With thanks to support of: Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

In partnership with: UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency, IOM UN MIGRATION, International Labour Organization, PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT, IGAD

Protection Frameworks in the IGAD Region

Human Mobility and Climate Change in the IGAD Region: Based on a case study in the shared border regions of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia

- What are protection issues?

Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

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1. Case study

Rationale and Purpose

- Limited understanding of the role that climate change and disasters play on human mobility and protection risks.

- IGAD region affected by environmental degradation and is vulnerable to climate change: irregular rainfall patterns causing droughts, floods, and other natural hazards etc.

- Hypothesis: the combination of population growth, environmental change & degradation, and the predicted impact of climate change and escalating frequency of disasters in the IGAD region will increase human mobility.

- The overall objective of this joint programme is to facilitate pathways for regular migration in the IGAD region and minimize displacement risk in the context of adverse effect of climate change and disasters in line with the GCM.

Do "climate refugees" exist?

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

c. Context

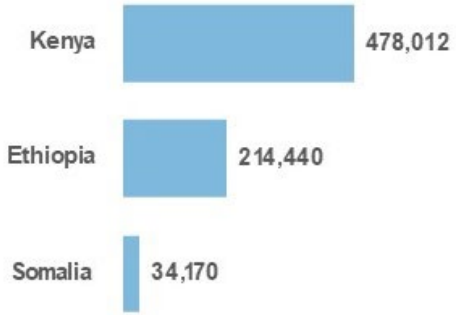
Displacement

31 October 2022

EXISTING DISPLACEMENTS

726,622

TOTAL REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS



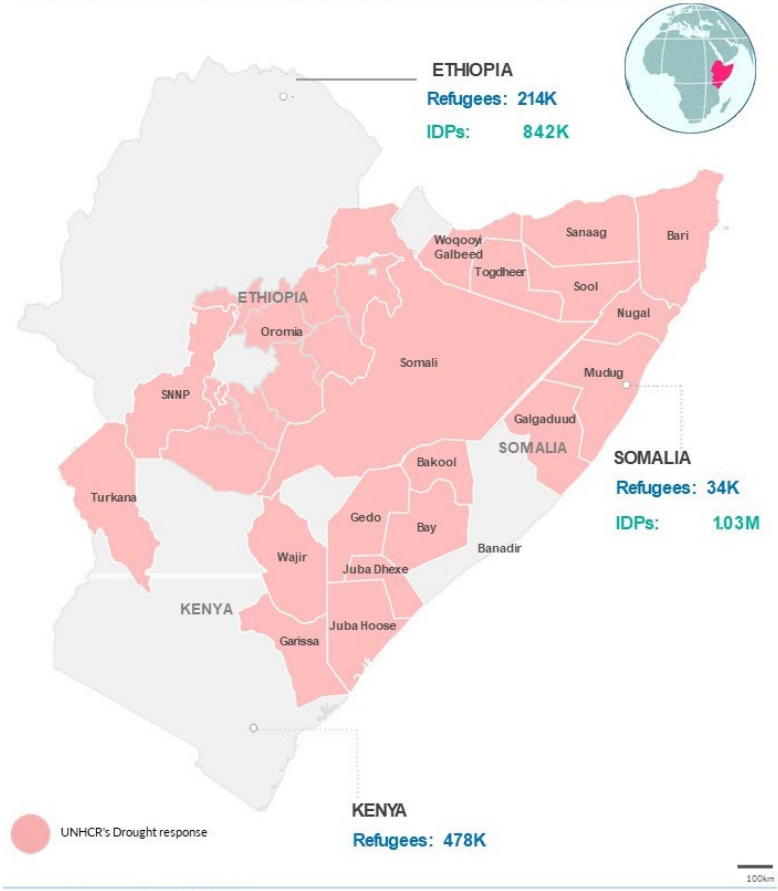
1.88M

NEWLY INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION SINCE JAN 2022 DUE TO DROUGHT

IDPS

*Estimated new IDPs following recent assessments
Source | Ethiopia official IDP figure (575,614) : DTM IOM, Joint Assessments
Somali IDP figure: Protection & Return Monitoring Network (PRMN)

UNHCR'S DROUGHT RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND SOMALIA



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Regional Context

1. Location: Somali region of Ethiopia, the north-eastern counties of Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa of Kenya, and the Gedo Region of Somalia.

