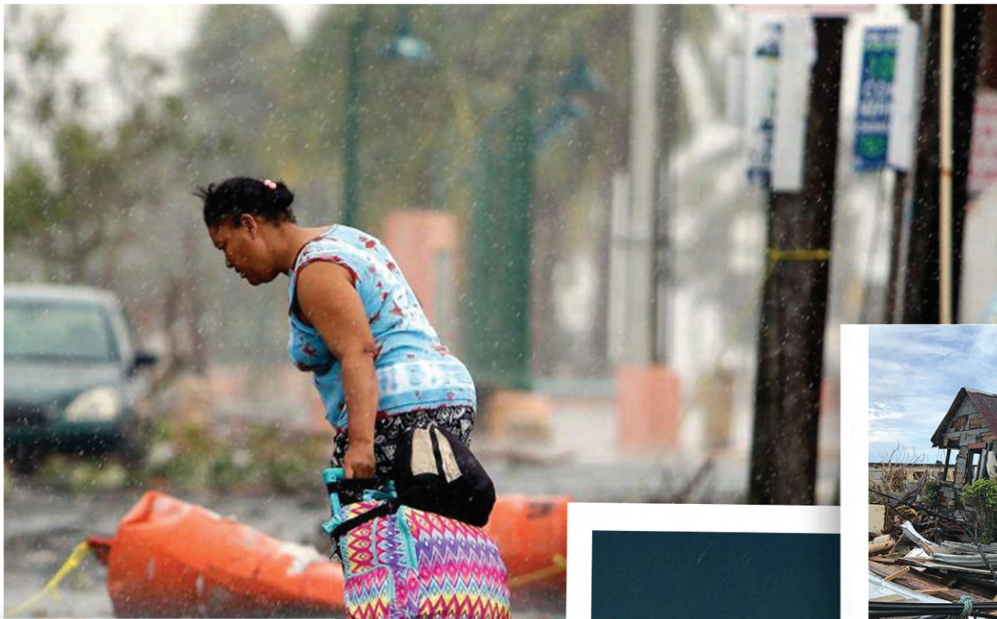


ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION DISASTER DISPLACEMENT & HUMAN SECURITY POLICY ASSESSMENT TOOL



BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COUNTRY ANALYSIS

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Funding for this report has been provided by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security. The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of the donor.

Publisher: International Organization for Migration
Mission Office
Cnr of Cork and Old Street
Roseau
Commonwealth of Dominica
Tel.: 1 767 285 0794
Email: iomdominica@iom.int

Authors: Diogo Andreola Serraglio and Stephen Adaawen

Research coordination: IOM Dominica

Project coordination: IOM Dominica

Language editing: Tanika Sasha Jones

Layout: ACEM by Jael Inc

This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM.

This publication has been issued without IOM Publications Unit (PUB) approval for adherence to IOM's brand and style standards.

Cover photo: This report is an outcome of the analysis derived from applying the Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool to assess the integration of the human security approach into national environmental migration and disaster displacement policies and mechanisms.

Required citation: Andreola Serraglio, D. and S. Adaawen, 2023. Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool – British Virgin Islands Analysis

ISBN 978-92-9268-072-5 (PDF)

© IOM 2023



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO).*

For further specifications please see the Copyright and Terms of Use.

This publication should not be used, published or redistributed for purposes primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation, with the exception of educational purposes, e.g. to be included in textbooks.

Permissions: Requests for commercial use or further rights and licensing should be submitted to publications@iom.int.

* <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/legalcode>

ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION, DISASTER DISPLACEMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY POLICY ASSESSMENT

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Diogo Andreola Serraglio
Stephen Adaawen

June 2023





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is an outcome of applying the recently developed Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement, and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool in the British Virgin Islands. The Human Security Policy Assessment Tool has been designed under the auspices of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) and partners, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). The development and piloting of this tool is part of the Joint Programme (JP) entitled 'Promoting a Human Security Approach to Disaster Displacement and Environmental Migration Policies Integrating the COVID-19 Pandemic Response in the Eastern Caribbean'.

First, our sincere gratitude goes to the IOM Team in Dominica for their support while developing the Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool and during the national assessment process. Most especially, we thank Natasha Greaves, Viola Pascal, Maxine Alleyne-Esprit, Dale Joseph, Vynliz Dailey, Sherma Oscar, and the entire IOM Dominica Team for the support in providing the seamless link between the Consultancy Team, Joint Project, and government partners during the assessment process. The team also played a crucial role in organising and bringing several stakeholders and experts from across the Caribbean region and partners for the Regional Technical Workshop in Saint Lucia. We also extend our gratitude to Pablo Escribano from the IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America, and the Caribbean in San Jose, who provided technical support and insightful feedback during the analysis and development of the Human Security Policy Assessment Tool.

We extend thanks to representatives from the United Nations Human Security Unit; Regional Advisor for the PDD, Juan C. Mendez; Senior Technical Advisor for the Regional Integration Unit of the OECS Commission, Dr Clarence Henry; Joint Implementing partner the UNFCCC and the United Nations Resident Coordinators Office, Barbados for their invaluable feedback in contributing to the successful development of the Tool and in providing critical feedback during the analysis of national policies and legal instruments.

Our appreciation and thanks also go to authorities from the following national agencies and departments for providing the needed documents and making time to participate in the national assessment of the British Virgin Islands. In particular, we thank the Premier's Office, the Deputy Governor's Office, the Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Ministry for Financial Services, Labour and Trade, and the Department of Disaster Management. Your support and critical insights during the assessment process and at the Regional Technical Workshop helped to revise this report. We thank you very much.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iii
Table and Figures	v
Abbreviations and Acronyms	vi
Executive Summary	vii
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Change, Environmental Change, Disasters, Migration in the British Virgin Islands	1
1.2 Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, Disasters, Migration and Human Security	2
2. Scope of this Study: Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool	4
2.1 British Virgin Islands: Country Profile	4
3. Existing Policy and Legal Frameworks Addressing Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement in the British Virgin Islands	6
3.1 Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement within National (Im)migration Legal and Policy Frameworks	7
3.2 Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement within National Climate or Environmental Legal and Policy Frameworks, or Both.	7
3.3 Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement within National DRR Legal and Policy Frameworks	8
4. The Integration of the Human Security Perspective Into Policy and Legal Instruments That Address the Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement in the British Virgin Islands	11
4.1 Economic (In)security.	11
4.2 Food (In)security.	12
4.3 Health (In)security.	13
4.4 Environmental (In)security.	14
4.5 Personal (In)security.	14
4.6 Community (In)security.	15
4.7 Political (In)security.	15
4.8 Alignment of Policies and Measures to the Fundamental Principles of the HSA.	16
5. Conclusion and Recommendations	18
Glossary	22
Annex I	24
Annex II	32
References	37

TABLES & FIGURES

Table 1. Background of Key Socio-economic Information on British Virgin Islands 5

Table 2. Policy and Legal Instruments that Acknowledge and/or Address Environmental Migration(Human Mobility) in British Virgin Islands 6

Figure 1. Map of British Virgin Islands 4

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

BVI	British Virgin Islands
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCAP	Climate Change Adaptation Policy
CDMSP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategic Plan
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
DMA	Disaster Management Act
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
FSSA	Food Security and Sustainability Act
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoBVI	Government of British Virgin Islands
HSA	Human Security Approach
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex
MECC	Migration, Environment and Climate Change
NDMP	National Disaster Management Plan
NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SRSP	Shock-Responsive Social Protection
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNTFHS	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
USA	United States of America
WFP	World Food Programme





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the British Virgin Islands (BVI) has witnessed changes in its long-term climatic patterns and adverse impacts across the islands. Regional climate projections indicate that under the medium-high scenario carbon emission scenario, the Territory will witness an increase in mean annual temperatures in the coming decades. At the same time, it will also become increasingly drier, with rainfall patterns marked by heavy rain events and widespread flooding. The expected changes in the Caribbean's climatic pattern will also increase the frequency and severity of extreme events such as hurricanes across the Territory. As witnessed during the hurricane season 2017, BVI was hit by both Hurricane Irma and Maria. The impact resulted in widespread damages and losses of up to billions of dollars. Aside from the loss of human lives, many Virgin Islanders were displaced, and several others were forced to leave the Territory and seek refuge elsewhere. More recently, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic also affected the country's national economy and socio-economic safety nets. The lockdown measures that the government instituted to check the spread of COVID-19 also resulted in the majority of the population across the Territory facing limited access to markets, lack of food and income due to disruptions in food supply chains and loss of jobs.

Despite the positive future outlook and proposed measures outlined to sustain social and economic progress as part of the national sustainable development agenda, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has eroded safety nets, exacerbating existing socio-economic vulnerabilities and implications for human security. Amidst the established mobility patterns, it is expected that the long-term effects of ongoing climate change, disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic will further lead to displacement and forced population movements across the country. Several others may be forced to move or seek refuge in neighbouring Caribbean States and abroad. Thus, a comprehensive approach is needed to address the multi-dimensional challenges and risks that undermine human security and efforts at promoting sustainable development in BVI. Mainstreaming the human security approach (HSA) in existing and upcoming policies or priority actions as part of climate change adaptation (CCA), disaster risk management (DRM) and national development planning has the potential to contribute to effectively addressing the root causes of threats and vulnerability, and in promoting long-term resilience and sustainable development in the BVI.

This report is an outcome of the analysis derived from the application of the “Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool” to assess the integration of the HSA into national environmental migration and disaster displacement policies and mechanisms in BVI. The Human Security Policy Assessment Tool has been developed under the auspices of IOM, UNTFHS and partners, including the UNFCCC, OECS Commission and PDD. The Tool provides the required indicators to assess existing national governance frameworks on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters. Its first iteration focuses on nine Eastern Caribbean countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The long-term goal is for the Tool to be scaled up and deployed in other regions or countries across the globe. In the context of BVI, the expectation is that applying the HSA will enable a more comprehensive and human-centred approach to addressing environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Territory. It seeks to promote the adequate protection of displaced populations, environmental migrants, and vulnerable communities or groups from multi-dimensional threats to human security across the Territory.

The insights drawn from the analysis of national policies and legal instruments on climate change, disaster risk reduction (DDR), (im)migration and development show that several strategies and mechanisms have been instituted to enhance the social protection of vulnerable populations and to address the impacts of climate change and disasters across the islands. While the provisions and priority actions have mostly been targeted at protecting human security, especially the vulnerable in society, these provisions have mostly been generic. There are limited provisions to address the challenges and risks to the well-being of affected or vulnerable populations who have been displaced, forced to move or relocated due to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters in the Territory. There are also no identifiable provisions to address insecurities that often confront persons who are unable to move and thus trapped in conditions of vulnerability due to the impact of disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

With regard to addressing economic insecurity, the available evidence alludes to growing poverty and inequality in the country. The government has developed several policies and strategies to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters, reduce poverty and improve populations' quality of life across the islands. Although (im)migrants in the country have been identified as one of the most affected by poverty and high levels of unemployment, it is noted that the Immigration and Passport Ordinance (Cap. 130) and its amendment regulations examined have not outlined any measures or provisions targeted at addressing poverty, unemployment, and inequality in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement. It does not also specify measures to promote access to education, skills training and development activities.

