

# Climate: Possible



POSITION PAPER

## Migration as climate adaptation

FACILITATING MOBILITY TO  
STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

November 2021, Laljhadi, Nepal. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

**The impacts of climate change have reached crisis levels in much of the Global South. Climate-related disasters and dire environmental conditions are devastating communities, weakening critical infrastructure, threatening lives and livelihoods, and forcing millions to flee their homes in search of safety and better opportunities.<sup>1</sup>**



August 2017, Kailali, Nepal. Abhinash Chaudhary/Mercy Corps

**U**rgent relief and support for recovery after each climate-driven emergency is not enough. As this crisis intensifies, we need to partner with communities around the world as they work to adapt to the impact of climate change and build resilience for the long term.

Currently, progress toward climate adaptation goals is falling woefully short. From a civil society perspective, insufficient investment in climate adaptation is the primary culprit. Many donors and investors cite the lack of evidence-based solutions that have the potential to support adaptation and resilience at scale as the main barrier. The result is a deadlock, where adaptation progress is continually and significantly outpaced by the impacts of climate change.

**This need not be the case. Impactful, scalable approaches to climate adaptation exist.**

# Mercy Corps has worked with local communities for over four decades to meet complex challenges with comprehensive, innovative solutions.

From proactive and rapid emergency response to restorative agricultural practices and renewable energy sources, our programming helps people cope with the immediate impacts of climate-related events, adapt to changing conditions, and make a **more** resilient future possible.

We launched the **Climate: Possible campaign** because we know what climate resilience looks like and we understand what it takes to get there. Each of the position papers in our Climate: Possible series articulates proven and high-potential solutions to climate challenges, drawing on Mercy Corps' extensive experience, evidence, and insights gathered from operating in the most fragile, climate-vulnerable contexts.

**One adaptation strategy that is often ignored, or even actively limited, is migration.** Yet, human mobility has historically been among the most effective ways of adapting to environmental changes and escaping poverty. Contrary to the rhetoric and fears in the Global North, most migrants move safely, legally, and within their countries or regional blocks. This paper underscores the critical importance of facilitating pathways for safe, legal, and successful migration—whether permanent or temporary—as a strategy to meet the urgent and extensive demands of climate adaptation.



2012 August, Bangassou, C.A.R. Sean Sheridan/Mercy Corps

Migration can effectively contribute to diversifying livelihoods, building resilience to climate shocks, and mitigating forced displacement driven by climate change. We offer recommendations on how donors, governments, and other actors can support the uptake and scaling of promising approaches to harnessing migration for adaptation.



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November 2024*

# Climate and migration

Human migration is a phenomenon as old as humanity itself. Historically, the interactions between people and their environment have prompted migrations across continents and civilizations.<sup>2</sup> This adaptive response has helped people survive and thrive in the face of changing conditions like massive shifts in rainfall and temperature.<sup>3</sup> Today, the shifts in food and water security, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels from climate change are influencing people's decisions to move, particularly in the Global South.<sup>4</sup>

In 2023, more than 26 million people were displaced by sudden onset climate events, like floods, storms, and wildfires.<sup>5</sup> The more gradual impacts of climate change will slowly degrade environments and livelihoods, pushing an even larger number of people to move worldwide.<sup>6</sup> Contemporary examples of climate migration include movement due to irregular rain in West Africa<sup>7</sup>; extreme drought in East Africa<sup>8</sup>; salinization of land and freshwater in India<sup>9</sup>; widespread flooding across Pakistan<sup>10</sup>; and the compounded effects of drought in Central America.<sup>11</sup>

## REFRAMING THE NARRATIVE

Mercy Corps is committed to transforming the current global narrative that often depicts migration as a negative impact on societies and a failure of development efforts. We aim to establish a more nuanced, inclusive, and equitable narrative by:

- **Valuing migration as a key adaptation strategy:** Recognizing migration as an essential and valuable response to both the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change, vital for safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable populations.
- **Supporting informed decision-making:** Generating and utilizing context-specific data to enable people impacted by climate change to make self-determined, informed decisions about migration that respect their dignity and meet their needs.
- **Combating discrimination and exclusion:** Actively working to minimize and reverse discrimination and the marginalization of migrants along their routes and in their destinations.
- **Encouraging adaptive investments:** Advocating for increased investment in climate adaptation strategies that include support for proactive and safe migration.
- **Leveraging economic benefits of migration:** Highlighting and maximizing the potential of remittances as crucial financial support for communities impacted by climate change, enhancing their resilience and adaptive capacity.



