

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi Disciplinary
Peer Reviewed

www.ijlra.com

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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS
ISSN

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LOSING HOMES, LOSING IDENTITY: A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO HELPING PEOPLE DISPLACED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

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Abstract

Climate change is a primary driver of human displacement, displacing millions from their homes as a result of sea-level rise, extreme weather, drought, and land degradation. Not only does this displacement interrupt physical housing, but it also destroys cultural identity, social networks, and access to fundamental rights such as food, healthcare, and education. Current international legal frameworks, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, do not recognize "climate refugees," leaving them both legally vulnerable and politically excluded.

This paper takes a rights-based approach to examine the multifaceted effects of climate displacement, with emphasis on socio-economic, psychological, and cultural impacts on displaced persons. The paper sheds light on the specific vulnerabilities of indigenous peoples, coastal communities, and women who are exposed to maximum risks owing to their limited adaptive capacity. This paper advocates legal reforms, people-centered policies, and international collaboration in order to safeguard human dignity, promote environmental justice, and achieve long-term, sustainable solutions to climate displacement.

Keywords

Human displacement, equity, resilience, and legal framework.

1. Introduction

Climate change is increasingly causing human displacement, interlinking environmental sustainability, social justice, and human rights issues. Increased temperatures, more and more frequent storms, drought, sea-level rise, and slow-onset processes such as desertification are no longer hypothetical—they are displacing millions, with little warning and little protection.

The UNHCR indicates that climate-related disasters have displaced an average of 21.5 million people each year since 2010, and estimates show that 143 million people will be displaced by 2050 in areas like Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia.

While it goes beyond damage to homes and results in weakening of cultural affiliations, social cohesion, and basic rights such as health, education, and food, displaced people by climate are affected hardest because they possess low adaptative capacity and discriminatory disadvantages.

This article promotes a human rights-based approach as the most equitable and inclusive framework for meeting the needs of climate-displaced people. Equity-focused, participatory, non-discriminatory, and accountable, this approach is focused on empowering affected communities and making sure that they are involved in decision-making. Through a review of international law gaps, policy shortcomings, and case studies from climate-vulnerable areas, the article recommends solutions that weigh climate resilience against human rights.

Finally, the study appeals for a paradigm shift—away from reactive disaster management towards proactive climate justice. It is only through rights-based, inclusive approaches that we can guarantee that climate-displaced persons are not left behind in global responses to environmental crises.

2. The Scale of Climate-Induced Displacement

2.1 Global Trends

Climate displacement is now more than a theoretical situation, but it is a quickly developing reality that has an impact on millions of people around the world. It is caused by both sudden-onset events, which happen suddenly and bring about mass evacuations, and slow-onset phenomena, which progressively deteriorate the livability of land and resources, pushing people to move gradually. Comprehending these worldwide trends is necessary for evaluating the scale of the crisis and devising the right legal and policy responses.

Sudden-Onset Disasters

Floods, cyclones, hurricanes, wildfires, and landslides are growing more frequent and intense as a result of climate change. They tend to cause sudden displacement, often impacting already vulnerable groups of people with less resilience. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

(IDMC) reports that more than 32.6 million people were newly displaced by disasters in 2022 alone.

One of the most catastrophic instances in recent times was the 2022 Pakistan floods, which were caused by unprecedented monsoon rains and glacial melt. More than 8 million people were displaced, entire communities inundated, infrastructure collapsed, and prospects for long-term recovery gravely impaired. In the same vein, Cyclone Idai in Mozambique in 2019 left about 146,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) displaced, impacting shelter as well as food security, healthcare, and access to water in the affected area. The incidents show the way climate shock can be disastrous to livelihoods, cause the loss of development gains, and lead to mass human displacement.

Slow-Onset Disasters

Slow-onset processes like sea-level rise, desertification, soil erosion, and salinization, in contrast to sudden disasters, result in incremental yet non-reversible changes to the environment. These environmental changes compromise agricultural productivity, drain water resources, and threaten conflict over decreasing natural resources, thus producing "push factors" for migration.