On the other hand, the legal instruments on the climate, environment and DRR agenda often make generic references to the distinct aspects of economic (in)security, such as poverty and unemployment. Nonetheless, such references are not directly associated with population movements in the context of climate change, disasters, and/or environmental degradation. In addressing the challenge of rising unemployment in the country, the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) has called for greater local participation in the labour market, especially in tourism-related activities that rely on foreign labour. In acknowledging the importance of quality education to addressing poverty vulnerability and achieving sustainable human development, the NSDP has indicated the commitment to improve access to education services and the performance of children and to build the capacity of service providers.

Given the provisions outlined to address the economic insecurities of vulnerable groups, the generic considerations provide the opportunity to integrate the circumstances and needs of vulnerable or affected populations who have been displaced, forced to or unable to do so due to climate change and disaster impact. This would help to adequately address the rising levels of unemployment and poverty across the islands.

On food insecurity, the Government of BVI recognises the importance of food security to ensure public health and address the rising food import bill that tends to undermine food access, especially for the vulnerable in society. However, poor soils, environmental degradation, climate change and lack of appropriate technology and inputs have undermined the progress of agriculture (crop farming) and fisheries in the Territory. This has resulted in over 90 per cent of the food being imported, with the food import bill estimated at USD 35 million in 2017. Aside from the impact of Hurricane Maria and Irma on agricultural production, the Greenhouse Project that the government initiated to boost farming and productivity was also destroyed. Given the priority to support farmers and fishermen to help BVI become self-sufficient, the government has outlined strategies and policy frameworks, including the 2022 Virgin Islands Food Security and Sustainability Act (FSSA).

To translate the vision of promoting food security and sustainable access to food for all, the FSSA has tasked the aforementioned institutions and relevant ministries to develop a policy and strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Production, Food Security and Food Safety. This policy and corresponding strategy are to guide ongoing efforts at ensuring sustainable food production management and use of food for Virgin Islanders, residents and visitors to the Territory while also outlining measures to address the impact of climate change and disasters on food production.

Besides this recommendation, the NSDP proposes the development and adoption of advanced agricultural technologies and the construction of effective transportation systems to enhance food production, availability and access for all.

Similarly, the Climate Change Adaptation Policy (CCAP) also envisages that the implementation of climate resilience and innovative agricultural practices and the design of an appropriate institutional and policy framework would contribute to ensuring food self-sufficiency and food and nutrition security across the Territory. Yet, the provisions and strategies outlined to promote food and nutrition security across the Territory have mostly been generic. Despite the limited considerations in addressing the food and nutrition challenges that often arise with environmental migration and displacement, the generic references could provide avenues to integrate or extend the proposed strategies to include considerations for displaced populations. These vulnerable populations are relocated or trapped in protracted displacement due to disaster impact or climate change. More importantly, considerations could be made to integrate measures in safeguarding food and nutrition security in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement as part of the proposed policy and strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Production, Food Security and Food Safety in BVI as outlined by the FSSA.

Health insecurity has also received some attention in the NSDP, which is guided by the principle of safeguarding access to good health, better drinking water, and waste disposal for all the population. In addition to strengthening the public health system to give more access to vulnerable groups and promoting healthy lifestyles, the NSDP calls for enhanced health services across all the islands within the Territory to avert the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure that the distinct aspects of health security of the population are considered as a key component in policy- and decision-making processes, the NSDP aims to increase life expectancy, reduce morbidity, and deliver quality health services and care by creating world-class health infrastructure and the provision of adequate financing and investment in promoting inclusive health. It also highlights the commitment of the government to reduce the disease burden for non-communicable, emerging communicable and mental health diseases, ensure equal access to high-quality healthcare, and improve the quality of healthcare and services by all, including persons with disabilities.

In contrast, no national (im)migration policy and legal instruments examined have outlined any provisions for improved access to basic healthcare for environmental migrants. Besides, they also do not stipulate specific measures aimed at strengthening overall population health and well-being or coping with situations of immobility in the event of pandemics. The existing national climate and environmental policy and legal instruments do not stipulate any specific provisions to promote access to basic healthcare for the distinct categories of environmental migrants. Nevertheless, generic references to climate change impact, health promotion, and related issues were identified. These generic references could facilitate the integration of health security aspects in ongoing actions to avert (forced) population movements due to climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation.

The application of the indicators related to environmental insecurity did not identify any climate adaptation strategies or measures focused on implementing ecosystem-based approaches to avert (forced) population movements due to environmental degradation, climate change and disasters. The existing national policy and legal instruments examined also tend to overlook the immobility dimension of environmental drivers and the notion of migration as an adaptation strategy to climatic risks and impacts. Nevertheless, the NSDP presents environmental management provisions that could address environmental migration in BVI. It acknowledges that ecosystem health and sustainability are key to reducing vulnerability as they provide relevant services. As such, the NSDP aims to provide support for the sustainable management and use of natural resources and ecosystems. It thus proposes the implementation of strategic actions, including strengthening governance frameworks of institutions, laws and policies to support environmental sustainability, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, and providing support to facilitate the greening of the economy. While these strategic actions may not be specific to environmental migration and disaster displacement, the potential of the green economy would contribute to environmental sustainability and, thereby, sustainable livelihoods and long-term resilience to natural disasters. This will contribute to safeguarding environmental security and averting environmental degradation and natural disasters as root causes of population displacement and migration across the Territory.

At the national level, policies and governance frameworks generally acknowledge the greater vulnerability of groups such as children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and women to the impacts of disasters and climate change. Despite this recognition, the identified national governance frameworks do not outline any



perceptible measures to address the personal risks or insecurity aspects of migrants, displaced persons, people being relocated, or all due to climate change, disasters, environmental degradation, and in situations of violence. In effect, the issues of protection or safeguarding the personal security of migrants who may be on the move due to climate change and disasters are hardly framed in the context of measures addressing vulnerable groups. The same observation can be made for displaced persons, evacuees or persons being relocated in the wake of a disaster or emergency.

Thus, special attention is needed in promoting or mainstreaming shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) for vulnerable groups in national climate change and DRR policies, legislation and strategies. In this regard, it is to be observed that the NSDP has emphasised the prevention of violence against women and children and youth and other vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, older persons, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex (LGBTQI) individuals. Concerning the growing violence against women, the 2011 Domestic Violence Act (DVA) has provided the legal framework to deal with perpetrators. The NSDP has also made considerations on human trafficking by advocating investment in acquiring modern radar equipment that would help to monitor activities across the marine space and purchase high-speed boats that will be able to intercept traffickers.

BVI has not recorded any violent conflicts or any identifiable form of inter-ethnic tensions and terrorism. Despite the growing incidence of organised crime, BVI has generally witnessed very low crimes since the 1990s and, thereby, one of the safest in the (Eastern) Caribbean. Although issues of community and personal security are governed or addressed as part of existing national laws and other established law enforcement mechanisms, the analysis has not identified any specific policy and legal instruments regulating peacebuilding efforts nor considerations about disarmament programmes at the national level. Furthermore, the (im)migration, climate, and DRR policy documents examined in this assessment do not specify any provisions to protect any potential abuse or discrimination of environmental migrants or displaced populations given their vulnerable circumstances.

Political insecurity in BVI borders on issues of good governance relating to respect for human rights, the rule of law and justice, and freedom of speech or a political dispensation devoid of repression. While BVI has generally made strides regarding respect for human rights as enshrined in the national constitution and international human rights law, freedom of speech and the rule of law, there are still concerns about governance challenges in the Territory. Besides the ongoing measures that are being instituted to consolidate further and promote good governance in the Territory, none of the (im)migration, climate change, and DRR policies and legal instruments that have been examined as part of this assessment has outlined any specific measures relating to the improvement of the rule of law, local governance and leadership concerning addressing environmental migration and disaster displacement in BVI. Given that issues of political security may already be captured as part of existing national constitutional laws and commitments to regional and international frameworks on the protection of human rights and good governance, conscious efforts could be made to also include provisions to protect human security in the wake of environmental migration and disaster development in BVI.

Given the limitations and gaps identified from the national policy assessment, this report has outlined recommendations to support mainstreaming the HSA into existing and upcoming policy strategies or actions in improving the well-being of vulnerable populations in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement in BVI. To this end, this assessment report is structured into five sections. The first section gives a background to climate change, migration and human security in BVI. This is followed by an overview of the scope of the study for this report in the second section. In the third section, the report analyses how the human mobility dimensions of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are addressed in existing national policies and legal frameworks. Afterwards, the discussion narrows down to how the HSA is mainstreamed in strategies to address environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Territory as part of the fourth section. This section also discusses the different insecurities that vulnerable populations or persons on the move may face and how these are specifically addressed in the national governance frameworks identified. The last section discusses the findings and concludes by outlining recommendations on how the HSA could be better integrated into existing and upcoming national policies and legal frameworks. This will help inform measures for enhanced protection and improved socio-economic well-being of vulnerable populations in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement in BVI.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Change, Environmental Change, Disasters, Migration in the British Virgin Islands

The impact of ongoing climate change and related disasters has been the cause of widespread human suffering in almost every part of the globe (Arias et al., 2021). In particular, the increase in frequency and severity of climate hazards such as hurricanes, floods, drought and heatwaves has often caused widespread destruction, loss of life and property and mass displacement of populations (CRED, 2022). As reported by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2022, p. 16), 22.3 million persons out of the 23.7 million were internally displaced by weather-related disasters such as storms, floods, droughts, wildfires, extreme temperatures and landslides in 2021. In the face of ongoing climate change, the SIDS in the Pacific and Caribbean are particularly exposed and vulnerable and, as such, have borne the brunt of the devastation often caused by the related extreme events (Vinke et al., 2020, Mycoo et al., 2022).

As observed in the case of many of the (Eastern) Caribbean States, the BVI has witnessed changes in its long-term climate patterns and adverse impacts over the years (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), 2011; Taylor, 2015; Climate Studies Group Mona, 2020). Long-term records on climatic patterns in BVI point to a gradual warming of an air temperature of up to 0.3°C between 1960 and 2000. Rainfall activity within the period has also become highly variable, with fluctuations in mean annual precipitation. From 1960 to 2000, mean annual precipitation (1140mm) declined by 218mm yearly (UN ECLAC, 2011). Climate projections for BVI indicate that under the medium-high scenario carbon emission scenario, the Territory will witness an increase in mean annual temperatures between 1.0°C and 5°C. At the same time, it will become 25 per cent drier, with rainfall patterns marked by heavy rain events and widespread flooding. The expected changes in the climatic pattern will also increase the frequency and severity of extreme events, such as hurricanes across the Territory.

