



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



United Nations
Network on Migration
Working Better Together



International
Labour
Organization



Regional Dialogue on Climate Change and Migration Nexus in the Arab Region

Online, 24-25 October 2022

Report

Summary

The Issue Based Coalition on Migration (IBC/M) in the Arab region co-convened by The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, and the League of Arab States, together with the members of the IBC/M, with support from the Regional United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab region organized an online Regional Dialogue on the Climate Change and Migration Nexus in the Arab Region, on 24 and 25 October 2022.

The dialogue discussed the impact of climate change on migration patterns and trends to, from and in the Arab Region and on different migrant groups with special attention to specific vulnerabilities of women migrants and children on the move.

The present report provides a summary of the most prominent issues and promising practices that were highlighted during the dialogue and sets out key messages on how to improve the governance of the climate change and migration nexus in the region, including climate-induced migration and displacement.

I. Introduction

The Issue-Based Coalition on Migration in the Arab region (IBC/M), co-convened by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), League of Arab States (LAS), and International Labour Organization (ILO), together with IBC/M members¹ and with the support of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab region, organized an online Regional Dialogue on the Climate Change and Migration Nexus in the Arab Region, on 24 and 25 October 2022.

The dialogue brought together member States' representatives, LAS, UN agencies, experts, academia, the private sector, trade unions, and other stakeholders to discuss the impact of climate change on migration patterns and trends to, from and in the Arab Region and explored its implications for different migrant groups.

Climate change is an increasingly potent driver of migration. Environmental pressure aggravated by the effects of climate events, such as drought, sea level rise, flash floods, and desertification, often acts as a threat multiplier exacerbating other drivers of migration and protracting displacement. At the same time, urban expansion, land degradation, and competition over increasingly scarce resources may also intensify conflicts and tensions leading, in turn, to more displacement and forced migration.

This situation is not different in the Arab region. Flooding, for example, contributed to 58 per cent of the total share of persons displaced by disasters between 2010 and 2019, while heavy storms resulted in displacement in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen². Several Arab countries also suffer from extreme weather events and risks to livelihoods aggravated by climate change, such as water scarcity, rising temperatures, and food security.

The dialogue was timely given the unprecedented levels of human mobility witnessed in the region. In 2020, Arab countries hosted almost 15 per cent of migrants and refugees worldwide, with 12 Arab countries hosting 15 per cent of migrant workers globally. Moreover, nearly 9.3 million refugees have sought protection in the region. In terms of outward migration, 32.8 million people migrated or were forcibly displaced from Arab countries, 44 per cent of whom remained within the region. In the same year, there were around 2 million newly internally displaced persons due to natural disasters, and around 17 million internally displaced persons due to conflict³.

The dialogue was also opportune as it sought to raise awareness of the climate change and migration nexus, ahead of the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in the region in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt from 7-18 November 2022, and in anticipation of the COP 28, to be held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 6-17 November 2023.

¹ IBC Members: FAO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN WOMEN, WFP and WHO.

² Anzellini, V., Benet, J., Hajžmanová, I. and Leduc, C. (2020). *A decade of displacement in the Middle East and North Africa*. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva. https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/IDMC_MenaReport_final.pdf

³ ESCWA, IOM and UNHCR (2022). Situation Report on International Migration 2021. Building forward better for migrants and refugees in the Arab region. Available from: <https://publications.unescwa.org/2022/srim-2021/index.html>

II. Objectives

Against this backdrop, the Regional Dialogue on the Climate Change and Migration Nexus in the Arab Region aimed to achieve the following:

1. Discuss the impact of climate change on migration patterns and trends to ,from and in the Arab region.
2. Explore the implications of climate change for different migrant groups, including asylum seekers and refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrant workers, with special attention to specific vulnerabilities of women migrants, and children on the move.
3. Highlight promising practices across the region in the governance of climate-induced migration and displacement.
4. Foster cross-regional collaboration on climate-induced migration and displacement.