In Bangladesh, for example, sea-level rise has the potential to inundate almost 17% of the nation's land area by 2050 and displace up to 20 million people. The Sundarbans ecosystem, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots, is already experiencing the salinization of freshwater and the displacement of coastal communities. Likewise, Sahel nations of Africa are also facing accelerated desertification, which is making huge portions of land unlivable and adding to prevalent socio-political grievances.

Future Outlook

The scale of displacement due to climate change is estimated to grow exponentially if drastic mitigation and adaptation policies are not applied. The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) projects that by 2050, up to 1.2 billion individuals worldwide might be displaced by climate risk, including extreme weather events as well as slow-onset environmental decline. These projections are not hypothetical; they are based on trends and deteriorating global climate scenarios projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

These projections reaffirm the compelling necessity for the global community to acknowledge climate-displaced persons as an emerging and multifaceted humanitarian issue. Without concerted efforts, the globe risks unprecedented pressure on cities, infrastructure, and global migration systems, further reinforcing inequality and tensions between nations.

2.2 Regional Hotspots

Climate displacement is a universal problem, but its manifestations and consequences are highly divergent across various regions owing to geographical vulnerabilities, socio-economic status, and the level of preparedness. Some regions—most frequently in the Global South—have become hotspots, where environmental stress and population vulnerability converge to produce frequent or permanent displacement. This section focuses on three such hotspot regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and South Asia.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is especially exposed to both sudden and slow-onset climate occurrences as a result of its reliance on rain-fed agriculture, sensitive ecosystems, and scarce adaptive infrastructure. In Uganda, for instance, weather-related events have become more severe in recent times. In 2024, floods and landslides in the Kasese and Bududa districts forced 12,681 individuals to flee, destroying homes, schools, and health centers. Displaced populations, already economically vulnerable, now experience worsening access to food, clean water, and healthcare.

In addition, the psychological impact of successive displacement is considerable. Following environmental disasters, increased instances of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) have been witnessed, especially among women and children. Mental health care continues to be woefully lacking in humanitarian interventions, further exacerbating trauma sustained by the affected population.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Pacific Island states like Kiribati, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands are at the epicenter of the climate emergency. Sea levels have risen, saltwater contamination has rendered tracts of these islands uninhabitable, and coastal erosion threatens to engulf remaining land. Parts of these islands have seen farmable land render itself barren, and freshwater streams have been rendered undrinkable, rendering long-term migration an option, and indeed a question of survival.

Kiribati, for example, has already bought land in Fiji under its "migration with dignity" policy, hoping that sections of its land will be submerged over the next few decades. Such forward thinking serves to underscore the fact that climate displacement for many island nations is no longer a temporary evacuation but a planned relocation—a process that has to be conducted with respect to the cultural and sovereign rights of communities at risk of extinction.

South Asia

South Asia has some of the world's most densely populated and climate-exposed regions. Bangladesh, India, and Nepal experience frequent monsoon storms, glacial floods, and riverine flooding, displacing millions of people each year. In Bangladesh, climate migration is most apparent in the deltaic coastal areas, where erosion and saline intrusion seasonally and permanently displace families. Urban areas such as Dhaka are seeing a population influx of climate migrants, putting immense pressure on already-strained housing, sanitation, and healthcare systems.

In India, specifically in states such as Assam, West Bengal, and Bihar, annual floods result in repeated displacement, leveling houses, agricultural land, and schools. Relief operations are not well coordinated, and long-term rehabilitation strategies are inadequate, resulting in displaced persons remaining in protracted situations of vulnerability. Denial of legal status to climate migrants also denies them access to rights-based relief and rehabilitation services.

These regional experiences highlight the necessity of context-relevant policies that take into consideration both short-term humanitarian requirements and long-term adaptation responses. Whether the existential vulnerability of island nations or the cyclical displacement of South Asia, regional differences in readiness and governance necessitate specialized international support and inclusive, rights-based responses.

3. Losing Homes: Physical and Psychological Impacts

3.1 Loss of Shelter and Livelihoods

Climate displacement affects not only homes, it upsets systems of survival, social networks, and identity. Displacement for communities dependent on subsistence agriculture, pastoralism, or coastal fishing usually translates into the permanent loss of livelihood, thrusting families into poverty and psychological anguish. Land is cultural heritage and the source of food in agrarian economies. Climate catastrophes that leave homes in ruins and land desolate are not

simply economic but existential losses.