2. Climate: Drought, these shared border regions face the consequences of five (soon to be six) consecutive failed rainy seasons.

3. Population: Predominantly Somali ethnic groups, many are pastoralists, some are agropastoralists, and others are settled in towns and villages.

4. Mobility: People in the border regions cross international borders relatively easily, often without their identity documents being checked and without using official border crossings.

5. The region is simultaneously prone to armed conflicts.

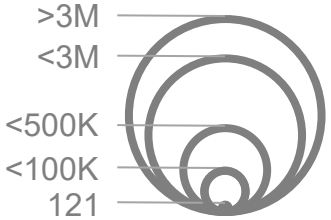
Impacts

Climate change is expected to:

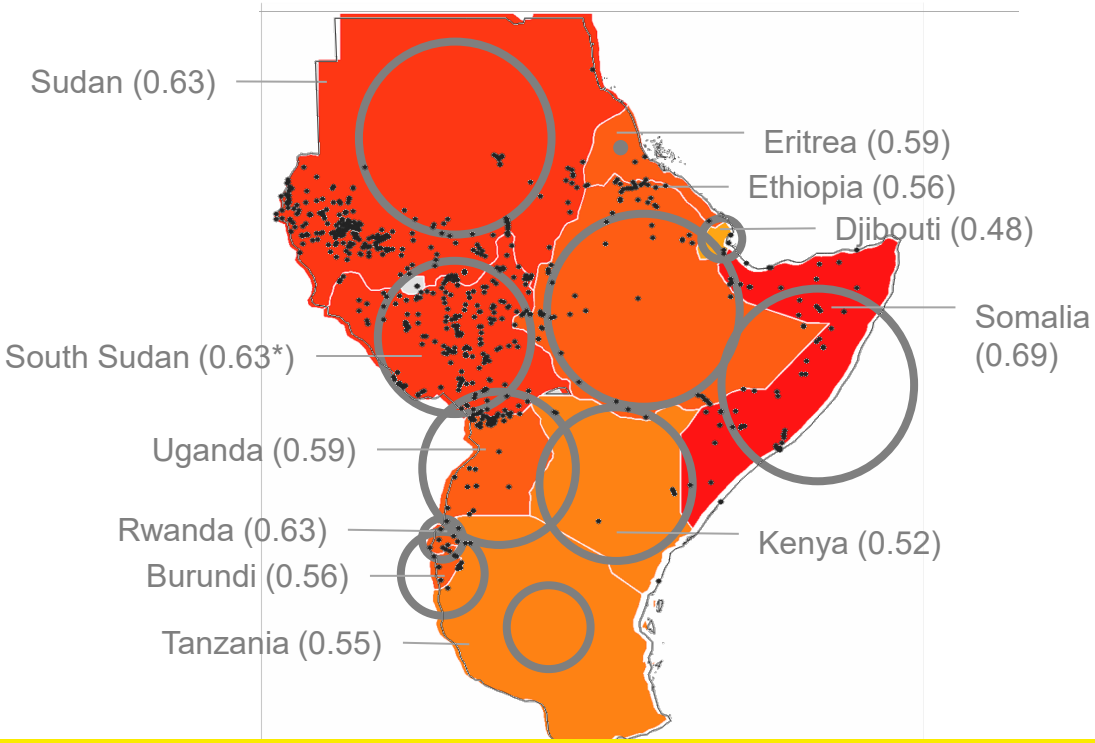
- Increase frequency and intensity of sudden-onset disasters
- Increase slow onset hazards
- Serve as a “threat multiplier” that exacerbates potential for tensions/conflicts
- Increasingly hinder enjoyment of human rights if not adequately addressed
- Hinder the potential for displaced persons to return

