

Policy Paper

Rethinking Local Actors' Engagement in Global Climate Mobility Agenda

Lukmon Akintola



Contribution to discussions at the GFMD summit 2024

SUPPORTED BY



Policy Paper

Rethinking Local Actors' Engagement in Global Climate Mobility Agenda

Lukmon Akintola



Abstract

With new challenges and opportunities emerging in different parts of the world, migration trends are increasingly changing globally. Particularly, the increasing frequency and intensity of climate events is forcibly displacing people and making many to voluntarily migrate in various parts of Africa. Climate crisis is not only disrupting human mobility patterns, but it is also presenting complex developmental challenges to African policymakers and the international community. With local actors' efforts in responding to climate crisis in hotspot areas and managing migration patterns, this paper examines their roles in global climate mobility agenda and governance processes. This paper explores the activities Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and existing regional efforts on climate mobility to unpack local actors' engagement in national and international processes. This paper finds that local actors are less integrated into these climate mobility policies processes despite being at the forefront of addressing climate mobility on the ground. To advance meaningful climate mobility policies and locally anchored solutions, this paper further presents a series of recommendations to improve local actors' engagement in national, regional, and global climate mobility policy agenda.

Key Words: Climate mobility, GFMD, Local actors, Africa.

Table of contents

Abstract	4
Introduction	6
Understanding Climate Mobility in Africa	7
Exploring Local Actors and Climate Mobility in Africa	8
The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)	10
African efforts to Mainstream Climate Mobility to the Global and Regional Priorities	11
Unpacking the Potentials of Local Actors in addressing Climate Mobility at regional and GFMD levels	12
References	16

Introduction

Mobility is an age-long crucial part of human endeavors, with people moving from one place to another, either within or across national borders.

From rural to urban areas, from seasonal to permanent migration, from forced displacement to voluntary migration – irrespective of the mobility pattern, there are various factors driving human mobility in different parts of the world. Some of these drivers include increasing unemployment, health crisis, violent conflicts, extreme weather events, harsh environmental conditions, among others. In Africa, specifically, these drivers are prevalent in many parts of the continent, forcing people to be on the move, both internally and across borders.

In recent times, climate change is emerging as one of the leading drivers of human mobility in several parts of Africa. Slow and rapid-onset extreme weather events – such as flooding, tropical cyclones, drought, increasing heat waves – are forcibly displacing people from their homes, while also pushing people to voluntarily migrate for survival.¹ The increasing frequency and intensity of these climate events is not only putting people in vulnerable situations, but it is also driving dire human security challenges – such as water scarcity, food shortage, violent conflicts, disease outbreak, job losses, forced displacement as well as migration. From the East and Horn of Africa to Southern Africa, from West Africa to the Sahel region and North Africa – climate-induced mobility is increasingly becoming a major phenomenon in the continent and causing socio-political and economic instability across the continent.²

Despite contributing less than 4 percent to global emissions, Africa is disproportionately affected by the devastating impacts of climate change, driving multiple development challenges, including forced displacement and migration.³ In 2022 alone, more than 7.4 million

people were forcibly displaced due to climate crisis, representing more than a 100 percent increase from the 2.6 million forced displacement recorded in 2021.⁴ In Nigeria, for instance, official figures hinted that about 2.4 million were displaced by flooding events in several parts of the country, making the country to incur about \$6.68 billion in economic losses in 2022.⁵ Similarly, 1.1 million persons were displaced by protracted drought and increasing heat waves in Somalia.⁶ More sadly, these climate events are putting people – including youth, children, and women – in vulnerable situations.



At the forefront of addressing the increasing climate-induced displacement and migration are the local actors. With rural areas and urban cities transforming into hubs for climate mobility, local actors – such as municipal governments and traditional rulers – are increasingly becoming the de facto players for migration governance in the continent.⁷ Particularly, local and municipal governments are playing leading roles in addressing the challenges presented by climate-induced mobility, while also directly engaging with vulnerable groups in their communities. Beyond providing shelter and emergency supplies for climate-displaced persons, local authorities are making safe and orderly migration a viable adaptation strategy to climate crisis, with transit and destination cities supporting and receiving climate migrants in large numbers. This is evident in several African cities and towns – such as Hargeisa in Somaliland, Nyamagabe district in Rwanda, Nairobi in Kenya, Casablanca in Morocco – that are significantly receiving climate

1 ACMI (2023). Explore the Data. Global Center for Climate Mobility. Available at: <https://africa.climate-mobility.org/explore-the-data>

2 Akintola, L. (2023). African Regional Brief: Human Rights in Context of Climate-induced Migration and Displacement. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Climate Migration and Displacement Platform. Available at: https://geneva.fes.de/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/2023/2023_06_Africa_Policy_Brief.pdf

3 Kimani, J. (2022). Africa's Role in Decarbonizing the Planet. Race to Zero. Available [here](#)

4 IDMC (2023). 2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement. Available [here](#)

5 IDMC (2023). Country Profile: Nigeria. Available at [here](#)

6 IOM (2023). IOM, World Bank, Government of Somalia to Provide Lasting Solutions for 71,000 People Affected by Drought. IOM Blog Series. [Available here](#)

