



Developing a Research and Policy Agenda for Addressing Displacement and Migration in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in Africa

CONCEPT NOTE

Virtual Workshop Series

April-July 2021

Organizers and Partners:

This Virtual Workshop Series is being jointly organized by: Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW; Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD); International Organization for Migration (IOM); UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; and University of Nairobi.

This Virtual Workshop Series will take place with the generous support of: International Organization for Migration (IOM); UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD); and Africa-Australia Universities Network (AAUN).

1. Background

Natural hazards, disasters and climate change are among the leading drivers of human mobility across Africa. Yet, lawful pathways for those who move across international borders in this context remain limited, and often uncertain. At the global level, a number of key frameworks provide important guidance on how to address displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change. These include: the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda, the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework, Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Global Compacts for Refugees and relevant international refugee and human rights law frameworks. These are complemented at the regional level by a range of regional and sub-regional frameworks relating to human rights, refugee protection, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the free movement of



persons between states. Collectively, these frameworks provide a valuable background and opportunity to promote and advance research, evidence and regional engagement on disaster and climate change-related human mobility in Africa.

The Virtual Workshop Series will provide an opportunity for academics and policy experts working across Africa and beyond to engage in discussion, form networks and plan future research on topics related to disaster and climate change-related displacement and migration. Workshop participants will include scholars working in on climate change, disasters, migration and displacement across law, policy and other disciplines, as well as representatives of key regional, sub-regional and civil society organisations. Through a series of online presentations and discussions, the Virtual Workshop Series will identify key needs and opportunities for regional research and policy development relating to displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change in Africa.

This Virtual Workshop Series was initially planned as an in-person workshop to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, in March 2020, however this was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the ongoing nature of the pandemic and the associated travel restrictions, the in-person workshop will be replaced by this series of online workshops, with the same objectives and intended outputs as for the original workshop. While the revised format will allow work towards these objectives and outputs to continue in the context of the pandemic, it may have additional benefits as well, including: a broader range of participants due to not requiring travel funding; and more well developed outputs due to the time available for reflection and the maturation of ideas, discussions and proposals.

2. Objectives and Outputs

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop series are: to advance research and evidence on displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change in Africa; to contribute to the formulation of future research and recommendations relating to policy development and implementation; and to develop a new network for future research and collaboration on this issue. The workshop series will explore opportunities for addressing displacement and migration in western, eastern and southern Africa, facilitating analysis of each sub-region as well as the sharing of examples and perspectives across regions.

The more specific objectives of the workshop series are:

1. To **identify opportunities** for addressing disaster and climate change-related displacement and migration in Africa within the following fields of law and policy:
 - i. Environment, climate change and disasters;
 - ii. Migration and free movement;
 - iii. Refugee and human rights law;
 - iv. Protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and planned relocation.
2. To **identify knowledge gaps** that need to be addressed within each of the fields of law and policy identified above in order to maximize their potential contribution; and

3. To **develop proposals for further research** to address the identified knowledge gaps and enhance future law and policy development and implementation.

Background Paper

A Background Paper will be circulated to participants prior to the commencement of the virtual workshop series. The background paper will:

1. Provide a **conceptual framework** for discussing displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change;
2. Provide an **overview** of the key law and policy frameworks that will be discussed during the workshops series; and
3. Identify some **preliminary gaps and opportunities** for further discussion within the workshop series.

Outputs

The outputs of the workshop series will be:

4. **Publication of a Research and Policy Agenda for Addressing Displacement and Migration in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in Africa**, outlining existing knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to maximize the use of African regional normative frameworks and making specific recommendations for future, collaborative research efforts to address these knowledge gaps and support further law and policy development.
5. **Establishment of a network** of researchers and policy experts across Africa to implement the Research and Policy Agenda. At the completion of the workshop series, participants will be invited to join this network and to participate in future research and collaboration following the Virtual Workshop Series.

3. Format & Participation

Structure of the Workshop Series

The Virtual Workshop Series will consist of **Opening and Closing Plenary** sessions, plus smaller **Thematic Working Group** sessions for each of the following fields of law/policy:

- i. Environment, climate change and disasters;
- ii. Migration and free movement;
- iii. Refugee and human rights law;
- iv. Protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and planned relocation.

All sessions (both Plenary and Thematic Working Groups) will be conducted via Zoom and will run for 1.5-2 hours.

Languages

The Virtual Workshop Series will be run in English and French. Interpretation will be provided for all sessions, and key workshop materials will be available in both languages.

Workshop Series Support

The Virtual Workshop Series will be supported by a lead consultant (Dr Tamara Wood, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW) responsible for the overall workshop preparation and organization, and supported by a Project Support Consultant (Christina Daszkiewicz) specializing in the West African context and other tasks.

A Steering Group comprising representatives from the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW; Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD); International Organization for Migration (IOM); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; and University of Nairobi will provide periodic guidance to the lead consultant on the workshop format and process, as well as the Background Paper and Outcome Document.

Participation

The Virtual Workshop Series is open to scholars or practitioners researching or working in fields related to displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change. Relevant fields may include (but are not limited to) migration policy, environmental and climate change policy, disaster risk reduction, refugee protection, human rights and internal displacement. Participants in the Virtual Workshop Series may join one or more of the Thematic Working Groups (see section 4, below).

Active participants in the Workshop Series will be acknowledged in the Outcome Document and will be invited to join the new network for the future implementation of the Research and Policy Agenda.

Active participation includes:

1. Preparing for, and actively engaging in, the Virtual Workshop Series;
2. Participating in the Opening and Closing Plenary sessions (two sessions);
3. Participating in at least one Thematic Workshop Group (two sessions). (Participants in the Virtual Workshop Series may join one or more Thematic Working Groups.)

A Call for Participation will be issued in February 2021. (This expands upon the initial call for applications issued in January 2020 to reflect the new virtual format and broader geographical scope of the workshop series.) Efforts will be made to ensure gender and geographical balance in facilitating the participation of interested applicants. Priority will be given to participants working/residing within the region.

4. Schedule

Each session will run from **8:00am-10:00am GMT**. This is:

6. 8:00am-10:00am Dakar
7. 9:00am-11:00am London/Abuja
8. 10:00am-12:00am Johannesburg/Geneva
9. 11:00am-1:00pm Nairobi/Addis Ababa/Antananarivo
10. 12:00pm-2:00pm Port Louis
11. 6:00pm-8:00pm Hobart/Sydney

OPENING PLENARY	
Tuesday 27 April	OPENING PLENARY: SETTING THE SCENE
THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS	
Session 1: Tuesday 4 May Session 2: Tuesday 18 May	1: ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS
Session 1: Thursday 6 May Session 2: Thursday 20 May	2: MIGRATION/FREE MOVEMENT
Session 1: Tuesday 8 June Session 2: Tuesday 22 June	3: REFUGEE LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS
Session 1: Thursday 10 June Session 2: Thursday 24 June	4: INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND PLANNED RELOCATION
CLOSING PLENARY	
Thursday 1 July	CLOSING PLENARY: BRINGING IT TOGETHER

End./