III. Key Messages

The following key messages emanated from the dialogue:

1. The fast pace of climate change in the Arab region threatens the lives and livelihoods of millions due to the adverse impact of climate change on natural resources, agricultural production, and the increase in natural disasters.
2. Climate change is expected to worsen by the end of this century unless strong actions are taken to fight against it. It is also likely to affect the sustainability and growth of many Arab cities. Accordingly, there is an urgent need to develop mechanisms to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.
3. Climate change has forced many people to migrate, within their countries, from rural to urban areas, and in some cases to leave their countries, especially when migration drivers such as climate change, poverty, and instability intersect. The number of migrants driven by the effects of climate change is projected to increase in the coming years and decades.
4. It is important to consider the diverse effects of climate change on migration and displacement for each country and to implement policies according to the nuances of each country and context.
5. The provision of financial resources, information, and expertise is crucial to support communities, particularly those hosting migrants and displaced persons to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.
6. The adverse impacts of climate change on human mobility should be integrated within the framework of national policies and regional strategies for disaster risk reduction. It is also important to undertake periodic reviews to assess the risks in the short, medium, and long term.

7. Migrant women are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, specifically in the case of natural disasters-induced displacement, rural-to-urban migration, and access to resources. Hence, developing further research on the intersection between gender, climate change, migration, and displacement in the region is key.
8. It is important to integrate climate change issues in migration governance frameworks and to adopt a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach as well as a gender-responsive approach as stated in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
9. Effective policies on labour mobility as an adaptation to climate change and national plans on just transition need to be inclusive of all stakeholders and based on social dialogue, involving employer, worker and civil society representatives.
10. There is a need for evidence-based policies, laws and guidelines to protect all workers, including migrant workers, against the impact of climate change on working conditions, including through rising temperatures and water scarcity.
11. More efforts are needed to develop the green economy in the countries of the region since it can be a significant source of jobs that will need new skills. It is therefore crucial to upgrade the skills of all workers, including migrant workers.
12. Green enterprises require a skilled labour force, which in turn provides opportunities for migrant workers who have the required skills.
13. Food insecurity caused by climate change intensifies the vulnerability of migrants. It is important to integrate migrants into national policies and strategies on food security and climate change.
14. Data on climate change-induced migration and displacement in the region is very limited. Investing in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of these data is vital to support countries in developing strategies that are responsive to the needs of all migrants, including workers, women, and children.
15. It is important to raise awareness of climate change and its relationship to migration and displacement. The scientific community should be supported to further research on the migration and climate change nexus in various areas to develop evidence-based policies.
16. It is essential to strengthen the cooperation and coordination mechanisms and build partnerships at the regional level to address the challenges posed by climate change-induced migration.
17. The importance of concerted efforts to address migration and displacement caused by climate change and the resulting risks to peace and security, and to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration pathways, especially when the impacts of climate change are severe, such as in the case of natural disasters.

IV. Session deliberations

a. Opening Session

The Master of Ceremony during Day 1, **Dr. Sara Salman**, Senior Population Affairs Officer at ESCWA, welcomed the participants in the dialogue and explained its objectives hoping that it will shed light on the good practices in addressing the climate change and migration nexus.

Dr. Mehrinaz El Awady, Director, Cluster Leader Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development at ESCWA, underlined the timeliness of the dialogue and noted that the severity and frequency of climate-related events are expected to aggravate other migration drivers in the region such as poverty and political instability with far-reaching implications on livelihoods and health. Dr. El Awady hoped that the messages stemming out of the discussions would contribute to raising awareness and guiding climate change-related discussions as Arab countries prepare to participate this November in COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in the UAE next year.

