



**Part-1**

# Capacity-Building Training to Help Identify Ways to Manage Migration

By Hailegebriel Endeshaw (Sr.PR and Communications Officer - HoAREC&N)

East Africa is one of the regions in the world most affected by migration and conflict-induced mobility. Countries in the sub-region, including Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Somalia, and Djibouti, have long experienced large-scale displacement, cross-border migration and protracted humanitarian crises largely driven by climate change, conflict, economic challenges, and political instability.

Addressing these challenges requires focused attention on the main drivers of migration, notably climate and environmental pressures, economic conditions and conflict. Accordingly, efforts should focus on tackling climate change while promoting peace negotiations, political stability, and inclusive governance. Countries should also enhance economic development and create sustainable job opportunities. Concerned bodies, both governmental and non-governmental, should take initiatives to implement programs on climate adaptation, promote regional cooperation, and strengthen border protection systems. In addition, awareness-raising and capacity-building training can play significant roles in addressing migration and conflict-induced mobility.

The Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center and Network (HoAREC&N) and PanAfrica jointly organized a five-day capacity-building training in Mombasa, Kenya on Climate-Induced Migration and the Nexus of Climate Change, Conflict, and Mobility. The training was organised late February to empower youth, women, civil society organizations (CSOs), community representatives and the media. As one initiative of the MECMEA (Managing the Impacts of Environmental Change and Conflict on Mobility in Eastern Africa) Project, the training was financed by the European Union and Contracted by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) to strengthen community resilience and policy advocacy.



MECMEA Regional Program Coordinator, John Moi Venus Ajjugo said during the opening of the five-day capacity-building training that the interactive programme would equip participants with practical tools, shared knowledge, and collaborative strategies to address the pressing challenges of climate-induced migration.

John said that the training aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills on climate-induced migration and displacement, strengthening CSOs, youth and women networks, community representatives and the media for advocacy and collaboration, evidence-based, community-led solutions. The capacity-building training also focused on fostering multi-sectoral policy coherence and regional cooperation, according to the Regional Program Coordinator.

Top-level officials from the organizing institutions, HoA-REC&N-Ethiopia and PanAfricare-Kenya, said during sessions that the ever-growing migration problems in the sub-region make the capacity-building training even more significant.



Professor Mekuria Argaw, the Executive Director of HoAREC&N said that climate change and environmental degradation in the sub-region are fuelling displacement and humanitarian crises that need to be managed.

“HoAREC&N-AAU, in collaboration with partners, organizes capacity-building training. The recent training held in Mombasa, Kenya helped stakeholders understand the link between conflict and migration, develop strategies to prevent displacement or manage the challenge responsibly and strengthen peacebuilding and resilience programs,” professor Mekuria said.

According to him, the recently held capacity-building training was aimed to foster understanding of the link between climate and environmental factors and how these trigger conflicts in the sub-region. “We want to explore how actions and policies can be guided to address or manage climate-related human mobility in the sub-region,” Professor Mekuri added.

Country Director of PanAfricare Kenya, Dominic Godana, said that the training that brought together experts from eight countries; Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, South Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti, was a great success. It was organized to enhance capacity of the experts that help bring forward the issue of climate-induced migration in the region, he noted.

“The training was designed to build the capacity of the regional team to better articulate issues surrounding climate-induced migration. By targeting youth, media practitioners, and policymakers, the program engages a broad range of stakeholders to enhance their expertise in these areas. Ultimately, this initiative aims to better shape the narrative surrounding climate change, conflict, and migration better than what is currently reported.”

Speaking of his general assessment of the training, Godana stated that the trainers were very knowledgeable in their respective areas, and the participants gained significant value from them. According to him, the delivery followed a mixed-method approach—including lectures, syndicate work, and plenary discussions—which kept the engagement levels high throughout.



Regarding what is expected of the trainees, Pan Africare Country Director said that apart from raising awareness about climate-induced migration across the countries, organizers also anticipate improved reporting on environmental challenges from the media personnel in attendance. “Furthermore, we encourage all participants to continue networking and sharing successful interventions to facilitate the cross-pollination of ideas between countries.”