Contrary to the rhetoric and fears of many political leaders in the Global North, most migrants move within their countries or regions.<sup>12</sup> For example, most African migration occurs within the continent as people seek employment opportunities in neighboring economic hubs.<sup>13</sup> This pattern is consistent with global trends, where most climate migration occurs within the Global South, particularly among marginalized communities.<sup>14</sup>

To meet the urgency and magnitude of climate change, all available adaptation strategies must be harnessed. Policymakers as well as humanitarian and development actors must increase investment in climate adaptation and resilience within vulnerable communities, while also

investing in facilitating safe, legal, and successful migration for those who choose this path. For some, in-place adaptation will be enough, for others, migration may be a more viable strategy.

Mercy Corps is at the forefront of developing innovative solutions to support migration as a climate adaptation. We are committed to building a robust evidence base for cost-effective interventions that yield positive socio-economic and environmental outcomes for migrants, their households, and their communities of origin and destination. Our goal is to reshape the discourse around migration, promoting it as a proactive response to climate impacts in affected areas.

## DEFINING MIGRATION IN THE SHADOW OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Movement in response to climate change lies on a spectrum between voluntary and forced migration.<sup>15</sup> With voluntary migration, people willingly move for work, family, and education. This form of proactive migration is a decision taken after assessing risks—including climate-related—before it becomes a last resort.<sup>16</sup> If climate impacts outweigh people’s ability to cope and adapt in place, this leads to forced migration.<sup>17</sup>

The term **“environmental migration” recognizes the connection between the environment and migration.** Environmental migrants move, either temporarily or permanently, within their own countries or across borders, due to adverse environmental conditions that disrupt their living standards.<sup>18</sup> In response to the mounting impacts of climate change, policy and media discourse has focused on growing **“climate migration,” a term that points to climate change as a catalyst for migration.**<sup>19</sup>

While the definitions of environmental or climate migration are helpful in classifying and understanding migration flows, they are approximate and cannot capture the real nuance of people’s decision to move. Climate is rarely a standalone driver. Instead, the impacts of climate change exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, put pressure on weak systems, and introduce new obstacles that make staying in some locations impossible.<sup>20</sup> The voluntary-forced spectrum emphasizes the dynamic character of climate migration, in which moving can be a strategic personal decision or an urgent act for survival.

## Incoherent development paradigm

International development and climate policies increasingly acknowledge the integral role migration plays in sustainable development. This was addressed in Goal 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was endorsed by all UN members in 2015. It aims at “facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.” The Paris Agreement and both the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees

further endorse the need for legal and safe migration pathways, particularly in the context of escalating climate disasters.<sup>21</sup>

Central to these frameworks is the understanding that countries of origin and destination must adopt policies that maximize the overall benefits of migration for development outcomes while addressing its risks and challenges. This has resulted in progress toward the creation and implementation of proactive migration programming. Donors, governments, and implementers are beginning to recognize the potential of migration as a climate adaptation.

Despite these frameworks, the actual integration of migration into development strategies and climate policies is inconsistent. A study by the Center for Global Development and Mercy Corps highlighted that official development assistance (ODA) and other financial instruments are increasingly used to facilitate labor migration, including in response to climate change. However, such initiatives are often self-serving in that they aim to address labor market shortages in the donor country.<sup>22</sup> Such efforts are still insufficiently aligned with the type and size of needs of climate-vulnerable communities.

In the United States, significant progress has been made toward recognizing migration as a strategy for livelihood diversification, risk management, and adaptation. The Bureau of Population,

Refugees and Migration is working on a new approach<sup>23</sup> to climate migration centered on protection and coordination across the government and its partners. USAID’s climate strategy<sup>24</sup> and a report by the White House<sup>25</sup> have prioritized support to migration as a livelihood diversification, risk management, and adaptation strategy. Meanwhile, the UK government is supporting regional labor mobility and integration, including the implementation of poverty reduction strategies in East Africa to promote economic development.<sup>26</sup> Germany has a similar program to enhance free labor movement within North Africa.<sup>27</sup> Still, political discourse often portrays migration negatively, viewing it as a problem to be solved rather than an opportunity. This perspective influences foreign assistance strategies and policies, which



May 2023, Cobán, Guatemala. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

traditionally perceive climate-driven migration as a failure of development and adaptation efforts.<sup>28</sup> Such views promote policies aimed at reducing migration by encouraging potential migrants to remain in their communities of origin<sup>29</sup>—a strategy that has largely failed to address the root causes of migration.<sup>30</sup>

Furthermore, while development agencies in high-income countries are dedicating more resources to migration programming, it's a minor fraction of their overall funding.<sup>31</sup> The overwhelming majority of climate adaptation funding focuses on enabling vulnerable populations to adapt in place, neglecting the potential of legal migration as a viable adaptation strategy.<sup>32</sup> Exceptions to this trend include limited initiatives like small-scale skills partnerships or green jobs programs.