Ms. Kristina Mejo, Deputy Regional Director, IOM Regional Office for MENA Region, stressed the importance of considering women and girls at the center of solutions that address climate-related displacement given that women are 80 per cent more likely to be displaced than men in times of climate crisis. She highlighted the need for action for climate change adaptation measures and resources to avert and minimize suffering and strengthen people's resilience. She stressed that a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is key to integrating climate change-related migration into an overall international migration governance and management framework.

Minister plenipotentiary Enas El Fergany, Director of Refugees, Expatriates, and Migration Affairs Department, League of Arab States (LAS), said that the dialogue gains significance because data on climate change-related migration and its size in the region are very scarce, hence the need for more research on this issue especially since the Arab region is one of the regions that will be hit hard by climate change impact. She also emphasized the need to draw future scenarios, identify the potential foci for internal and external migration, adapt to climate-induced migration and reduce its negative impact, by developing long-term plans and programs which support flexibility and resilience to adapt to these changes.

Dr. Ruba Jaradat, ILO Regional Director for Arab States, commented that climate change-induced labour mobility can represent an adaptation strategy to climate change, providing opportunities to increase resilience, avoid loss of assets and livelihoods, and increase the skills base in destination countries as well as in-home communities when migrants return. She referred to the importance of adopting well-governed and rights-based labour mobility in accordance with the ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, issued in 2015, as a critical means of support to adaptation to climate change.

b. Scene setting. Migration and climate trends in the Arab region

The Arab region witnesses complex patterns and trends of migration, while climate change is increasingly threatening the region. To set the scene for the rest of the dialogue, this session offered an overview of migration and climate change trends across the Arab region and reflected on the nexus between the two.

Dr. Sara Salman presented an overview of the migration trends to and from the Arab region, depicting the large numbers of incoming and outgoing migrants and refugees. She also went into sub-regional dynamics and remarked on the fact that remittances continued to rise and play a big role in development in the Arab region, even despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Salman also mentioned that the number of people internally displaced by conflict (2.4 million) is slightly more than those displaced by natural disasters (1.8 million) in the Arab region in 2020.

Dr. Carole Chouchani Cherfane, Director, Cluster Leader, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, ESCWA, described the impacts of climate change and how in turn this increases socioeconomic vulnerability, particularly in the less developed countries of the region. She explained that the number, frequency, and intensity of natural disasters and those affected by such disasters are increasing and noted that although natural disasters contribute to migration and displacement, conflict and violence remain the main causes of migration and displacement in the region. She also remarked that although mitigation measures to achieve energy goals can fuel significant labour migration, they can be a source of jobs. Finally, she urged participants to think about how to plan for the future and move from vulnerability to resilience through investment in adaptation and adaptive capacities.

c. **Session 1. Climate-induced migration and displacement dynamics and trends at the global, regional, and country levels**

This session aimed to highlight the impact of climate change on migration patterns and trends on the global, regional and national levels. Recognizing that the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) offers an opportunity to anchor the environmental and climatic dimensions in the international migration governance agenda, panelists explored the implications of climate change on different migrant groups. Furthermore, the session highlighted the urgency of policy coherence stipulated in the GCM text which rests on several global instruments related to climate change, disaster, and environmental governance. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction recognize that climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in countries of origin need to be prioritized to minimize drivers of migration. The session also explored perspectives from the Arab Region presented by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as national efforts to accelerate action against climate change.

Ms. Elizabeth Collett, Special Advisor to IOM Director General for policy and strategy, moderated the session. She reminded participants how the GCM (2018) fully acknowledged the interlinkages between climate change and migration, and how participants reaffirmed their concerns during the International Migration Review Forum (2022) about the impact of natural disasters and environmental degradation on migration and migrants. She emphasized the importance to work across policy silos, humanitarian and development aid, and climate change responses, to manage this nexus and noted that climate change is also a social crisis that has a differential impact on different migration groups.