In Uganda's Kasese district, frequent floods and landslides have destroyed farms and displaced numerous people. One of the displaced persons, a single mother displaced in 2024, lamented her inability to provide for her children following the destruction of her means of livelihood, explaining how displacement contributes to chronic stress and trauma, particularly among women-headed households.

Urban displacement also generates vulnerability, as migrants settling in slums experience exploitative labor markets, poor living conditions, and the absence of legal identity, restricting access to services. Across the world, 84% of asylum seekers and refugees in 2022 were from climate-risk countries such as Afghanistan and Syria, with environmental stress often being further compounded by conflict.

Loss of livelihoods also has implications for the future, as displaced children are more likely to be out of school or working, which has effects on their long-term resilience. Livelihood rehabilitation, education, access to healthcare, and legal protections need to address the shelter and livelihood crisis in order to prevent the long-term marginalization of displaced people.

3.2 Mental Health Challenges

Although the economic and physical effects of climate-induced displacement are tangible and frequently measured, the cultural and psychological impacts are less comprehended but immensely destructive. Displacement not only destroys shelter and livelihood but also identity, meaning, and a sense of belonging. The psychological and cultural costs of climate catastrophes may be cumulative, intergenerational, and profoundly traumatic.

Cumulative Trauma and Mental Health Disorders

Multiple exposures to sudden-onset disasters like floods and landslides cause long-lasting psychological trauma. In Uganda's Kasese district, people who have undergone repeated displacements because of recurring floods cite growing incidents of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. For the person, particularly children, the elderly, and single mothers, trauma is usually compounded by the fear of what will happen next, loss of belongings, and recurrence. Mental health care for such disaster-afflicted areas is severely under-funded, and victims are denied access to psychological first aid or follow-up care.

Loss of Community and Cultural Disconnection

Displacement is not only geographical—it is cultural and social as well. Communities displaced from traditional lands experience cultural disconnection, lose social connections, and experience loss of group identity. In Pacific Island countries such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, the loss of ancestral homelands, including burial sites and holy sites, is more than the loss of land—there is a spiritual break that exacerbates psychological distress. Trauma of being forced to leave behind heritage places interrupts traditional routines, storytelling, and rituals that are anchors to identity.

Further, movement tends to disrupt kinship ties. In situations of displacement, social isolation, alienation, and despair are the rule, especially for elderly people, who are less flexible to changing situations and have strong attachments to land-based affiliations.

Insufficient Data and Policy Focus

African countries and South Asia are plagued by an acute scarcity of region-relevant data related to psychological impacts from climate conditions. Many disaster response models put physical relief, including food, water, and shelter, at the forefront, while leaving psychosocial interventions behind. Without disaggregated information on trauma, gender-based stress, and cultural dislocation, it is impossible to develop bespoke psychosocial support systems. As a result, impacted groups remain suffering in silence, and mental health remains an overlooked aspect of climate resilience planning.

In short, climate displacement is not just legally and infrastructurally costly, but also psychologically and culturally costly to communities, which must be responded to with empathy. Mental health care, reconstruction of communities, and maintenance of cultural heritage must be an integral part of climate adaptation strategies.

4. Losing Identity: Cultural and Social Consequences

4.1 Erosion of Cultural Heritage

Climate displacement not only risks homes and livelihoods but also undermines intangible cultural heritage, such as languages, rituals, and spiritual attachments to land. For Indigenous and coastal peoples, particularly in small island developing states (SIDS), land is more than a physical location—it is a living repository of memory, belief, and identity. Displacement from rising sea levels or desertification undermines this cultural foundation.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change highlights the value of non-economic losses, e.g., cultural and spiritual affiliations that transcend monetary worth. For instance, the loss of ancestral graveyards in Pacific nations such as Kiribati and Tuvalu constitutes not merely an elimination of spatial area but an emblematic rupture of heritage and memory that elicits extreme emotional and psychological anguish.

Resettling indigenous peoples in urban or new settlements further intensifies cultural loss, as native languages, environmental knowledge, and community practices disappear. In South Asia, the uprooting of riverine and coastal dwellers in Bangladesh and India also imperils unique folk cultures and dialects. Disruptions to institutions like indigenous elders and local schools result in the loss of marginalized cultural identities.