Most people of concern have either fled from or are living in highly climate-vulnerable countries

ND-GAIN Vulnerability Index



Size of the circle represents the number of displaced and stateless people

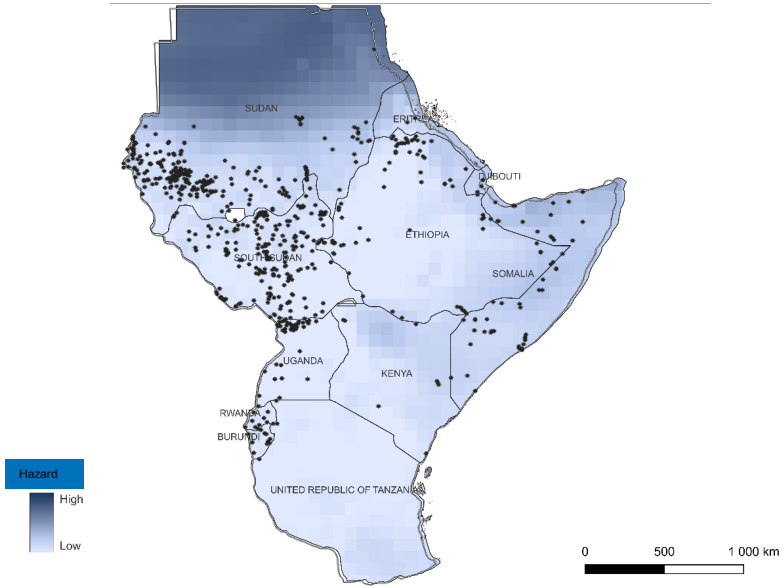


Vulnerability index includes both exposure to climate change, and ability to adapt: through access to six life-supporting sectors – food, water, health, ecosystem service, human habitat and infrastructure.

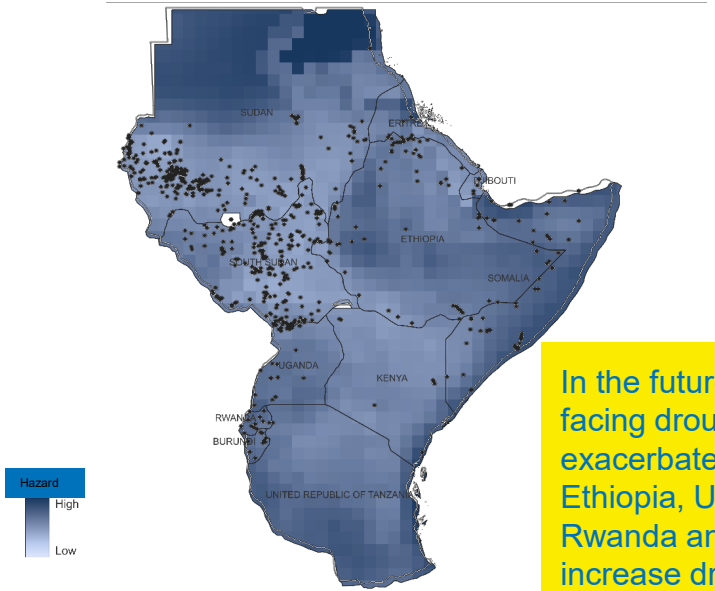
* The ND GAIN score for South Sudan is extrapolated from Sud

People of concern are expected to face more extreme droughts in the future

Historical baseline (1981-2010)



Future projection (2030)