Ms. Rania Ahmed, IFRC Deputy Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, said that over 55 million persons across the region need humanitarian assistance, including more than 12 million IDPs. She referred to IFRC's 2021 report on "Displacement in a Changing Climate", which included 11 case studies from national Red Cross and Red Crescents societies globally, including from Iraq and Yemen

and called for recognizing the agency and aspirations of migrants, safeguarding their rights, and meeting their humanitarian needs in light of the dwindling humanitarian aid resources. She also addressed the need to strengthen coordination and partnerships to promote safe and dignified migration driven by climate change. She concluded that COP27 presents an opportunity to move further towards implementation and address key issues such as the humanitarian impact of climate change and prioritizing the most vulnerable; increasing climate finance; scaling up climate action; implementing early warning systems and supporting sustainable solutions led by communities and for them.

H.E Ambassador Neveen Elhousseiny, Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Refugees, Migration and Combatting Human Trafficking, Egypt, discussed the negative impact of climate change on certain sectors such as agriculture, livestock, and fisheries in the country and how it is driving more people to move to cities, which creates another set of social pressure. She cited the national efforts made to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, such as the development of a national strategy on climate change and another one on sustainable development, in addition to the integration of sustainability standards in investment plans and development projects. As the president of COP27, Egypt will urge State parties for an effective and fast implementation of climate change commitments and ensure just climate finance to support developing countries in adapting to climate change. H.E. Elhussieny also gave an overview of COP27 main priorities, which will include the Egyptian Presidency initiative on Climate and Peace Sustainability.

Dr. Emad Adly, Regional Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), urged countries of the region as well as regional organizations to use the opportunity provided by COP27 and COP28 to advocate for plans and agendas that serve the region's interest. Mr. Adly then spoke about the evolution of RAED's work on climate change impact and its continuous efforts to mainstream migration issues into conversations about climate change and sustainable development. He added that we are witnessing a turning point because Arab countries are finally acknowledging the linkages between climate change and human mobility. However, to accelerate implementation, COP27 messages should be translated into relevant and effective national policies and plans, and the resources required should be mobilized. Good governance, including the use of a bottom-up approach and local multi-stakeholder dialogues, is also key to managing these linkages and building the resilience of communities. Mr. Adly concluded by underscoring the need to engage with parliamentarians in these conversations and ensure their buy-in.

Dr. Ayman Zohry, Expert on Population and Migration Studies, acknowledged that although the data needed to accurately measure the impact of climate change on population movements is scarce, the negative relationship between the two is established in the Arab region, through its impact on the agricultural sector, food production patterns, livelihoods, and economic activities. Moreover, the ensuing internal migration worsens urban and housing problems and increases the proportion of the informal economy. More critically, internal migration, especially among the younger population, disrupts the demographic structure of families and settlements in rural areas. He concluded with a few messages that focused on enhancing the availability of climate change data for researchers in different fields; preparing future scenarios and forecast studies that address the impact of climate change on population movements; increasing the use of big data; and adopting a whole-of-society approach to manage the nexus.

The panel discussion was followed by several interventions from the floor to which the panelists responded. A summary of the main points raised is provided below:

1. An index or model for measuring the impact of climate change on migration is currently not available because it is challenging to establish a linear relationship between climate change and population movements. However, displacement is a result of multiple structural factors and not just climate change.
2. The importance of developing far-sighted and precautionary policies and programs to manage the expected increased pace and size of migration from countries that will be affected by climate change, especially from African countries.
3. Despite the progress made, the sponsorship system and some national labour laws continue to be a challenge for migrant workers in the region. Climate change today represents an additional challenge that migrant workers have to deal with, hence the emphasis on promoting regular and orderly migration, decent work, and just transition as means of adaptation.
4. Governments are called upon to revise their national laws to ensure a decent work agenda for migrant workers and protect them against the impacts of climate change.
5. The importance of the whole-of-society approach to managing the climate change and migration nexus.
6. The need to include workers' representatives in negotiating bilateral agreements on the recruitment of migrant workers and involve them in monitoring the implementation of these agreements. It is equally important to develop an indicator that measures the implementation of decent work.
7. Arab countries are encouraged to enhance their adaptive capacity and expedite the transition into green economies. However, the adaptive capacity to climate change is different from one country to another, especially those which are already struggling with multiple crises. Such differentials should be taken into consideration in the recommendations and action plan of COP27.
8. COP27 should bring commitments into action and encourage the implementation of sustainable solutions at the regional level in addition to securing financing mechanisms for developing countries that bear the brunt of climate change impact.
9. It is recommended to highlight issues of migration and displacement and link them to the "loss and damage" issue during the COP27 dialogues and side events.
10. COP27 should clarify what needs to be done to implement programs that are fit for purpose and fit for the needs of people.
11. Early warning systems are not enough in the Arab region because communities are not well prepared, hence it is important to connect early warning with early action.
12. Raising public awareness of climate change, providing communities with solutions, and strengthening local-led action are paramount to minimize losses and save lives.
13. Support the scientific community in studying the linkages between climate change and migration.

