The number of disaster displacements has continued to rise in Africa in the past two decades.

The main factors shaping displacement in Africa are inequality, conflict, environmental degradation, climate change and the disproportionate impacts of disaster.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 is an important instrument created to tackle disaster displacement by averting displacement, supporting internal or cross-border migration if it occurs, and providing durable solutions for migrants.

The scarcity of data continues to hamper evidence-based policymaking and well-informed public discourse on displacement in Africa.

Frameworks such as the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Africa, developed by the African Union Commission, and the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction have been established to support African countries in their efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and the Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa constitute some of the key platforms for integrated actions on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was adopted in 2015, together with two other landmark agreements – the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. It commits governments to develop and implement strategies, policies and plans to reduce disaster risks. With 38 indicators to monitor its progress, implementation of the Sendai Framework is expected in turn to reinforce the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The figure below shows the links between the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.
Goal, outcome, priorities and targets of the Sendai Framework

The goal of the Framework is to achieve the "substantial reduction in disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries".

The expected outcome is to "prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard, exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience".

In addition, the Sendai Framework outlines four priorities for action, and seven targets to reduce and prevent disaster risks and enhance resilience (see boxes 1 and 2).

Box 1: Sendai Framework – priorities for action

(a) Understanding disaster risk;
(b) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
(c) Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;
(d) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
Displacement risk and the drivers in the Sendai Framework

The risk of displacement is a function of hazard exposure and vulnerability and is expressed as:

\[
\text{Risk} = \text{Exposure} \times \text{hazard} \times \text{Vulnerability}
\]

Environmental degradation, demographic changes, climate change and economic growth are all major forces that cause migration. The Framework employs such terms as “displacement”, “evacuation” and “human mobility” to describe the different types of movement that may occur as a result of slow onset or rapid onset disaster. To address those factors, the African Union Commission has developed the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Africa. The Programme of Action also contributes towards the implementation of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

Addressing the factors that cause displacement and migration in a systematic and comprehensive manner is critical to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 10, in particular target 7 – facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies – of the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, it is important to promote tools and mechanisms to ensure integrated actions on disaster risk reduction and to attain other Sustainable Development Goals. The Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and the Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa constitute some of the key platforms for integrated actions on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development. One of the biggest gaps in effective displacement planning, however, is the limited availability of data disaggregated by gender, sex, socioeconomic status and other characteristics that would help countries to accurately map, understand and predict the risk of displacement in Africa and, ultimately, to design integrated actions. Various organizations have developed models to predict the risk of displacement, albeit with limitations.
About the African Climate Policy Centre

The African Climate Policy Centre is a hub for demand-led knowledge on climate change in Africa. It addresses the need for improved climate information and the strengthened use of such information for decision-making in Africa by improving analytical capacity, knowledge management and dissemination activities.