IOM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE

Thirty-third Session

DELIVERING IMPACT THROUGH DATA FOR ACTION, INSIGHT AND FORESIGHT

DELIVERING IMPACT THROUGH DATA FOR ACTION, INSIGHT AND FORESIGHT

Introduction

1.   In a complex and uncertain world, the useful application of data for evidence-based policy and action is needed more than ever before. In the face of challenges posed by climate change, rapid technological transformation and shifting demographics, data provide the evidence base to create, expand and improve pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration. Whether to help displaced people find durable solutions in response to the impact of climate change, or to provide analysis that allows better foresight of migration scenarios and supports preparedness, managing human mobility in the interests of sustainable development requires a data-driven approach.

2.   Regular pathways can enable mobility as a form of adaptation to the effects of climate change, increasing the scope of options available to people and communities. IOM's Global Data Institute is working across the Organization to provide data analysis that will reveal opportunities to harness the demographic dividend and potential links to regular migration pathways. The Institute will develop and analyse new data sets that give evidence about migration's contribution to development and show major trends across corridors to inform policy coordination.

3.   Data provide the basis for IOM to build innovative, sustainable and inclusive solutions to address both the challenges and opportunities created by human mobility. IOM's approach to data is underpinned by the IOM Migration Data Strategy for the period 2020–2025, which outlines a high-level course of action for the Organization to enhance its data system in line with the data strategy of the United Nations Secretary-General.

4.   IOM established the Global Data Institute to harness the power of its data to inform operations, provide comprehensive analysis of global mobility patterns, and drive anticipatory action to address future migration dynamics. The Institute brings together two key areas of the Organization's data work – the Displacement Tracking Matrix and the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre – and collaborates with a network of regional data specialists,[1] the regional data hubs[2] and all departments within IOM's Operations pillar to illuminate the global data story of human mobility. This paper provides an update on the Institute's data and analysis for action, insight and foresight.

Data for action: PROGRESS towards solutions for over 70 million internally displaced persons

5.   The Global Data Institute leads IOM's efforts to leverage its operational data to inform its own and other stakeholders' interventions to support migrants and displaced communities at all stages in their journey. IOM also uses these data to strengthen collective action in support of solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide, who number more than 70 million.[3] This work aligns with the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, building on the findings from the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, which calls for data-driven solutions to the issue.

6.   The Global Data Institute has collaborated with the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. on the first Periodic Global Report on

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[1]   In 2023, IOM established dedicated positions for regional thematic data specialists to guide the work of the regional data hubs in a more sustainable manner. The Institute collaborates closely with this network of specialists to enhance IOM's data system, strengthen data governance and improve data capacity across the Organization.

[2]   The regional data hubs, in coordination with the Institute, provide support to IOM country offices, Member States and other key stakeholders to advance the collection, analysis and use of data at the regional, national and local levels to deliver on the promise of migration.

[3]   Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023* (Geneva, IDMC, 2023).

the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS), which aims to provide people-centred, operationally relevant evidence about the factors that enable IDPs to move towards solutions. In analysing IOM's data to assess progress towards durable solutions, the report recognizes that finding durable solutions is a process for affected communities, not simply a box to be ticked or an end state.

