

**BEST PRACTICES IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN ON THE PROTECTION OF
PERSONS CROSSING BORDERS IN CONTEXTS OF DISASTERS,
ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Living Document

The best practices on the protection of persons crossing borders in the context of disasters, environmental degradation and climate change in the Eastern Caribbean is a “living” document and the information expressed in this publication supports the OECS commitment to build a climate resilient region. The OECS reserves the right to periodically update the best practices in partnership with regional and national stakeholders, as may be needed, to ensure validity, transparency, and accuracy over time.

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Foreword

Throughout the years, the OECS has shown its commitment to building the resilience and adaptive capacity of all nationals in the face of a changing climate. This is evident by the increasing resources allocated by the region annually towards climate change-related interventions. The OECS also supports the maintenance of enabling environments and policies to help guide efforts to address the impacts of climate change in the region.

This compilation of best practices on human mobility in the context of disasters, environmental degradation and climate change by the OECS and partners is aimed at reducing vulnerabilities associated with displacement and to consider durable solutions to prevent and minimize the drivers of displacement in affected countries in the OECS. This document provides guidance for both State and Non-State actors in addressing displacement in various stages.

This compilation of best practices will not exist in isolation but aligns with the various national strategic documents and plans within OECS Member States.

These best practices were developed in a holistic and transparent manner through review of various State anticipatory actions and responses. The OECS appreciates the continued support of our development partners, non-government organisations and civil society in developing this document. It is only through partnership that we can effectively address the varying impacts of climate change and build the resilience of all citizens.

Definitions

Term	Definition
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CASS	CARICOM Agreement on Social Security
Environmental migration	IOM's working definition states that environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad (UN, 2003).
Humanitarian assistance	The provision of aid to save lives and alleviate the suffering of a crisis-affected population. Humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the basic principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality, with full respect for the sovereignty of States (UNHCR, 2020).
IOM	International Organization for Migration
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
Migration	For the purposes of the Guidelines and in agreement with the terminology suggested in paragraph 14(f) of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, the term 'migration' is used to refer to human movements which are predominantly voluntary as people, while not necessarily having the ability to decide in complete freedom, still possess a measure of choice between different realistic options. In the context of slow onset natural hazards, environmental degradation and the long-term adverse effects of climate change, such a concept of migration is widely used to refer to the 'avoidance of or adaptation to' deteriorating environmental conditions that, otherwise, in the future may lead to a humanitarian crisis and displacement (IOM, 2007).
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
Planned relocation	A planned process in which persons or groups of persons move or are assisted to move away from their homes or places of temporary residence, are settled in a new location, and also provided with the necessary conditions for rebuilding their lives'. Planned relocation can be voluntary or involuntary, and usually takes place within the country, but may, in very exceptional cases, also occur across international borders (Oxford, 2010).
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations Human Rights Commission

1. INTRODUCTION

Human mobility is present within and outside the context of climate change and hazard impacts. It occurs as a frequent pattern throughout history. Even though there is no comprehensive and specific domestic policy framework addressing protection needs in situations of internal or cross-border disaster displacement, in recent years this topic has been included in various domestic processes and agendas on humanitarian action, human rights, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, migration management and sustainable development.

The recognition of the multidimensional nature of migration, and the need for effective and durable solutions to the challenges posed by migration, has been reflected at the global level in the adoption by 193 UN Member States of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, a non-binding resolution which contained as an annex the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. This declaration paved the way for the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR), signed by 164 countries, which calls for greater support for refugees and host countries. These policy documents aim to mitigate some of the adverse effects of migration and forced migration, support migrants and refugees and protect them from risks on their journeys, generate improved conditions for self-reliance, support host communities, expand access to third country solutions, and support conditions for return. The GCR is the first international cooperative agreement that recognises the key role that state-sponsored legal migration pathways play in addressing climate-induced displacement and other forms of human mobility, as well as the supporting roles to be played by international development and humanitarian actors and International Financial Institutions (United Nations, 2018; Francis, 2019).