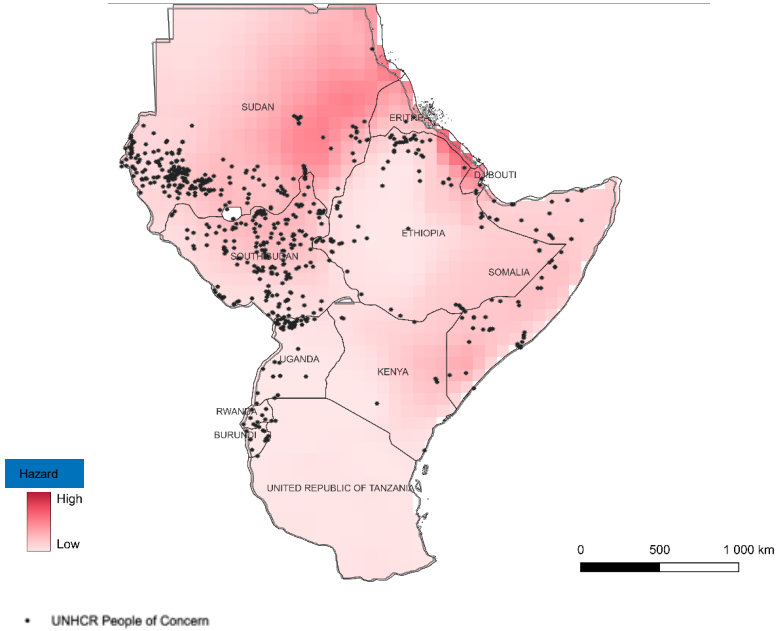


In the future, the areas already facing drought will be further exacerbated, and the likelihood in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi will increase dramatically

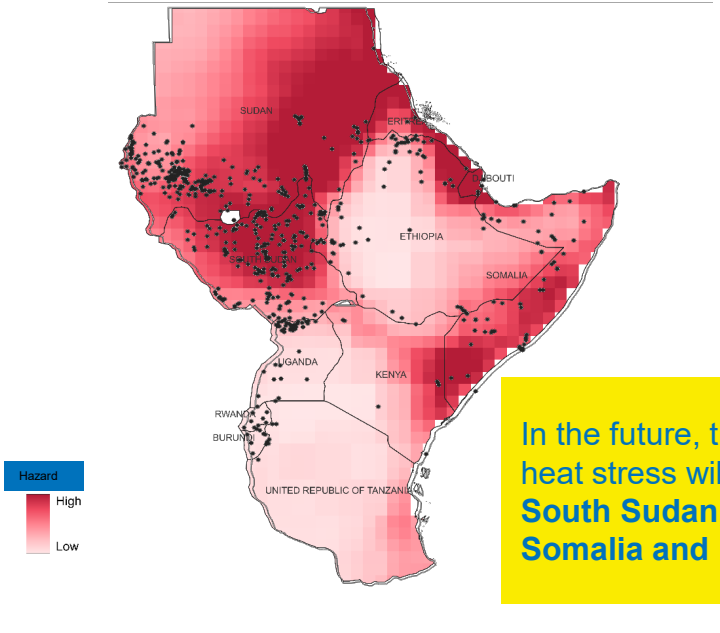
- UNHCR People of Concern

Dangerous heat is expected to rise significantly

Heat (baseline, 1981-2010)



Heat (future, 2030)