Dr. Sara Salman wrapped up Day 1 of the dialogue by summarizing the main issues discussed and key conclusions emanating from the presentations.

d. Session 2. Migration and labour mobility as an adaptation strategy to climate change and the importance of just transitions

The Master of Ceremony during Day 2, **Ms. Roula Hamati**, Migration Management Officer for the IOM Mission in Qatar, welcomed back the participants and recalled the conclusions of the previous day

highlighting, among others, that climate change is a global issue that demands local solutions and the importance of the whole-of-government, whole-of-society approaches to addressing climate change.

This session brought together ILO's tripartite constituents (government, employers, and worker representatives), who explored the various linkages between climate change, migration, and the labour market. On the one hand, climate change impacts working conditions and policies have been adopted to better protect workers, including migrant workers in this context. On the other hand, adaptation strategies to climate change need to consider displacement and pay particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population, including migrant workers, who are more likely to be deprived of decent work. As such, inclusive skills development strategies to support access to green jobs can be key to moving to environmentally friendly and climate-resilient economies.

Ms. Isabelle Kronisch, Labour Migration and Mobility Specialist, ILO Algiers, moderated the session, highlighting the complex yet highly contextualized relationship between climate change, employment, livelihoods, and migration. She recalled from the previous day that just and inclusive energy transitions can present an opportunity to create green jobs and include migrant workers. She cautioned that climate change is likely to increase vulnerabilities in the world of work, impacting on working conditions and increasingly influencing human mobility, as one additional driver of migration, next to the lack of decent work and employment opportunities, for example. Therefore, she highlighted that migration under proper regulatory frameworks – alongside support to access livelihoods opportunities in green sectors – represent important adaptation strategies to climate change. She referred to the ILO Guidelines for a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All, which were adopted in 2015 and which provide a policy framework and an operational tool to address environmental changes while advancing social justice and promoting decent work. She went over the session objectives before turning to the panelists and asked them, respectively, to share their views and experiences on *1) how migrants can be protected in the context of exposure to rising temperatures and the risks these pose to occupational safety and health; 2) if labour mobility can be considered an adaptation strategy to climate change and how shifts to green economies can support inclusive adaptation strategies and just transitions; and 3) how migrant workers can be included in strategies to support just transition and access to green jobs. A last question to all panelists focused on how the greening of the economy can support poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.*

Mr. Fahad Dafer Al Doseri, Head of Labour Inspection, Ministry of Labour, in Qatar, stated that the country has introduced comprehensive amendments to the labour laws and systems to ensure migrant workers' occupational safety and health and safeguard the basic rights at work in line with Qatar Vision 2030 and international labour standards. He added that the protection of workers from occupational hazards is promulgated in Law 14 of 2004 and gave an overview of the decisions and actions adopted by the government to measure the effects of heat stress on workers' health, determine the hours of the day during the summer where work is not allowed in open spaces and support employers in fostering a safe work environment. Mr. Al Doseri affirmed that the Ministry also organizes regular inspections and awareness-raising campaigns to ensure the implementation of the labour laws and concluded by emphasizing the country's commitment to utilizing the power of technology power and renewable energy and promoting green jobs to safeguard the health and safety of all migrant workers.