7.   The first PROGRESS report, published in October 2023, focuses on priority countries with in-depth experience in managing internal displacement,[4] as identified by the United Nations Secretary-General's Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. IOM and ISIM reviewed multiple databases and organized 74 focus group discussions – involving over 570 IDPs, host community members and returnees across 10 countries, 12 partners and 15 governments – in order to test hypotheses and carry out a comparative analysis of vulnerabilities within those groups. This work builds on that done by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics, specifically the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, the *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)* and the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Taskforce.
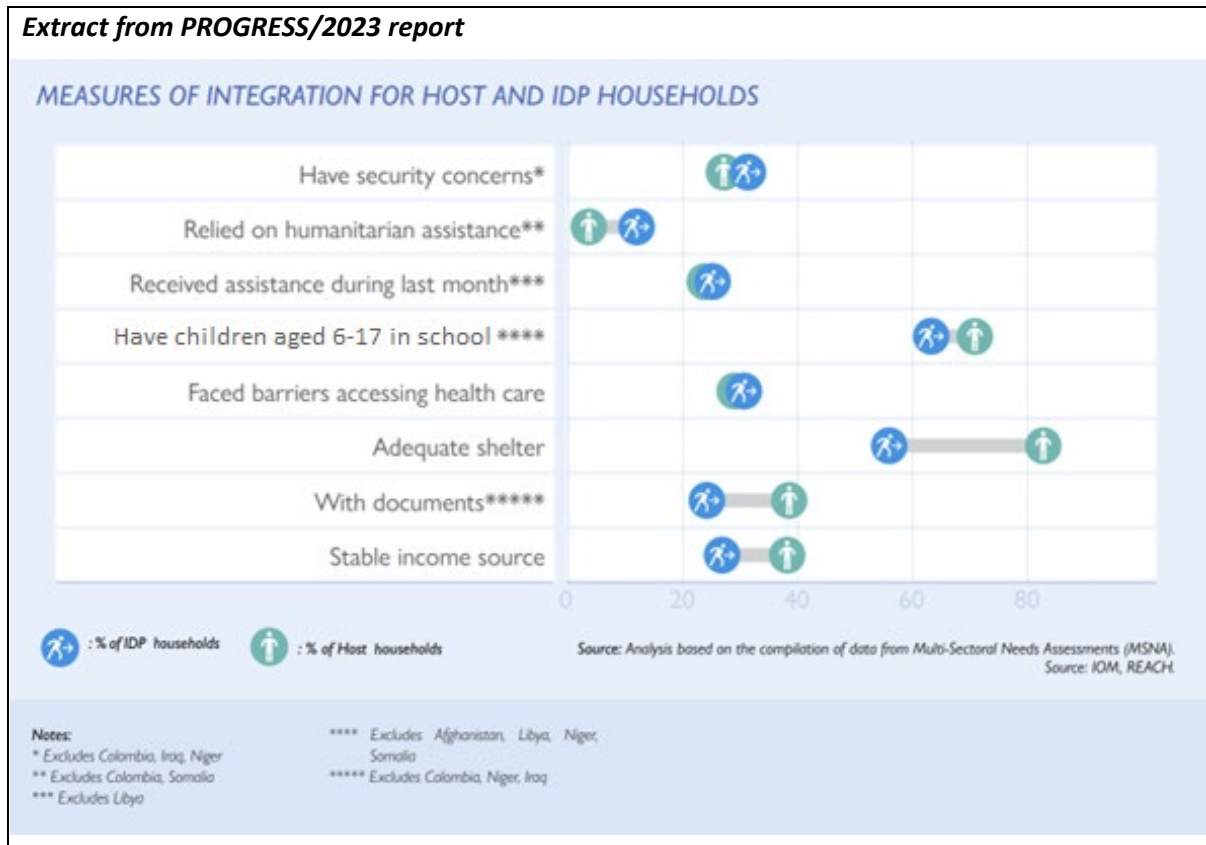

Findings from PROGRESS/2023

- IDP households tend to be more vulnerable than their host community households, and the degree of planning and coordination informing humanitarian and development support for both in affected areas correlates with the success of solutions pathways.

- The length of displacement affects the solution sets for IDPs at different stages of displacement.

- Differences between men and women in different age groups matter: gendered opportunities and challenges in accessing elements of solutions pathways can be seen across the data and are also evident in focus group discussion analysis and inputs from stakeholders. Women may feel physically secure in camps, but may also feel that – in the absence of explicit programming sensitive to social norms – they have few economic or social prospects to move from displacement to self-reliance. For young people lacking dignified work or who are unable to (re)integrate into host communities, the disruptions generated by displacement can lead to negative consequences for a generation.

Three meta-factors linked to the IRIS criteria and the DSID Taskforce recommendations stood out in the data analysis as correlated with positive IDP solutions:

- Economic well-being is key to how the experience of displacement is managed and to the likelihood of moving towards solutions. Focus group discussion results indicated that the experience of displacement could lead to both post-traumatic growth and enduring setbacks, depending on how the economic aspects were managed for IDPs and their host communities.

- Adequate housing (in non-camp settings, as soon as possible after displacement) is related to stable income and less reliance on humanitarian assistance.

- Degrees of belonging and inclusion – both in relation to host communities in situations of displacement and in defining solutions pathways out of displacement – depend on the explicit design of policies to reduce barriers to access or promote connection.

