

## Concept Note 2

# How to address transit migration and internal displacement

### GOAL

Transit migration and internal displacement are rising across African territories due to conflict, climate shocks, and socio-economic crises. Regional governments often carry the burden of providing services and protection to mobile populations, despite limited mandates or resources. This roundtable seeks to explore territorial strategies for managing displacement and transit migration, promoting resilience and integration at the territorial level.

### CONCEPTUALISATION

Transit migration and internal displacement are increasingly salient phenomena in Africa, driven by conflict, environmental changes, economic instability, and political crises. Unlike international migration, transit migration involves populations passing through multiple regions, often under precarious conditions, while internally displaced persons (IDPs) face prolonged stays within their own countries.

Regional governments are on the frontline of responding to these population movements, facing challenges such as overburdened public services, social tensions, and security concerns. Their territorial mandate enables them to implement context-sensitive policies, but they often struggle with limited resources and insufficient coordination mechanisms.

A comprehensive response requires integrating humanitarian assistance with longer-term development planning. Regional authorities need to adopt multi-sectoral strategies that address housing, healthcare, education, livelihoods, and social inclusion for both transit migrants and IDPs.

Urban areas and secondary cities frequently serve as hubs for displaced populations and transit migrants, posing challenges for urban planning and service provision. Regional governments must innovate in creating inclusive urban policies that promote social cohesion, reduce marginalization, and prevent exploitation.

Climate change exacerbates displacement, as droughts, floods, and land degradation



force communities to move. Thus, regional governments should incorporate climate resilience and disaster risk reduction into migration and displacement policies.

Collaboration between regional governments, national authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, and local governments and civil society is vital. Establishing multi-level governance frameworks and sharing data and best practices can improve preparedness and response.

Moreover, protecting the human rights of displaced and migrating populations remains a central concern. Regional governments can champion inclusive policies that ensure access to justice, safeguard vulnerable groups, and promote participation in local decision-making.

Capacity building is crucial to equip regional governments with skills in crisis management, data analysis, and community engagement. Strengthening institutional frameworks and securing predictable funding are equally important.

Ultimately, addressing transit migration and internal displacement effectively requires turning challenges into opportunities for regional integration, social innovation, and sustainable development.

#### **QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

- How can regional governments strengthen preparedness and resilience to human mobility crises?
- What funding mechanisms exist (or are needed) to support regional response to displacement?
- How can integration of displaced people be supported through urban and social policy?
- What role can international partners play in reinforcing territorial response capacity?