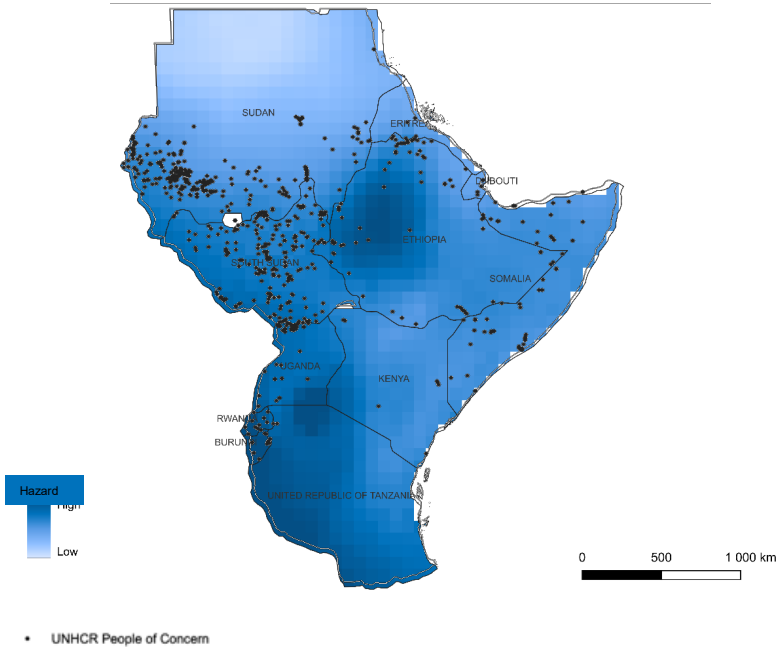


- UNHCR People of Concern

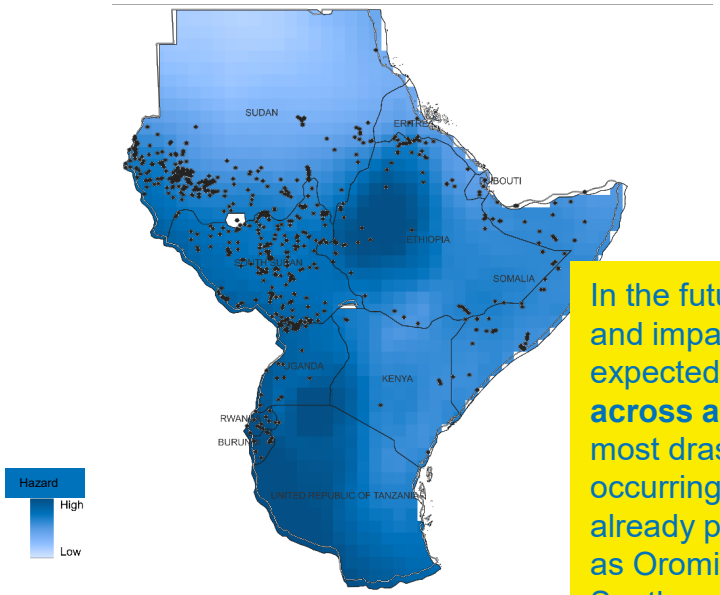
In the future, the largest increase in heat stress will occur in **Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya**

Flood risks will increase especially in already flood-prone areas

Flood (baseline, 1981-2010)



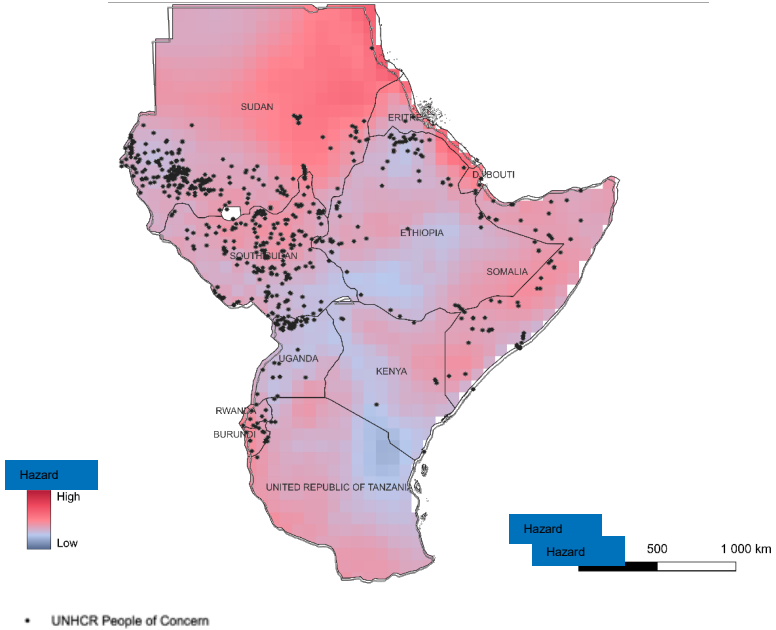
Flood (future, 2030)