7 Stürner-Siovitz, J. & Heimann, C. (2023). Cities as Migration Governance Partners. German Marshall Funds of the United States. Available [here](#)

migrants and integrating them into the community.⁸ This informed the reason why the African Civil Society Platform for the GFMD in its Abuja statement strongly advocates for integrating frontline communities into climate policy processes, as well as advancing city-to-city partnership to promote safe, orderly, and dignified human mobility.⁹

Despite the significant contributions of Africa's local authorities, they are often excluded in designing and implementing national and international climate and migration policies, even when it directly affects their residents.¹⁰ Particularly, national and international players often overlook local governments for partnerships on policy conversations, building early warning and preparedness systems, as well as funding opportunities

in the continent. This is not only undermining the significant role of local actors in addressing climate mobility, but it is also hindering the sustainability of national and international climate and migration policies and efforts.

It is based on this backdrop that this policy brief explores the agency of local actors and African cities in climate mobility governance in Africa. Specifically, this brief presents the significant roles of local and municipal authorities in responding to climate displacement and promoting migration as an adaptive mechanism to the climate crisis. In addition, this brief deep-dives into the indispensable roles of these local actors in advancing meaningful climate and migration governance in Africa, through meaningful inclusion in national, regional, and global migration policies.



8 Mayors Migration Council (2022). Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees Announces Six New African City Grantees Delivering Solutions for People Affected by Climate Crisis. Available [here](#).

9 GFMD (2023). African Civil Society and Diaspora: The Abuja Statement. Available [here](#).

10 Sturner-Sioivitz, J. & Heimann, C. (2023), Op. Cit.

More importantly, this policy brief provides recommendations to policymakers on possible ways to leverage the GFMD platform and unlock the potential of local actors in promoting sustainable climate actions and policies that will mitigate climate change and promote safe, orderly, and dignified migration patterns in the continent.

Contextual Clarification of Key Concepts

Local Actors: In the context of this policy brief, local actors refer to key players residing and/or working in frontline communities, and interfacing with affected persons in hotspot areas. In particular, local actors include local and municipal governments, city mayors, traditional rulers, religious and community leaders, among others.

Climate mobility: This brief leverages on the Cancun Agreement's definition of climate mobility. It views climate mobility as the movement of people due to the devastating impacts of sudden or slow-onset extreme weather events, both within and across borders. In this brief, climate mobility includes forced displacement, voluntary migration, and planned relocation.

Vulnerable Groups: In the context of this policy brief, vulnerable groups are individuals that are directly affected by the devastating impacts of climate crisis. With climate change being a threat multiplier, these people are put in vulnerable situations, and worsening their existing challenges. Vulnerable groups in this brief include, youth, children, and women.

Understanding Climate Mobility in Africa

As highlighted in the ACMI's African Shift Report, climate mobility is "the movement of people due to the devastating impacts of sudden or slow-onset extreme weather events, which happens both within and across national borders."

It includes forced displacement, voluntary migration, and planned relocation, which are either temporary or permanent.”¹¹ This description underscores the reality of many hotspot areas in Africa, where climate shocks and harsh environmental conditions are increasingly causing forced displacement and migration.

Climate mobility is becoming a growing phenomenon in various parts of Africa, with affected persons forced to flee their homes, while some voluntarily migrate. Protracted drought, tropical cyclones, flooding, sea level rise, oceanic acidification – are some of the extreme weather events driving forced displacement as well as threatening people’s survival in the continent. Recent trends of displacement and migration patterns uncover the devastating impacts of climate change in the continent. In the East and Horn of Africa, for instance, more than 2.7 million were forcibly displaced by prolonged drought caused by five failed consecutive rainfall seasons, while also affecting more than 36.6 million people in the region.¹²

Particularly, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia account for 2.1 million of the total climate displacements recorded in the Horn of Africa in 2022, with Somalia alone accounting for over 1 million climate displacement in the region.¹³ In Western and Central Africa, protracted drought has led to more than 90 percent shrinkage of the Lake Chad basin, forcing many people that depend on the water for survival and livelihood to be on the move.

Recent data reveals that over 3 million people have been forcibly displaced in the Lake Chad region, while plunging more than 11 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.¹⁴ Flooding is also driving major human security challenges in the region, displacing more than 1.3 million people in Nigeria in 2021, as well as 2.4 million in the country in 2022.¹⁵ This is also the same trend in Southern Africa, where climate events are wrecking havoc and putting people in pitiable situations. Earlier in the year, strong wind and mudslides related to tropical Cyclone Freddy displaced over 659,000 persons in Malawi, while also killing 679 persons in the country.¹⁶ All these figures signal an increasing trend of climate-induced displacement and migration in the continent.