During the hurricane season 2017, BVI was hit by the passage of Hurricane Irma and Maria (UN ECLAC, 2018). The total cost of losses and damages caused by Hurricane Irma across the different sectors of the economy was pegged at USD 2.3 billion (ibid). Overall, the impact was pronounced in the tourism and hospitality sector, accounting for 41.3 per cent of damages and up to 81.5 per cent of all the losses recorded (UN ECLAC, 2018). Aside from the combined direct effect of Hurricane Irma and Maria on about 17,985 people and with four recorded deaths and 125 reported injuries (Hurricane Irma), it is reported that a total of 6,000 were displaced in 2017 (IDMC, 2018; Climate Studies Group Mona, 2020).

Besides the impact of ongoing climate change in precipitating population movements within the Territory, BVI has long been characterised by different patterns of migration involving the influx of migrant workers from other Caribbean countries, internal movements and migration abroad (Oakes, 1992; GoBVI, 2021b; Thomas-Hope, 2022). The observed mobility patterns have been influenced and shaped by several factors, including economic, environmental and tourism. In particular, the influx of migrants from neighbouring Eastern Caribbean States such as Antigua, Anguilla, Dominica Saint Kitts and Nevis into BVI began in the 1960s to work in the burgeoning tourism sector (ibid.). The inflow of migrants was particularly pronounced between 1980 and 1991 due to the increased demand for labour and the necessary skills to work across the Territory (Roopnarine, 2005). It is estimated that the number of migrants living in BVI increased from 7,588 in 1990 to 9,144 in 2013 (UNICEF, 2013).

Indeed, the 2010 Population Census indicated that 61 per cent of the population was born outside BVI (GoBVI, 2021c). The majority of these immigrants were from other Caribbean States, including Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, the Dominican Republic and the United States of America (USA) (UNICEF, 2013). While the increase in foreign-born population within the period in BVI is marginal, it is to be noted that the existing free movement arrangements within the context of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and OECS have further reinforced mobility patterns within and across the Territory (OECS, 2020 CARICOM, 2023). In addition to sustained migration to other Caribbean States, many other British Virgin Islanders have also migrated to the United Kingdom (UK), France, The Netherlands, Canada and the USA for better economic opportunities, education, or to settle (Roopnarine, 2005; UNICEF, 2013).

Amidst these established mobility patterns across BVI, the impact of ongoing climate change and disasters is expected to further lead to displacement and forced population movements across the country. Several others may be forced to move or seek refuge in neighbouring Caribbean States and abroad. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Maria in 2017, for example, the departure of people to seek refuge elsewhere resulted in a nine per cent decline in the total population within the period (GoBVI, 2021c). The adverse implications of widespread population displacement and forced population movement will undermine human security and ongoing efforts at sustainable development across the Territory.

1.2 Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, Disasters, Migration and Human Security

Given its location as SIDS in the Eastern Caribbean, BVI is exposed and highly vulnerable to climate change and related hazards. While the country has generally been affected by recurring hurricane disasters over the years, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had adverse effects on the national economy and existing socio-economic safety nets across the Territory. As in many (Eastern) Caribbean States, the national economy of BVI is highly dependent on the tourism, agriculture and financial services sectors (UN ECLAC, 2011). After the impact of Hurricane Irma and Maria in 2017, the national economy witnessed a rebound, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth from -2.7 per cent in 2017 to 2.3 per cent in 2018 (CDB, 2018). The rebound of the economy was mainly attributed to increased post-disaster recovery construction activity, improvement in tourism and growth in company incorporations (ibid.).

Following the positive economic recovery, this trend was expected to continue with a projected economic growth of 1 – 3 per cent (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) et al., 2020). However, the impact of COVID-19 and the corresponding austerity measures at both global and national levels affected economic activities, loss of livelihoods and disruption in global supply chains. The effect on the tourism sector led to a decline in tourist arrivals from 305,356 visitors in 2020 to 133,715 by the close of 2021 (GoBVI, 2022a). The lockdown measures that the government instituted to check the spread of COVID-19 also resulted in the majority of the population across the Territory facing limited access to markets, lack of food and income due to disruptions in food supply chains and loss of jobs (World Food Programme (WFP), 2020). Aside from the food insecurity situation reported by most households, many other British Virgin Islanders reported adverse effects on their incomes, psychological well-being, and physical stress (ibid.).

In response to the impact of COVID-19, the Government of BVI instituted social support programmes such as the COVID-19 Income Support Programme to offer cash transfers to support vulnerable populations that have lost their jobs or livelihoods due to the pandemic (GoBVI, 2021a). The government also received USD 362,000 in funding from the United Nations (UN) COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund, COVID-19 MPTF Fund, to support the Income Support Programme (BVI, n.d). More recent projections have pointed to a positive future economic outlook with the rebound of economic activities in the tourism and financial services sectors. Based on the positive outlook, it is projected that the economy will witness a growth of up to 2.9 per cent by the close of 2023 (GoBVI, 2022a). Despite the optimistic future outlook and proposed measures outlined to sustain social and economic progress as part of the national sustainable development agenda, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has eroded safety nets and exacerbated existing socio-economic vulnerabilities and implications for human security.

Given that the country is still undergoing economic recovery, the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will contribute to the protracted displacement of vulnerable populations (UNDP et al., 2020). At the same time, the country is also exposed and vulnerable to climate change, natural disasters and external shocks. Although BVI has generally witnessed the immigration of people to live and work in the wake of its transition to the burgeoning service sector, the compounding impact of COVID-19, climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on vulnerable populations may result in the increased emigration of people to other islands and abroad, in search of economic opportunities and to improve their well-being (UNDP et al., 2020; GoBVI, 2021c). In effect, there is a need for a comprehensive approach to addressing the multi-dimensional challenges and risks that work to undermine human security and ongoing efforts at promoting sustainable development in BVI.

At the national level, the GoBVI has instituted several governance frameworks to improve the quality of life and promote long-term resilience to climate change and disaster impacts across the Territory. Yet, mainstreaming the HSA in existing and upcoming policies or priority actions as part of the CCA, DRM and national development planning has the potential to effectively address the root causes of threats and vulnerability and promote long-term resilience and sustainable development in BVI. This assessment uses the Human Security Policy Assessment Tool (see Annex 2) to examine in what ways existing national policies on disaster displacement, environmental migration, and COVID-19 responses are comprehensive and consider the multi-dimensionality of threats in BVI. It is envisaged that the insights gathered would contribute to mainstreaming human security and human mobility considerations in disaster response and national development planning and enhancing long-term resilience and sustainable development in the Territory.

The rest of this report is further divided into four main sections. The first section gives an overview of the scope of the study for this report. In the second section, the report examines the extent or how the mobility dimensions of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are addressed in existing national governance frameworks. Afterwards, the discussion delves into the specific issue of how the HSA is mainstreamed in strategies aimed at addressing environmental migration and disaster displacement in BVI. Within this section, the analysis and discussion identify and examine the different insecurities that vulnerable populations or persons on the move may face and how these are specifically addressed in the governance frameworks identified. The discussion concludes in the last and fourth section and outlines recommendations on how the HSA could be mainstreamed or better enhanced in existing and upcoming national policies and legal frameworks to promote long-term resilience, inclusive growth and sustainable development in the BVI.

2. SCOPE OF THIS STUDY: ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION, DISASTER DISPLACEMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY POLICY ASSESSMENT TOOL

The Environmental Migration, Disaster Displacement and Human Security Policy Assessment Tool deployed to assess the integration of the HSA into environmental migration and disaster displacement policies and mechanisms has been developed under the auspices of the IOM, the UNTFHS and partners, including the UNFCCC, the OECS Commission and the PDD. The Tool provides the required indicators to assess existing national governance frameworks on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters. The first iteration focuses on nine Eastern Caribbean countries, namely: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The long-term goal is for the tool to be scaled up and deployed in other regions or countries across the globe.

In the context of this report on BVI, the expectation is that applying the HSA will enable a more comprehensive and human-centred approach to addressing environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Territory. It seeks to promote the adequate protection of disaster-displaced populations, environmental migrants, and vulnerable populations from multi-dimensional threats to human security, notably with COVID-19 and future pandemics.

2.1 British Virgin Islands: Country Profile

BVI is a British Overseas Territory with about sixty small islands and cays (see Figure 1). It is located on the leeward side of the Lesser Antilles in the Eastern Caribbean (GoBVI, 2021c). The Territory covers a total land surface area of 147.8 sq. km and has an estimated population of 32,800 people as of 2017 (see Table 1). BVI has generally witnessed sustained economic growth and prosperity due to growth in the tourism and financial services sector (PAHO, 2012). Despite the impact of Hurricane Irma and Maria on the country, the economy recorded GDP growth from 2.3 per cent in 2018 to 2.9 per cent in 2020 (CDB, 2018; GoBVI, 2021c).

In 2021, the economic growth in the country witnessed a contraction with a corresponding decline in GDP of up to 2.2 per cent (GoBVI, 2022a). Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism and related activities in the country, the sector alone contributed about 33 per cent to the GDP. The financial services sector accounted for 17 per cent of the GDP within the period (GoBVI, 2021c). Given the rebound in both the tourism and financial services sector and measures instituted to further boost the economy, it is expected that this will have a ripple effect on other sectors and economic activities in the country. This will translate into a boost in the economy, with growth expected to reach 2.9 per cent by the close of 2023 (GoBVI, 2022a).

Figure 1 Map of the British Virgin Islands



Source: UN Geospatial, 2016

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM

Table 1. Background of Key Socio-Economic Information on the British Virgin Islands

Capital	Road Town
Form of government	Self-governing overseas territory
Location	Lesser Antilles – Eastern Caribbean
Total land area	147.8 Square kilometres (km ²)
Population	32,800 (2017)
Main economic activities	Agriculture and Tourism
GDP (annual growth)	2.2% (2021)

Sources: GoBVI, 2021c, 2022; PAHO, 2012.

Despite the economic recovery and growth that have so far been recorded, there is still uncertainty as to how this relative progress could be consolidated. This is because BVI is not only highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster impacts but that its small open economy is exposed and vulnerable to external shocks such as petroleum price fluctuations, disruption in global supply chains and pandemics, e.g. COVID-19. In line with the national agenda to promote long-term resilience, improved quality of life and sustainable development, the government has developed several governance policies and legal frameworks, and institutional mechanisms to enhance CCA, DRM and environmental management across the islands. The assessment of the identified national policies and legislation and how they integrate human security perspectives and mobility dimensions of environmental migration, climate change and disasters in BVI is further elaborated in the following section.