Despite these huge losses, climate policies today mostly ignore cultural preservation and primarily address physical resettlement. A culturally-sensitive, rights-oriented approach is long overdue, one that involves community consultation, cultural mapping, and legal recognition of sacred lands and traditional knowledge.

4.2 Social Disintegration

Climate Displacement and Vulnerable Populations

Climate displacement dismantles social institutions and has a disastrous effect on vulnerable populations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and minorities. The disintegration of family life and communities aggravates inequalities, adding to insecurity and social exclusion for such groups.

Child Vulnerability and Family Disruption

Displacement usually results in family breakups, putting children particularly at risk. More than 30.5 million displaced children do not have access to protection, healthcare, and education, making them susceptible to exploitation, child labor, and trafficking. Disruption of education also slows their growth and stability.

Impact on Marginalized Groups

Girls and women experience increased gender-based violence in camps, whereas individuals with disabilities find evacuation and relocation challenging. Ethnic and religious minorities are frequently discriminated against in the dispensation of aid and resettlement.

Gender Role Transformation

Displacement is likely to alter traditional gender roles such that women become the key breadwinners. This results in family tensions, psychological distress, and more violence.

Addressing Displacement Challenges

Successful climate displacement governance demands inclusive governance, equitable distribution of resources, and specific protections for vulnerable groups to ensure their rights and welfare.

5. Human Rights Framework for Climate Displacement

5.1 Current Legal Gaps

Existing international legal regimes, crafted long before climate change emerged as a global phenomenon, do not supply an effective shield for climate-displaced persons. As displacement due to climate change continues to increase, the imperative to reform and construct legal instruments that capture the distinct exposures of climate migrants gains increasing urgency. Some existing major legal deficits exist in the treatment of climate-displaced persons, ranging from problems with refugee status to protection against forced repatriation and the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Climate Displacement and Refugee Status Identification

The 1951 Refugee Convention, the bedrock of international refugee law, prescribes that a refugee is an individual who is persecuted on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group. The Convention does not, however, accept climate-induced displacement as a ground for asylum. Individuals displaced by environmental reasons like sea level rise, desertification, or natural disasters are not legally defined as refugees and are thus not given formal protection under international law. Consequently, climate migrants are deprived of the rights and protection accorded to refugees, leaving them susceptible to exploitation, deportation, and human trafficking.

Non-Refoulement and Protection from Forced Return

Non-refoulement is an important tenet of international human rights law, which bans sending people back to nations or zones where they risk serious harm. Although the doctrine is strongly used for refugees leaving war-torn areas or being persecuted, it is weakly applied to displaced people due to climate change. It is often the case that nations will not extend non-refoulement

to climate migrants, even where their places of origin have become uninhabitable because of environmental degradation. This lacuna results in displaced individuals being compelled to go back to environments that are no longer sustainable or safe, with the risk of remaining in devastated environments or suffering additional trauma as a result of the destructive impact of climate change.

Internal Displacement and Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GPID) of the United Nations give a non-binding model for the protection of IDPs, including those displaced due to climate change. The GPID establishes rights of IDPs, including the right to housing, to humanitarian assistance, and protection against arbitrary displacement. Yet, these principles are not binding in law, and few states include them in national law, so IDPs remain unprotected by law. The absence of formal legal recognition and enforcement measures results in the failure of many climate-displaced individuals to receive support. For example, in flood- or desertification-risk zones, displaced persons usually have insufficient resettlement that does not offer livelihoods, education, or healthcare. In addition, when governments are not doing their part to safeguard the rights of IDPs, the absence of effective enforcement tools within the GPID leaves such people without avenues for justice.

5.2 A Human Rights-Based Approach

A human rights-based approach (HRBA) to climate displacement prioritizes incorporating human rights principles—equity, participation, and accountability—into climate policy and adaptation planning. This guarantees that the dignity of displaced persons is preserved and their basic rights are safeguarded during displacement and resettlement. By focusing on the needs and voices of affected communities, the HRBA seeks not only to tackle physical and economic adversity but also to ensure social structures, cultural identity, and psychological welfare.