It is even more disturbing to know that the continent is likely to experience more climate migrants in the future if sustainable mitigating and adaptive actions are not put in place. This informed the reason why the World Bank’s Groundswell report projects that Sub-Saharan Africa will likely experience 86 million climate migrants by 2050.¹⁷ Focusing on the entire continent, the ACMI’s Africa Shift report also predicts that Africa may experience 113 million climate migrants by 2050.¹⁸

Even though migration or planned relocation is viewed as a viable adaptation mechanism to climate shock, there are many more individuals that are unable or unwilling to move from their communities due to several reasons – such as close ties to their homelands, lack of financial resources, little or no social contacts in possible destination cities, among others. While these trapped populations are often overlooked in climate mobility discourse, it is extremely important to help them mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change, while also protecting their rights to either move or stay in their communities.

Exploring Local Actors and Climate Mobility in Africa

African cities are rapidly transforming into hubs for climate mobility. With urbanization growing in various parts of Africa, cities are increasingly becoming a center of attraction for climate migrants – who are either forcibly displaced or migrate voluntarily due to climate events. On the flipside, increasing urbanization is also exposing many cities to the devastating impacts of climate change as well as harsh environmental conditions. In view of all these climate-related displacement and migration interplay, local authorities are becoming the de facto climate change and migration-governance actors, working to address the growing climate crisis, while also managing migration patterns in their cities and communities.¹⁹ Even in rural areas that are grappling with the devastating impacts of extreme weather events – such as sea level rise, flooding, protracted drought, local authorities are faced with the harsh reality of addressing the human security challenges posed by these climate crises. This is also the same in cases of slow-onset climate events – like drought, sea level rise, increasing heatwave, where local authorities

11 Amakrane, K., et.al. (2023). African Shifts Report. Global Center for Climate Mobility. Available [here](#)

12 IOM (2023). A Region on the Move 2022: East and Horn of Africa. IOM Nairobi. Available [here](#)

13 IDMC (2023), Op. Cit.

14 Lamarche, A. (2023). Climate-fueled Violence and Displacement in the Lake Chad Basin: Focus on Chad and Cameroon. Refugees International. Available [here](#)

15 IDMC (2023), Op. Cit.

16 Government of Malawi (2023). Malawi 2023 Tropical Cyclone Freddy Post-Disaster Needs Assessment. Available [here](#)

17 Viviane C., et.al. (2021). Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration. World Bank. Available [here](#)

18 Amakrane, K., et.al. (2023). Op. Cit.

19 Sturmer-Siovit, J. & Heimann, C. (2023). Op. Cit.

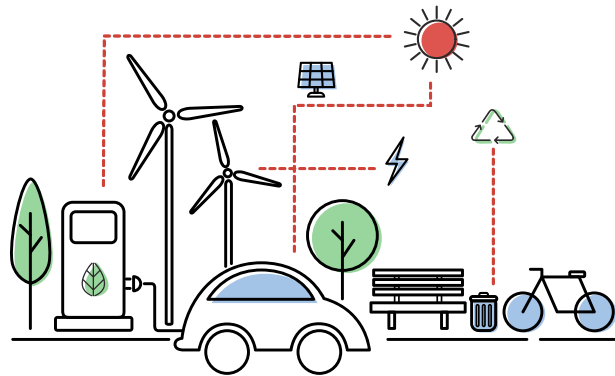
grapple with several impacts of these climate crises, such as water scarcity, food shortage, increasing crime rates, violent conflicts, loss of jobs, among others. For instance, through the Global City Funds for Migrants and Refugees, the city of Hargeisa in Somaliland is relocating displaced families living in flood-prone areas to safer areas in the city and providing them with land ownership. This is also similar to the significant efforts of the local authorities in Nyamagabe District in Rwanda, where they are converting waste from local refugee camp into renewable energy for the entire areas, while also creating green jobs, and reducing deforestation.²⁰

Despite these significant roles of local and municipal governments in addressing climate mobility at the local level, they are often excluded in national and international climate mobility policies. Beyond being overlooked in climate migration policy discourse, these key actors are often not engaged to contribute ideas and recommendations on policies that affect their residents. Paradoxically, local governments are faced with increasing consequences of national and international climate migration policies, with little or no power to influence the processes.²¹ More sadly, local actors are unable to access adequate resources in addressing these challenges, while also facing limited opportunities to forge meaningful partnerships at the national and international levels.²² It is important to stress that there are ongoing efforts to engage local players in the continent, particularly, through the Mayors Migration Mechanism of the GFMD, where city mayors and organizations like C40 are driving meaningful partnerships to integrate local authorities into the migration conversation.²³

However, there are still significant gaps in integrating Africa's local actors in climate mobility policy and implementation efforts at both national and international levels. To unlock the potential of local actors in addressing climate mobility and promote sustainable climate actions, these local actors need to be meaningfully integrated into the national and international migration and climate change policy discourse. With their lived experiences in their communities and closeness to the affected persons, local authorities are well positioned to meaningfully contribute to climate mobility policy ideas, at both national and international levels. But more

importantly, they are well-positioned to implement policy ideas and advance the rights of affected persons in their communities. Particularly, integrating local authorities will create an avenue for a bottom-up approach to climate mobility policy processes, which will reflect the realities of affected persons on the ground, and drive "knowledge exchange, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships".²⁴

Multiple Players, Common Objectives:



Exploring the GFMD and Existing Instruments on Climate Mobility in Africa

There are several global and regional multilateral platforms advancing policy issues relating to climate change and migration governance.