Ms. Sarah Zaarour, Consultant to the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC) on Climate Change and Just Transition, spoke about the importance of the green economy in creating jobs and contributing to

sustainable growth. Ms. Zaarour called for supporting just transitions to green economies, by ensuring that workers are fit to work in these new fields and providing them with training and skills, in addition to investing in green economies and establishing tripartite processes – something that is still lacking in some Arab countries – to make the transition as seamless as possible. She also suggested that climate change and migration issues should be considered in the broader context of disaster risk management and adaptation and development and highlighted that more research is needed so that labour mobility is a successful adaptation strategy to climate change. She concluded that just transition also requires resources to ensure that workers are not left behind and that climate dialogues, including on climate finance, should take into consideration the ILO guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all (2015).

Mr. Ali Serhani, Member, Social Commission, General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM) and Focal Point on Migration in Morocco, International Organization of Employers (IOE), introduced the objectives of the Confederation, which represents the private sector in discussions with the public authorities and government institutions. Mr. Serhani discussed various initiatives and innovative approaches that were established in Morocco in support of the transition towards green economies, the use of clean energy, and the protection of the rights of migrant workers. He stated that the Ministry of Energy in Morocco estimates that 23,000 new jobs will be created in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors in 2025 and explained how Morocco is attracting international talent and competencies to build the capacities of Moroccan workers in industrial engineering. Mr. Serhani argued that climate-induced displacement can have also positive effects. In the case of Morocco, climate migrants who come from Africa transmit their good agricultural practices to Moroccan farmers. He concluded by underlining the importance of skills and competencies to foster Morocco's economic development.

At the end of the Session, participants raised a number of questions and comments that are summarized as follows:

1. Most migrant workers are employed in sectors that are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as agriculture, transport, construction, and energy sectors, putting them at a double disadvantage.
2. Governments are urged to include migrant workers in national efforts on just transitions and climate change adaptation and not leave them behind.
3. Population groups are differentially affected by climate change. Vulnerable groups in developing countries are more at risk and this is one manifestation of the impacts of inequality given that developed countries are more responsible for global warming.
4. Trade unions, civil society, and enterprises should be engaged in national consultations on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and in the formulation of pre-emptive and adaptive policies and legislations.
5. Special attention and support should be directed to countries facing protracted conflict. These countries face enormous challenges, not only in terms of unemployment and livelihoods but also in terms of environmental degradation as a result of war. Transitioning to green economies in such settings can be difficult.
6. Green economies are net creators of jobs. This is not only limited to the renewable energy sector, but green jobs can be created in sustainable agriculture, forestry, education, and training. The issue remains as to how to ensure that the existing workforce can support this transition and is trained to work in these new jobs. This transition should be inclusive of all persons, particularly youth and women.

7. Cash-for-work opportunities were highlighted as a good practice to create green jobs and at the same time support vulnerable communities in repairing damaged infrastructure. In this model, workers can learn a profession that can support their livelihoods in the future.
8. The impact of the war in Ukraine on migration patterns and also on climate change was highlighted because there is evidence of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from intense warfare activities and their vicinity to nuclear power plants.
9. Skills and competencies are critical for the private sector and further development of green economies.

e. **Session 3. The effect of climate-induced migration and displacement on women and children**

This session aimed to demonstrate the links between climate change and migration/displacement from an intersectional gender equality and women's rights lens focusing on the most vulnerable women and girls. It also aimed to showcase workable good policy and programmatic practice on these linkages on the ground.

