

Summary of Side Event

[Addressing the challenges of climate-induced human mobility in SIDS through effective partnerships, in a context of recovery from COVID-19]:

31 January 2023 [1:15 pm to 2:30pm EST] Hybrid at Conference Room 5 and virtual via Webex

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Sudden and slow-onset disasters are challenging the human security of SIDS, including culture, identity, health, and livelihoods. Environmental hazards are already directly and indirectly driving climate-related mobility, with larger movement of communities on the horizon if action is not taken. Many of these challenges have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Across the Caribbean and the Pacific, governments, development partners and the UN are pioneering initiatives to address climate disasters and mobility which avoid worst-case scenarios particularly for vulnerable groups. Practices on the ground have proved that strong partnerships are crucial to comprehensively address the challenges of climate-induced human mobility in the SIDS context. It is imperative that all stakeholders join efforts in a complementary and holistic manner to ensure the most vulnerable segments of society are prioritized. The event was co-organized by IOM New York, the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Samoa to the UN, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the Office of the UN High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).

Please see the [event webpage](#) including the programme and list of speakers and panellists.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

Tools, initiatives, and best practices shared:

- The need for additional support for existing collaborations and creation of new alliances to address gaps was unanimously voiced. The speakers called for operationalisation of [Caribbean Resilience Fund](#) and urged to explore [Multidimensional Vulnerability Index](#) as tools for filling financial gaps in realizing the sustainable development in SIDS.
- Increased financial and technical support is urgently required to the climate-vulnerable countries for actions like early warning preparedness, anticipatory actions and enhancing resilience. On the point of good practices in planned relocation, shared toolbox “[Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change](#)”, which provides concrete suggestions for States and other actors who are planning to relocate people to protect them from disasters and environmental change.
- Best practices shared for capacity development and resilience building include [National Resilience Development Strategy 2030 of Dominica](#), which takes a comprehensive approach and institutionally employs resilience in strategic planning.
- In terms of labor mobility and climate migration as well as assisting with the economic recovery efforts stemming from the COVID 19 pandemic, Australia and [New Zealand's](#)

[seasonal employment program](#) was mentioned as possible measures to address the broader issue of mobility and access to employment in the Pacific region.

- Other existing/ongoing initiatives and examples of successful partnerships include: [Partnership Accelerator](#), [Pacific Islands Development Forum](#) and [Platform on Disaster Displacement](#), as well as development of regional cooperation frameworks such as [Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Initiative](#), [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#) and efforts on climate mobility.

Challenges

- Featured presentation of various challenges faced by CSO's in Fiji including lack of financial support and an enabling environment.
- Highlighted the nexus of climate change, migration and conflicts and lamented that international response is limited to short-term measures.
- Pressed on including the human rights, older people and labor mobility lens in the context of climate movement and actions for mitigation and adaptation.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

Financing and policy formulation

- To unlock finance mechanisms and enhance access for SIDS to funds such as the Green Climate Fund and to establish the loss and damage fund in a timely manner. To establish a global data hub on climate finance.
- To mainstream/institutionalize resilience building in strategic development planning and budgeting at the national and subnational levels, to sustainably maintain the resilience focus for people, communities, and infrastructure.
- To advance the discussion on the legal status of “climate refugees”.

Partnerships

- To utilize multi-stakeholder partnerships to build the capacity and resilience of individuals and communities and to maximize their positive outcomes by leveraging the power of local communities' engagement and solutions.
- To ‘localize’ the agenda by promoting collaborations with local partners, while employing intergenerational and people-centered approaches, and learnings from intersectional experiences in similar initiatives across SIDS.
- To leverage and more vigorously promote the roles of civil society in the area of climate-related human mobility, to ensure that actions are thoroughly inclusive of and empowering for people and communities that are marginalized and/or exposed to greater vulnerabilities.

Recognizing interconnectedness

- To leverage the positive potential of human mobility by using planned relocation as one among possible pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, and recognizing that the issues of climate-related human mobility and human security are interlinked and interconnected, and that the response must be proactive, collective, and inclusive.