This dissonant development paradigm of praising the development potential of migration while employing development and climate finance to keep people where they are lacks an understanding and appreciation of how effective and valuable migration can be as a climate adaptation strategy.

To harness the full potential of migration, it is crucial not only to provide the necessary support for those who choose to relocate but also to create mechanisms in destinations that facilitate the best integration of newcomers. This approach should include accessible legal pathways, robust support systems, and integration programs that ensure migration is a beneficial option for adaptation.



### MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Two distinct contexts, Nepal and Niger, illustrate the anti-migration bias in development approaches. In both countries, migration and development are inexorably linked. Labor mobility is a central economic strategy with deep historical roots for many Nepali and Nigerien households. While migration brings challenges and risks, it also allows people to meet their essential needs amidst these climate-impacted contexts that are experiencing rapid population growth and limited livelihood opportunities.

However, the Nepali and Nigerien national policies and legislation have largely failed to see migration as an opportunity for advancing development plans. **A Mercy Corps analysis** of over 100 USAID and European Commission solicitations from 2014 to 2020 for Nepal and Niger showed a clear bias toward in-place development strategies and limited appreciation for and investment in proactive migration.

When migration was considered, the focus was on illicit and coercive forms of migration. In the few solicitations for migration-related programming in Nepal and Niger, USAID and the EC sought to invest in activities that manage, contain, or prevent labor mobility.



## Migration: an overlooked adaptation strategy

Climate adaptation refers to the “changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.”<sup>33</sup> The concept, as defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), emphasizes the voices and agency of those affected by climate change. Communities, households, and individuals must be able to choose for themselves how to adapt to changing environmental conditions.<sup>34</sup> The concept of agency is key to understanding migration not as a political problem that must be solved, but as a choice made by millions to improve their own lives.<sup>35</sup>

In some cases, moving is no longer a choice. Fleeing vulnerable climate hotspots can be an essential survival mechanism, particularly when local adaptation efforts fail to prevent escalating risks.<sup>36</sup> Such displacement, in turn, exposes existing vulnerabilities, especially among marginalized groups, such as women, children, indigenous people, and people with disabilities.<sup>37</sup>

The effectiveness of migration as an adaptation strategy can be judged by its outcomes on migrants and others. Szaboova et al<sup>38</sup> have put forth criteria for evaluating migration as a climate adaptation strategy: To be “successful,” migration must improve well-being, be equitable, and advance sustainable development goals for the migrants and wider society.



May 2019, Paraguachón, Colombia. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

This definition clarifies that, when successful, the benefits of migration reach beyond migrants to support extended households, communities of origin, and destinations.

The success of migration is not guaranteed. Outcomes vary due to existing vulnerabilities, resources, and systemic inequalities that limit a person’s ability to move. When migration is not resourced properly, or utilized as a last resort, it can be maladaptive and increase migrants’ risk of resorting to unsafe migration, being exploited, and living in precarity in transit and in their destination.<sup>39</sup> Often with less time to gather resources and prepare to move, refugees and displaced people can find themselves in areas highly vulnerable to climate change.<sup>40</sup> Migration can also negatively impact those who stay behind, including women and girls, as the migration of family members can result in increased labor burdens and exacerbate existing inequalities.<sup>41</sup> Supportive conditions, policies, and programs are required to realize the benefits of migration as a climate adaptation strategy.



June 2022, Medellín, Colombia. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

## EVIDENCE FOR WIDESPREAD BENEFITS

Successful migration enhances the adaptive capacities of individuals and their communities. It allows migrants to access better living conditions and opportunities, while households benefit from remittances that strengthen their economic resilience.<sup>42</sup> Communities of origin can improve local resilience through skills, networks, and capital provided by their diaspora while destination communities often benefit economically and culturally from new arrivals. Migration as a climate adaptation strategy addresses immediate needs and contributes to broader, long-term development objectives. With inclusive policies that ensure the welfare of migrants, their families, and both origin and destination communities, we can foster effective and sustainable climate adaptation strategies. The potential benefits for each of these groups are supported by a growing body of evidence.