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**End of part-1...**

## Part-2

# Transforming Communities with Knowledge, Practical Experience for the Betterment of Environment, Migration Management

By Hailegebriel Endeshaw (Sr.PR and Communications Officer - HoAREC&N)



through comprehensive training resources—case studies, toolkits, and guidelines—for effective programming and policy influence on climate change, conflict, and mobility.

MECMEA Regional Program Coordinator, John Moi Venus Ajugo said that the training was of paramount importance to strengthen the advocacy, policy engagement, and community mobilization skills of youth and representatives of civil society organizations.

Capacity-building training on climate-driven migration, conflict and population mobility is particularly important in Eastern Africa, where the region faces complex and interconnected challenges such as conflict, environmental stress, displacement, and cross-border migration. Organizations working on environment, climate and migration emphasize that equipping experts with such training provides them with the skills needed to develop policies and strategies, manage borders and migration systems and coordinate responses across ministries and regional bodies.

A regional capacity-building training on climate-induced migration and nexus of climate change, conflict, and mobility was conducted last week in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa.

The training, which brought together 40 participants from eight countries, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan and Djibouti, was organized by MECMIA project in partnership with the Horn of Africa Environment Centre and Network-Ethiopia (HoA-REC&N), Mixed Migration Centre-Kenya (MMC), Association Djibouti Nature (ADN), South Sudan National Conservation Organization (SSNCO), and PanAfricare-Kenya.

The capacity-building training was financed by the European Union and Contracted by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) aiming at Equipping participants with knowledge and practical tools



"It fosters the creation and reinforcement of regional and national networks for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and coordinated advocacy and ensures integration of human rights principles, inclusivity, and the voices of marginalized groups into climate change and migration advocacy practices," he said.

Resource persons from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda spent days engaging participants on various migration-related issues. Among the issues discussed are climate science and understanding climate-related mobility, conflict resolution and peacebuilding in climate-Impact contexts, migration in Africa – facts and figures for informed migration reporting, migration law, integrating human rights principles, inclusivity, and empowerment of marginalized groups and cultural sensitivity and ethical considerations, navigating the migration ecosystem in Africa, legacy media and reporting on migration, social media and AI reporting on migration in Africa.

**WHAT DO PARTICIPANTS SAY REGARDING THE INTENSIVE FIVE-DAY CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING?**

Dr. Fredy Lister Maro is from United Republic of Tanzania, he is working with the University of Dodoma as a lecturer, researcher and consultant. He said that the capacity building training provided is very “interesting in terms of knowledge and experience sharing and connecting people from various country in Africa”. Fredy said that the training was crucial in imparting a lot in patterning climate change-induced migration, issues related to challenges associated with migration, communication aspect related to migration issues and challenges facing the media in communication of various issues.



“I have taken a lot from the training, including knowledge, experience and case studies from various countries with regards to climate change - induced migration, mobility and challenges in development. In addition, I manage to connect with people from different countries from which without this training could not be possible,” Fredy noted.

Ayan Omar Ahmed, from Djibouti, is a Communications and Social Development Specialist. Her work focuses on strategic communication, advocacy, and strengthening the link between policy frameworks and community-level engagement, particularly in areas related to social protection, resilience, and development programming.

Ayan said that the training is timely, comprehensive, and highly relevant to the regional context. “It provided a structured understanding of the nexus between climate change, conflict, and human mobility, while equipping participants with practical tools for advocacy, policy engagement, and responsible communication .The diversity of participants from across Eastern Africa enriched the dialogue and strengthened peer learning,” Ayan stated.



She further emphasized that the modules presented by the resource persons are directly relevant to her professional responsibilities. “As a communications professional and representative of a civil society organization working with marginalized communities, the sessions on migration facts and figures, international migration law, human rights integration, and advocacy strategies are particularly valuable. They enhance my ability to communicate complex migration issues responsibly and to advocate for inclusive, rights-based policies that consider vulnerable populations, including children and families with special needs.” She said.

