

Literature Round Up — Sponsorship, Resettlement and Pathways to Protection

Theme: Climate and Migration (2)

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Description: Literature roundups are a compilation of recent publications on specific themes related to sponsorship, resettlement, and pathways to protection. Below is a collation of abstracts or excerpts prepared by the Refugee Hub to provide a summary overview of the latest research.

Policy briefs

Hoffmann, R., Vinke, K., & Šedová, B. (2023, December 1). [*Bridging the science-policy gap in the climate migration field* \[Policy brief 22\]](#). Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD).

While the scientific understanding of climate migration is advancing, major gaps prevail in addressing the related humanitarian and socio-economic challenges. Drawing from recent research, this Policy Brief discusses key challenges and presents recommendations for enhancing the science-policy interface to more effectively tackle the complexities of climate-related movements of people. The outlined suggestions aim to foster inclusive representation, improve the accuracy of assessments, leverage public data sources, and broaden the scope of research and policy initiatives.

Narayanan, B.K.B., Shipman, M.L., Foyle, L., Kharas, K., Livingston, B., Li, N.T., Medeleanu, M.V., & Taguchi, L. (2023). [*Climate crisis induced migration: A global framework to minimize and manage large-scale climate refugees and migrants*](#). *Journal of Science Policy & Governance*, 23(01).

The ongoing climate crisis will force the migration of up to 1.2 billion people by 2050. Since climate displacement has already begun, having policies in place to mitigate predictable issues that will arise from mass migration and safeguard vulnerable populations is essential. We recommend assigning a special “climate refugee/migrant” status to ensure human rights protections for these refugees/migrants. We also propose preventative measures to help reduce climate-related immigration and essential measures to facilitate refugees adapting to new regions. Finally, we recommend strategies to implement a “Loss and Damage” fund for the developing countries most vulnerable to climate-related disasters. These policies address a critical gap in climate migration policy and could inform the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP 28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai in November 2023.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (2023, November). [*What role for migration and migrants in climate adaptation?*](#) Migration Policy Debates [No. 32].

Migration as a response to climate change has always been a part of human history, and its importance as a means of diversifying livelihoods and protecting against disasters is set to increase as

climate change damages continue to mount. Going forward, migration and migrant communities could play an important role in climate adaptation, provided sound policy for climate-induced mobility is put in place. This policy brief looks at the potential role of migration and already established migrants in supporting climate adaptation in countries of origin.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). (2023). [*Climate-related displacement: Potential protections in U.S. policy*](#). U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. Policy & Advocacy.

In this week's Policy and Advocacy Report, policy analyst Daniel Salazar discusses policy recommendations on climate displacement, including U.S. refugee admissions program/TPS reforms and a new climate-specific humanitarian pathway for resettlement. This report discusses the lack of domestic and international protections for climate displaced persons and how some states are beginning to act with varying degrees of success. The report concludes with domestic policy recommendations and how they fit into a broader understanding of climate justice. This report is part of USCRI's ongoing policy and advocacy work highlighting strengths and weaknesses in existing U.S. and international policy toward migration from climate-affected countries and possible policies or models to pursue in response.

Blogs, Opinion and Short Pieces

Forced Migration Review. (2022, March). [*Climate crisis and displacement: From commitment to action*](#) [Issue 69]

Forced Migration Review issue 69 includes a major feature on 'Climate crisis and displacement: from commitment to action' in which authors examine how high-level policy commitments can be translated into concrete action in order to address the impacts of the climate crisis on human mobility.

McAdam, J. (2023, November 10). [*Australia's offer of climate migration to Tuvalu residents is groundbreaking – and could be a lifeline across the Pacific*](#). The Conversation.