In the context of this policy brief, we will deep-drive into the activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), focusing on its climate mobility thematic programs. This section will also explore several existing regional platforms and policy instruments focusing on climate mobility in Africa.

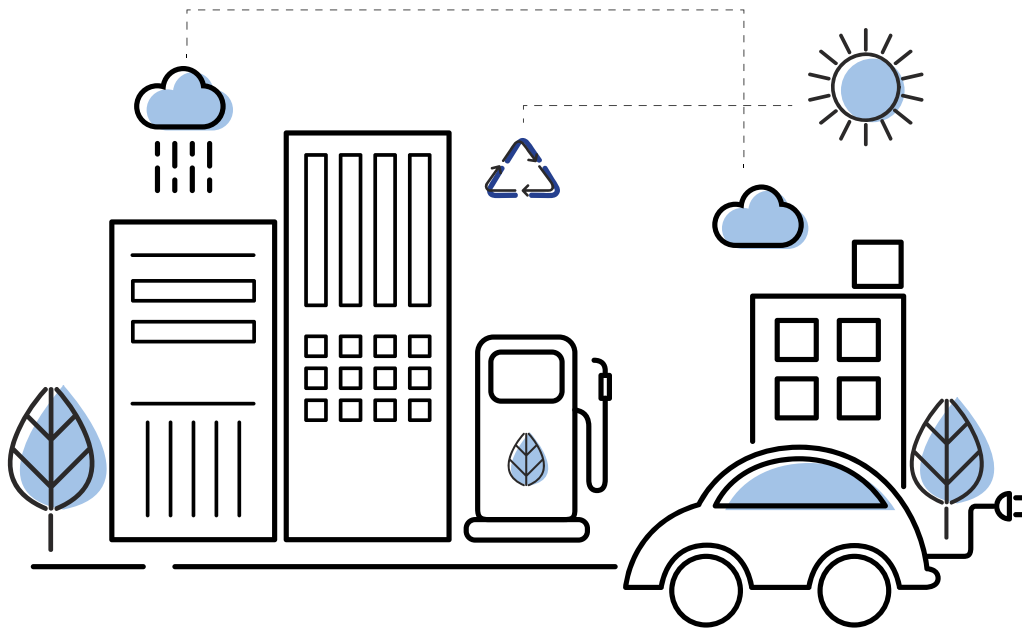
²⁰ C40 Cities (2022). Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees announces 6 new African city grantees delivering solutions for people affected by Climate Crisis. Available [here](#)

²¹ Ibid

²² Sturner-Siovitz, J. & Akintola, L. (2023). Can City Diplomacy Help African Cities Take Action on Climate Mobility?. The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Available [here](#)

²³ GFMD Mayors Mechanism (Undated). Connecting Local Governments to State-Led Migration Fora. Available [here](#)

²⁴ Sturner-Siovitz, J. & Akintola, L. (2023). Op. Cit.



The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

The Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) is the major multilateral platform for advancing transformative global, regional, and national migration policies. Since its formation in 2007, the GFMD has served as a platform for addressing several thematic issues surrounding migration and development, including diaspora issues, labor migration, migrants' rights and protection, culture and narratives, migration multi-level governance, climate mobility, among others.²⁵ Despite being a state-led and non-binding platform, the GFMD leverages the unique influence of non-state actors – such as the civil society, private sector, trade and labor unions, and youth groups – to promote global migration and development priorities.

In 2018, the GFMD adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), which is currently the most widely recognized global framework for addressing migration issues by member states. The GCM presents 23 key objectives that cover the entire spectrum of global migration discourse.²⁶ Particularly, the

Objective 2 (section H – I) outlines the GFMD priorities in addressing the devastating impacts of climate change and harsh environmental conditions on human mobility. Specifically, one of the objectives of the GCM stresses that the GFMD seeks to “develop adaptation and resilience strategies to sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, such as desertification, land degradation, drought and sea level rise, taking into account the potential implications on migration, while recognizing that adaptation in the country of origin is a priority.”²⁷ The GCM equally provides implementation strategies, which involve multi-stakeholder partnership with different actors that significantly contribute to these common objectives.