She expressed view that the training reinforced the importance of multi-sectoral coordination and regional cooperation to ensure that mobility responses are inclusive and rights-based. “Thanks to the organizers, the resource professors and discussants for their insightful points, I have gained a deeper understanding of how climate-induced migration intersects with social vulnerability, governance capacity, conflict dynamics and environmental degradation that impacts human livelihoods to drain mobility.”



Thomas Ekidor Kiyong'a is from Turkana County, Kenya. He is a Deputy Director of Climate Change at the Turkana County Government, where he supports the development and implementation of climate adaptation and resilience strategies.

Prisca Kajumba, a conservation biologist from Uganda, works with Fridays for Future Uganda, where she is actively involved in championing climate action and advocating for the rights of young people in the face of the climate crisis. She said that the training given in Mombasa is a very timely and essential platform that has brought together diverse actors to understand a very complex issue. "This training is addressing the gap between climate science, security, and human mobility, which are often discussed in silos. The organization and the depth of knowledge shared here have been exceptional."

Bonsuk Winnie is among the 40 people who participated in the training in Mombasa. Winnie, from South Sudan, is a Country Director of an organization named Agency for Child Relief Aid (ACRA). It is a women's national organization founded and registered under the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission in 2016 in South Sudan. The thematic focus is on livelihood activities such as food security and livelihood, WASH, health and nutrition, peace building, and education, among others.

He said that the training in Mombasa has been insightful and timely, focusing on the intersection between climate change, conflict, and human mobility issues that are highly relevant to climate-vulnerable regions such as Turkana.



Prisca said that as a climate action advocate working directly with communities in Uganda, understanding the nexus between climate security and mobility is crucial. The modules provided during the session are highly relevant because they help participants connect the dots. "For example, understanding how resource scarcity driven by climate change can lead to conflict and subsequently force people to move gives me a more holistic view. This allows me to advocate not just for emission reductions, but also for the protection and rights of those who are most vulnerable to these climate-induced displacements," Prisca stated.

Winnie said that the training in Mombasa has been very enriching and inspiring. "It has provided a great opportunity not only to strengthen our technical and leadership skills but also to connect and learn from colleagues. The setting has been conducive to learning, reflection, and meaningful discussions."

She further said that what she gained from the training strengthened connections and networks with other organizations and individuals who are working on these issues. "It gives me hope and a sense of collective purpose to know we are building a community of practice to tackle this challenge together. The most useful part of the training for me has been understanding the practical tools and approaches for integrating climate security and mobility into advocacy and project planning," Prisca noted.

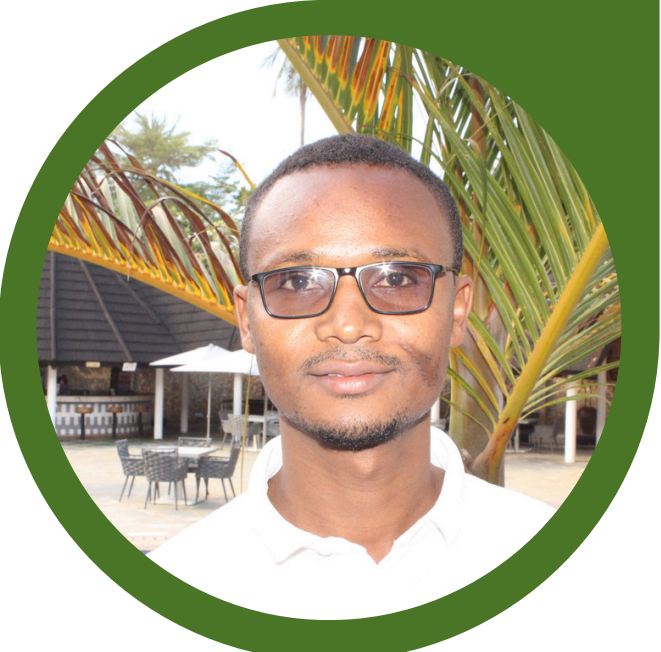
Winnie emphasized that she found the training modules very relevant to her position. "As a Country Director, I am responsible for strategic leadership, compliance, partnerships, and overall program quality. The sessions on leadership, systems strengthening, and organizational development directly support my daily responsibilities and help me think more strategically and effectively."