Regional agreements to date do not address the significant policy and programme adjustments and financial ramifications involved for the host region or receiving country when absorbing large numbers of people into social protection, health and education systems and programmes following a covariate shock, which many countries have already experienced. Furthermore, national policies (either in immigration, disaster risk management or social protection) may not define processes or roles and responsibilities to address migrant needs through national systems. Likewise, programmes may not be able to identify or sufficiently support vulnerable migrants, including women, children and the elderly. Recent climate-related disasters have brought this issue to the forefront, which is discussed in more detail below. To date, however, there is limited experience in incorporating migrants into national and local disaster risk management and social protection policy.

As such, recognising the areas for improvement with domestic regulations, legislation and enforcement, there is a need to examine the practices of other territories to determine practical and implementable solutions for the future. The frequent occurrence of climatic-related events and increasing intensities demand OECS Member States and Associate Members to be agile in their response and anticipatory actions. These actions must be grounded in policy and adhere to international obligations to preserve human rights and human security regardless of race,

religion, gender, sex or educational background. In this vein, Section 2 examines the best practices within the OECS and other territories to assess what measures have been implemented to preserve human security while facilitating human mobility in response to disaster impact, climate change or COVID-19.

2. THE OECS AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

- The lessons learned originate from an overview of the practices within the OECS. While the current status might vary across Member States and Associate Members, it is necessary to recognise that the response actions from within the regional body have, at times, demonstrated a proactive approach. This was evident in 2009 when, in light of the socioeconomic impacts of the global financial crisis, the OECS adopted the OECS Social Safety Net and Social Protection Strategic Framework, articulating a common vision for an integrated and coordinated system of social protection for the OECS (OECS, 2009). The Framework, which is in the process of being updated, recognises the role of social protection not only in reducing and preventing poverty but also in mitigating risks such as those resulting from global economic shocks, environmental hazards, changing labour markets and even the cascading effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. While the Framework does not make explicit reference to the provision of social protection to persons displaced by disasters or crises, it aims to improve the effective targeting and protection of vulnerable groups, including through special outreach strategies for seriously disadvantaged or excluded groups, which include migrant workers and victims of disaster. Shock-responsive social protection in the OECS has to some extent addressed the needs of non-nationals in the context of COVID-19.
- In demonstrating commitment of social protection of displaced persons, all OECS Member States and Associate Members - except for Guadeloupe and Martinique - are signatories to the CARICOM Agreement on Social Security (CASS) (1997) which aims to ensure the coverage and portability of long-term social security benefits for CARICOM nationals as they move from one country to another. The agreement, which was signed by all CARICOM Member States except for Haiti and Suriname, can be seen as key in facilitating the free movement of labour since it aims to ensure that social security benefits acquired in one country are maintained, regardless of changes in the insured person's country of residence (OAS, 2015; CARICOM, 2010).
- The regional and national legislative and policy landscape contains provisions for access to social protection and the portability of rights, including in the OECS. However, significant gaps remain between regional policies and national processes of ratification, and between national legislation or policy and the actual provision of support. Free movement regimes such as those found under the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the OECS Economic Union (ECEU) free movement agreement under the Revised Treaty of Basseterre (RTB) enable the frictionless

movement of OECS citizens between Member States. In this context, the OECS Convention on Social Security (1991), the CARICOM Agreement on Social Security (CASS) (1997), and the CARICOM Protocol on Contingent Rights, provide for access to social protection within the region. However, discussions for this study highlighted that greater focus has been put to date on the economic aspects of the free movement regimes of CARICOM and the OECS, rather than on the social side of mobility. The latter, however, would provide the basis for creating social programmes and support systems that would enhance migrant populations' experience in the host country, protecting them from the risks posed by idiosyncratic and covariate shocks, and enabling them to become active contributors to the national system in turn.

