

Women on the Move in a Changing Climate

Gender, climate & human mobility: Entry Points in the UNFCCC Process and Implementation of the Paris Agreement

Concrete entry points to enhance gender responsiveness to climate-related mobility in the UNFCCC process and implementation of the Paris Agreement include the following.

The mandate of the **Task Force on Displacement (TFD)** was to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize, and address displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change. The TFD mandate has been extended to serve an advisory role for the Executive Committee (ExCom) and guide the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism five-year rolling work plan strategic workstream (D) 'Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation'. Gender dimensions could be better integrated in the following steps that will be considered at the next meeting (ExCom 9):

- '(b) [gender] experts to engage with the task force in the context of climate change in the activities of the Executive Committee;
- (c) support compilation of existing knowledge, data, tools and guidance; and develop these in areas where there are gaps [such as around gender];
- (d) support integration of [gender-responsive] approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change into relevant national planning processes, including the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs);
- (e) facilitate capacity-building of developing country Parties related to mapping of [gender-specific] risks of displacement;
- (f) facilitate enhanced understanding and the provision of technical support for developing country Parties to bridge knowledge and capacity gaps [including around gender] regarding in particular internal displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change.¹

Gender dimensions of climate related mobility could be further strengthened in other ongoing work of the Executive Committee of the **Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on Loss and Damage**,² such as the five year rolling work plan's strategic workstreams on slow onset events, non-economic losses and comprehensive risk approaches. Other workstreams of WIM provide opportunities to carry forward suggestions that emerged in the technical outputs of the TFD.³

The **Lima Work Programme (LWP)** on Gender provides further avenue for addressing gender dimensions of climate related human mobility. The TFD Activity II.1 *Mapping work-plans of bodies/work programmes under the UNFCCC* notes that 'The mandate of the Lima Work Programme (LWP) on Gender... considers differentiated impacts of climate changes on different groups of populations... [and] can provide entry point for further integration of the issue of displacement, as appropriate'. Established in 2017 under the Lima Work Programme, the **Gender Action Plan (GAP)** more concretely lays the groundwork for gender responsive climate policies and programmes under the UNFCCC. To achieve this, the GAP has five priority areas: Capacity building, Knowledge sharing and communication; Gender balance, participation and women's leadership; Coherence; Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; and Monitoring and reporting. The GAP depends upon the implementation and capacities of each country. Decision 21/CP.22 on gender and climate change calls on Parties to equip female and male delegates with skills, capacity and technical understanding on gender and climate change, providing another opportunity to integrate gender dimensions of mobility related to climate change.

National planning processes, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Adaptation Communications, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) provide opportunities for national level commitments to avert, minimize and address displacement and other forms of mobility related to the adverse impacts of climate change.⁴ Existing national planning documents rarely refer to gender dimensions of mobility, and thus provide important entry points for more gender-responsive policy and practice.

There are further opportunities for **enhanced policy coherence** around gender considerations of human mobility in climate change contexts between Parties' commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, and commitments to implement the Sendai Framework, Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration, Global Compact on Refugees, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, resolutions put forth by the Human Rights Council, and the recommendations of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda.

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Excom_8_summary_decisions-FINAL.pdf

² <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/workplan>

³ The TFD Synthesis of knowledge on displacement related to slow onset events highlighted the opportunity to 'collect disaggregated data including gender, elderly, youth, disabled persons, ethnicity etc. on underlying drivers of displacement, as well as related to the latent and structural factors that determine how exposed and vulnerable people are to hazards in the first place.'
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2018_TFD_report_17_Sep.pdf

⁴ According to the Mapping of Relevant National Policies and Institutional Frameworks in the context of TFD Workplan Activity I.12: Out of 37 countries and territories having submitted national adaptation policies, plans or strategies, 81 per cent refer to human mobility. Out of 193 countries and territories having submitted INDCs, 20 percent refer to human mobility. Out of 18 countries and territories having submitted new NDCs, only one, Uruguay's, refers to human mobility. Two countries, Sri Lanka and Venezuela, submitted revised NDCs that did not retain the references to human mobility originally included in their INDCs. Out of 143 countries and territories having submitted NDCs, 70 per cent refer to human mobility.
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2018_TFD_report_17_Sep.pdf