



# Refugee Law Project

School of Law, Makerere University  
*A Centre for Justice and Forced Migrants*



**National Coordination Mechanism on Migration**  
**Training on**  
***Migration, Environment and Climate Change Nexus***  
**10-14 June 2019**

**BRIEFING NOTE**

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Refugee Law Project (RLP) recently participated in a 3-day (10 - 14 June 2019) National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) training on an increasingly important nexus in the migration discourse, namely Migration, Environment and Climate Change. This was followed by the NCM's 5<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting.

The NCM is a government-led initiative aimed at implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) objectives by strengthening a whole government approach

through strategic partnerships for better migration management. Its membership includes policy makers and technocrats at government level, academicians and Civil Society Organisations. RLP has been a member of the NCM since 2015.

Migration, whether forced or voluntary, persistently demands that dialogues be prioritized in national and international planning frameworks. Uganda has ratified a number of international conventions and frameworks relating to migration. These include: Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954, ratified in 1965; Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 ratified in 1976; ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143) ratified in 1978; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), 1990 ratified in 1995, among others.

Environmental factors have long had an impact on global migration flows, as people have historically left places with harsh or deteriorating conditions. However, the scale of such flows, both internal and cross-border, is expected to rise as a result of accelerating climate change and associated unprecedented impacts on lives and livelihoods. Depending on how it is managed, such migration can have positive or negative effects on both the local coping capacity and the environments in areas from which migrants originate, as well as in their temporary or permanent destinations.

These management opportunities and challenges are increasingly being recognized at global policy level in key international policy processes such as the climate change negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more recently, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Governments will increasingly have to deal with the human mobility consequences of climate change through tailored, integrated cross-sectoral policies.

In Uganda, environmental phenomena such as prolonged droughts, heavy rainfalls and resultant landslides have a footprint on the forced migrations of its own citizens. Refugees from neighboring countries, who currently number about 1.2 million, place a further burden on the environment in refugee-hosting areas.

The needs of such affected populations require well-coordinated and sustainable solutions at a national level. To enhance resilience of the affected communities and mitigate the impacts of environmental and climate change on them, it is imperative that stakeholders have a clear appreciation of the environment-migration nexus. Stakeholders' understanding of the issues should promote a multifaceted discourse on climate change and migration.

As a stakeholder RLP support refugee-hosting districts and contributes to efforts aimed at addressing migration, environment and climate change challenges. This includes through; tree

planting in Kiryandongo, Adjumani and Lamwo; stakeholder dialogues and campaigns to promote environmental protection at both local and national levels; and videos such as 'Apocalyptic Fuel' and 'The Golden Tree' to help raise awareness, which can be found on RLP website.

The NCM training on migration, environment and climate change, supported by the International Organization (IOM), aimed at building the capacity of participants to factor migration into environmental and climate change adaptation policies, and to take into account environmental change in comprehensive migration management policies at the national level. The workshop provided an opportunity for policymakers across key institutional sectors to exchange expertise and discuss possible collaboration on migration, environment and climate change.

Specific learning outcomes of the training included;

- Improved understanding of the links between environmental factors and human mobility, and related challenges
- Improved understanding of possible practical, policy measures, tools and frameworks that could be applied to address these challenges, and
- Improved ability to identify possible action and opportunities for collaboration with key stakeholders at the national level.

The training was conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with support of the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme, funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa, and coordinated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The training was subsequently followed by a 2-day quarterly coordination meeting from 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019, focused on fast-tracking the progress of the Refugee Policy, Migration Policy and Diaspora Policy. The meeting also assessed the progress of NCM's efforts to see that migration issues feature in the next cycle of national planning specifically the National Development Plan III (NDP III)

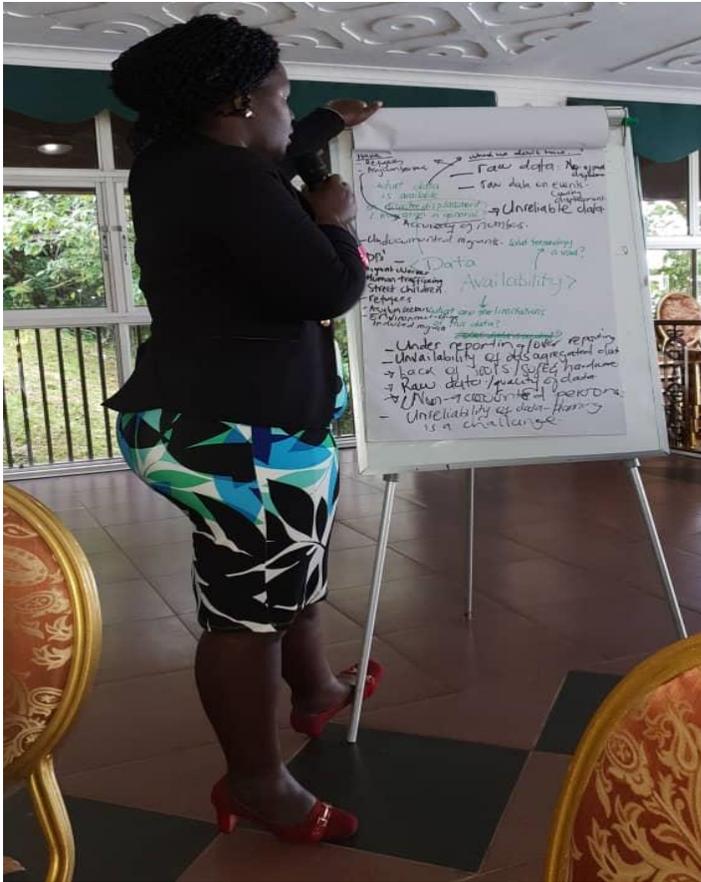


Figure 2: RLP staff member making a presentation during the training.