- The human rights-based non-refoulement principle appears expressly in the Convention Against Torture (CAT) (1984), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (1966). However, even though these can be used as guidelines for the development of protocols for the treatment of people crossing borders, to date, there is no binding agreement confirming the application of human rights-based non-refoulement guarantees in the context of persons fleeing from a disaster-affected country (Cantor, 2018), and this is particularly observable in the OECS Member States and Associate Members.
- The principle of non-refoulement has permeated international human rights law to complement the protection provided by refugee law to those who have been displaced across an international border. While this principle is normally utilized as subsidiary protection in relation to refugee law, various provisions of human rights treaties have been used to refrain states from deporting persons from their jurisdiction where they would face substantial risks (Worster, 2012). While this has not been observed in the OECS, protocols must be established to ensure that displaced persons are protected.
- States are responsible for the creation of enabling environments beyond the legal system whereby the rights of displaced persons or those at risk of displacement are promoted, and this environment should extend beyond the strictly legal sphere. It requires affording displaced persons justiciable rights within the relevant legal systems and the capacity to hold duty bearers accountable for protecting these rights (Sen, 2004). It shifts the lenses from assuming the displaced persons are simply helpless victims (Isayev, 2017), to one where they have an agency that may well be limited by circumstances, but which is often also asserted in displacement contexts (Gibbons et al., 2017). There is a recognition of the need for the OCES to fill this gap through protocols which protect the rights of displaced persons at the time of disaster-related events.
- The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, among the States that have not ratified or acceded to the Protocol, are Barbados, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia (although Saint Kitts and Nevis is a party to the 1951 Convention); and none of the OECS have incorporated the refugee definition and status

determination procedures into national law. Interestingly, none of the States are signatories to the 1984 Cartagena Declaration although most Caribbean States adopted the 2014 Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action. Therefore, protocols need to be established to ensure that the practice encompasses the intention of the declaration, without ambiguities.

- At a high level, the commitment by OECS countries to recognise the value and importance of social protection measures, evidenced by being signatories to regional agreements which focus on human security for nationals, underscores the proactive approach by the body to implement measures.

3. PROTECTION OF PERSONS DISPLACED FROM COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY DISASTERS

The adaptation of resilient and effective mechanisms to protect those affected by disasters must be a priority for countries who are members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). As disasters often lead people to cross borders, it is essential that domestic and regional procedures are implemented to ensure displaced people are receiving adequate shelter, food, medical aid and other necessities. In addition, countries of origin can play an integral role in advocating for the safe return of their citizens. This can be done by requesting that the host country refrain from returning citizens until conditions have improved.

Noting the multiple and interconnected effects of disasters in the region it is important that countries cooperate and coordinate their responses and resources to ensure everyone affected is receiving the best possible support.

It is vital that all OECS members understand that their support is required in the effort to protect those affected by disasters. By promptly establishing national and regional mechanisms and procedures, and by advocating for the safe return of citizens, OECS members can help to ensure the effective protection of those affected and the prevention of further suffering.

Research has revealed that within the OECS, in situations where there may not be direct provisions in plans and policies, there is evidence through ad hoc anticipatory and response actions by governments to ensure the protection of persons crossing borders in the context of climate strategies. Similarly, while not documented in all cases, Caribbean countries clearly demonstrates the application of the principles and seven (plus) dimensions of the human security approach. Response by the OECS and wider Caribbean countries to affected neighbouring states following significant hazard impacts often include provision to support livelihood, housing, health care and education (IOM, 2020).

3.1 Measures in plans and preparations for coordinating the protection of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters

St. Vincent and the Grenadines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) (2019), communicates the need for relocating vulnerable communities from coastal areas prone to disasters to less vulnerable areas. • The National Emergency and Disaster Management Act (NEDMA) (2006) (No. 15 of 2006) serves to provide the legal framework for the prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery in relation to disasters and related emergencies at the national level. • Both the National Disaster Plan (NDP) and NEDMA have outlined procedures to address the mobility outcomes of emergencies or disaster impact in the country. • In the wake of seismic activity from the La Soufrière volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2021, through bilateral agreement with the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines and other OECS Member States, preparations were made to evacuate affected people to neighbouring States that had agreed to provide shelter by opening their borders. (AP, 2021). • During the 2021 La Soufrière volcano eruption, the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the preparation for possible evacuation appealed to neighbouring States to permit evacuees into their jurisdictions with national identification documents if they did not possess a passport (Coto, 2021). The movement of persons without identification requires high-level coordination especially in slow onset disasters. The existing arrangement under the OECS Free Movement Agreement proved beneficial in evacuation process to allow for ease of movement both during normal times and in crisis situations.
St. Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disaster Management Act outlines the relocation or evacuation of vulnerable or affected populations from high-risk areas to less vulnerable areas.
Dominica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After Hurricane Maria, the Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authority (DASPA) captured data of basic incoming and outgoing passengers on the ferries or aircraft. The data is not disaggregated by age, gender or destination countries. However, the Discover Dominica Authority on the other hand hosts and manages an