3. EXISTING POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION AND DISASTER DISPLACEMENT IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

As part of the national policy assessment, twenty-four relevant national policies and legislation were identified for analysis in BVI. Out of these twenty-four relevant national policies and legislation, only ten refer or specify provisions to address human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental change and disasters (see Table 2). As such, only the policy documents that have referred to or made provisions to address human mobility were considered for applying the indicators outlined as part of the Environmental Migration and Human Mobility Assessment Tool.

Table 2. Policy and Legal Instruments that Acknowledge and/or Address Environmental Migration (Human Mobility) In the British Virgin Islands

Governance Sphere	Year	Policy and/or Legal Instrument	References to Human Mobility in the Context of Disasters, Climate Change, and Environmental Degradation
(Im)migration	2020	Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act ^a	No
	2016	Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Regulations ^b	No
Environment	1979	Fisheries Act ^c	No
	1985	Beach Protection Act ^d	No
	2003a	Fisheries Regulations ^e	No
	2005	National Parks Act ^f	No
	2005	Land Surveyors' (Amendment) Act ^g	No
	2007	British Virgin Islands Protected Areas System Plan 2007-2017 ^h	No
Climate change	2012	The Virgin Islands Climate Change Adaptation Policy (CCAP) ⁱ	Yes
Disaster risk reduction	2015	Emergency Shelter Policy ^j	Yes
	1970	Emergency Powers (Disasters) ^k	No
	2003	National Hazard Mitigation Policy for the British Virgin Islands ^l	Yes
	2003	Disaster Management: A Policy Framework ^m	Yes
	2003	Disaster Management Act (DMA) ⁿ	Yes
	2006	National Emergency Welfare & Relief Distribution Policy ^o	No
	2019	The Virgin Islands Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategic Plan (CDMSP) ^p	Yes
	2019	Disaster Management Act (DMA) ^q	Yes
	2021	Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy (CDMP) ^r	Yes
	1977	Public Health Act (Chapter 194) ^s	No
	2004	Physical Planning Act ^t	No
	2000	The British Virgin Islands National Integrated Development Strategy ^u	No
	2014	Medium Term Fiscal Plan 2014-2016 ^v	No
	2019	National Physical Development Plan for the British Virgin Islands ^w	Yes
2021	Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands ^x	Yes	

Sources: GoBVI, 2020a, 2016b, 1979c, 1985d, 2003ae, 2005af, 2005bg, 2007h, 2012i, 2015j, 1970k, 2003bl, 2003cm, 2003dn, 2006o, 2019ap, 2019bq, 2021br, 1977s, 2004t, 2014v, 2019cw, 2021cx; O'Neal, 2000u.

3.1 Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement within National (Im)migration Legal and Policy Frameworks

The Immigration and Passport Ordinance (Cap. 130) governs issues related to (im)migration in the BVI. In addition to listing the Chief Immigration Officer's responsibilities and powers, the legislation inter alia provides for temporary and/or permanent permits of immigrants, their duties on entering the country, and visa exemptions. The Immigration and Passport Ordinance has been amended multiple times. For instance, the 2016 Immigration and Passport (Amendment No.02) Regulations revised the definition of 'entry permit'. They revoked and replaced procedures related to the application and grant of permits, employment of holders of permits, and duties of employers with regard to foreign employees (GoBVI, 2016). Following the enactment of the Advance Passenger Information Act, the 2020 Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act also revoked provisions relating to providing advanced passenger information on crew members and passengers of an aircraft or vessel (GoBVI, 2020).

Despite these observed revisions, the Immigration and Passport Ordinance (Cap. 130) and its subsequent amendments do not acknowledge nor specify any provisions for consideration of persons seeking entry into the Territory due to the impact of climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation. The analysis also reveals that BVI has not yet translated the objectives outlined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration into a comprehensive national migration policy. As such, the country does not present provisions to facilitate effective migration governance to enable safe, orderly, and regular population movements resulting from climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation. More importantly, the formulation of a national migration policy would allow for the recognition of migrants' human rights, promote the special needs of migrants in destination areas, facilitate dignified population movements (both in the context of sudden- and slow-onset events), and enhance coordination among distinct national agencies and departments dealing with issues of migration, climate change, and DRR.

With regard to refugees and related issues, there are no normative instruments or any legal frameworks that enable the granting of refugee status to persons who seek protection due to the impacts of climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation (GoBVI, 2021c). It is to be noted that BVI has not yet ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. This suggests that there are no established protocols or any identified normative instruments on how the issues of granting refugee status or protecting refugees could be addressed. BVI is also yet to translate the provisions of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement outlined by the UN to enhance the protection of the internally displaced through a specific domestic legal or policy document.¹ Moreover, migrants facing crises, e.g. disasters and pandemics, are not supported by any specific measures that promote their access to humanitarian assistance. In this regard, none of the national (im)migration legislation examined stipulates the granting of visas for humanitarian reasons. There are also no established actions related to the suspension of deportation, change of migratory status, and resident permit extension for migrants when their return to the country of origin is hindered by disasters (GoBVI, 2016, 2020).

The free movement protocols within the context of CARICOM and OECS provide the opportunity for environmental migrants and populations displaced by disasters to circulate freely across the Member States within the region.² While the right to free movement may be exercised in such circumstances, there are no specified protocols as to the extension of protection to environmental migrants or displaced populations seeking refuge in BVI to enhance their recovery, (re)integration and well-being. Despite the seeming limitations, the regional free movement arrangements provide the opportunity to refine the inherent rights to include provisions to enhance the protection of environmental migrants or populations displaced or unable to move due to the impact of climate change and disaster impact in BVI.

3.2 Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement within National Climate or Environmental Legal and Policy Frameworks, or Both

A total of seven national policies addressing environment and related issues were identified as part of the assessment. These include (i) the 1979 Fisheries Act and (ii) 2003 Fisheries Regulations, (iii) the 1985 Beach Protection Act, (iv) the 2005 National Parks Act, (v) the British Virgin Islands Protected Areas System Plan 2007-2017, (vi) the 2005 Land Surveyor's Act, and (vii) the National Physical Development Plan (GoBVI, 1979,

¹ See United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 2004.

² It is to be highlighted that the British Virgin Islands is an Associate Member of the CARICOM and of the OECS.

2003a, 1985, 2005a, 2005b, 2007, 2019c). All these policies and legal frameworks are primarily aimed at enhancing environment management and sustainability in BVI. As shown in Table 3, the analysis indicates that none of the aforementioned environmental policies and legal frameworks refers to or make any provisions to address the distinct dimensions of human mobility in the context of climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation.

Besides the aforementioned policy and legal frameworks, the National Physical Development Plan is worth mentioning (GoBVI, 2019c). Backed by the 2004 Physical Planning Act (No.15)³, the National Physical Development Plan aims to guide land use planning decisions in the country. It is a key document referring to all BVI land use and development considerations (GoBVI, 2004, 2019c). The National Physical Development Plan provides a comprehensive strategy supporting growth, climate resilience, sustainable land management, DRR and sustainability. By addressing distinct topics of relevance, the Plan outlines wide-ranging strategies to achieve several key objectives. These strategies will look to inter alia identify land use policies to guide development, incorporate ways to reduce hazard risk and mitigate the impacts of climate change, assist in disaster resilience and preparedness, support sustainable development through information and vulnerability data and modelling, and create spatial planning strategies for land and growth management (ibid.).

The Plan has a specific sub-section on resilience to hazards and climate change. It recommends that new infrastructure should be located in less vulnerable areas and designed to be resilient to hazards and should be built to remain active following such events. More importantly, the Plan highlights that existing infrastructure in vulnerable areas may be considered for relocation to protect public safety. In this regard, the Plan directs that “[...] existing development in extremely vulnerable areas that have been significantly impacted by natural hazards or other events, or that would require significant renovation, shall be relocated to allow for systematic migration of structures away from these vulnerable areas over time” (GoBVI, 2019c, p.93).

Concerning climate policies submitted to the UNFCCC, the BVI as a British overseas territory⁴ does not develop National Communications (NCs) or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Nevertheless, the Virgin Islands CCAP was formed in 2012. The CCAP aims to facilitate a national process towards achieving a low-carbon and climate-resilient development in contributing to sustainable economic growth and livelihoods to promote good human health, culture and a sustainable environment for the present and future generations (GoBVI, 2012). To this end, the CCAP has set out the objectives to inter alia enhance the resilience and natural adaptive capacity of natural resources, promote an environmentally responsible tourism industry, minimise the vulnerability of insured and mortgaged properties to the impacts of climate change, and strengthen food security by expanding local agricultural production and increasing its resilience to climate change. Regarding the adverse impact of climate change on human mobility, the CCAP recognises that homes located in coastal zones are at greater risk of damage from disaster events and sea level rise. Hence, it recommends the development of a long-term plan – within the context of the aforementioned National Physical Development Plan – for the relocation of critical infrastructure situated in areas highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (ibid.).

In contrast to the CCAP, the NSDP, Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands, may be considered the main policy document currently addressing climate change nationally (GoBVI, 2021c). Essentially, the NSDP seeks to reduce the risk of hazards and to promote sustainable adaptation to the impacts of climate change. It recognises that most infrastructure and settlements are located in the low-lying coastal zone of the national territory and, as such, are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster impacts. Regarding the distinct dimensions of human mobility in the context of climate change, the Plan makes generic references to the human displacement of students and labour due to infrastructure destruction caused by Hurricane Irma (ibid.).

3.3 Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement within National DRR Legal and Policy Frameworks

In BVI, disaster preparedness, management, and recovery are governed by the 1970 Emergency Powers (Disasters) Act (GoBVI, 1970). The Act provides the framework and power for declaring an emergency at the

³The Act established the following goals for land use planning: “(i) to foster the awareness that all persons and organisations owning, occupying and developing land have a duty to use that land with due regard for the wider interests of both present and future society as a whole; (ii) to maintain and improve the quality of the physical environment within which patterns of human settlement are situated in the Territory; (iii) to achieve orderly, economical and beneficial development and use of land and patterns of human settlement; (iv) to assist in the orderly, efficient and equitable planning, allocation and development of the resources of the Territory taking account of all relevant social, economic and environmental factors so as to ensure that the most efficient, equitable and environmentally sustainable use is made of land in the interests of all the people in the Territory; (v) to provide for the orderly sub-division of land and the provision of services in relation to land; (vi) to protect and conserve the cultural heritage of the Territory as it finds expression in the natural and the built environment; and (vii) to facilitate a continuous improvement in the quality of life of all the people in the Territory” (GoBVI, 2019c: 14).

