



COP17/CMP7
 UNITED NATIONS
 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011
 DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Vulnerability, changing populations and human mobility

UN system-wide response to climate change

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the Chief Executives Board (CEB) brings together 29 UN system organizations to jointly support Member States in meeting global challenges.

In 2007, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Actions Framework, a joint action-oriented approach in line with the decisions of the UNFCCC Parties. The UN system supports Member States in implementing their commitments and in responding to the emerging challenges.

At COP 17 / CMP 7, the UN system is presenting its ongoing work and practical solutions and tools at side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

Contact: ceb@un.org
CEB Website:
www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/

Why this initiative:

Many countries, especially Least Developed Countries, are experiencing rapidly changing populations, including urbanization rates that will mean a doubling of the urban population in as little as 20 years, population growth, significant migration and displacement, and large and growing numbers of children and young people. These same countries are also projected to experience the most severe human impacts of climate change, both acute and long term, exacerbating existing vulnerability linked to conflict, competition over natural resources, human rights violations, livelihood and food insecurity, lack of access to basic social services, poor health, extreme poverty and exposure to natural hazards.

At COP16, Parties agreed to include some of these issues as part of the Adaptation Framework, and to consider them within the emerging Green Climate Fund. It is now widely accepted that migration policies and measures to address displacement need to be part of adaptation strategies, as stated in paragraph 14(f) of the Cancun Adaptation Framework. However, implementation remains a work in progress, as does the inclusion of other key issues, such as population change, settlement issues and conflict sensitivities, which are essential to protect and empower vulnerable people in a changing climate and to ensure people's human rights, health and well-being.

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Climate Change Action Framework

Focus (left) and Cross-Cutting Areas (right) have been identified in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the UN system (with corresponding convening agencies) to ensure better coordination and cooperation for concrete deliverables:

Adaptation
 Technology transfer
 Forestry and Agriculture
 Financing mitigation and adaptation action
 Capacity-building

Climate knowledge; science, assessment, monitoring and early warning
 Supporting global, regional and national action
 Public awareness-raising
 Social Dimensions of Climate Change

Vulnerability, changing populations and human mobility

Objective 1: Ensure that LDCs and vulnerable people are a central focus of inclusive adaptation frameworks and action, taking into account the changing size, location, mobility and composition of populations, in order to generate climate-resilient pathways to development.

Objective 2: Operationalize paragraph 14(f) of the Cancun Adaptation Framework through collaboration to support:

- Development of policies and programmes on climate-related migration and displacement, particularly linked to urbanization, human settlements, conflict settings natural resource dependent populations, and disaster risk reduction, including ensuring that migration is part of adaptation strategies;
- Adaptation policies and investments that are migration- and conflict-sensitive;
- Coherence of the international community's response, and its consistency with existing human rights norms and standards.

Activities

UNDP and IOM chair a working group within the Global Migration Group (GMG) on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies, which supports governments and UNCTs in four pilot countries to integrate migration into their national development strategies and support frameworks.

UNEP led the report on "Livelihood security: climate change, migration and conflict in the Sahel" in cooperation with IOM, OCHA, UNU and CILSS.

UNESCO brought together a network of experts to publish the first comprehensive report on the impact of climate change on migration. With the GMG, UNESCO led the adoption of the first international joint statement on migration and climate.

UNFPA is supporting implementation of the *Population Situation Analysis* tool to integrate population change in development and adaptation

strategies, and is training countries on these links as part of the UN CC:Learn initiative.

The Cities and Climate Change Initiative led by **UN-HABITAT** is supporting rapidly growing cities in 20 countries to make vulnerable people, places and sectors more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

UNHCR is mainstreaming adaptation and disaster risk reduction into refugee operations and has taken a leading role, together with the Norwegian Government, in the elaboration of the Nansen Principles.

UNICEF developed a study with South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs and Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, highlighting the expected impact of climate change on children's health, education, nutrition, safety and access to adequate housing and sanitation to strengthen the child focus of climate policies as well as youth community-based climate action.

UNU together with CSOs and the private sector, have launched several projects to build capacity and to address links between changing weather, food security and human mobility in the most vulnerable countries.

IOM is applying its comprehensive migration management approach to migration, climate change and environmental degradation, including through research, legal studies, policy dialogue, operational activities and media targeted actions.

NRC/IDMC is monitoring and providing annual estimates of global displacement triggered by climate-related hazards, together with research highlighting related patterns and protection concerns for IDPs to inform policy and practice.

Moving Forward

The UN system is partnering with countries on avenues for legal and safe migration as an adaptation strategy, and to address underlying drivers of displacement by supporting sustainable human development. Inventories of adaptation strategies in key sectors are vital, and will help to ensure that these strategies are conflict-sensitive and consider population changes and migration. Regional cooperation is essential, as are research and policy networks for evidence and best practices.

Benefits

A wide range of results have been achieved, including: climate change resilience mainstreamed in urban planning frameworks; livelihood prospects of urban youth groups improved through the implementation of urban climate change action plans; a pilot assessment conducted of the awareness, capacity and potential for adaptation measures in water, sanitation and shelter in refugee camps.

Contact: <http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climatechange>

CEB Secretariat: ceb@un.org

José Miguel Guzman, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA, joguzman@unfpa.org