### For migrants

Migration is often pursued as a strategy to access areas that offer more favorable living and working conditions, particularly when environmental challenges compromise traditional livelihoods.<sup>43</sup> For example, as local agricultural fields dry up or become salinized, moving to a new location can provide migrants with alternative economic opportunities. Similarly, for individuals in regions prone to severe flooding exacerbated by climate change, relocating can be a means to achieve a safer and more stable environment for their families and livelihoods.

Evidence shows migration brings substantial economic returns to migrants, from increasing income by 23 percent (cost-of-living adjusted) through internal migration<sup>44</sup> to doubling incomes through international migration.<sup>45</sup> Migration can also foster financial independence and safety, which are especially helpful to women and vulnerable groups.<sup>46</sup> These advantages are critical not only for immediate economic gain but also enabling these groups to access broader resources and networks that increase long-term stability and resilience.

### For households

The positive effects extend beyond the individuals who relocate. Families that send members to work elsewhere can directly benefit from migration, most notably in the form of remittances.<sup>47</sup> The money that migrants send back to their families often helps cover critical expenses, which include basic food and shelter

needs, healthcare, education, savings for emergencies, and paying off debt.

Remittances can support household climate adaptation by diversifying and increasing income. For example, Bangladeshi households used remittances to improve resilience to flooding and other climate-related disasters.<sup>48</sup> In Ghana, remittances improved farmers' investments in climate-smart agricultural practices, ensuring long-term, sustainable livelihoods.<sup>49</sup> Increased remittances following climate shocks have been shown to help households recover more quickly from—and better prepare for—future climate disasters.<sup>50</sup> Particularly in female-headed households, remittances are a key resource for adapting to climate challenges.<sup>51</sup> This strategy of income diversification through

migration effectively spreads financial risks and makes households more resilient to climate shocks.

### **For communities of origin**

Remittances benefit migrants' broader communities of origin, playing a critical role in development and poverty alleviation at a macro level. International remittances increased 650 percent from US\$128 billion to US\$831 billion between 2000 and 2022. These funds now far surpass official development assistance and foreign direct investment, underscoring the substantial economic impact of migrants' contributions.<sup>52</sup>

The investments from migrants and diaspora networks help finance climate-resilient infrastructure and technology, and support local businesses that benefit their



January 2024, Antiok, Nigeria. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

communities and countries of origin.<sup>53</sup> A less measurable benefit, the knowledge and skills gained by migrants abroad, can improve conditions in communities of origin.<sup>54</sup> Migration also helps expand social networks, which have been shown to play a critical role in climate risk management and resilience through sharing of cash and other forms of assistance.<sup>55</sup>

**For destinations**

Destinations gain from integrating migrants into their economies and communities. Economically, migrants expand the labor pool; increase consumer spending, tax payments, investing, saving, and entrepreneurship; and address demographic shortfalls.<sup>56</sup> Migrants may also fill roles within the green economy, a sector experiencing rapid growth and facing labor shortages in many countries.<sup>57</sup> Despite these contributions, the integration of migrants into the workforce is frequently hampered by the inadequate recognition of their qualifications, skills, and work experience. This systemic issue leads to many highly skilled migrants being forced into roles that do not match their training or experience, resulting in underemployment or unemployment.<sup>58</sup> The underutilization of migrant skills limits the

**Migration can have widespread benefits for:**



**CLIMATE ADAPTATION**

**COMMUNITIES OF ORIGIN**

- Remittances
- Investments in climate-resilient infrastructure & technology
- Knowledge & skills from migrants abroad
- Larger social networks

**MIGRANTS**

- Income
- Livelihood options
- Access to broader resources & networks
- Safety & stability

**HOUSEHOLDS**

- Remittances
- Income diversification
- Investments in climate-smart agriculture and climate resilience strategies

**DESTINATIONS**

- Labor pool, including in green economy
- Consumer spending
- Taxes
- Investments
- Savings
- Entrepreneurship



October 2018, Sargane, Niger. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

potential economic gains from migration, stifling the full benefits that these individuals could bring to their new environments.