Our region is already experiencing some of the most drastic effects of climate change. Pacific communities are showing enormous innovation and resilience in the face of these challenges, but as a matter of international solidarity and climate justice, additional support and cooperation is needed. One way of providing assistance is by creating migration pathways for people who wish to move. Australia's recent [*Pacific Engagement Visa*](#) is one such example – enabling up to 3,000 workers and their families from the Pacific and Timor-Leste to migrate permanently to Australia each year. In addition, the announcement this week of an [*Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union Treaty*](#) is groundbreaking. Under this deal, Australia will provide migration pathways for people from Tuvalu facing the existential threat of climate change. It is the world's first bilateral agreement on climate mobility.

McAdam, J. (2023, April 20). [*Amid global warning of 'exodus', pacific countries lead the way on mobility responses*](#). Researching Internal Displacement.

This short piece challenges policymakers to develop a broad suite of policy responses to safeguard the rights of those moving or displaced in the context of climate change and disasters. Drawing upon human rights principles and highlighting innovative practices of Pacific nations, the author shows how those most affected by climate change can be active participants in the search for durable solutions.

Perry, J., & Schacher, Y. (2023, November 17). [*A new bill could help the U.S. lead on climate change and displacement.*](#) Just Security.

Today, almost every displacement crisis is intertwined with climate disasters: from [hurricanes in Guatemala](#) and devastating [cyclones in Mozambique](#) to record [flooding in Pakistan](#) and [across](#) the Sahel and Horn of Africa. These effects are expected to worsen and accelerate as greenhouse gas emissions continue, and require responses across the spectrum of climate action – from mitigation and adaptation to funding for [loss and damage](#). [The Climate Displaced Persons Act](#) (CDPA), which Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) and Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) [introduced](#) this week, represents a forward-looking approach for U.S. global leadership in shaping effective and people-first solutions to the climate crisis at the moment when it is needed most. The bill creates a new pathway for at least 100,000 climate-displaced persons annually and provides resources, including foreign assistance to support those affected by climate change. The CDPA would ensure a robust commitment by the U.S. government to global climate resilience. For the first time, it also addresses climate displacement in ways that combat inequality and contribute to peacebuilding in areas at risk of climate-induced conflicts.

Scissa, C. (2023). [*An innovative analysis of Italy's protection against disaster displacement: Numbers and profiles of the beneficiaries.*](#) Refugee Law Initiative.

There are plenty of alarming sources projecting the arrival of “mass influxes” of people displaced by disasters, especially from third countries impacted by the effects of climate change into wealthier countries ([here](#) and [here](#)). Over time, scholars, international organizations, and NGOs active in the field of post-disaster assistance and in the protection of displaced persons have tried to forecast the number of people who will be displaced by future disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. These numbers, [criticized](#) by some scholars, may have contributed to a climate of [securitization](#) and reluctance towards the recognition and protection of those displaced by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. [Italy](#) is currently the only EU Member State to provide multiple and explicit protection statuses to people displaced in the context of disasters.

Announcements

Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, the [Climate Mobility Hub](#).

The Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law has launched a new digital platform, the Climate Mobility Hub, with the aim of ‘understanding displacement in the context of disasters and climate change’.

See also: McAdam, J., & Wood, T. (2023, November). [*Kaldor Centre Principles on Climate Mobility*](#). UNSW Law & Justice, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law.

Climate change and disasters are already having far-reaching impacts on human mobility globally. In the absence of significant and scaled-up global mitigation and adaptation efforts, the risks posed by climate change are likely to continue, contributing to the movement of people both within countries and across international borders. To ensure that such movement is safe and dignified, we need a range of rights-based responses. That is the focus of the new Kaldor Centre Principles on Climate Mobility. The Principles are grounded in evidence and informed by proven good practices. Their recommendations are not prescriptive – there is no one-size-fits-all approach to climate mobility. Instead, they offer a toolkit that can be tailored to specific circumstances. The Principles address a broad range of laws, policies and practices that can impact those who want to remain at home, as well as those who move. Holistic, interconnected, comprehensive and adaptable, they address all forms of mobility – displacement, migration, evacuations and planned relocations – as well as immobility.