	<p>excel database that captures detailed data but of incoming arrivals only. Both data sets are utilized jointly to present an idea of travel trends and the environmental migration that took place in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, 2017. This approach combines the available resources and systems to track persons – a key element of human mobility (IOM), 2020).</p>

3.2 Measures to identify needs and activate humanitarian response

Antigua and Barbuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigua and Barbuda developed capacities to conduct comprehensive multi-hazard risk and vulnerability assessments, which provides an opportunity to discuss how a migration dimension could be integrated into these methodologies. There is also potential to build on the experiences of countries that have created data sharing protocols and agreements to explore how these could be broadened to include actors working in migration management. • In 2017, as a result of Hurricane Irma, Antigua received internally displaced persons from Barbuda and displaced persons from the Commonwealth of Dominica. Antigua was a transit country for workers from other parts of the region that had been affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The high levels of displacement stressed the capacities to manage immigration and, in some cases, exceeded the ability to provide adequate services to migrants. Thus, highlighting the need to provide support not only to impacted states but also to those who act as host to displaced people. • Antigua and Barbuda granted visa waivers to Haitians wishing to join close family members already present in the country, so long as the latter could demonstrate the economic capacity to support their relatives (Caribbean 360).
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3.3 Admission and stay of displaced persons from a disaster-affected country

Antigua and Barbuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplemental registration point established within National Disaster Office after Hurricane Irma.
Dominica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the complexity of the destruction after the 2010 Haiti earthquake, the Dominican government adopted measures to accommodate Haitians. The 2010 Haiti earthquake that

	<p>occurred on January 12, 2010, severely affected the island. Hundreds of thousands of survivors were displaced. In Dominica, eligibility requirements for Haitians applying for a visa were temporarily relaxed (Dominica News, 2010). From a discretionary perspective, this visa relaxation for Haitians provided opportunities to rebuild and access social services in Dominica.</p>
St. Kitts and Nevis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint Kitts and Nevis has developed capacities to conduct comprehensive multi-hazard risk and vulnerability assessments, which provides an opportunity to discuss how a migration dimension could be integrated into these methodologies. Saint Kitts and Nevis already has a data-sharing act (passed in 2018).

3.4 Protection for persons displaced from a disaster-affected country

Antigua and Barbuda	<p>Antigua and Barbuda highlight experiences from disaster response through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided assistance to displaced people from Barbuda and Dominica following impact from Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 respectively. • Implement procedures to identify familial link even with lack of documentation. • Ensure safety of unaccompanied minors during the 2017 disaster situations due to Hurricane Irma and Maria • Ensure access to health services to displaced persons • Ensure protection of the vulnerable where senior citizens were provided free health services
British Virgin Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The British Virgin Islands has a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health, Social Development and the British Red Cross (BRC) supporting housing assistance programmes. Through this programme, the BRC provided funding to people displaced by climate-related hazards to secure shelter in the BVI after Hurricane Maria • In 2016, the BVI made accommodations for 20 asylum seekers, 17 from Cuba and 3 from Haiti, guided by the Refugee Convention and responsibilities of the state. Despite being a United Kingdom overseas territory, the BVI is not bound by the main international treaties on asylum seekers — the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967

	Protocol — but it still has an obligation to follow international standards (The Beacon, 2016).
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3.5 Durable solutions for persons displaced by disaster, whose return to their country of origin is not possible

