

The Challenge

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2022) reports with high confidence that climate change-induced extreme weather events and slow onset processes such as sea level rise are increasingly driving displacement in all regions, with Small Island States disproportionately affected. The IPCC report projects that in the mid- to long-term, displacement will increase with the intensification of heavy precipitation and associated flooding, tropical cyclones, drought and, increasingly, sea level rise, and vulnerability will also rapidly rise in low-lying Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and atolls in the context of sea level rise.

In the Pacific Islands, communities are already being displaced or relocated as a result of direct climate change impacts. Climate change impacts also aggravate underlying environmental challenges and fragile social, economic, and political conditions, resulting in increased vulnerability and a greater risk of displacement. Despite increased efforts in undertaking climate change mitigation and adaptation, the migration of vulnerable island communities may, unfortunately, be inevitable as the impacts of climate change continue and intensify.



Advance planned relocation is identified by the IPCC as a response measure to ongoing sea level rise and land subsidence in low-lying islands. The IPCC states that this response is more effective if combined and/or sequenced, planned well ahead, aligned with sociocultural values and development priorities, and underpinned by inclusive community engagement processes.

“Planned relocation” is a complex and sensitive process. Communities need to move away from their homes and resettle and establish a new life elsewhere. For most island communities in the Pacific, this means leaving behind their ancestral lands where their culture and identity are rooted. Therefore, any planned relocation should be sensitive to the traumas that may arise and ensure that all decision-making processes are carried out with the full and inclusive participation of affected communities.

Our Approach

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) supports partner governments to help communities who are so severely affected by climate change, that leaving their homes and moving elsewhere is considered a viable option – and sometimes the only option.

The objective of the Global Programme Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (GP HMCCC) is to improve development-oriented handling of migration, displacement triggered by disasters, and the voluntary and planned relocation of individuals in the context of climate change.

The GP HMCCC aims to:

- Support partners at regional, national and sub-national levels in managing human mobility in the context of climate change and better understanding the complex and multi-causal interrelations between different forms of human mobility and climate change.
- Develop information and resources on climate-induced human mobility.
- Support exchange processes between partners and disseminate the knowledge gained at international meetings and through platforms, including events within the framework of the UNFCCC and WIM (Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts).



Our Services

The GP HMCCC provides technical, advisory, knowledge management and awareness-raising support in the Pacific region, with a focus on Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The programme supports countries to address climate-induced migration through:

- The development of national policies and guidelines to institutionalise the human mobility concepts within national legal frameworks, including the human security and human rights dimensions of migration, displacement, and relocation.
- Strengthening skills and knowledge of partner governments, stakeholders and communities to capably implement the developed policies and guidelines.
- Awareness raising and knowledge sharing at international, regional, national, and community level, where lessons-learned and experiences are shared to promote capacity development and informed decision-making on climate mobility.

Success Factors

- Identification and rectification of knowledge gaps.
- Increased development capacity of national governments to deal with climate-induced migration.
- Increased support and involvement of vulnerable groups.

National guidelines supported in Fiji

DOCUMENT	OBJECTIVE
Planned Relocation Guidelines: A framework to undertake climate change related relocation (2018)	Provides guidance on planned relocation solutions for the affected communities in relation to environmental change, and disasters due to climate change-related slow-onset events.
Displacement Guidelines in the context of climate change and disasters (2019)	Provides guidance on durable and sustainable solutions for displaced people and serves as a catalyst between different human mobility policies.
“Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Planned Relocation” in Fiji (2023)	Details steps and processes to ensure that relocation is carried out as a measure of last resort, after all adaptation options are exhausted, and to also ensure that a human-rights, human-focussed and all-inclusive approach is followed.
Comprehensive Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology (2023) – a component of the Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation	Lays out instructions for a comprehensive analysis of risks at the community level and on the ability and capacity of communities to cope with existing and future climate change and disaster threats. Includes assessments relating to non-economic loss and damage.
Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) Framework for Post-Planned Relocation (2023)	Assesses how well a relocated community is coping at the new site and their resilience. Also identifies emerging risks to their security and well-being. Lessons will inform how existing guidelines and approaches can be improved.
Financial Management Policy Guidelines for the Climate Relocation of Communities (CROC) Trust Fund (2023)	Lays out the governance arrangements, applicable legal framework, along with administrative and financial requirements that must be applied to all planned relocation activities that are funded through the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund

Country Support

All countries are supported through peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchanges, including on international platforms.

The programme supported Fiji with the development of national guidelines, and related capacity building, to support the implementation of planned relocation processes that are based on science; promote inclusiveness and participation; and consider social and cultural dimensions. The guidelines, which have since been approved by the Cabinet of Fiji, are institutionalised within the Fiji Climate Change Act (2021) and the Fiji Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund Act (2018). In addition, the guidelines are developed with consideration of international frameworks and policies on human migration and human security.

All guidelines and methodologies are developed with the active participation of government agencies and other stakeholders and partners, including women and LGBTQI associations, faith-based organisations as well as community representatives.

To support the implementation of the above guidelines, capacity building of implementing government agencies, stakeholders, and community representatives is undertaken. A critical component is the skills required to ensure participation and inclusive processes. These include gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) sensitisation; participatory engagement tools; free prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes; and grievance redress mechanisms.

Awareness raising and enhancing understanding are also supported through the development of informational products, including video documentaries, together with supporting national partners to host side events at the annual UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP). Information briefs are also developed for local Fijian communities to support their understanding of the processes, requirements and responsibilities that are in the “Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Planned Relocation”.





Gender and Human Mobility

Human mobility issues are inherently gendered, and gender-responsive actions are essential in all facets of mobility. To support gender equality and social inclusion in human mobility processes, the programme supported:

- The development of a compendium of best practices, lessons-learned and tools for Pacific practitioners on “Human Mobility, Climate Change and Gender”. This toolkit aims to present gender lessons and practices associated with documented cases of climate change-induced human mobility in the Pacific region.
- Gender assessment and mainstreaming carried out during the development of national guidelines and standard operating procedures to ensure that the national documents are gender-sensitive and gender-responsive (Fiji).
- GEDSI sensitisation in the context of planned relocation trainings carried out during and after the development of national guidelines (Fiji).
- Study on the culture-gender-relocation nexus (Fiji).
- Analysis of the psychosocial impacts of relocation, with a focus on women (Fiji).

The Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation in Fiji require disaggregated data to safeguard the equal participation of women, elderly, LGBTQI persons, and those with special needs in all community consultations, decision-making, and capacity development initiatives. This is also a requirement for funding from Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund.

Regional Engagement

Experiences and lessons from Fiji will benefit other Pacific Island countries, especially since climate-induced migration is an issue of growing concern in the region where vulnerable Pacific Island communities are increasingly threatened by the risk of displacement due to persisting climate change impacts. Learning exchanges between Pacific Island countries; the development of knowledge products; and e-learning tools will strengthen understanding of the various complexities relating to human mobility and capacities to plan appropriate and sustainable responses.

The programme cooperates with the Pacific Resilience Partnership – Technical Working Group on Human Mobility (established under the Framework on Resilient Development in the Pacific) to promote and strengthen efforts at the regional and national levels to address human mobility. The technical working group is also a platform for information exchanges and regional stakeholder consultations.

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On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic
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