Ms. Menatallah Salama, Programme Assistant for Empowering Women Migrant Workers in the Informal Sector, UN Women, Regional Office of Arab States (ROAS), moderated the session and asked the panelists about 1) *the linkages between climate change, migration, and gender*; 2) *how climate change affects women, especially in the agricultural sector*; 3) *how does this impact women in the context of migration*; and 4) *what is the impact on youth, women, and children in the context of displacement*.

Dr. Ruby Assad, Regional Consultant and Trainer - Gender and Community Engagement in Water, Environment, and Energy Sectors, shared the Jordanian experience with climate change impacts, especially on water availability and temperature extremes. She mentioned that many women work in the agricultural sector and are disproportionately affected by the water crises in the country. Even though the country hasn't reached a stage of mass internal displacement, the water crises have heightened the already high levels of vulnerability faced by migrant women. She cited several statistics to reflect the challenges women in Jordan face in terms of poverty and unemployment.

Dr. Abeer Al-Banawah, Expert Researcher, Projects Director and Consultant for the Director General for Environment and Water Issues, National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), Jordan, discussed the linkages between the impact of climate change on women groups and migration in Jordan, with a particular focus on women working in the agricultural sector. She alluded to the numerous climate challenges that exacerbate the vulnerability of the agricultural sector in Jordan, which already struggles with water scarcity. These include warmer temperatures, lower precipitation, pest damage, and lower crop production, especially rainfed crops as well as marketing the products in an unstable region. Climate change is also altering the timing of water availability which means that women working in agriculture, including migrant workers, often compete over water resources, job opportunities in the agricultural sectors, and consequently, reduced hours of work and lower wages, all of which influence migration. She also mentioned that the disproportionate access of women in Jordan to knowledge, resources, and assets, such as land, reduces their autonomy and women's capacity to influence decision-making processes, particularly in rural areas.

Dr. Jasmin Lilian Diab, Director of the Institute for Migration Studies, and an Assistant Professor of Migration Studies, Lebanese American University (LAU), mentioned that displacement, gender, and the environment tend to be looked upon in a compartmentalized manner, with little focus on the links in between. She talked about the multiple crises that Lebanon has gone through in recent years, and their ramifications on youth, children, and young girls. She added that climate change has and will continue to negatively affect agricultural outputs and the livelihoods of many hosts and refugee communities in Lebanon, mainly in rural areas where women, youth, and young girls are active in agricultural activities. Lebanon's natural resources are also being depleted because of fires and water mismanagement. All these challenges make the vulnerability of children, youth and young girls more intersectional. She noted that not all Arab countries have a unified response to address the acute vulnerabilities of displaced populations, nor their intersectionality with gender and factor this issue in policy planning.

Following the session, panelists and participants exchanged views about the challenges that hinder the implementation of policy actions that address the linkages between climate change and migration from a gender perspective and gave examples of promising practices in that context. The interventions are summarized as follows:

1. The intersectionality between climate change impact and gender in the Arab region is not being addressed enough due to insufficient coordination efforts between public institutions.
2. The intersectionality between the vulnerability of migrants and gender must be integrated into national development planning, including migration governance policies.
3. Jordan has integrated gender in environment and climate change policy and reflected this link in its action plan but implementation is still lagging.
4. Access to funding and lack of data and evidence to support policy development from a gender lens are also important barriers for integrating a gender perspective into development plans.
5. Awareness raising about the realities of climate change and about mitigation and adaptation strategies is critical, especially in schools and community-based organizations.
6. One of the good practices to help women in vulnerable situations observed in the region is the integration of gender considerations in vocational training. For example, Jordan implemented a program where women were trained in plumbing and other professions that are traditionally occupied by men. The objective was to enhance the role of women in mitigating the impact of climate change through the preservation of water and energy-saving methodologies.
7. Encouraging women to participate in decision-making processes and supporting community-based organizations to help women in implementing income-generating activities in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation can also be considered as means to integrate gender in climate change efforts.
8. The adoption of participatory research methodologies in community research projects was highlighted as well as the use of new research methodologies, such as "field schools", to promote the participation of rural women in research and training activities on various sustainability and environmental protection methods, such as irrigation, recycling domestic greywater or wastewater, water security at the household level, food packaging, and food production activities.
9. Other programs targeting agricultural workers, including women refugees were highlighted. They included soft skills development, building knowledge on green economies, entrepreneurship, and incubation programs which are essential for the development of SMEs and small agricultural projects.
10. The use of smart technologies and digital platforms among farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs is very promising and facilitates knowledge transfers and the provision of technical support.

