

Practices at the Community Level in Kenya to Address the Intersection between Displacement and Climate Change Impacts: **Key Messages from Mapping Sessions Held in Mombasa on October 2 and 3, 2023.**



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Global Network of
Civil Society Organisations
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The Context

Communities in Kenya's coastal region are confronted with the harsh reality of climate change. As sea levels continue to rise, more intense floods, stronger storms and cyclones, and higher storm surges that reach farther inland affect the coast, forcing hundreds of coastal communities to leave their homes.

The recent “Community Consultation on Loss & Damage and Displacement”, organized by the Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD) in collaboration with the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), gathered individuals and organizations committed to addressing the various challenges brought by climate change in Kenya’s coastal region. The workshop offered participants a platform to share their unique insights and experiences on climate impacts and human mobility, as they relate to various thematic domains, including advocacy and awareness raising, early warning and preparedness, emergency response, waste management and ecosystem conservation, agriculture, blue economy, and youth and gender.

The workshop is part of a series of sessions geared towards mapping the practices undertaken by Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) on displacement taking place in the context of the adverse effects of climate change in Kenya. They are organized under the Project to Avert, Minimize, and Address Disaster Displacement (PAMAD), which was initiated by the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) in 2021 to enhance understanding of displacement as loss and damage, and promote action to avert, minimize and address its occurrence and impacts.



This Information Note presents a compilation of key messages from the mapping sessions held in Mombasa. The key messages are a record of discussions and should not be construed as the official position of GNDR or PDD.

Key Messages

- **Localizing Climate Terminology:** Many community members and practitioners lack technical expertise on climate change-related issues, and sometimes lack awareness of the linkages between local impacts and global climate change. To address this, it is essential to translate and contextualize climate terminology in local languages, using practical examples rooted in local culture.
- **Engaging Elderly Community Members:** In patriarchal societies that are common in the Coast Region, engaging and educating elderly male community members is crucial to ensuring broader awareness of climate change initiatives in target communities, and greater engagement of community members in relevant efforts.
- **Reshaping of Marine Ecosystems:** Climate change is harming mangroves, seagrasses, and saltmarshes that have significant biodiversity value as fish nurseries. Moreover, warming oceans are leading to migration of fishing stocks from offshore to the deep ocean, compounding unsustainable fishing practices to affect the livelihoods of fisherfolk's in the area. Initiatives like mangrove restoration, capacity building of fisherfolk and Beach Management Units, and advocacy are being implemented to address these challenges.
- **Infrastructure Development and Displacement:** Major infrastructure projects in the coastal region displace communities and harm ecosystems. Adequate compensation and solutions for affected communities are needed.
- **Palm Tree Exploitation:** Over-harvesting of palm trees is a common issue in the Coast, affecting communities' economic well-being, undermining the sustainability of their livelihoods and potentially leading to displacement. Addressing this issue requires raising awareness and promoting sustainable practices.
- **Youth Empowerment and Climate Education:** Engaging and empowering youth is critical for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Art forms, such as community theater, have been used in the Coast to find solutions to climate challenges, promote alternative livelihood opportunities, and address the drivers of disaster displacement and unsustainable urbanization.

- **Human-Wildlife Conflicts:** Human-wildlife conflicts, particularly in areas with national parks, require multi-stakeholder approaches and compensation policies for affected communities. These interventions are useful both to avert displacement that might be due to the increasing risk of human-wildlife conflict and to manage the consequences of displacement on the environment in places of destination.
- **Promoting Climate Conversation with a Gender Lens:** Climate policies should consider the unique impacts of climate change and displacement on women, and specifically empower them by promoting alternative livelihoods, addressing urban farming and improving access to education.

Conclusion

The consultation served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among various stakeholders working towards climate resilience and disaster displacement mitigation in Kenya's coastal region. The insights, practices, and recommendations shared in this note highlight the need for concerted efforts to address the complex challenges posed by climate change and displacement and promote sustainable development in the region.



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