Participation

At the heart of the HRBA is guaranteeing that affected communities are involved in decisions regarding their resettlement and relocation. For instance, in 2017, the Pacific Islands Forum turned down New Zealand's temporary visa proposal for climate-affected islanders, instead supporting a more inclusive regional solution. This gave local communities the power to share their knowledge and make decisions on culturally suitable and sustainable policies.

Equity

The HRBA advocates for equity in policy formulation such that vulnerable groups, including women, children, and individuals with disabilities, are given special consideration. They are more likely to be exposed to vulnerability, exploitation, violence, and marginalization in the process of displacement. Policies should guarantee their access to resources, protection, and empowerment, with programs to tackle gender-based violence, education, and psychosocial support.

Accountability

The principle of accountability makes nations with high carbon emissions liable for the displacement that results from climate change. The developed world, which has made the most of the emissions, must be held accountable for the environmental degradation and the displacement of vulnerable groups. The Paris Agreement Loss and Damage Fund is a framework that seeks to make these nations contribute equitably to adaptation and recovery for the most affected countries.

Climate Justice

A human rights perspective calls for climate justice to provide a fair share of the resources and safeguard climate-affected communities. It also recognizes the moral obligation of industrialized countries towards low-carbon, developing nations highly impacted by climate change. Climate justice ensures that policies like relocation schemes and humanitarian aid are not only adequate but also fair and sustainable, so that vulnerable groups do not bear the cost of the implications of climate change.

6. Case Studies

6.1 Uganda: Displacement and Mental Health

Frequent occurrence of flooding by climate change is leading to a serious environmental and human catastrophe in Rwanda's Rwenzori region, with thousands rendered displaced and thus physically challenged, along with suffering mental disorders. The displacement, usually as a result of flooding, landslides, and riverbank erosion, has led to the loss of homes, livelihoods, and access to basic services, which has severe psychological consequences. Most displaced persons, especially children and the elderly, have anxiety, PTSD, and depression as a result of their experience of loss and the continuous trauma of being repeatedly displaced. For example, one of the displaced mothers in Kasese district was overwhelmed with distress over her failure

to support her children, emphasizing economic insecurity due to ongoing displacement.

It is worsened by Uganda's absence of mental health infrastructure, where there is a critical deficit of mental health professionals and psychosocial services, particularly in rural regions. This absence of support aggravates the distress of displaced individuals, extending periods of psychological disturbance. These challenges need to be met by the availability of more accessible mental health services based in the community, particularly in rural and remote locations. Incorporating mental health assistance into climate resilience and disaster risk reduction programs would assist in alleviating the long-term psychological effects of displacement and promote the overall well-being of the affected populations.

6.2 Kiribati: Planned Relocation

Kiribati, a tiny Pacific island country, is under existential threat from climate change, specifically sea-level rise that inundates its low-lying islands. The Kiribati government has embraced a "migration with dignity" policy, enabling its citizens to move to other nations in a regulated way, ensuring their culture and dignity before displacement is inevitable. The initiative encourages merit-based immigration based on education and skills to facilitate the adjustment of migrants to new societies while retaining their heritage. This strategy attempts to circumvent the risk of statelessness and loss of rights, which can be caused by unregulated climate-induced migration.

Kiribati signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with New Zealand in 2008 under which limited migration was permitted based on a work-based visa. The international climate-induced migration framework is still incomplete. The 1951 Refugee Convention does not offer legal protection to climate migrants, exposing them to vulnerability. The "migration with dignity" initiative is under much threat, as there are few migration opportunities available, not sufficient funds to help them, and resistance from possible destination countries. For this reason, there is an immediate need for international cooperation and legal reforms to help protect climate-displaced individuals, granting them legal protection and assistance.

6.3 Bangladesh: Community-Based Solutions

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, with its low-lying coastal districts susceptible to flooding, cyclones, and sea-level rise. In response to these threats, Bangladesh has been at the forefront of community-based adaptation initiatives that not only assist in

reducing the effects of climate change but also allow communities to maintain their cultural heritage and livelihoods. One such example is the establishment of floating schools in the Shariatpur district. These floating schools, constructed on boats or floating platforms, provide opportunities for children to continue learning even during the monsoon season when regular schools are flooded. This creative solution protects the right to education and demonstrates the capabilities of local communities in overcoming climate adversity.