This evidence is a starting point aimed at inspiring more climate and development actors to invest in migration as a climate adaptation strategy. The benefits for migrants, households, communities of origin, and destinations depend on integrating migration into climate adaptation policies and investments. Mercy Corps, along with our partners, is working to deepen this dialogue through ongoing research. We aim to identify the

most effective policies and interventions to support migration as adaptation.

## Lessons from across Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is leveraging our experience and expertise, including efforts with mobile and displaced populations,<sup>59</sup> to overcome political and operational challenges and unlock migration’s potential as a climate adaptation strategy.

Here are three promising approaches for donors and actors to strengthen and scale migration as a successful climate adaptation strategy.

### 1. SUPPORT LEGAL MIGRATION WITHIN REGIONS

Migration, particularly within the Global South, often occurs in urban areas and is increasingly recognized as a vital climate adaptation strategy. Supporting legal migration within regions with enabling labor mobility policies—such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)—is a crucial step toward adaptation and development.<sup>60</sup> This support may include collaboration with policymakers to build legal frameworks for climate migration, agreements for free movement, or protection of labor rights for migrants. An example of this is the “Joint Programme on Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration in Africa” (JLMP), funded by several European donors to support intra-African labor migration.<sup>61</sup>

From policy to practice, Mercy Corps and our partners have worked to design and test solutions that increase direct support for potential migrants and their households, enabling them to access resources and information needed for safe, successful migration.

The Planning for Productive Migration (PPM) program, co-led by Mercy Corps and Stanford's Immigration Policy Lab, supports seasonal and regional migration in areas vulnerable to climate impacts. In rural Niger, a region vulnerable to drought and crop failure, the program specifically targets young male participants interested in cross-border migration to build sustainable livelihoods. To address migration constraints, the PPM program provides comprehensive training prior to migration (including expectation management and supporting family members who stay behind), financial support for safe travel, and legal documentation, including national identity and vaccination cards. Based on existing evidence and analysis, this package of support holds potential to unlock new streams of income for migrants and boosts remittance flows to their families back home, further strengthening climate resilience in Niger.

The PPM program is currently under evaluation to determine its effectiveness across various socio-economic outcomes. If successful, these interventions are poised for scaling within ECOWAS, taking advantage of free labor movement across borders to maximize benefits. Further, the PPM model shows promise for adaptation in other regions with similar mobility policies and pathways, including the East African

Community and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) in South America.

## 2. ENGAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The scale and pace of climate change will require additional avenues of funding. Migration offers a major opportunity—specifically via remittances, which can play a vital role in addressing the global adaptation funding gap.

The window of time before a disaster strikes is key. Every US\$1 invested in anticipatory action results in US\$7 in avoided losses for farmers.<sup>62</sup> There is growing evidence that providing cash to households ahead of climate disasters can protect lives and livelihoods and hasten economic recovery.<sup>63</sup> To date, this assistance has come largely from donor funds. Remittances remain a largely untapped source for supporting anticipatory action that can supplement traditional humanitarian funding.

Mercy Corps and its private sector partners have been experimenting with creative ways to drive the flow of remittances to communities affected by climate change, funneling a greater share of remittances toward climate preparedness and adaptation.<sup>64</sup> By getting money into the hands of families sooner, we hope to better prepare households across Central America prior to these disasters.

Our research to date has shown that forecast-based remittance campaigns, in partnership with remittance providers, can be an effective climate adaptation strategy.<sup>65</sup> This innovative approach highlights a new role for diaspora communities and the

private sector in order to build resilience to climate disasters. The ultimate goal of this model is for financial service providers to independently support anticipatory action models in the same way they may already waive fees or provide supplementary assistance after a climate shock.

### 3. BOOST THE AGENCY OF PEOPLE IMPACTED BY CLIMATE

To be an effective adaptive strategy, migration should be an informed decision. In our engagement with migrant communities in Central and South America, particularly those from areas severely impacted by climate change, we've examined how environmental stresses influence migration decisions. Our research shows how younger men and women, often facing the brunt of agricultural disruption due to erratic weather patterns, are compelled to leave their homes.<sup>66</sup>

In Colombia, for example, many end up in border towns. This migration, driven by the need to escape deteriorating conditions, including extreme drought, flooding, and political crises, frequently results in precarious living situations. These migrants, especially young men, reported making hasty decisions under high stress, influenced by a critical lack of resources and reliable information.<sup>67</sup> At the same time, some chose to end their migration journey in unstable border towns prior to reaching their targeted destination, citing an aversion to loss after years of hardship. They expressed a significant need for accessible, reliable details on employment prospects, migration costs, and realistic



May 2023, Corozal, Guatemala. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

expectations of transit and destination conditions.