Antigua and Barbuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival of minors from several impacted territories including children from Anguilla, BVI and Dominica assimilated in schools • Barbuda children were sent into different schools- (locale, zoning and current levels) Consideration/debate existed whether it would not be better to keep them together to ease stress of new education environment and to ease issues of reintegration in Barbuda once education facilities were restored
Dominica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the enhanced vulnerabilities during the pandemic in Dominica, non-nationals were eligible for COVID-19 Social Cash Transfers under the expansion of the Public Assistance Programme (PAP). • After tropical storms Erika and Maria devastated Dominica in 2015 and 2017 respectively, the government of Dominica declared every effort will be made for Dominica to become the first climate resilient country. This plan for long-term recovery and resilience saw the development of the National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS) in 2018. By the end of 2018 Legislation was passed for the formation of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD) and the eventual development of the Climate Recovery and Response Plan (CRRP) designed to operationalize the NRDS. While these policies and plans may be directed to the protection of nationals, the basic needs of migrants and displaced people can be met through a holistic approach. • Given the primary focus of the NRDS was to build resilience in the face of future disasters and to reduce displacement, the government proposed an integrated approach including resilient infrastructure, key achievement being the construction of three purposefully built Regional Emergency Shelters with the capacity to accommodate approximately one thousand (1000) persons, strengthened capacity of local institutions and enhanced public awareness.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government developed a plan to retrofit and rebuild existing buildings under the Dominica Housing Recovery Project, while also providing educational materials to the public to raise awareness of the impact of disasters and need to adhere to established building codes. • The government worked to enhance public awareness by launching a public information campaign, which included organizing a series of events and distributing print materials about displacement, risk assessment, and the proper use of early warning systems. • In general, Dominica’s plan to build resilience following tropical storms Erika and Hurricane Maria included measures to build resilient infrastructure, strengthen capacity of local institutions, and enhance public awareness. This integrated approach is critical for preventing displacement and mitigating the effects of hazards on the people of Dominica.
St. Kitts and Nevis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Saint Kitts and Nevis, under the expansion of the poverty alleviation programme (PAP) to new beneficiaries, non-nationals were included if they met the eligibility criteria and had proof of residency status (Nevis Pages, 2020).
Grenada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) determined that the only durable solutions for refugees in Grenada were voluntary repatriation or resettlement in a third country. Grenada has historically complied with refugees and has not violated the non-refoulement principle. In 2010 the government of Grenada agreed not to deport a family that was recognized by the UNHCR as refugees. This family was eventually resettled to a third country. In 2011- Grenada again recognized a refugee family that was also resettled to a third country.

4. PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS IN DISASTER-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

4.1 Assistance and protection of resident or in-transit migrants in a disaster-affected country (sending or country of origin).

St. Vincent and the Grenadines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) had bilateral discussions/agreements with neighbouring countries to host persons who may want to evacuate during the 2021 La Soufrière volcanic eruption•• Countries were allowed to evacuate their respective of nationals for greater safety• People migrated temporarily to stay with relatives until the perceived danger subsided• Ministry of Foreign Affairs played a significant role in the dialogue between SVG and potential host countries •
Dominica	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 2015 Dominica Resettlement Strategy detailed the procedure to relocate internally displaced people (IDP) or families in the context of disasters. This strategy was triggered by the devastating effect of Tropical Storm Erika which resulted in people from the community of Petite Savanne being relocated to Bellevue Chopin. This showed the relevance of planned relocation as a climate change mitigation strategy in Small Island Developing States (SIDs).• In an effort to address the escalating challenges and devastating effects of the La Soufrière volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the government of Dominica, in conjunction with other countries in the region and international partners, organized an evacuation plan for the citizens of the island. In addition to making provision for transportation for potential evacuees, the government of Dominica under the National Emergency Planning Organization (NEPO) also established a network of reception centers throughout the country to provide temporary refuge, health care, and social services.• The government of Dominica has also provided funding to make the necessary preparations expected from a host country to manage the crisis, and committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment for persons who would have been displaced across borders.• The government of Dominica, in collaboration with their regional partners, implemented measures to manage COVID 19 transmission during the crisis response.