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[4]   Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Vanuatu and Yemen.

Extract from PROGRESS/2023 report

MEASURES OF INTEGRATION FOR HOST AND IDP HOUSEHOLDS

Data for insight: Illuminating mobility patterns and drivers along key migration corridors
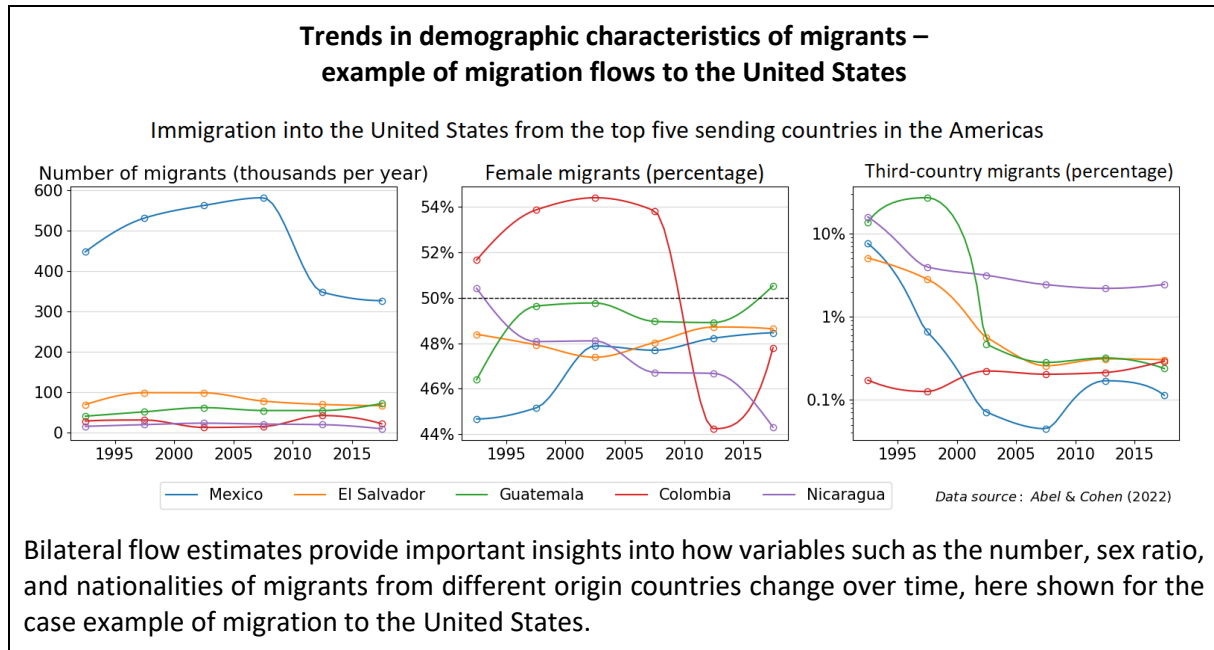
8.   Rapidly shifting mobility dynamics around the world have created a growing demand for improved data and analysis at the intersection of migration and human mobility across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. In this context, IOM is taking steps to ensure timely, consistent, comparable data analysis along major migration corridors worldwide.

9.   Building on the wealth of data collected by IOM and other open data sources generated by United Nations partners, the private sector and governments, the Global Data Institute, in close collaboration with the regional data hubs, is developing a systematic, data-driven approach to provide a comprehensive analysis of human mobility patterns across migration corridors to support evidence-based policies and anticipatory action.

10.   Whole-of-corridor analysis places migration within the broader context of transnational mobility and other aspects that affect integration processes, including labour markets, the wider economy, trade, financial systems, environmental factors and societal challenges. To ensure that safe and regular pathways are designed and implemented in a data-driven manner, it is essential to elevate the current narrative beyond simple route analysis that focuses on the movements of people and the associated risks and vulnerabilities. A whole-of-corridor analysis goes further by revealing the opportunities and positive changes emerging through migration, such as diaspora engagement across countries of origin and destination, remittance flows and trade in services, the employment of migrants in global supply chains, and the increased resilience of both economies and societies.