In order to implement Objective 23 and other related objectives, the GFMD has made climate mobility a central priority of its engagements with both states and non-state actors, including the civil society, youth groups, climate change experts, local authorities – playing their roles. Several GFMD Chairmanships have made climate mobility a key priority for the member-states and stakeholders, which is due to the increasing reality of climate-induced displacement and migration in several parts of the world, including Africa. In the same vein, the current GFMD's French Chairmanship is towing this path, through organizing several climate mobility thematic events, with several state and non-state actors jointly working to advance safe and orderly migration as

²⁵ GFMD (2022). 2022 - 2024 GFMD Chairmanship. Available [here](#)

²⁶ GCM (2018). Final Draft: Global Compact for Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration. Available [here](#)

²⁷ Ibid

a significant adaptive mechanism to climate crisis, while also promoting climate-resilient actions. These series of multilateral engagements have not only provided the much-needed awareness to the reality of climate mobility, but it has also put climate mobility in the front burner of global and national priorities.

Some of the recent GFMD's climate mobility thematic events, include:

GFMD-RELATED CLIMATE EVENTS	LOCATION
African Civil Society Forum	Abuja, Nigeria
The GFMD Thematic event of Climate Change and Human Mobility	Paris, France
Thematic Workshop on Labor Migration and Climate Change	Geneva, Switzerland
Regional Consultation on Human Rights in the context of Climate Mobility	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Thematic Workshop on Migration and Development for OACPS Member States and Non-State Actors	Brussels, Belgium

While City Mayors are part of the GFMD processes, local authorities and community leaders working at the forefront of climate-induced displacement and migration are yet to be integrated into both regional and global migration policy discourse. Despite their locally anchored solutions to devastating impacts of climate change, these local actors are neither recognized for their significant efforts, nor engaged to meaningfully contribute to regional and global climate mobility policy processes.

African efforts to Mainstream Climate Mobility to the Global and Regional Priorities

With Africa bearing the significant brunt of the climate crisis, addressing climate-induced displacement and migration has been a key priority for stakeholders in the continent, including state and non-state actors.²⁸ Particularly, the civil society and local actors have been a top voice in calling for transformative climate and migration policies that will promote safe and orderly migration patterns, and advance climate resilience in the continent.

This section explores some of the existing efforts – including policy frameworks and instruments – to advance Africa's reality regarding climate mobility, both at the GFMD level, as well as global and regional climate platforms. Some of them include:

The Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change

This is the first comprehensive, globally recognized, and action-oriented policy framework led by member states to address the devastating impacts of climate change on human mobility in Africa.²⁹ First adopted in July 2022, the declaration was jointly signed by 16 member states from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community, and States of the East and Horn of Africa. As of August 2023, the declaration now has 48 African countries adopting the provisions of the framework. The declaration is also widely accepted and promoted by global climate and migration agencies, including UNFCCC and IOM accordingly.³⁰ Particularly, the declaration outlines the concerns and priorities of African member states to address the complex interactions between climate change and human mobility in the continent. More importantly, the declaration stresses the need to integrate local actors to implement the commitments outlined in the declaration.

28 IDMC (2023). Op. Cit.

29 IOM (2022). Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change. Available [here](#)

30 Ibid

The Abuja Statement

This is a comprehensive policy document that details the outcome of a three-day rigorous engagements among civil society actors on several thematic issues of migration and development in Africa, which was jointly organized by the GFMD Civil Society Mechanism, civil societies based in Africa, diaspora organizations, and labor unions.³¹ The central objective of the statement is to acknowledge Africa's concerns and priorities on migration and development issues, while also providing African member states with relevant recommendations that can be advanced at the GFMD level, as well as regional and national migration and climate change platforms. Specifically, the Abuja Statement acknowledges the reality of climate mobility in Africa and provides recommendations for policymakers and other relevant stakeholders. It is worth stressing that the Abuja statement places priority on multilevel governance in addressing climate mobility in Africa, calling for meaningful integration of local actors in the policy conversation, as well as advancing city-to-city partnership.

The African Regional Brief on Human Rights in the Context of Climate Mobility

This regional brief presents the trends of climate mobility in Africa and how they drive human rights abuses of vulnerable groups in different regions of the continent.³² Jointly organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the Climate Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP), and ACT Alliance, the regional brief documents the lived and professional experiences of various stakeholders – including researchers, civil society actors, climate change activists, youth groups, among others.

This regional brief provides robust recommendations to the GFMD member states and the parties to the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC on how to meaningfully address climate mobility in the continent, while also protecting the rights of affected persons on the move and those that are trapped in hotspot regions. Specifically, the regional brief calls for a people-centered approach to climate mobility policies and integrates local actors into the policy formulation and implementation processes. This regional brief was presented on the sideline of the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB58) and human rights summit in Geneva.

31 GFMD (2023). Op. Cit.

32 Akintola, L. (2023). Op. Cit.

The ACMI's Agenda for Action

The Agenda for Action on climate mobility is an initiative of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI), which presents eight action points for African leaders across various levels of governance and sectors, outline the strategies to building climate resilience and advance migration as viable adaptive action to climate crisis.³³ As a policy output of the ACMI's Africa Shift Report, the Agenda for action emphasizes the need for climate actions to be people-centered, while also calling for "locally anchored solutions that address the drivers and impacts of climate mobility in Africa".³⁴ More importantly, the Agenda for Actions calls for meaningfully integrating local actors, including strengthening the agency of vulnerable groups and frontline communities. Specifically, the Action points 6 and 7 call for "build from local" and "invest in resilient and connected cities", urging for adequate investment in community-led solutions to drive adaptive climate actions.

