

## Executive Summary: ‘Efforts to Manage Climate Migration Are Slowly Growing but Their Focus Is Often Indirect’

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## Efforts to Manage Climate Migration Are Slowly Growing but Their Focus Is Often Indirect

### Executive Summary

- This article maps climate mobility projects globally to explore how development organizations are functioning in this field.
- There are not many projects designed specifically for environmentally induced displacement, and major projects remain in their developmental phase. While some programs can indirectly help manage climate mobility, a study by the Migration Policy Institute identified only 54 climate mobility projects around the world ranging from local to multi-lateral development bank funded resilience projects.
- The article provides an overview of these programs, both completed and ongoing, categorizing their goals as “helping people stay, helping individuals move, and assisting those who are already on the move” (para. 5). Most projects focused on the first two, while projects assisting those on the move were the least common.
- Climate specific projects are growing but information about their effectiveness is limited. Additionally, a lack of data from the local level hinders project design where it would otherwise have the largest impact.
- Gaining local and national support for these projects could be challenging because of insufficient resources at the local and national level which limits their ability to sustain complex projects.
- Lastly, scaling up certain climate specific projects is more feasible than others.

### The Goals of Managing Climate Mobility

- Most projects aimed at helping people stay by building communities’ resilience in climate vulnerable areas or by assisting those already on the move. This is accomplished through green jobs or durable infrastructure in migrant settlements. Relocating projects were the least common.

#### *Projects to Help People Stay*

- 25 projects helped people stay or prevent forced displacement. These projects aimed to enhance climate resilience in areas prone to displacement or likely to be displaced based on sophisticated data modeling.
- Once a vulnerable area was identified, the project was curated based on the needs of the community. For instance, some places needed hurricane shelters while others required early warning systems to alert them before a climate related emergency.
- Some other approaches included persuading diaspora communities to invest remittances in climate resilience projects in their communities of origin or working with migrants who returned to their place of origin by providing them income opportunities in green jobs.

#### *Projects to Help People Move*

- 8 out of the 54 projects helped people move. The projects focused on planned relocation by moving entire households and communities from the most climate vulnerable areas to safer locations.
- Typically, relocation occurs internally, it is a lengthy process and requires extensive government planning regarding whether, where, and when communities should move.
- The government of Fiji has started relocating certain villages and has laid out a process for consulting communities before, during, and after relocation. The consultation is integral since it should be culturally specific, accounting for peoples' spiritual beliefs, livelihoods, etc.

#### *Projects to Help People on the Move*

- It is difficult to have projects specifically targeting individuals moving since, because of climate change, there is often a mix of factors prompting the move, such as economic and social.
- Many people who move because of climate change end up moving to places that are also climate vulnerable, resulting in double climate displacement.
- Since pinpointing individuals migrating, specifically for climate related reasons is challenging, these projects instead prioritize access to green jobs and enhancing resilience. For example, through the development of drainage systems or hurricane shelters in informal migrant settlements.

#### **Lessons for the Future**

- While climate related projects are growing, their effectiveness has not been gauged.
- Reliance on sophisticated climate research determining where people are most vulnerable, while important, does not factor in local data that can help design projects for places that will have the biggest impact.
- Projects focused on gaining support from local and national authorities are vital because they can better account for local needs. However, gaining this support can be difficult because local communities often cannot sustain complex projects.
- Some climate related projects are easier to scale up than others. For example, the green reintegration project in Senegal was expanded to more beneficiaries. However, drawing on diaspora remittances to fund climate projects could be challenging because it relies on the divestment of private funds allocated for families or communities. Nonetheless, various projects have potential to grow.
- Due to interest in climate adaptation, projects which help people stay will most likely expand. Projects that help people move and help people on the move will increase as well since more people will be migrating. Migrants and displaced people might be prioritized by development organizations in their projects.