11. The adoption of a participatory lens from program inception to evaluation has proven to be effective in how responses are designed and cater to the intersectional well-being of the targeted children, youth, women, and girls in both displaced/humanitarian and regular contexts.
12. It should be also noted that the Arab region is not homogeneous in terms of social dynamics, social cohesion, and access to knowledge, opportunities, and services. Hence, adopting a participatory approach to address issues of displacement and their linkages with climate change and gender should take into account the differences and realities between each country and within the country itself.

f. Session 4. Food insecurity and water scarcity as a driver and outcome of climate-induced migration

This session aimed to provide an overview of the complex interactions and links between climate change, food insecurity, and human mobility across the Arab region. This was done by highlighting how climate change-related impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods, combined with poverty, significantly contribute to both food insecurity and distressed movements as well as how climate-related food insecurity often acts as a threat multiplier exacerbating other drivers of migration, protracts displacement and increases pressure on limited resources and services. This session also aimed to provide an overview of existing good practices in terms of scarce natural resources management and climate-adaptive interventions with a view to strengthening the resilience of particularly vulnerable communities and food systems.

Mr. Andrea Castorina, Regional Head of Protection, Gender and AAP, WFP Regional Bureau Cairo, moderated the session by highlighting the complex interactions between climate change, food security, water shortage, and human mobility. He asked the panelists about their opinions and thoughts regarding: *1) the good climate change practices and how to strengthen resilience and 2) how to manage distress migration.*

Dr. Reem Nejdawi, Chief of the Food and Environment Policy Section, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA, presented on climate change, food insecurity and migration. She focused on two key pillars of food security: agency and sustainability. She shared the concerns regarding undernourishment, food insecurity, obesity and women's anemia, with higher rates of these in the Arab region compared to other parts of the world, particularly in the least developed countries (LDCs). Moreover, agricultural expenditures are low in the Arab region, not being a priority sector for government investments. Finally, she mentioned that land and water for food production are growing scarce and climate change could worsen the situation, especially given that most countries in the Arab region are highly dependent on rainfed agriculture.

Dr. Amel Azab, Water Resources and Capacity Development Expert and SDG Climate Facility Project Coordinator, Arab Water Council (AWC), shared several projects and case studies on the topic of climate change. She urged for still more research and gender-sensitive data collection on localized nuances of the climate, migration, and gender nexus to inform targeted policies that address the distinct priorities of men and women as well as more widespread sharing of knowledge on previous experiences and success stories on the national, regional and international level.

Mr. Oscar Ekdahl, Head of Livelihoods and Resilience, WFP Regional Bureau Cairo, referenced WFP's 2017 report entitled "At the Root of Exodus", which found that refugee outflows increase by 1.9 per cent

for each percentage increase of food insecurity. He spoke of the need to address diverse drivers of distress and forced migration, which include food insecurity and increasing climate knock-on effects. He concluded by mentioning that a route-based approach is required to tackle adverse drivers and ensure safe migration at the point of origin, during transit, and at the destination or host countries.

g. **Closing session. Key messages and the way forward**

At the end of the dialogue, Dr. Sara Salman, summarized the key messages of the dialogue on behalf of the organizers, while Ms. Roula Hamati closed on behalf of the organizers, highlighting that the GCM offers an opportunity to anchor environmental and climatic dimensions in international migration governance, and a space to acknowledge the importance of climate and environmental drivers.