The African Youth Declaration on Climate Mobility

Another recent effort is the launch of the African Declaration on Climate Mobility. With young people being disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, the declaration shared the concerns, urgent demands, and provided recommendations to policymakers on the necessary policy actions that will advance climate resilience as well as safe and orderly migration patterns in the continent.

Unpacking the Potentials of Local Actors in addressing Climate Mobility at regional and GFMD levels

Local actors present enormous potentials to advance sustainable climate actions and promote safe and orderly migration patterns in the continent. Local governments, community leaders, traditional rulers – all have significant roles to play in addressing climate mobility and can meaningfully contribute to the national, regional, and global climate mobility policies.

33 ACMI (2023). Agenda for Action. Global Centre for Climate Mobility. Available [here](#)

34 Ibid

Particularly, the local actors present the following:

Experience Sharing and Reliable Data

With their lived experiences, local actors have significant qualitative and quantitative data that could drive transformative policies related to climate mobility at the national and international levels. As first respondents to climate disasters, local actors have relevant information that could help government agencies and experts to design effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies that reflect the reality on the ground. Additionally, engaging the local actors will help experts to have a baseline understanding of existing local and traditional efforts in addressing climate disasters in these hotspot areas, while also helping policymakers to understand the realities of vulnerable groups on the ground. All these relevant data will significantly help national and international stakeholders to identify the major entry points to promote sustainable climate actions and advance migration policies on the ground.

Voices of Vulnerable Groups

Local actors and authorities are well-positioned to advance the voices of vulnerable groups in frontline communities. Beyond being the first respondents to climate disasters, local actors are the closest to the victims of climate disasters and they are in the best position to speak for them and advance their interests in policy forums and conversations. Particularly, local actors interface directly with people on the ground, and they are aware of the reality of slow and rapid-onset climate events and how it is putting affected persons in vulnerable situations. Integrating these local actors into policy conversations will put people at the center of climate and migration policy processes, while also making these policies sustainable.

City-to-City Partnership

Cities are transforming into hubs of climate mobility, making local authorities play a significant role in addressing the devastating impacts of climate change. Particularly, cities are playing key roles in making migration a viable adaptive strategy to climate change, through promoting planned relocations and receiving climate migrants. Additionally, transit and destination cities are playing significant roles in protecting the rights of climate migrants, through providing shelters and driving integration processes.

Locally anchored Solutions

Local actors are key players in driving local solutions. With their active engagement on the ground, they are well-positioned to drive people-centered solutions at the local level. More importantly, local actors' understanding of local realities gives them competency to advise national and international stakeholders on possible solutions that will fit into the local context.

To unlock these potentials, governments, regional bodies, and international stakeholders need to significantly integrate local actors into the policymaking and implementation strategies, while also advancing meaningful partnership at all levels.

Recommendations to State and Non-States Actors

Addressing climate mobility requires a conscious multi-stakeholder approach. Particularly, states and non-state actors in Africa need to collaboratively work together to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis and promote safe and orderly migration patterns in the continent. More importantly, local actors need to be meaningfully engaged in policy processes, while also empowering and supporting them to advance locally anchored and people-centered solutions to address climate-induced displacement and migration.

In this light, this policy brief provides some relevant recommendations to Africa's states and non-states actors at national, regional, and global levels, particularly the GFMD. It is worth stressing that these recommendations leverage the outcomes from the Abuja Statement, the ACMI's Agenda for Action Agenda, the Kampala Ministerial Declaration, the African regional message on human rights and climate mobility, as well as the Brussels output statement.

Some of these recommendations include:

Climate literacy and Capacity Building

- ① Strongly encourage relevant stakeholders to empower government officials, civil society actors and local authorities, through investing in climate education, raising awareness, and fostering knowledge exchange among them – with a view of meaningfully equipping them with

relevant thematic knowledge on the issues of climate change and human mobility pattern in the continent, as well as the GFMD processes.

- ④ Prioritise investment in green skills and innovation for local actors and vulnerable groups in frontline communities, with a view of driving sustainable climate actions and locally anchored solutions to the devastating impacts of climate change, including forced displacement and unsafe migration.
- ④ Unpack complex climate mobility concepts for career African negotiators, policymakers, and local actors, through embracing informal educational tools that will aid easy understanding of these climate challenges in Africa.
- ④ Strongly urge the integration of local knowledge into modern scientific climate solutions, further advancing comprehensive mitigative and adaptive strategies to climate mobility, while also promoting the relevance of traditional knowledge.