Montserrat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In preparation for the Soufrière Hills volcanic eruption in 1995, the Governor of Montserrat established a regular framework for consultation and decision-making, involving weekly consultations with the Chief Minister and visiting senior scientists. • The Governor initiated Evacuation Plan exercise. • Plans were made to accommodate displaced people in public buildings and tents. • Emergency hospital facilities was provided. (Clay et. al, 1999). • Food and economic security were considered and the Government of Montserrat established Food Voucher Scheme, which include all foods and basic toiletries and exchangeable in local shops. The scheme reduced the burden of organising supply and delivery. It also provided a way of supporting the fragile private retail sector. The eligible population include evacuees in shelters, evacuees outside the shelters as well as safe zone residents who had lost their jobs because of the evacuation. • Allowing the internally displaced people of Montserrat to live in dignity, the assistance scheme was adapted by replacing vouchers with cheques to the same value that could be cashed at banks and supermarkets. This allowed beneficiaries the freedom to use the assistance in a more flexible way to meet general expenditure.
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4.2 Assistance and protection of overseas nationals who are directly affected by a disaster (country of origin).

St. Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following Hurricane Maria in 2017, Saint Lucia saw the arrival of displaced people from Dominica who received assistance from the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice, Empowerment, Youth Development, Sports and Local Government. The Ministry developed a social assistance form that was administered at the ports of entry to collect information on the needs of people arriving from Dominica, which was used to obtain extra budgetary provision to cater for the needs of 30 Dominican citizens, through rental payments, payment of school costs and food for children (Marzi et al. 2020). • This freedom of movement is feasible due of the regional free movement regime and the small number of arrivals from Dominica. • Dominican migrants arriving in Saint Lucia were given access to public housing, education and other services.
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 2021 La Soufrière volcano eruption, the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines appealed to neighbouring

	<p>States to permit evacuees into their jurisdictions with national identification documents if they did not possess a passport (Coto, 2021). This allowance is possible for OECS Member States under the Free Movement Agreement. The movement of persons without identification requires high-level coordination, more so people from Associate or non-members of the OECS.</p>
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5. THE WAY FORWARD

- The exercise of discretion in migration issues has certain limits derived from international human rights law and the law on refugees, including the principle of non-refoulement. States may be bound by bilateral or regional agreements which guarantee free mobility for some categories of people and which may also be applicable to disaster situations.
- Caribbean countries have, on ad hoc basis, demonstrated a willingness, evidenced by the responses by territories, to manage and integrate human mobility and social protection measures in times of disaster impacts. However, there is a lack of comprehensive and fully integrated provisions for mass displacements in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans and policies, except for immediate actions to address evacuations and relocation.
- There is a need to support more effective and consistent use of existing law, policy and practice to ensure an appropriate response to the needs of cross-border disaster displaced persons and foreign migrants affected by disasters. In this way, it seeks to improve the overall humanitarian response to this complex challenge.
- Mechanisms for tracking movements are missing, as well as the creation or maintenance of capacities, resources and knowledge. Effective displacement management needs to include provisions for the safe transportation and sheltering of people, adherence to human rights standards and consistent data collection of migratory movements, including those persons finding shelter in private homes, so that they can also receive adequate access to social services.
- Where free movement is partially granted, good communication and coordination among stakeholders at national and regional levels are essential for successful and efficient capacity-building.
- Education, be it specific schooling for the public or capacity building and advanced training for practitioners, is another field that requires new approaches. Educating about climate change and its relation to human mobility, society, vulnerable groups and human rights is fundamental to raise awareness about the urgency of the topics.
- Human mobility through evacuation can be a life-saving tool, but it requires detailed planning and significant resources from governments and partners to ensure that people are safe and healthy during their time away from their home communities. It is especially critical to take into consideration the different needs of people.
- Establish a provision for humanitarian visa, where persons are subject to protection for humanitarian reasons and humanitarian visas. This includes foreign people who,

without meeting the requirements set forth in this Law to access a migration status, prove the existence of exceptional humanitarian reasons as they are victims of natural or environmental disasters. These persons may access a humanitarian visa for a period of up to two years. Following such term, should the reasons why the humanitarian visa was applied for persist, it may be extended until the reasons giving rise to the visa granting cease. Humanitarian visas are granted at no cost to those applying for the refugee or stateless person status and those proving the existence of exceptional humanitarian reasons as they are victims of natural or environmental disasters.

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