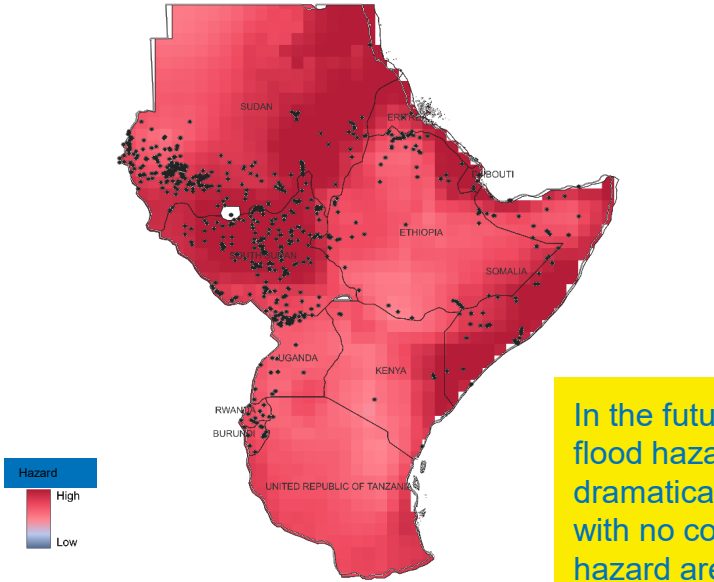
In the future, the frequency and impact of floods is expected to rise marginally **across all regions**, with the most drastic increases occurring in areas that are already prone to floods such as Oromia in Ethiopia, Southern Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi

Overall, all climate hazards will increase dramatically in the future, across the whole region

Composite hazard (1981-2010)



Composite (future, 2030)

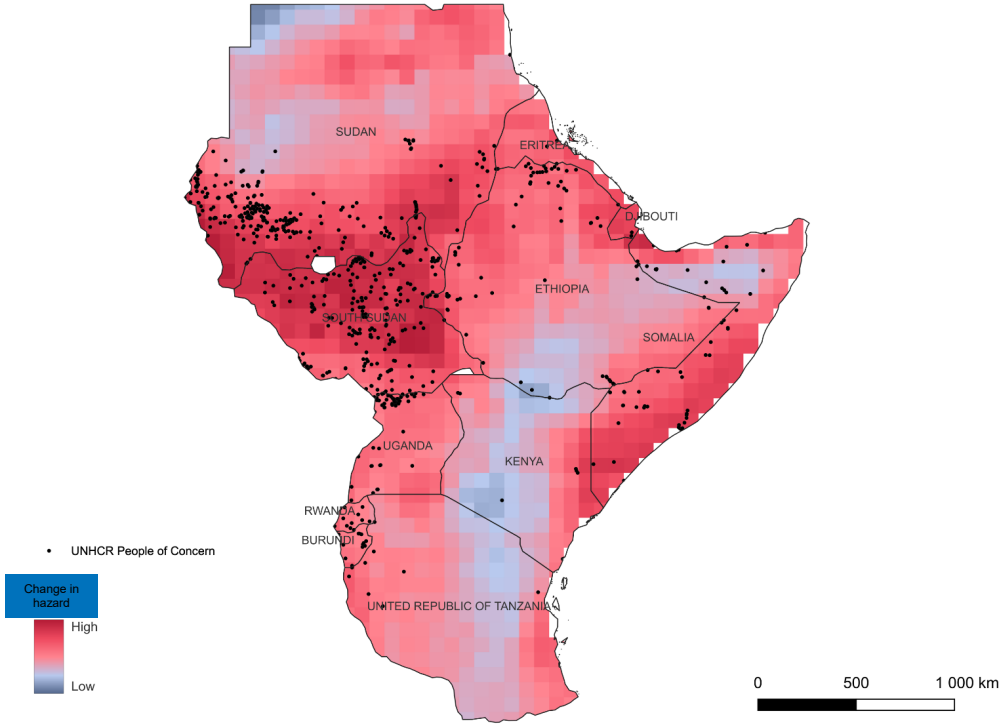


In the future, heat, drought and flood hazards will increase dramatically **across the region**, with no countries left with low hazard areas.