⁴In other words, the British Virgin Islands is an internally self-governing overseas territory of the UK.

the Act provides for the requisitioning of supply and distribution of food, clothing, water, fuel and other necessities of life during and/or in the aftermath of an emergency situation (ibid.). To streamline all existing legislation addressing disasters at the national level, the Disaster Management Act (DMA) was approved by the government in 2003. In addition to designating the functions and powers of the Department of Disaster Management, the DMA provided for the establishment of a National Disaster Management Council. It also outlines the procedures to be conducted by emergency operation centres and shelters, the obligations of public officers during disasters or emergencies, the development of national alert systems, and the creation of an emergency disaster fund (GoBVI, 2003d). More importantly, the DMA has recommended the formulation of a National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) that will include “procedures to apply if the evacuation of the residents of any area is considered to be desirable in the event of a disaster emergency” (GoBVI, 2003d, p.11).

Alongside the DMA, the government also released two policy documents addressing disaster management within the Territory – these include (i) the Disaster Management: A Policy Framework and (ii) the National Hazard Mitigation Policy (NHMP) (GoBVI, 2003b, 2003c). The former sets out the national disaster management policy for BVI, which advocates the involvement of public institutions, the private sector, and civil society organisations. It seeks to establish the necessary systems, structures, programmes, resources, capabilities and guiding principles for reducing risks and preparing for and responding to disasters at the national level (GoBVI, 2003c). On the other hand, the latter seeks to contribute to national sustainable development by reducing the population's vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. To this end, the NHMP outlines the objective to inter alia develop an integrated framework to address DRR, enhance policy and legal frameworks in support of DRR, strengthen the capacities of institutions and individuals involved in DRM, and empower communities to manage hazard risks (GoBVI, 2003b).

The 2006 National Emergency Welfare and Relief Distribution Policy is another normative BVI disaster management framework. Besides promoting a coordinated approach to disaster relief in the country, the policy aims to provide adequate relief to affected populations and to guide the development of a national relief plan (GoBVI, 2006). Despite seeking to establish a mechanism for managing and distributing relief supplies and a system for disaster assistance and financial compensation, the policy is silent about the distinct dimensions of human mobility that arise from disasters (ibid.). In this context, the 2015 Emergency Shelter Policy is worth mentioning, as it outlines a general commitment and specific actions to be undertaken at the national level to provide shelter for persons in need during disasters and related emergencies (GoBVI, 2015). The policy document emphasised that emergency shelters are not expected to serve as permanent homes to evacuees and that particular attention is to be given to low-income groups, older persons, the handicapped, and other vulnerable groups – which could include environmental migrants (ibid.).

In 2019, the government enacted a new DMA by repealing the 2003 DMA. The new 2019 DMA provides a comprehensive framework for disaster management in BVI. It stipulates the rights and obligations of the country within the context of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) (GoBVI, 2019b). The new 2019 DMA has also outlined provisions to facilitate consultations before evacuation processes and actions relating to notice of evacuation. Following up on the provisions established by the 2019 DMA, the government released the Virgin Islands CDMSP 2019-2025, which inter alia advocates the development of procedures to guide labour and immigration considerations after disasters and for the revision of the Immigration and Passport Ordinance and Labour Code to support disaster response and recovery (GoBVI, 2021b).

The long-term vision of the CDMSP is to promote safe, healthier and greener (SMART) communities through comprehensive disaster management. In this light, the CDMSP looks to establish the necessary systems, structures, resources and guiding principles to enhance DRM and recovery from emergencies caused by natural and man-made hazards (GoBVI, 2021b). The overall goal is to minimise human suffering from disasters and related emergencies, reduce economic losses and damages from hazard impacts, and protect the integrity of the terrestrial and marine environments. Regarding the distinct dimensions of human mobility in the context of disasters, the CDMSP underlines the need to approve management guidelines to ensure consistency in the application of relief assistance in the wake of disasters or emergencies. While the CDMSP is not explicit on the circumstances of displaced populations or environmental migrants, the inherent measures target vulnerable and affected populations in the wake of disasters or emergencies. While the

aforementioned policy and legal frameworks have referred to and outlined strategies to enhance evacuation processes to avert the impacts of disasters at the national level, none of the aforementioned policy documents present provisions related to the human rights of evacuees.

Besides the aforementioned DRR governance frameworks, several other policy frameworks have also outlined strategies to enhance DRM in the country. For instance, the National Physical Development Plan 2019 calls for a development model incorporating suitable measures for the country's resilience to climate change hazards and other adverse effects according to local codes, standards and regional guidelines (GoBVI, 2019c). Concerning emergency preparedness, the Plan emphasises the need to identify emergency access routes in the event of hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes or floods. It also advocates the development of operational plans to assist in disaster preparedness and management (ibid.). Besides suggesting the development of emergency shelters by considering the location's safety, resilient construction and accessibility, the Plan highlights that existing infrastructure in extremely vulnerable areas may be considered for relocation to protect public safety (ibid.).

Although some of the aforementioned policy documents were established after adopting the Sendai Framework for DRR, the assessment identifies that they do not consider all the stages of the human displacement cycle due to disasters. There are also no provisions for effective measures to protect displaced people in such contexts. Similarly, the existing DRR legal instruments and other policies do not outline strategies that allow affected individuals to participate in decision-making processes. With regard to the inclusion of the topic into preparedness and response plans, the provisions on the right of displaced people to humanitarian assistance and considerations of migrants affected by disasters in BVI, are also non-existent. Lastly, no measures were identified in the DRR legal and policy instruments examined about information sharing and training on disaster-related human displacement for official actors, civil society, and communities affected or at risk. In this context, no normative instruments and related mechanisms to promote access to information and the participation of displaced people, people at risk of displacement, and local or host communities in actions related to disaster-related displacement were identified during the assessment.

4. THE INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN SECURITY PERSPECTIVE INTO POLICY AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS THAT ADDRESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION AND DISASTER DISPLACEMENT IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

This section analyses the extent to which the human security perspective is reflected in national policy and legal instruments. The analysis is divided into seven sub-sections, each representing a distinct type of human (in)security arising from environmental migration and disaster displacement.

4.1 Economic (In)security

At the national level, BVI has generally witnessed relative improvement in the population's quality of life. Nevertheless, the Territory has seen increasing poverty levels and inequality among the population (GoBVI, 2021c). Although BVI recently launched a country-wide assessment of living conditions across the islands,⁵ the available evidence indicates that 29 per cent of households recorded monthly income of less than USD 1,400 as of 2010 (ibid). The poverty assessment that was conducted in 2003 revealed that 22 per cent of the population was poor (PAHO, 2012). Similar observations in the 2010 Population Census indicated that 9.9 per cent of the working-age population reported incomes below USD 700 (GoBVI, 2021c). Despite the observed levels of poverty and inequality, it is noted that unemployment levels have generally remained low at about 3 per cent from 2006 to 2009 (PAHO, 2012). Recent estimates from the 2015 Labour Force Survey have pointed to an increase in national unemployment rates from 2.8 per cent in 2015 to 5.5 per cent in 2019 (GoBVI, 2021c).

Given the impact of climate-related disasters like Hurricane Maria and Irma in 2017 and the recent COVID-19 pandemic on the national economy, many people have lost their livelihoods and with adverse effects on quality of life (UN ECLAC, 2011, 2018; WFP, 2020; UNDP et al., 2020). The observed high levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment indicate that women, children and immigrants are the most affected (GoBVI, 2021c). As part of the long-term vision to build an inclusive society and safeguard human security, the government has developed several policies and strategies to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters, poverty reduction and improve the quality of life of populations across the islands.

Although (im)migrants in Territory have been identified as one of the most affected by poverty and high levels of unemployment, it is noted that the Immigration and Passport Ordinance (Cap. 130) and its amendment regulations have not outlined any measures or provisions targeted at addressing poverty, unemployment, and inequality in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement. The assessment has also not identified any proposed livelihood alternatives and income diversification for those who migrate, have been displaced, and/or relocated in the context of climate change, disasters, and/or environmental degradation. The application of the indicators related to economic (in)security reveals the lack of measures to ensure livelihood sustainability in the wake of population movements. The Immigration and Passport Ordinance (Cap. 130) does not specify measures to promote access to education, skills training and development activities.

On the other hand, the legal instruments on the climate, environment and DRR agenda often make generic references to the distinct aspects of economic (in)security, such as poverty and unemployment. Nonetheless, such concerns are not directly associated with population movements in the context of climate change, disasters, and/or environmental degradation. For instance, the British Virgin Islands Protected Areas System Plan 2007-2017 underlined that the effective management of protected areas might provide a range of environmental, economic, and social benefits, including poverty alleviation and conflict resolution (GoBVI, 2007). As earlier noted, both the Disaster Management Policy Framework and the CDMSP 2019 -2025 aim to advance an approach to disaster management that focuses on reducing the risk of loss of life, economic disruption and damage to the environment, especially to those sections of the population who are most vulnerable due to poverty and a general lack of resources (GoBVI, 2003c, 2021b). In line with these identified action areas, the NHMP has also emphasised that an integrated approach to hazard risk management is key to averting several pressing socio-economic concerns, such as poverty alleviation, unemployment, and improving education and health care facilities (GoBVI, 2003b).

⁵<https://pressroom.oecs.org/bvi-launches-country-assessment-of-living-conditions>.

In addressing the challenge of rising unemployment in the country, the NSDP - Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands - has called for greater local participation in the labour market, especially in tourism-related activities that rely on foreign labour. It also draws attention to the need to harness the potential of the youth through reforms in the education systems that will incorporate skills training, job training, civics, culture and heritage to prepare young persons for the workplace and address the vulnerability and enhance the participation women in the national labour force (GoBVI, 2021c). In acknowledging the importance of quality education to addressing poverty and vulnerability and achieving sustainable human development, the NSDP has indicated the commitment to improve access to education services and the performance of children and to build the capacity of service providers, e.g. teachers (ibid.).