To address these needs, the PPM program in Niger helps potential migrants make informed decisions.<sup>68</sup> The program provides training on the realities of migration, risks, and what to expect in destinations. While designing the program, we found that young men in Niger often make decisions without the input of their family, which can leave households, particularly wives, in vulnerable situations. To encourage collaborative migration decisions, the PPM program invites household members to training days with the young men who have expressed interest in migrating. Trainers also facilitate household dialogues to help families discuss migration together. Ultimately, the project hopes that the information and joint decision-making

will result in better well-being outcomes for migrants and their families.

To ensure migrants have access to reliable information, Mercy Corps, alongside multiple technology and humanitarian partners, have equipped migrant populations with up-to-date digital channels that relay critical information. The SignPost project has provided trusted, timely, accessible, accurate, and context-adapted information to thousands of migrants in Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas.<sup>69</sup> Sending personalized access information through platforms like WhatsApp was found to reduce migrants' risks of exploitation.<sup>70</sup>

## Call for action

Given the pressing need for global climate adaptation, we must recognize migration as one of multiple, potentially complementary adaptation strategies.<sup>71</sup> By supporting the role of migration in climate adaptation, we can help countries minimize the impacts of climate-related humanitarian crises, including climate-driven displacement. This requires building the agency and options for people to make informed decisions on migration, including moving out of harm's way before the effects of climate change reach emergency levels.

The current international development paradigm and mainstream climate adaptation approaches do not effectively harness the potential of migration for both communities of origin and destination. A fundamental shift in policy, partnerships, and programming is required.

Governments and donors must move from perceiving migration as an obstacle to promoting it as an adaptation tool that fosters resilience in communities affected by climate change.

We call on donors and partners engaged in international development and climate change adaptation to collaborate with us on implementing the following actions:

### INTEGRATE MIGRATION AS A KEY COMPONENT

Include migration as a fundamental part of development and climate adaptation strategies, improving conditions and opportunities for those opting to migrate from climate-vulnerable regions. Ensure support is inclusive, particularly focusing on women, youth, and marginalized groups, and aligns with SDG target 10.7.

### ENHANCE PROGRAM SUPPORT

Amplify efforts to support people at all migration stages, both within and across borders. Implement regional approaches that link economic development programs across borders and cater to diverse community needs.

### INFORM AND SUPPORT MIGRATION DECISIONS

Offer comprehensive information about the risks and benefits of migration to guide individuals toward safe and legal pathways. Promote decision-making within households that is informed and mutually agreed upon, enhancing outcomes for all family members.





February 2022, Baidoa, Somalia. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

### **CREATE DIVERSE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Allocate more resources to develop varied employment opportunities in urban areas that attract migrants and displaced populations—especially in smaller cities and secondary destinations—to benefit migrants and local populations.

### **INCLUDE MIGRANT NEEDS IN ADAPTATION PLANS**

Ensure the needs and rights of all individuals, including migrants and displaced

persons, are considered in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other climate-related strategies and policies.

### **LEVERAGE DIASPORA AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS**

Utilize partnerships with diaspora and local groups to enhance the early adaptation capabilities of communities facing climate-induced disasters. This includes facilitating strategic remittance flows to bolster climate-vulnerable communities.



May 2024, Saint-Louis, Senegal. Ezra Millstein/Mercy Corps

As we navigate the complexities of climate change, we must embrace migration as a necessary strategy for adaptation. This document offers a new perspective beyond—and complementary to—the more traditional approach of supporting adaptation in place. Pursuing policy and programming for successful migration, we can address the urgent needs of those most vulnerable to climate change, while supporting communities of origin and destinations to adapt.

These recommendations aim to integrate migration as a core element of climate adaptation. Through committed collaboration, robust program support, and innovative policy adjustments, we can enable migration to contribute positively to our collective resilience and sustainability goals.

**Now is the time to act decisively, scale these solutions, and ensure that no community is left behind in the transition to a climate-resilient future.**



**Join us to help make a climate-resilient future possible.**

Supporting **Climate: Possible** will fund bold action that helps communities build lasting climate resilience. Your support also expands Mercy Corps' ability to test climate innovations to help prove what works and unlock barriers for further investment.

[mercy Corps.org/Climate-Possible](https://mercy Corps.org/Climate-Possible)

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