Research and Reliable

- ④ Prioritise significant investment in reliable, up-to-date, and accessible continental-wide and country-specific databases that presents the reality of climate mobility in the continent, while also embracing both quantitative and qualitative dataset that documents the realities and voices of local actors and that of the affected persons in frontline communities.
- ④ Strongly call for adequate investment in early warning and preparedness systems that provide valid predictions on climate mobility in the several regions of the continent.
- ④ Adopt relevant technology for data collection and dissemination that will provide real-time information on weather patterns and drive timely response to anticipated climate crises, particularly in frontline communities.

Inclusive Policy and Local actions

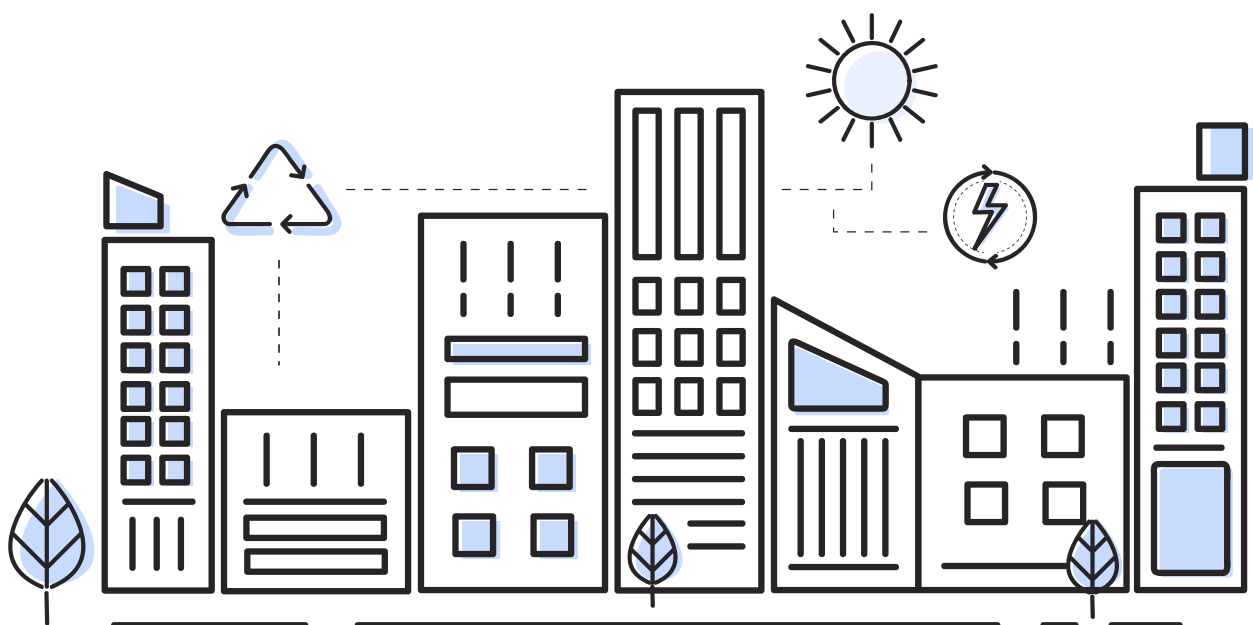
- ④ Meaningfully integrate local actors – including local governments, traditional rules, youth and women groups – in frontline communities to policy making and implementation processes on climate mobility, while also giving them opportunity to contribute to decisions that gravely affect their survival.
- ④ Advance coherent and comprehensive climate mobility policy priorities, using existing frameworks - such as the Kampala Ministerial Declaration and the Sendai Framework - to engage relevant stakeholders for significant climate resilient efforts in the continent, while promoting safe and orderly migration as a viable adaptation option to climate disasters.
- ④ Strongly prioritise meaningful partnerships with relevant stakeholders and local actors to advance green initiatives and climate adaptive and mitigating climate actions, which provide sustainable economic opportunities to the people in frontline communities and address other devastating impacts of climate crisis in the continent.
- ④ Establish a periodic continental-wide forum that is co-created by African member-states and civil-society actors, with a view of advancing meaningful dialogue on the trends of climate mobility in Africa, while also taking stock of the progress made in relation to the Global Compact on Migration, the Paris Agreement, the Abuja Statement, the OACPS Luanda Declaration, the EU-OACPS Samoa Declaration, among others.
- ④ Strongly call for city-to-city and cross-border partnerships at the local and national levels, with a view of advancing protecting the rights of affected persons, as well as promote safe and orderly migration in the face of climate disasters.
- ④ Advance a bottom-up approach to climate mobility governance, through providing opportunities to local actors and city governments to participate in national and international decision-making processes and driving partnerships for local actions

Climate Finance

- ① Prioritise urgent funding of loss and damage finance facility and doubling adaptation finance by 2024, while also removing all the bureaucratic bottlenecks that hinder local actors and affected persons to access funding support for adaptive and survival purposes.
- ② Create specialized funding schemes for local authorities in hotspot regions, with a purpose of

investing in resilient infrastructures that would withstand climate shocks and harsh environmental conditions.