To build human capital in driving a knowledge-based economy and competitiveness in the Territory, the NSDP has outlined strategies to provide educational opportunities for all, focusing on lifelong learning and inclusiveness. The focus is also on early childhood education, investment in world-class education, science, technology, and innovation, and the strategy to align education and training with the needs of the labour market (ibid.). Another commitment is to eliminate poverty and related vulnerabilities at the national level by establishing nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees that ensure access to essential health care, adequate cash transfers for those in need, including children, benefits and support for people of working age in cases of maternity, disability, work injury, or for those without jobs, and pensions for older populations (GoBVI, 2021c). Given the provisions outlined to address the economic insecurities of vulnerable groups, the generic considerations provide the opportunity to integrate the circumstances and needs of vulnerable or affected populations who have been displaced, forced to move or unable to do so due to climate change and disaster impact. This would help to adequately address the rising levels of unemployment and poverty across the islands

4.2 Food (In)security

The Government of BVI recognises the importance of food security to ensuring public health and addressing the rising food import bill that tends to undermine food access, especially for the vulnerable. However, poor soils, environmental degradation, climate change and lack of appropriate technology and inputs have undermined the progress of agriculture (crop farming) and fisheries in the country. This has resulted in over 90 per cent of the food being imported, with the food import bill estimated at USD 35 million in 2017 (GoBVI, 2021c). Aside from the impact of Hurricane Maria and Irma on agricultural production, the Greenhouse Project that the government initiated to boost farming and productivity was also destroyed (ibid.). Given the priority to support farmers and fishermen to help BVI become food self-sufficient, the government has outlined strategies and policy frameworks to include the 2022 Virgin Islands FSSA (GoBVI, 2022b).

Specifically, the FSSA provides the framework to promote food security and sustainability in BVI. It gives the legal basis for the establishment and inherent powers of the Agriculture and Fisheries Management Unit and the Virgin Islands Agriculture and Fisheries Authority in effectively managing the country's agricultural sector and fisheries resources (GoBVI, 2022b). One of the main aims of the FSSA is to put the necessary institutional structures and mechanisms in place to ensure sound and sustainable access to food produced across the Territory. Another aim is to minimise the impact of climate change and disasters on agricultural and fishery resources (ibid.). To translate the vision of promoting food security and sustainable access to food for all, the FSSA has tasked the aforementioned institutions and relevant ministries to develop a policy and strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Production, Food Security and Food Safety. This policy and corresponding strategy are to guide ongoing efforts at ensuring sustainable food production management and use of food for Virgin Islanders, residents and visitors to the Territory while also outlining measures to address the impact of climate change and disasters on food production.⁶ While this assessment has not been able to ascertain whether the proposed policy and strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Production, Food Security and Food Safety in BVI has yet been developed, the NSDP has advanced some strategies to promote food security across the Territory. Most significantly, it proposes developing, adopting, or both advanced agricultural technologies and constructing effective transportation systems to enhance food production, availability and access for all.

⁶ See GoBVI, 2022a, p.24.

Within the context of the national policy and legal instruments dealing with (im)migration, climate change, and DRR, it is revealed that they do not present any provisions that promote enhanced food assistance and nutrient supply in environmental migration and disaster displacement. Although there have been some references to the distinct aspects of food and nutrition security in the climate and DRR policy documents that were examined, the assessment did not identify any provisions targeted at enhancing the capacities of displaced populations or environmental migrants to pursue alternative agricultural production response to climate change and DRR, e.g. sheltered farming. There are also specified measures to address the food and nutrition challenges of populations trapped in protracted displacement and those on the move or relocated due to climate change and disasters.

The CCAP has, for instance, highlighted the impact of climate change on agricultural production due to the decline in rainfall activity and soil degradation and the related increase of pests, diseases and invasive species within the national Territory (GoBVI, 2012). As a priority to make the agricultural sector more resilient to climate variability and shocks, the CCAP has outlined several actions to include the training and implementation of best practices for droughts, pests and related diseases, promote the production of improved and productive crops and livestock varieties and investment in agricultural technologies to control climate and diseases (ibid.). It is envisaged that the implementation and design of the appropriate institutional and policy framework would contribute to ensuring food self-sufficiency and, thereby, food and nutrition security across the islands.

About DRR policy instruments addressing the distinct aspects of food (in)security, both of the DMAs released by the government have stipulated the development of an NDMP that outlines protocols to ensure food availability and supply in the wake of a disaster or emergency (GoBVI, 2003d, 2019b). In particular, the 2003 DMA (No.3) outlines the need to develop an NDMP that will include “procedures for the release, distribution and replenishment of emergency stores of supplies of food, water, clothing and medical supplies during a threatened hazard alert [...]” (GoBVI, 2003d, p.10). The CDMSP has also indicated that the types of assistance offered during and in the aftermath of a disaster will vary according to the circumstances – but may include inter alia food relief, shelter, medical assistance, and financial grants (GoBVI, 2021b).

Despite the limited considerations in addressing the food and nutrition challenges that often arise with environmental migration and displacement, the generic references provide avenues to integrate or extend the proposed strategies to include considerations for displaced populations and vulnerable populations that are being relocated or trapped in protracted displacement due to disaster impact or climate change. More importantly, considerations could be made to integrate measures in safeguarding food and nutrition security in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement as part of the proposed policy and strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Production, Food Security and Food Safety BVI outlined by the FSSA (GoBVI, 2022b).

4.3 Health (In)security

None of the national (im)migration policies and legal instruments examined has outlined any provisions for improved access to basic healthcare for environmental migrants. Moreover, they also do not stipulate specific measures to strengthen overall population health and well-being. No measures are outlined to enhance the provision of water, basic nutrition, and good sanitation or to cope with situations of immobility in the event of pandemics. The existing national climate and environmental policies and legal instruments do not stipulate any specific provisions to promote access to basic healthcare for the distinct categories of environmental migrants.

Nevertheless, generic references to climate change impact and to promote health and related issues were identified. These generic references could facilitate the integration of health security aspects in ongoing actions to avert (forced) population movements due to climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation. For instance, the CCAP indicates that the impact of a changing climate is likely to increase not only the frequency and severity of respiratory and environmentally transmitted diseases but also the risk of damage to healthcare facilities and the greater threat of epidemics and pandemics (GoBVI, 2012). In this light, the CCAP has outlined directives aimed at controlling climate-induced diseases, increasing the resilience of the population to the associated health impacts, reducing the vulnerability of healthcare infrastructure, and enhancing the capacity of the healthcare sector to effectively address the effects of climate change on human health (ibid.). To translate these directives, the CCAP calls for improved healthcare infrastructure and services, and the revision, update, or national policies and legal frameworks on health and related issues, integrated approaches to managing vector-borne diseases, and enhanced health education (ibid.).

Concerning the DRR policy documents examined as part of the assessment, both DMAs call for the formulation of an NDMP that outlines the procedures to allow for the provision of essential supplies, including medical supplies, in the wake of disasters or emergencies (GoBVI, 2003d, 2019b). Also, the proposed NDMP shall cover procedures for safeguarding the population against epidemics during a threatened hazard alert. The Disaster Management Policy Framework has underscored that emergency responses require coordinated actions of distinct sectors, such as the health sector. It stresses the need for the health sector to be provided with the necessary equipment, training and supplies to help execute its mandate of saving lives in emergencies (GoBVI, 2003c).

The NHMP also draws attention to the impacts of climate change on human health and, thus, recommends an integrated approach to addressing hazard risk management and related socio-economic concerns, such as adequate access to healthcare facilities (GoBVI, 2003b). These propositions on safeguarding health security in the wake of disaster or emergency are also highlighted in the context of the CDMSP. Specifically, the CDMSP specifies the types of assistance that may be offered - including medical assistance during and in the aftermath of a disaster (GoBVI, 2021b). This said, the existing DRR legislation in BVI enables the provision of health assistance to people affected by disasters, which could encompass displaced persons and evacuees. However, the policy documents examined do not provide for good sanitation in shelters before, during, and in the aftermath of a disaster. There are also no specified measures to avert or address vulnerability to infectious diseases in the context of shelters.

Health (in)security has also received some attention in the NSDP, Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands, which is guided by the principle of safeguarding access to good health, better drinking water, and waste disposal for all the population. In addition to strengthening the public health system to give more access to vulnerable groups and promoting healthy lifestyles, the NSDP calls for enhanced health services across all the islands within the Territory to avert the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (GoBVI, 2021c). To ensure that the distinct aspects of health security of the population are considered as a key component in policy- and decision-making processes, the NSDP envisages increasing life expectancy and reducing health morbidity. It also seeks to deliver quality health services and care through the following strategic actions: ensure adequate financing and investment in inclusive health, create world-class health infrastructure, reduce the disease burden for non-communicable, emerging communicable and mental health diseases, and ensure equal access to high-quality healthcare. Other aims are focused on improving the quality of healthcare and services by including all persons with disabilities, strengthening the linkages between human health and the environment, and developing the national health system to become climate resilient (ibid.).

4.4 Environmental (In)security

The national policy assessment also examined how environmental insecurity is being addressed at the national level and the inherent considerations for the circumstances of environmental migrants or displaced populations. The analysis indicates that none of the examined (in)migration, climate, and DRR policy and legal instruments have outlined any measures or strategies targeted at addressing the distinct aspects of environmental (in)security of those who migrate, have been displaced, and/or relocated as a result of climate change, disasters, environmental degradation, or all. As such, applying the environmental (in)security indicators did not identify any climate adaptation strategies or measures focused on implementing ecosystem-based approaches to avert (forced) population movements due to environmental degradation, climate change and disasters. Similarly, the existing policy and legal instruments at the national level overlook the immobility dimension of environmental drivers and the notion of migration as an adaptation strategy to climatic risks and impacts.

Nevertheless, the NSDP, Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands, presents environmental management provisions that could address environmental migration in BVI. The outlined national outcome 19 (Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources) of the NSDP acknowledges that ecosystem health and sustainability are key to reducing vulnerability. As such, the NSDP aims to promote a clean and healthy environment for all Virgin Islanders by 2036 (GoBVI, 2021c). This national outcome seeks to support sustainable management and using natural resources and ecosystems. It thus proposes the implementation of strategic actions, including strengthening governance frameworks of institutions, laws and policies to support environmental sustainability, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, providing support to facilitate the greening of the economy, and creating strategies to capitalise on the blue and green economies within the context of sustainable development. Another priority action related to the greening of the economy is the proposition to advance sustainable, green accessible and liveable communities across the islands (ibid.).

While these strategic actions may not be specific to environmental migration and disaster displacement, the potential of the green economy will contribute to environmental sustainability and, thereby, sustainable

livelihoods and long-term resilience to natural disasters. This will contribute to safeguarding environmental security and averting environmental degradation and natural disasters as root causes of population displacement and migration across the Territory.

4.5 Personal (In)security

The examined national (im)migration, climate, and DRR national policy and legal instruments mostly acknowledge the greater vulnerability of groups such as children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and women to the impacts of disasters and climate change. Despite this recognition, the identified national governance frameworks do not outline any perceptible measures to address the personal risks or insecurity aspects of migrants, displaced persons, and/or people being relocated due to climate change, disasters, and/or environmental degradation and in situations of violence, e.g. injuries and killings of migrants' community members. Furthermore, they do not stipulate the improvement of local governance, the implementation of law enforcement systems, or leadership strategies to cope with such groups of individuals. In effect, the issues of protection or safeguarding the personal security of migrants who may be on the move due to climate change and disasters are hardly framed in the context of measures addressing the circumstances of vulnerable groups. The same observation can be made for displaced persons, evacuees or persons being relocated in the wake of a disaster or emergency. Thus, attention is needed to promote or mainstream SRSP for vulnerable groups in national climate change and DRR policies, legislation and strategies.