11.   From 2024, IOM plans to produce interactive data analysis tools that will enable global, real-time understanding of migration flows and trends, and provide profiles of people on the move across corridors, including data disaggregated by sex, age and nationality. These interactive profiles will be hosted on the Global Migration Data Portal, IOM's unique data platform which consolidates publicly available migration data from leading data sources. Users will be able to explore regions, patterns and

trends, including drivers and their interaction, in order to produce scenarios that inform action and policy. The interactive tools will enable comprehensive insight into the relationship between human mobility, labour migration and other key socioeconomic variables, such as trade and remittances along migration corridors.

**Trends in demographic characteristics of migrants –
example of migration flows to the United States**

Immigration into the United States from the top five sending countries in the Americas

Data source: *Abel & Cohen* (2022)

Bilateral flow estimates provide important insights into how variables such as the number, sex ratio, and nationalities of migrants from different origin countries change over time, here shown for the case example of migration to the United States.

12.   The pilot analysis, which is focusing on two main corridors (Americas, and East and Horn of Africa), builds on the three global databases hosted by the Global Data Institute – the Displacement Tracking Matrix, the Missing Migrants project and the Migration Governance Indicators. The Displacement Tracking Matrix is IOM's largest primary data collection programme, collecting data on internal displacement and human mobility in over 100 countries. In 2022, the Displacement Tracking Matrix tracked the movements of over 137 million people, including 51 million IDPs and 48 million returnees.[5] The Missing Migrants project, hosted by the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, is the only open-access database containing records of deaths and disappearances during migration at the global level. The Migration Governance Indicators constitute IOM's flagship tool for assessing migration governance frameworks at the national and local levels; they have been rolled out in over 101 countries and 75 local jurisdictions.

Data for foresight: Enhancing data-driven preparedness to navigate future mobility dynamics

13.   Data-driven preparedness, strategic foresight and anticipatory action lie at the core of IOM's work, in line with the quintet of change advocated in the Secretary-General's policy brief on UN 2.0. Data can provide crucial information for policymakers to move beyond responding to migration dynamics to anticipating future challenges and adjusting policies, designing programmes and allocating resources. To support this, the Global Data Institute is piloting a horizon scanning approach that harnesses IOM's technical and field expertise to anticipate changes in migration drivers and their impact on human mobility, enabling the Organization and its partners to move towards a more preventive, forward-looking stance to address emerging issues.

14.   The Institute's horizon scanning pilot exercise builds on IOM's expertise and knowledge to identify signals and anticipate potential trends that are likely to have a significant impact on mobility

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5   IOM, *Displacement Tracking Matrix Global Survey of Operations 2023* (Geneva, IOM, 2023).

in the short-to-medium term (next six months). Complementing the tools of other IOM departments[6] and making use of other open-source data anticipating political, environmental, economic or social shocks, the pilot exercise will be conducted twice a year on a regional basis, allowing drivers and signals to be placed in their local context. Greater capacity to anticipate and understand emerging trends and challenges related to migration will enable IOM decision makers to allocate resources more effectively and efficiently, identify the areas where interventions are most needed, and develop appropriate responses to address challenges. Following the 2023 pilot in the Americas and the East and Horn of Africa regions, the horizon scanning exercise will be extended to other IOM regions in future years.

