



RURAL COMMUNITIES
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**Global Conference on
Internally Displaced People**

**DISASTER DISPLACEMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION IN GEORGIA**

Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA)

April 18th, 2024

DISASTER DISPLACEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

The context in Georgia

- More than 330,000 IDPs nationwide, including 18,400 environmental migrants
- Increasing frequency of climate-related disasters & limited resources for in-place adaptation
 - *More than 3,000 settlements and 400,000 people are at risk*
- Existing relocation framework does not ensure access to basic services & human rights
- Spontaneous migration – no proper registration, challenges in accessing state assistance
- Limited attention to eco-migration from national institutions and donor community



ENGAGING IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

Findings from RCDA research & community engagement

- Lived experience highlights challenges from lack of unified & systematic approach to displacement risks and planned relocation
- Need for more information and clearer communication from government authorities
- Relocation expenses are not covered in planned nor systematic ways
- Limited and unequal access to land, productive resources, vocational training
- Opportunities to increase transparency & capacities through pre-relocation trainings and comprehensive information database



POLICY DIALOGUE

Recommendations to national decision-makers

- Establish a clear legal definition for environmental migrants – who is covered, what rights are provided?
- Create official plans for integration of eco-migrants into settlement areas, including linkages with relevant government programs
- Ensure legal recognition of land and housing
- Provide education, vocational training, and climate-resilient agriculture opportunities
- Migrants' information and support system
- Promote long-term sustainable development and climate resilience in settlement areas





RECENT PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

Actions by RCDA and partner communities

- Building climate resilient livelihoods with former IDPs, environmental migrants, and people considering migration
- Migration information and support desks established in local communities
- Two municipalities are developing socio-economic programs for environmental migrant settlements; and migrants' land and housing rights are on formal agendas.
- Follow-up by government and parliament to policy dialogue and recommendations
- Giving visibility to policy gaps in relevant global mechanisms (UN Climate Conference, UN Special Rapporteurs, Platform on Disaster Displacement, CMDP)