Another key adaptation intervention is building climate-resilient homes in areas exposed to floods. Such houses are built elevated and of local, locally accessible materials so that they float or can move in response to changing water levels. Incorporating the use of indigenous building styles, the homes provide displaced people with a feeling of identity and ownership despite environmental displacements. Community-led approaches that prioritize local agency and knowledge for climate adaptation have become vital interventions.

While these initiatives have been successful at the local level, issues of funding, scalability, and sustainability are a concern. Maintaining investment from the government as well as international agencies is necessary to extend these solutions to all vulnerable groups. Also, legal tools must be developed to safeguard the rights of climate-displaced people to ensure that they receive the protection and aid for their relocation and adaptation.

These case studies show the necessity of dealing with climate displacement by way of a mix of mental health care, planned migration, and community-based adaptation approaches. Despite challenges, Uganda, Kiribati, and Bangladesh offer useful lessons in designing more inclusive and adaptive responses to climate displacement.

7. Recommendations

Strengthen Legal Frameworks: Existing international legal frameworks are not adequate to meet the needs of climate-displaced people. The 1951 Refugee Convention does not cover climate-induced displacement, and millions are denied legal protection as a result. In response, there needs to be an international effort to revise current refugee legislation or create a new category under international law for climate-displaced individuals. This would give forced communities the right to claim asylum and protection, and they would be treated with dignity and given access to essential resources.

Fund Planned Relocations: The UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund is one of the main mechanisms to assist those countries most exposed to climate change, but it should be allocated strategically based on planned relocations. This involves economic support for people-driven relocation programs, including the Fiji Trust Fund, which supports resilient and culturally sensitive resettlements of climate-displaced persons. These funds should be accessible to low-income nations so that they can support their citizens in climate change adaptation to reduce the loss of identity and culture.

Improve Mental Health Assistance: Climate displacement creates enormous mental health issues for displaced populations, particularly in countries such as Uganda, where repeated flooding causes cumulative trauma resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and anxiety. Governments and global organizations need to create scalable mental health initiatives that can be rolled out in hotspots of displacement. These initiatives should incorporate mental health care, counseling, and psychosocial assistance, tailored to meet the needs of displaced populations.

Encourage Community Involvement: Effective climate adaptation and resettlement initiatives depend considerably on the active engagement of the affected communities. Displaced people must be given a chance to participate in decision-making processes, especially when it comes to plans for relocation and adaptation, to preserve their identity and uphold their human dignity. From what the Pacific Island countries have shown, community-based solutions not only work but also reinforce local resilience.

Invest in Data: Accurate, gender-disaggregated data is essential to grasp the unique needs of various populations displaced due to climate change. Gathering region-specific data on the impacts of climate change, patterns of displacement, and vulnerabilities of affected groups will make policies and interventions equitable and responsive to the needs of all displaced persons. This will also facilitate the identification of gender-specific impacts and allow for the development of inclusive solutions.

8. Conclusion

Climate-induced displacement is not merely an environmental or political crisis—it is a human rights emergency that imperils millions of lives, with particularly dire effects on vulnerable groups in sub-Saharan Africa and small island nations. The forced displacement of these

populations by extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and environmental degradation is accompanied by the loss of homes, livelihoods, and cultural identity, and, in most instances, access to basic human rights like health, education, and security.

A human rights-based approach is required to address the effects of climate displacement and to ensure that displaced individuals are protected. Such a strategy, based on participation, equity, and accountability, presents a potential route to meeting the challenges of climate displacement without sacrificing the dignity and rights of the affected individuals. By enhancing legal frameworks, financing orderly relocations, improving mental health care, and involving the community, the global community can deliver sustainable, human rights-based solutions that empower displaced persons and enable them to heal and recover from displacement with resilience and hope.

Overall, climate change is redefining international migration trends, and the answer needs to be quick, inclusive, and based on a rights-oriented approach. The lives of millions are depending on the resolve of governments, global institutions, and civil society to take determined action to safeguard the most vulnerable and uphold their rights and protect them against an unpredictable climate.

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