The NSDP notes, for example, that crimes relating to domestic violence and assault have generally fluctuated but at a lower level in the country. Within 2014 and 2019, 767 domestic violence cases were recorded, with the majority of victims being females (GoBVI, 2021c). The government has indicated the commitment to strengthen policy and legal frameworks to promote transparency and accountability at different scales in extending protection to these identified groups against abuse (ibid.). Concerning the growing violence against women, the 2011 Domestic Violence Act (DVA) has provided the legal framework to deal with perpetrators. Despite the enactment of the DVA, the NSDP indicates that efforts should be made to institute preventive interventions to further reduce domestic violence at the national level (ibid.).

The NSDP has also considered human trafficking as one of the root causes of personal (in)security. In particular, it draws attention to human smugglers who aim to illegally bring persons to the United States Virgin Islands and often – deliberately or mistakenly – land persons in BVI instead. Given that the government does not have facilities to deal with an influx of persons who enter the country in such conditions, the NSDP has reiterated the need to secure the national borders to cope with the issues of drug and human trafficking. Besides recommending adequate training for officers involved in border control, the NSDP has also emphasised the need to acquire modern radar equipment that will help monitor activities across BVI's marine space and purchase high-speed boats that will intercept traffickers (ibid.).

4.6 Community (In)security

The British Virgin Islands has not recorded any violent conflicts or any identifiable form of inter-ethnic tensions and terrorism. Despite the growing incidence of organised crime, BVI has generally witnessed very low crimes since the 1990s and, thereby, one of the safest in the (Eastern) Caribbean (World Bank, 2023). The homicide rate in the country, for instance, was estimated at 33.5 per 100,000 people in 2017. This declined drastically to 8.6 per 100,000 people in 2020 (GoBVI, 2021c). Although issues of community and personal security are governed or addressed as part of existing national laws and other established law enforcement mechanisms, the analysis has not identified any specific policy and legal instruments regulating peacebuilding efforts nor considerations about disarmament programmes at the national level. Furthermore, the (im)migration, climate, and DRR policy documents examined as part of this assessment do not specify any provisions to protect any potential abuse or discrimination of environmental migrants or displaced populations, given their vulnerable circumstances.

Indeed, the policy documents that acknowledge the increased incidence of (forced) population movements in such contexts tend to overlook tensions or situations of discrimination faced by environmental migrants. Given that promoting community security will also depend mainly on sustainable (re)integration of individuals who move due to distinct push and pull factors, the analysis indicates that the existing national policy and legal instruments on (im)migration, climate change, DRR, and related topics do not provide for the adequate integration of environmental migrants or persons who may have been displaced or being relocated due to disaster impact.

The NSDP, Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands, provides the avenue for enhanced community security in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement. This is in view of the fact that the overarching goal of the NSDP is to ensure sustainable and balanced development for all and ensure the effective participation of all citizens in the national development process (GoBVI, 2021c). In line with this goal, the outlined national outcome 17 of the NSDP aims to strengthen dialogue systems with citizens, increase public engagement on relevant and contemporary issues, foster the development of community groups and associations that support the development of public speaking, and encourage the private sector to increase dialogue with businesses to ensure a focus on decent work (ibid.). Aside from strengthening existing law enforcement mechanisms to improve citizen security, the proposition to enhance participation in national development could be extended to include sustainable integration of environmental migrants, equal opportunities and access to social protection. Hence, measures to improve community cohesion would be relevant to safeguarding both community and personal security for environmental migrants or displaced populations as vulnerable groups.

4.7 Political (In)security

Political insecurity borders on issues of good governance relating to respect for human rights, the rule of law and justice and freedom of speech or a political dispensation devoid of repression. While BVI has generally made strides regarding respect for human rights as enshrined in the national constitution, international human rights law, freedom of speech and the rule of law, concerns still relate to governance challenges in the Territory (Loft, 2022). Besides the ongoing measures that are being instituted to consolidate further and promote good governance in the Territory, none of the (im)migration, climate change, and DRR policies and legal instruments that have been examined as part of this assessment has outlined any specific measures relating to the improvement of the rule of law, local governance and leadership about addressing environmental migration and disaster displacement in BVI. Given that issues of political security may already be captured as part of existing national constitutional laws and commitments to regional and international frameworks on the protection of human rights and good governance, conscious efforts could also be made to include provisions to protect human security in the wake of environmental migration and disaster displacement in BVI.

In contrast to the gaps identified within the (im)migration, climate change, DRR policies and legal instruments, the analysis has revealed some references to the distinct aspects of political (in)security in the NSDP, Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands. In particular, Goal 3 of the NSDP emphasises the pursuit of good governance, deepening democracy, and creating an efficient public sector guided by accountability, transparency and trust (GoBVI, 2021c). By recognising that citizens have the right to demand that the government delivers high-quality goods and services, the NSDP highlights the aim to streamline government processes and procedures, facilitate better decision-making, and foster transparency and accountability to check corruption (ibid.). In line with this aim, the government looks to build new, improve, or both various law enforcement infrastructures. Another strategy is to support the reform and enhancement of key security and justice institutions by strengthening their capacities to ensure a more efficient, fair, and equitable justice system. This will include strengthening the capacities of public policies and rule-of-law institutions, civil society organisations, and modernising the existing national law enforcement infrastructure.

The proposed reforms could thus provide an opportunity to integrate considerations to allow for the participation of vulnerable populations in the context of disaster impacts and also in decision-making and political processes concerning their well-being. This will not only empower environmental migrants and community cohesion but also allow for the design of effective programmes to enhance the protection of human security. Concerning promoting accountable, transparent and effective governance, the NSDP has

indicated the need to protect citizen security and the human rights of populations whose lives and basic freedoms are threatened due to direct violence or through institutional restrictions to justice. The recommendation is also to strengthen relevant national institutions – including through international cooperation – for building capacity at all levels to prevent and combat crime and to continue to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels (ibid.).

4.8 Alignment of Policies and Measures to the Fundamental Principles of the HSA

The HSA presents a comprehensive approach to addressing multi-dimensional risks that work to undermine population well-being and quality of life. Its potential lies in the fact that, as an operational HSA, it is people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific, and prevention-oriented. It also promotes protecting and empowering people and communities (UNTFHS, 2016, p.7). The aforementioned five fundamental principles are mutually reinforcing as they work together to comprehensively address complex and multi-dimensional risks and achieve the desired impact.

As revealed by national policy analysis, it is evident that several measures and priority actions have been instituted to address challenges to population well-being and to improve the quality of life across the islands. In particular, the Government of BVI has reiterated its commitment to address growing poverty and inequality, food insecurity, climate change and disaster impact in the Territory. In terms of food and nutrition security, for instance, the FSSA has served to guide and designate appropriate institutions to ensure the availability and sustainable access to the Territory. The FSSA has recommended developing a policy and strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Production, Food Security and Food Safety within one year to achieve this priority. In effect, the FSSA is not only people-centred given the stipulated actions to ensure food security, but also outlined preventive measures to forestall any threats to food scarcity in the Territory.

As the main national development framework, the NSDP, Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands, has also outlined several strategies and priority actions to promote CCA, resilience, poverty reduction and DRR in pursuit of the long-term vision of building an inclusive society, improved quality and sustainable development in BVI. The NSDP indicates that the high vulnerability of BVI to climate change and disasters is compounded by its limited economic base and dependence on nature-based tourism (ibid.). It thus calls for national policy responses to be anticipatory rather than reactive. As such, the NSDP advocates an integrated approach to risk management that considers the broader issues of climate change and the urgency to advance the mainstreaming of disaster management and climate change into socio-economic decision-making processes.

To build human capital, in driving a knowledge-based economy and competitiveness in the Territory, for instance, the NSDP has outlined strategies to include the provision of educational opportunities for all with a focus on lifelong learning and inclusiveness with a focus on early childhood education, investment in world-class education, science, technology, and innovation, and align education and training with needs of the labour market. Considering the growing incidents of domestic violence, the NSDP has emphasised the prevention of violence against women and children and youth and other vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, older persons, and LGBTQI individuals. While the government has formulated the DVA as a response to ensure personal security across the Territory, the NSDP has indicated that efforts should be targeted at instituting preventive interventions as a way to further reduce the incidence of domestic violence at the national level.

The insights derived from the analysis of national policies in BVI reveal that the priority measures and actions can generally be seen to be people-centred. While the government's goal has always been to improve the quality of life and enhance the protection and empowerment of, especially, the vulnerable in the Territory, the measures often outlined have mostly been generic. The steps often outlined tend to overlook or do not include considerations to address the vulnerable circumstances of environmental migrants and populations displaced due to disasters or the COVID-19 pandemic across the islands. Given that the measures often outlined tend to focus on protecting vulnerable groups such as women, children, the aged and persons living with disabilities, the existing and upcoming measures could be extended to include the vulnerable circumstances of environmental migrants and displaced populations in safeguarding human security in the wake of multi-dimensional risks to population well-being in BVI.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As highlighted in the preceding analysis, the impact of ongoing climate change, environmental degradation and disasters have continued to affect and pose significant risks to the national economy and vulnerable populations across BVI. The compounding impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has not only exacerbated existing socio-economic vulnerabilities but also undermined human security and prospects of achieving the long-term vision of improved and inclusive growth and sustainable development across the Territory. Although the government has instituted several policy frameworks and social protection strategies to enhance CCA, DRM and sustainable development, the country is still grappling with the long-term effects of Hurricanes Maria and Irma and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national economy and the vulnerable populations across the islands.

While the insights from the policy assessment indicate ongoing efforts to enhance climate adaptation, DRR, and protect human security, the analysis shows that provisions and measures often advanced are primarily generic. The generic provisions often do not integrate considerations to address the multi-dimensional risks that often undermine insecurity in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement across BVI. Despite the challenge that this may present in terms of protection for displaced populations and environmental migration, it is to be noted that the targeted provisions for the protection of vulnerable groups such as people experiencing poverty, women, children, aged and persons with disabilities provide an opportunity to extend such considerations to persons on the move or in situations of 'immobility' and protracted displacement. Given that the government has already planned the revision and development of new policies and strategies to guide the national sustainable development agenda, there is a need to integrate comprehensive approaches and strategies to enhance the protection of human security.

