

AFRICAN SHIFTS

The Africa Climate Mobility Report

Addressing Climate-Forced Migration & Displacement

Present Realities & Future Projections Key Messages & Figures from the Report

Key Messages

1. **Living in Hope:** Many Africans remain hopeful and optimistic for their futures, even as they experience the reality of the climate crisis.
2. **Rooted in Land & Culture:** Most Africans prefer to stay where they live, despite growing climate risks.
3. **Women at the Forefront:** Climate stressors increase the burden on African women but moving remains a last resort.
4. **The Next Generation:** Young Africans are more likely to embrace moving and can lead the way in harnessing climate mobility in a more connected continent.
5. **A Future on the Move:** Climate impacts will compel more Africans to move each year, mostly within their countries.
6. **Rural Shifts:** Climate change impacts on agriculture will drive people away from rain-fed farming areas and lead to large population shifts in pastoral areas.
7. **Cross-Border Bonds:** Climate impacts will drive movement into and out of border areas, increasing opportunities for cross-border cooperation.
8. **Pivotal Cities:** Towns and cities will be dynamic hubs for climate mobility as people move to, within, and from urban settlements.
9. **A Coastal Dent:** Increasing impacts from sea level rise will force people to abandon some low-lying communities, despite the opportunities coastal areas offer.
10. **Plan, Empower & Transform:** Planning for climate mobility, empowering people, and transforming development to address adaptation needs, will help Africa and Africans cope with climate shocks, build community resilience, and further the integration of the continent.

Key Figures & Projections

1. **On the Move, but Close to Home:** By 2050, **some 5%** of Africa's population – between **70 and 88 million** people – are forecast to be on the move within their home countries due to climate impacts, part of a larger trend of increased mobility in the continent.
2. **Inclusive Development will Reduce Climate Mobility:** An inclusive and resilient development pathway could reduce the number of people likely to be displaced by climate impacts from a **potential high of 113 million to a low of 47 million people** by 2050.
3. **Cross-border Climate Mobility Remains Rare:** Across the continent, climate change is predicted to drive up to **1.2 million** people to move across national borders by 2050. This will contribute about 10 percent of total likely cross-border migration of 11 to 12 million people by 2050. **Southern Africa** is expected to see the **largest increase** in cross-border mobility due to climate change impacts, with between 200,000 to 800,000 people potentially moving to a neighbouring country by 2050.
4. **Cities are Climate Mobility Hubs:** Africa's cities will grow swiftly as urbanisation trends continue, although climate impacts could force up to **4.2 million people** out of urban areas in the continent by 2050. Casablanca, Accra, and Abidjan are among the cities projected to see people leave due to climate impacts. In most small African cities and towns, climate mobility will add to population growth. Khartoum, Maputo, Goma, Tripoli, and Kigali also emerge as important climate mobility destinations in the continent.
5. **Climate Mobility Hotspots by 2050:**
 - In **East Africa**, the IGAD region (an area of 5.2 million km² that comprises the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda) could see up to **10%** of its population, some **55 million** people, forced to move within their countries due to climate impacts.
 - **Pastoral Areas** are predicted to see large population shifts as result of climate impacts. At a continental level, and across the different high emissions scenarios, Africa's pastoral areas are forecast to see a net outward movement of people of around 4 million by 2050. At the high end, pastoral areas in **Rwanda** could see around **3 million** people leave due to adverse climate impacts. Meanwhile, the population in **Ethiopia's pasturelands** could grow by **279,000 people** due to climate mobility.
 - **Coastal areas** could lose up to **2.5 million** people due to steady sea level rise and other climate stressors by 2050. Adaptation efforts could offset these climate impacts and enable people to stay.
 - At a continental level, **borderlands**, the areas surrounding national borders, will largely see an outflow of people in response to climate disruption. However, some border areas will be attractive for many people, such as the **Ethiopian side** of the Ethiopia-Somalia border, which could see up to **1.4 million** new arrivals. Other notable **climate mobility**

destinations include the borderlands between Rwanda, DRC, and Uganda; between Eritrea, Sudan, and Ethiopia; Somalia's border with Kenya; Mozambican borderlands with Eswatini and South Africa; and Nigeria's borderland with Niger.

6. **Affected but Unprepared:** African borderlands are projected to see some of the **largest** in and out movements due to climate change. Yet in some of these areas, very few people - less than **10%** - are aware that climate change is changing their environment, pointing to the need for more climate literacy and information.
7. **The Next Generation:** **Two out of every five** African youth consulted, some **40 %**, think of mobility as normal and sometimes even aspirational. Almost one in five have concrete plans to move.
8. **Living in Hope:** **Half** of the African men and **40 %** of African women surveyed express hope and optimism for the future, despite experiencing severe disruptions to their livelihood due to climate impacts.