First round of horizon scanning in the Americas and the East and Horn of Africa (2023)
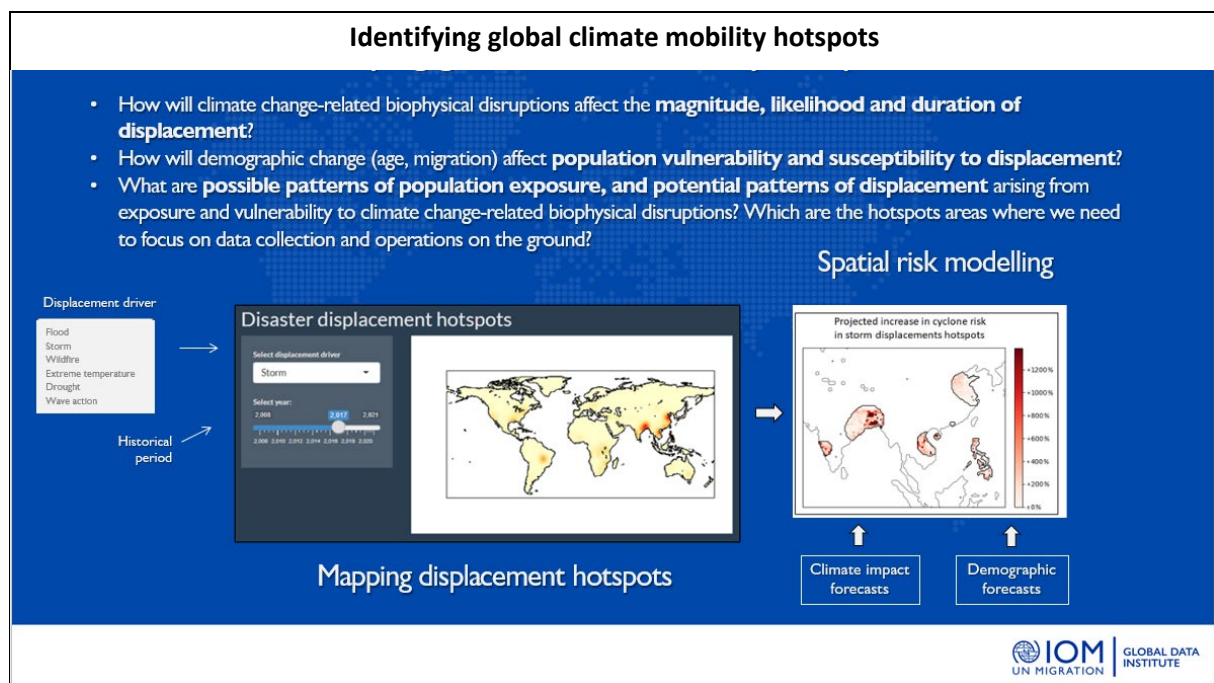
The first round of the Global Data Institute's horizon scanning activities took place in the Americas and the East and Horn of Africa regions in August–September 2023. A total of 53 IOM staff were selected from across both regions to act as horizon scanning experts, which involved completing an online survey designed to capture emerging signals of change likely to impact the drivers of migration in the following six months. The experts identified 45 signals, which were then interpreted through regional expert elicitation groups; during this stage, the signals, their strength (likelihood and impact) and any IOM programme or policy adjustments were discussed and triangulated with internal and external data sources – such as IOM's Emergency Preparedness Dashboard, the INFORM Risk Index, the ACLED Conflict Alert System and El Niño forecasts – and additional thematic indicators and forecasting exercises – such as *Hunger Hotspots* by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, the European Commission's Horizon Scanning Tool and the International Monetary Fund's *World Economic Outlook*.

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[6] These include existing forward-thinking processes within IOM, such as the early warning and preparedness work conducted by the Preparedness and Response Division within the Department of Operations and Emergencies, and the ongoing work of the Sustainable Development Unit to develop and operationalize a conceptual approach to drivers of migration and displacement.