People of concern are living in areas that are expected to see the most drastic increases in climate hazards

Compound hazards will increase most severely in **South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia.**

Heat and drought stress account for the most severe increases.



2. Protection issues

1. **Loss of Livelihoods:** Insufficient water and grazing livestock die leading to pastoralist ‘dropouts,’ poverty and urban drift in search of work. Skills ill-suited to settled lifestyle.
2. **Increased Violence:** Inter-communal tensions; Gender role transformation and cattle rustling; Recruitment by armed actors; Risk of conflict.
3. **Environmental Damage and Diseases:** Drought limits natural resources, land ownership further restricts access, as does the presence of al-Shabaab. Large numbers of livestock in the same place => desertification, polluting water sources, malnutrition, susceptible to disease and its propagation.
4. **Differentiated impacts and vulnerability:** Affecting women, children and other vulnerable groups.
5. **Identity Documentation:** Guarantees a person’s status under domestic law, facilitates free movement, safeguards one’s rights and is usually necessary to receive humanitarian assistance.
6. **Lack of information on Protection Issues and Responses:** Owing to accessibility, presence and competing priorities. Funding focused on development & livelihoods not protection.

3. Frameworks & Implementation

- No single comprehensive legal and policy framework exists to address human mobility issues related to climate change and disasters, the relationship between climate change and human rights is increasingly recognized.

- A wide range of legal and policy frameworks regarding refugees, migrants, and displaced persons (within one country and across borders), climate change, and development are relevant to respond to these protection issues.

- Four categories of Frameworks: Human mobility; Protection; Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction; Development related frameworks.

- The case study revealed that the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance and the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in the IGAD Region would be most useful in relation to the challenges faced by pastoralists affected by climate change and disasters. Constraints remain for fully and properly implementing these and other existing frameworks.

4. Gaps & Needs

- Challenging operating contexts affected by multiple climate and conflict crises that limit protection monitoring and operational interventions.
- Lack of cross-border coordination mechanism, data analysis, and scarcity of financial resources to develop a repository of regional knowledge and early warning systems. Lack of in-depth knowledge of how various factors interact to generate movement.
- Lack of a coherent regional protection framework on human mobility for addressing and protecting migrants and displaced populations as well as inconsistent application existing frameworks.
- Lack of clarity about how existing protection frameworks are being instituted into policies and implemented at the national and local levels.
- Lack of Age, Gender, and Diversity data and gender analysis on the impact of climate change and how migration decision-making processes are made at the individual/household level. Gap in knowledge about how vulnerable groups are differently affected by human mobility in the context of climate change, disasters, and other factors.

5. Recommendations

The recommendations proposed address the four main issues identified in this study.

1. Establish a Regional Protection Framework on human mobility in the context of climate change
2. Enhance coordination for effective protection responses
3. Strengthen capacities of IGAD member states on protection engagement
4. Enhance data and evidence through further research

- One prevailing recommendation is that all actors including AU, IGAD and its member states, and members of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Joint Programme are to integrate gender equality across all the actions proposed.

Solutions for frameworks

1. The African Union should utilize the regional framework to further operationalize *AU's Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.*

2. Exchange good practices on mobility frameworks across Regional Economic Communities (RECs) which will facilitate transhumance and free movement of persons.

3. Enhancing pathways for regular migration through support to IGAD and the Member States of this MMPTF Joint Programme to strengthen protection frameworks.

4. Support IGAD Member States to implement the Protocols on Free movement and Transhumance through information sharing and capacity building.

5. Member States to assess whether the IGAD protocols on free movement and transhumance and GCM are adequately instituted and operationalized in their State.

Thank you

Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

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13 July 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

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