The modules are highly relevant to my role. They strengthen my understanding of climate-induced migration and equip me with practical approaches to integrate mobility considerations into county-level climate policies and planning," Thomas said.

What she found most useful in the training was the opportunity to learn from others' experiences. "Listening to how colleagues handle similar challenges in different contexts of East Africa was very insightful and gave me practical ideas that I can adapt in South Sudan. Continuous learning is essential, especially when working in complex and fragile contexts like South Sudan. Training like this strengthens not only our individual skills but also our collective impact as an organization," she said.

Thomas acknowledged that he gained invaluable lessons on how to link policy, data, and community-based responses to address climate-induced mobility in a structured and sustainable way. "Therefore, trainings like this are essential in empowering county governments, which are closest to affected communities, to design informed and resilient responses to climate challenges," he stated.





Idiris Sid Ali Mohamed, from Somalia, is currently working for Metra Hub as a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Director. Metra Hub is engaged in initiatives related to climate change, e-governance, and community capacity building. Idiris said that the modules of the training “are well-structured, coherent, and delivered at a particularly critical time as communities in Somalia continue to face severe challenges due to prolonged droughts”.

“This training is highly relevant to my role in Monitoring and Evaluation, as it strengthens the ability to assess and distinguish the root causes and impacts of crises—whether they are climate-related or conflict-driven—and to measure the scale of their effects accurately,” Idiris said.

He found the discussions on the relationship between migration, climate change, conflict, and media responses particularly insightful. “Understanding how media framing and language can either mitigate or exacerbate conflict-induced migration is especially valuable and directly applicable to my work.”

Idiris is of the opinion that this type of capacity-building training is extremely important for empowering the youth and professionals of the region. “I strongly recommend that similar trainings should be continued and expanded across the region.”

The other lady participant who is from South Sudan is named Deborah Awut Mayom. She is serving as the Secretary General for the South Sudan National Commission for UNESCO. Her responsibility is to act as a dual-link: her office represents UNESCO within the government of South Sudan, ensuring global standards are integrated into national policy, representing South Sudan within the global UNESCO ecosystem.

Deborah said that the training is a transformative and strategic exercise in synergy providing a vital space for regional leaders to move beyond theoretical policy and refine the practical “how” of institutional leadership. “It is a timely ‘recharge’ that strengthens our ability to communicate international best practices within our specific national contexts.”

She said that the modules of the training are highly relevant in her position. According to her, they serve as the bridge between a national government and a global body. “They directly strengthen my ability to advocate for South Sudan’s priorities in the international arena while helping our domestic ministries adopt UNESCO’s ethical guidelines, particularly regarding media freedom and education,” Deborah stated.



She said that she is taking away a renewed sense of strategic clarity and a practical roadmap for institutional liaison. “I have gained refined tools for resource mobilization and a stronger understanding of how to better position South Sudan within UNESCO’s global programs to ensure that our community transformation efforts are both impactful and sustainable.”

For her, the focus on Media Ethics and Information Literacy was most valuable. “Within the UNESCO ecosystem, a free and ethical media is the backbone of a stable nation. The training provided fresh ways to champion the UNESCO Journalist’s Code of Conduct back home. It reinforced that the National Commission is a ‘guardian of truth,’ and that promoting ethical reporting is a critical peace-building tool in South Sudan.”

Deborah at last noted that she would like to emphasize the deep responsibility of being a conduit between her government and the world. “My goal is to ensure that South Sudan is not just a participant, but a leading, ethical partner in the global community. I will return to Juba ready to mentor my team and ensure that our communities are transformed through the application of knowledge, integrity, and the truth.”