Climate modelling: Mapping future global climate mobility hotspots

15.   Climate change is reshaping migration patterns everywhere. If they are to take effective anticipatory action in at-risk areas, decision makers need reliable evidence on where the climate crisis will most strongly impact the spatial distribution of populations, and how climate-related mobility will affect socioeconomic dynamics in areas of origin and destination. By using advanced climate change and migration models, IOM – in line with its Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021–2030 – aims to provide decision makers with valuable insights into mobility outcomes under different possible future scenarios, so they can address the needs of communities on the front lines of global change.
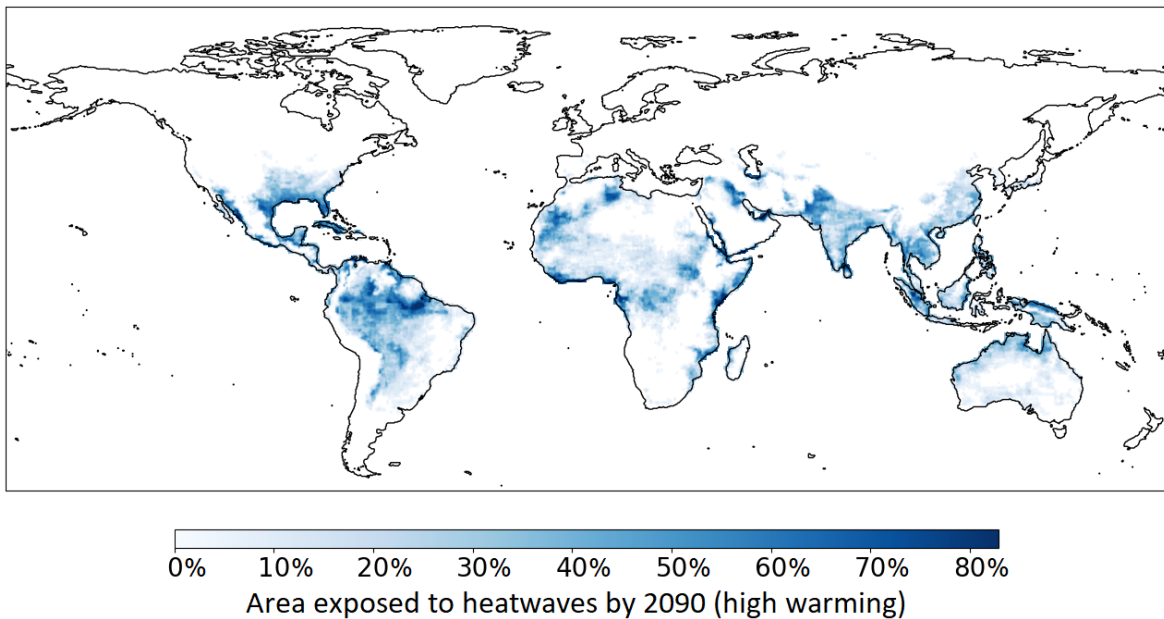

16.   The Global Data Institute is using state-of-the-art spatial data to map global climate mobility hotspots, and will produce global maps indicating where exposure to mobility-related climate hazards, high population density and socioeconomic vulnerability are projected to coincide in future. An interactive dashboard on the Global Migration Data Portal is due to be released in time for the Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (COP28) in November 2023. Through this dashboard, users will be able to visualize how hotspots, and the number of affected people, evolve over time under different climate and socioeconomic scenarios, for varying levels of economic vulnerability.

17.   These scenario-based forecasts, complemented by primary data collected by IOM, will inform and help prioritize on-the-ground operations and anticipatory action in at-risk areas worldwide. This includes preparedness for seasonal weather and broader environmental hazards in hotspot areas. In addition, the forecasts will form important inputs for the development of solutions channelling climate mobility in ways that address demographic and labour-related challenges, to maximize socioeconomic outcomes for both sending and receiving areas.
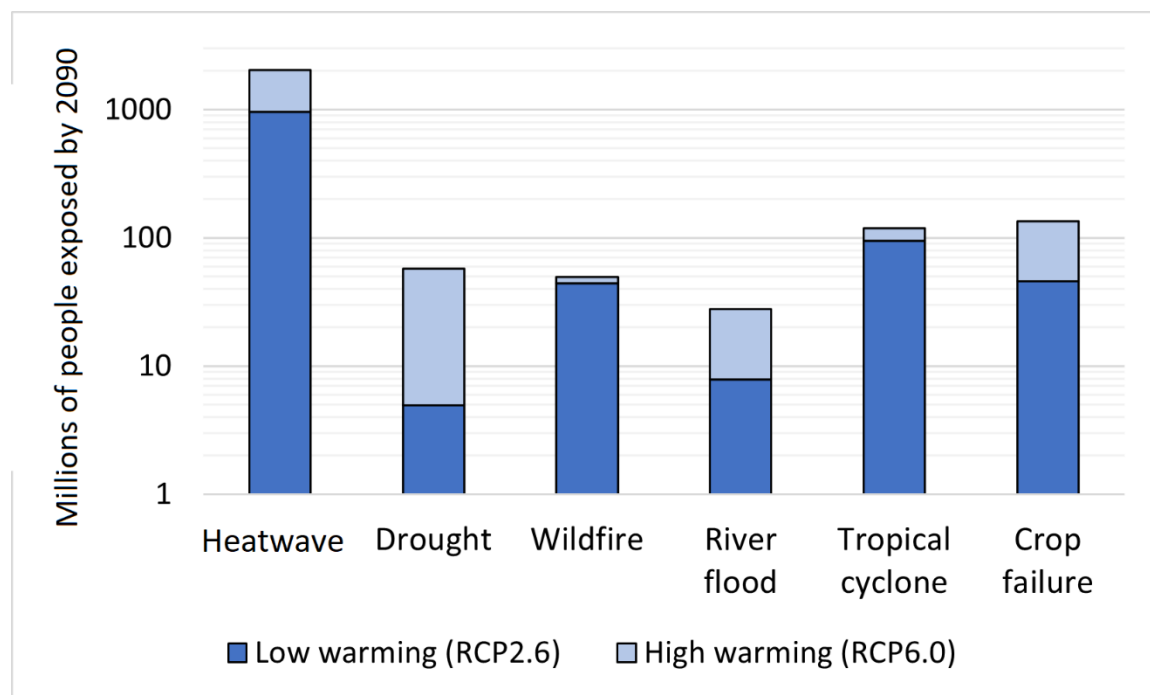
Preliminary findings from IOM's mapping of climate mobility hotspots