- ③ Strongly urge African state and non-state actors to pressure rich-developed polluting countries to fulfill their annual \$100 billion commitment, while also funding climate adaptation efforts in Africa.



References

1. ACMI (2023). Agenda for Action. Global Centre for Climate Mobility. Available at: <https://africa.climate-mobility.org/agenda-for-action>
2. ACMI (2023). Explore the Data. Global Center for Climate Mobility. Available at: <https://africa.climate-mobility.org/explore-the-data>
3. Akintola, L. (2023). African Regional Brief: Human Rights in Context of Climate-induced Migration and Displacement. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Climate Migration and Displacement Platform. Available at: https://geneva.fes.de/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/2023/2023_06_Africa_Policy_Brief.pdf
4. Amakrane, K., et.al. (2023). African Shifts Report. Global Center for Climate Mobility. Available at: <https://africa.climate-mobility.org/overview#african-shifts>
5. C40 Cities (2022). Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees announces 6 new African city grantees delivering solutions for people affected by Climate Crisis. Available at: <https://www.c40.org/news/global-cities-fund-for-migrants-and-refugees-announces-6-new-african-city-grantees-delivering-solutions-for-people-affected-by-climate-crisis/>
6. GCM (2018). Final Draft: Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Available at: https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf
7. GFMD (2022). 2022 - 2024 GFMD Chairmanship. Available at: <https://gfmddivisionsociety.org/2022-2023-co-chairmanship/>
8. GFMD (2023). African Civil Society and Diaspora: The Abuja Statement. Available at: <https://gfmddivisionsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/The-Abuja-Statement-EN-.pdf>
9. GFMD Mayors Mechanism (Undated). Connecting Local Governments to State-Led Migration Fora. Available at: <https://www.mayorsmechanism.org/>
10. Government of Malawi (2023). Malawi 2023 Tropical Cyclone Freddy Post-Disaster Needs Assessment. Available at: <https://dih.immalawi.org/documentsviewer/Tropical%20Cyclone%20Freddy%20PostDisaster%20Needs%20Assessment%20Government%20of%20Malawi%20April%202023/645dd92e6a214409852edbb9>
11. IDMC (2023). 2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement. Available at: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2023/>
12. IDMC (2023). Country Profile: Nigeria. Available at: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria>
13. IOM (2023). IOM, World Bank, Government of Somalia to Provide Lasting Solutions for 71,000 People Affected by Drought. IOM Blog Series. Available at: <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-world-bank-government-somalia-provide-lasting-solutions-71000-people-affected-drought>
14. IOM (2022). Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change. Available at: https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11411/files/documents/2023-08/kampala-ministerial-declaration-on-mecc_english-signed.pdf
15. IOM (2023). A Region on the Move 2022: East and Horn of Africa. IOM Nairobi. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/region-move-2022-east-and-horn-africa>
16. Kimani, J. (2022). Africa's Role in Decarbonizing the Planet. Race to Zero. Available at: <https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/africas-role-in-decarbonizing-the-planet/>
17. Lamarche, A. (2023). Climate-fueled Violence and Displacement in the Lake Chad Basin: Focus on Chad and Cameroon. Refugees International. Available at: <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/climate-fueled-violence-and-displacement-in-the-lake-chad-basin-focus-on-chad-and-cameroon/>
18. Mayors Migration Council (2022). Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees Announces Six New African City Grantees Delivering Solutions for People Affected by Climate Crisis. Available at: <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/news/cop27-gcf-grantees>
19. Sturmer-Siovit, J. & Akintola, L. (2023). Can City Diplomacy Help African Cities Take Action on Climate Mobility?. The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Available at: <https://globalaffairs.org/commentary-and-analysis/blogs/can-city-diplomacy-help-african-cities-take-action-climate-mobility>
20. Sturmer-Siovit, J. & Heimann, C. (2023). Cities as Migration Governance Partners. German Marshall Funds of the United States. Available at: <https://www.gmfus.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/Cities%20as%20Migration%20Governance%20Partners.%20April%202023.pdf>
21. Viviane C., et.al. (2021). Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration. World Bank. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/2c9150df-52c3-58ed-9075-d78ea56c3267>

Author's Biography

Lukmon Akintola is a Nigerian national with over 7 years' experience as development practitioner. He holds a master's degree in Politics and International Relations from Peking University, Beijing. Lukmon works at the intersection of climate change, human security, and migration. He currently serves as a Knowledge Advisor at the Global Center for Climate Mobility, where he is supporting the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) Deep Dive project in West Africa. He is also among the coordinating team of the African Non-State Actors of the GFMD, where he serves as the focal point on climate mobility. Lukmon previously served as the program lead at the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) and has consulted for several international organizations, including UNICEF, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, European Partnership for Democracy, Safe the Children, among others.

Policy Paper

Rethinking Local Actors' Engagement in Global Climate Mobility Agenda



**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**



Global Forum on
MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

GFMD FRANCE 2024



GRFDT
Global Research Forum on
Disasters and Transnationality



panidmr