

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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April 2025

IOM addresses extreme heat through initiatives that enhance safety for displaced populations, promote climate resilience, and implement sustainable practices to support community health.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading UN organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

IOM supports migrants, displaced persons and vulnerable communities globally, developing effective policy and programmatic responses to the shifting dynamics of human mobility. The organization is multi-mandated working across the humanitarian-development and peace nexus, developing solutions for people to move, people on the move and for people to stay with the recognition that migration can and should be seen as a successful adaptation strategy to the worst impacts of climate change, including extreme heat.

Lead Heat Entities:

The IOM Extreme Heat Working Group
The Department of Humanitarian Response & Recovery
The Climate Action Division
The Migration Health Division
The Displacement Tracking Matrix

Technical Focal Points:

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KEY FACTS

Internal displacement is at an all-time high, with 75.9 million people living in displacement by the end of 2023 and 47 million new displacements recorded that year.

Southern Asia faces particularly severe risks, with nearly half of the 1.3 billion people projected to be affected by future heatwaves living in the region. Over the past decade, Southern Asia has already experienced 59.7 million climate-related displacements, underscoring the urgent need to protect vulnerable populations and mitigate future displacement.

2024 Global Report on Internal Displacement; Up to 2.8 Billion People Possibly Exposed to Heatwaves Worldwide by 2090

Climate change amplifies health risks for migrants.

Climate change and disaster-induced mobility significantly impact public health and economies, with migrants and displaced populations often disproportionately affected. Heat exposure and heatwaves outdoors or in non-cooled indoor environments represent an acute health hazard. Migrants and displaced populations often live and work in areas with limited or no access to cooling which increases the likelihood of heat stress and heat-related illnesses. This is compounded by migration conditions and barriers to accessing health services and social protection which further limit their ability to receive essential care and support.

Climate Change and Future Human Mobility (2022)

By 2100, between 50% and 75% of the global population could face life-threatening heat and humidity conditions.

In West Africa, potentially lethal heat thresholds may be exceeded up to 150 days annually at 1.6°C warming, rising to 150 days in central Africa at 2.5°C, and up to 300 days across tropical Africa if warming surpasses 4°C. These projections highlight the critical need for urgent climate action to mitigate extreme heat risks.

Climate Change and Future Human Mobility

Cluster Lead Agency: Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (Disaster situations)

IOM leads the CCCM Cluster in disaster situations, coordinating protection and services for displaced populations and advocating for durable solutions. The CCCM Global Strategy includes a focus on adapting to climate change and extreme heat. Over the next five years, the Cluster will prioritize preparedness, prevention, and adaptation by supporting national authorities, advancing climate resilience policies, developing early warning systems, and advocating for the inclusion of displaced populations.

In 2024, the CCCM Global Annual Meeting addressed climate and environmental impacts on displacement, producing guidance on managing extreme heat. IOM also established an Extreme Heat Working Group, under which a Fire Risk Index has been developed and piloted to enhance safety in displacement sites through the provision of a technically validated assessment tool that identifies risk factors for fires in sites across different dimensions (Environment, Fuels, Behaviours, and Response) and integrates the scoring with global Fire Weather Index data, to provide a comprehensive risk mapping of displacement sites. Additionally, IOM actively participates in the WASH, Shelter & Settlements, Health, and Protection Clusters.

Core Partners: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)

★ Featured initiative

IOM's Migration Health Division

IOM's Migration Health Division provides equitable, accessible, and comprehensive health programs for migrants and mobile populations. Addressing the intersection of health, climate change, and mobility is a key priority, as climate change intensifies health hazards like heat stress. The Division's projects on extreme heat and health focus on mitigating these risks and protecting vulnerable populations.

- **Extreme Heat - IOM Bahrain** has launched a heat stress awareness campaign for migrant workers. The initiative includes multilingual videos and educational materials for workers and employers, highlighting the health risks of prolonged heat exposure and promoting proactive measures to protect workers' well-being. (Core Partners: Bahrain Ministry of Labor)
- **Sustainable Health Facilities - IOM Bangladesh** has leveraged solar energy to power facilities in and around Cox's Bazar camps, ensuring reliable power supply to preserve cold chains for vaccinations and allowing for a degree of indoor climate control which allows for uninterrupted delivery of healthcare, including during extreme heat events.

Climate Mobility Innovation Lab

The IOM's Climate Mobility Innovation Lab (CMIL) addresses the increasing challenges of climate-related displacement, focusing on vulnerable communities in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). With hubs in Bangkok and Nairobi, the CMIL develops innovative solutions, builds capacity, and advocates for recognizing the connections between climate change, migration, and human mobility. The initiative prioritizes economic empowerment programs for women and youth and works on solutions for communities affected by extreme heat, including developing heat-resilient action plans for shelter, livelihoods, and service access. A Steering Committee guides the CMIL's collaboration with stakeholders to ensure transformative solutions that support resilient communities facing climate challenges.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a key tool for understanding and addressing displacement crises, including those driven by climate change. With over 9,000 data collectors operating in more than 100 countries, DTM gathers, analyzes, and shares critical data on displaced populations. Its tools are used in over 85% of humanitarian response plans, enabling evidence-based decisions, effective assistance, and the protection of displaced persons and their rights. The tool can be used to look into extreme heat-related mobility/immobility patterns, both mobility tracking and intention surveying.

- **Climate Vulnerability Assessments:** Highlights the impact of drought, land degradation, and increased salinity on livelihoods and displacement patterns, informing targeted assistance and preparedness efforts.
- **Movement Projections:** Displacement projections and hazard risk analysis framework for Somalia, showcasing DTM's capacity to anticipate the scale of displacement over a specific time scale, including the likely movement trajectories of internally displaced persons (IDPs), to support national and state-level coordination platforms.
- **Early Warning Flash Alerts:** DTM Sudan regularly releases [Early Warning Flash Alerts](#) to report on specific incidents that trigger sudden displacement in Sudan- this including fire, flooding and other risks.

Global Shelter Cluster: Extreme Heat Working Group

The Global Shelter Cluster Extreme Heat Working Group, co-chaired by IFRC-IOM-Catholic Relief Services-Brookes University, aims to raise awareness and develop life-saving solutions for designing shelters and settlements which can protect from high temperatures.

Core Partners: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Catholic Relief Services, Bookes University

HEAT RESOURCES



Foundational documents governing institutional heat activities

Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change 2021-2030

This Strategy seeks to promote a comprehensive, evidence and rights-based approach to migration. It specifically includes priority activity (e) Addressing the impacts of slow onset processes and environmental degradation on migration, with heat as a consideration.

Climate Mobility Roadmap

This Roadmap is a comprehensive, evidence and Rights Based Approach to human mobility induced by Climate Change, ensuring sustainable solutions, peace and protection for people in climate-impacted communities.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

DTM data are shared with humanitarian actors to inform response. DTM has jointly developed tools to support cooperation in the field and obtain DTM data that are useful for Partners humanitarian response.

SUPPORTING THE SDGS, INCLUDING:



This heat action profile was developed by the [Global Heat Health Information Network](#) in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), as a contribution to the [United Nations Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat](#) (2024). The content was validated by focal points from the profiled international organization / agency, and captures a snapshot of its heat work at the time of publication. The profile will be periodically updated.

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