Preliminary data reveal that the degree of global warming will have a significant impact on the number of people affected by climate change. Compared to a low-warming scenario, a high-warming scenario doubles the projected number of people who will be exposed to heatwaves by 2090 (from around 1 billion to 2 billion), almost triples the number exposed to crop failure (from around 46 million to 135 million), more than triples the number exposed to river floods (from around 8 million to 28 million) and leads to a more than 10-fold increase in the number of people exposed to drought (from around 5 million to 56 million).

Projected land area exposed to heatwaves by 2090 under a high-warming scenario (Representation Concentration Pathway 6.0)

Projected number of people exposed to different mobility-related climate hazards under low- and high-warming scenarios (Representative Concentration Pathways of 2.6 and 6.0 respectively)

Setting the course: Harnessing the power of data to deliver on the promise of migration

18.   In the ever-evolving landscape of human mobility, data shape our collective ability to craft a future where the promise of migration becomes a reality for all. Thanks to dedicated investment in its data architecture – as evidenced by the establishment of the Global Data Institute, the regional data hubs and the network of regional thematic data specialists – IOM is uniquely positioned to meet this increasing demand for data.

19.   The Global Data Institute will lead the Organization's efforts to strengthen its data foundations through the development of a safe, scalable and secure data system to deliver sustainable, cost-effective data for action, insight and foresight.

20.   IOM will also provide an evidence base on programming for long-term solutions. The PROGRESS reports will look at differences in possible solutions for those displaced by conflict and the biophysical disruptions that accompany changing weather patterns ("disasters"), with a focus on more robust indicators of self-reliance as an interim step toward solutions – or what the DSID Taskforce calls "solutions pathways".

21.   The Organization also aims to provide Member States and partners with timely insights on trends, drivers and risks for migration management at the national, regional and global levels through data collection and analysis on the dynamics of migratory flows across corridors. The Global Data Institute's flagship human mobility corridor profiles will provide a clearer understanding of the relationship between human mobility and the environmental and socioeconomic processes occurring along corridors. This will build the evidence base to support the creation, expansion or improvement of pathways, in turn increasing the range of regular migration options. The results of the analyses will also enable Member States to take evidence-based policy decisions on regular pathways for labour migration to sustain the socioeconomic development of countries of origin, destination and transit.

22.   Data and analysis will form the foundation of IOM's approach to climate change and migration. Following the mapping of climate mobility hotspots through model simulations, the Global Data Institute plans to conduct additional primary data collection to investigate how climate-related factors influence the livelihoods and well-being of populations, and their impact on the propensity to migrate in selected pilot hotspots. This work will provide the evidence base to develop solutions for people to stay through in situ adaptation, solutions for people to move through regular migration pathways (another form of adaptation) and solutions that help avert or minimize loss and damage linked to displacement.

23.   In addition, IOM will refine and scale up its horizon scanning methodology to the global level, regularly producing content for external audiences to feed into consultations and processes within the United Nations system, and offering valuable insights to its Member States. The Global Data Institute plans to develop a migration intelligence platform to act as a "one-stop-shop" on migration signals, producing semi-automated near real-time migration briefs based on expert analysis of signals and trends, along with policy and programmatic recommendations to support decision-making.