Given the observed potential and already existing opportunities at the national level, the following recommendations are outlined for consideration in mainstreaming the HSA into existing policy strategies or actions being considered to safeguard human security, promote long-term resilience and well-being of vulnerable populations in the face of climate change, environmental change and disaster impacts in BVI.

i) National Policy Field or Framework

a) Mainstream the HSA in existing and upcoming national policies and legal instruments on migration, CCA, DRM and national development planning in BVI: At the national level, the CCAP, CDMSP and FSSA have, for example, acknowledged the impact of climate change, hurricane disaster and the recent COVID-19 pandemic on the national economy and populations at large. While the government has alluded to the growing poverty and inequality across the Territory, it is also the case that the economy is still trying to recover from the long-term impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the tourism and financial services sectors. The culminating impact of these multi-dimensional hazards and events has eroded the relative quality of life and progress made regarding the national sustainable development agenda. Moreover, as a SIDS with a small open economy, the Territory is still exposed and vulnerable to disaster impacts and external shocks.

As part of the recent 2023 National Budget Address, the government highlighted the positive future economic outlook and ongoing efforts to sustain the growth prospects for the Territory. In line with the national vision as outlined in the NSDP and CDMSP in promoting inclusive society, disaster resilience and safeguarding sustainable development in BVI, the recommendation is for the government to consider the review and mainstreaming of the HSA as part of ongoing and proposed strategic actions on CCA, DRM and development to include the needs of cross-border and internally displaced persons, and persons on the move or unable to do so due to the impact of climate change or COVID-19 pandemic.

These considerations could also be integrated into upcoming or any new climate change and adaptation policies and plans that are being drawn to guide climate action in the country. The focus should also include measures that will facilitate sustainable (re)integration – through livelihood security, psycho-social support, provision of social facilities and participation as part of the national development and climate action agenda. Outlining measures to facilitate the sustainable (re)integration of migrants or displaced populations, who may be returning to their communities of origin or other areas, could contribute to resilience to external shocks or climate

change impact. It is envisaged that the stipulation of measures, through the lens of human security, would allow for a comprehensive approach to addressing the multi-dimensional threats to human security and ongoing efforts at sustainable development in BVI.

b) Develop national green and blue growth strategy and integrate local CCA and measures on human mobility into local or community development plans and programmes for inclusive and sustainable growth and long-term resilience to shocks: There is growing recognition in both policy and scientific circles that a transition to a green economy is a viable development pathway to sustainable and inclusive growth and prosperity for the future. The greening of the national economy will involve a shift to a low-carbon emission economic development pathway. At the national level, the government has emphasised in both the CCAP and NSDP that greening the economy, tourism sector and infrastructure will contribute to promoting resilience to climate change, disasters, and shocks and enhance sustainable development in the country.

In drawing on the green policy initiatives from the Dominica Low Carbon Climate Resilient Strategy, Rwanda National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development, and Korean New Deal, the GoBVI could, as part of its ongoing policy actions and strategies to facilitate the green transition, develop a national blue and green growth development strategy. On the other hand, green economy initiatives and priority actions could be integrated into the ongoing efforts to facilitate accelerated post-pandemic economic recovery and national development as already captured in the CCAP and NSDP Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands. As part of the proposed blue and green strategy and policy, the government could outline measures to promote the resilience of vulnerable communities, livelihood and food security through green job creation. Alternatively, the government could collaborate with development partners and the private sector to adopt the ‘Eco-town’ model or framework as a proactive approach to promoting long-term community resilience to shocks and sustainable growth. As shown in San Vicente (The Philippines), the ‘Eco-town’ framework aims to build long-term community resilience by integrating CCA, mitigation and environmental sustainability at the core of community development. In addition to facilitating green, inclusive and sustainable growth, the ‘Eco-town’ framework allows for a holistic approach to community resilience based on sound scientific and prioritised insights derived from systematic analysis around the six main components of natural resource assessment, vulnerability assessment, ecosystem services valuation, adaptation and mitigation measures, climate adaptation support service and financial support programmes.⁷

The ‘Eco-town’ approach will contribute to ongoing strategies outlined to promote community resilience to climate change and shocks. The inherent analysis of different dynamics and vulnerabilities as part of the ‘Eco-town’ approach will inform measures to cater for the human insecurities of displaced populations or populations in circumstances of ‘immobility’ due to disaster impact or environmental degradation by promoting green sustainable livelihoods, ecosystem health, climate adaptation and inclusive growth. In this light, the UNFCCC could, as part of its programming, support ongoing efforts of the Government of BVI by helping to translate the proposed ‘Eco-town’ framework as part of ongoing and upcoming new CCA, environmental sustainability and DRM activities to promote long-term community resilience in the country.

ii) Programming in Line with Existing Plans or Interventions

a) Integrate (shock-responsive) social protection strategies in national social protection programmes to enhance response to climate change and disaster impact on migration and displacement: There is a growing consensus among policy-makers and international humanitarian actors that the implementation of effective social protection programmes can greatly contribute to CCA and DRM, and long-term resilience in vulnerable communities. At the national level, the Social Development Department has indicated the commitment of the government to provide effective social protection services to empower, promote and improve the quality of life across the Territory. In line with this commitment, several social protection programmes, including public assistance, daycare assistance, social housing, legal, aged care services, disability services, community services, and family and children protective services, have been rolled out by the government. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Assistance Programme and Financial Assistance Programme also provided financial support to vulnerable populations across the islands. Alongside these social protection services, many government officials across departments, ministries and non-governmental organisations have also received training and certification in 2019 and 2023 on SRSP to enhance preparedness and response in the wake of any disasters or emergencies in BVI

⁷ <https://development.asia/explainer/ecotowns-explained>

With all these existing social protection programmes, however, the focus has mainly been on enhancing protection and improving the quality of life for vulnerable groups in society. There are no identifiable considerations for vulnerable groups in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement. Moreover, BVI is still developing a comprehensive national social protection policy and action plan that will guide the provision of social protection services, especially in the wake of disaster impact or emergencies. As a Member State of the OECS and CARICOM, BVI is a party to the 1997 CARICOM Agreement on Social Security (CASS) and the updated OECS Social Safety Net and Social Protection Strategic Framework. In addition to exercising the right to equal treatment as part of the OECS Policy on Rights Contingent on the Right to Freedom of Movement, the CASS agreement, in principle, allows for the portability of social security benefits of Community Citizens from one Member State to the other. However, the challenge is that this only applies to formal or informal workers with social security contributions. On the other hand, the OECS Social Safety Net and Social Protection Strategic Framework advocate the promotion of human and community resilience with attention to vulnerable groups in addressing climate change impacts and shocks to well-being. There is also no clarity about modalities on providing social protection to migrants and other Citizens from CARICOM and OECS Members States within the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster impact in the country.

The limited considerations for persons on the move or displaced in the wake of climate change impact could undermine the prospect of providing timely SRSP in especially vulnerable communities. Furthermore, this could have adverse implications for cross-border migrants or displaced persons who may be exercising their right to equal treatment and access to social protection based on the OECS Policy on Rights Contingent on the Right to Freedom of Movement within the economic union. Given also the lack of established protocols on how to deal with issues of migration and cross-border (mass) displacement in social (assistance) protection programmes, this also raises concerns on protection and consideration for the human insecurities that may arise with vulnerable migrant or displaced groups like women, (unaccompanied) children and persons with disabilities. The recommendation is thus for the Government of BVI to, as part of the ongoing consultations to develop a new social protection policy, include explicit shock-responsive measures that will also take into consideration insecurities in the context of environmental migration and disaster displacement and situations of vulnerability to due to 'immobility' in the wake of pandemics or emergencies. It is envisaged that integrating shock-responsive social assistance into national policy actions and sectoral programming would promote protection for migrants in the context of environmental change and disaster displacement in BVI.

b) Promote skills training as part of DRM, CCA and migration policies to enhance the proposed transition to a green economy, livelihood diversification and employability of vulnerable populations, migrants and displaced persons: Within the context of the NSDP, Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands, the government has identified the need for the local population to be empowered with the necessary skills to be able to productively participate in the existing sectors and the new opportunities in that would emerge in the green, blue and orange economies. While there has been a general improvement in the foreign worker and local population ratio, the government has acknowledged that BVI is losing skilled people. As part of the National Outcome 2 on ensuring a highly educated and skilled population by 2036 to participate in the labour market effectively, the government has advocated skills development programmes that will involve technical and transferable skills, targeted training by sector and industry, and lifelong learning to equip people with necessary skills set for the labour market.

With the pursuit of the green and blue economy as a development pathway, the expectation is that this will promote resilience, job creation, livelihood sustainability, social inclusion and sustainable development. However, the green and blue transition will invariably transform the different sectors, leading to job losses. On the other hand, the new and emerging green and blue sectors will require green or blue skills to facilitate the transition and to fill the numerous green jobs that would be created. Against this background, the recommendation is to extend existing and upcoming skills training programmes to include considerations for environmental migrants and other vulnerable groups.

As part of the proposed curricula reforms at the School of Technical Studies and propositions to develop and execute skills development programmes in bridging the skills gap in the labour market, the government could also include or target green and blue skills training for environmental migrants or part of ongoing efforts to promote local participation in the labour market and to bridge the skills gap. In addition to integrating green skills training as part of the migration, CCA and DRR activities, the government could already activate the proposed collaboration between the H.L. Stout Community College, the private sector and development partners to design and offer green and blue skills training modules as part of larger skills training programmes. These programmes

and offer green and blue skills training modules as part of larger skills training programmes. These programmes could focus on environmental migrants and vulnerable groups like women, children and persons with disabilities. This would allow for livelihood diversification and sustainability and the employability of vulnerable populations, contributing to climate resilience across the islands. These programmes could focus on environmental migrants and vulnerable groups like women, children and persons with disabilities. This would allow for livelihood diversification and sustainability and the employability of vulnerable populations, contributing to climate resilience across the islands.

iii) Institutional Framework

a) Facilitate effective cooperation and coordination between the different governmental agencies and critical actors, and mainstream human security and environmental migration into sectoral programming to enhance adaptation capacities:

Despite the relative progress that has so far been made in mainstreaming issues of human security, social protection, disaster displacement and migration in CCA, DRM and national development governance frameworks, the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will persist in the medium – to long-term. At the same time, BVI is still exposed and vulnerable to climate change and related extreme events. This means that the prospect of accelerated recovery and long-term resilience will not only require policy alignment in building resilient and inclusive communities across the Islands but will also entail building synergies across the different governmental institutions and policy fields in effectively implementing actions that have been earmarked as part of the national sustainable development agenda. Ensuring institutional cooperation should be vertical between the different governmental agencies and include effective cooperation between regional or international, national, sub-national and local actors. This will allow for the designation of responsibilities and clarifying institutional mandates to avoid overlaps in safeguarding human security in the face of climate change impact and disaster risks.

In addition to promoting cooperation among the different governmental agencies in designing and implementing CCA, DRM and national development plans and activities, all relevant agencies could consider mainstreaming the HSA and Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) into sectoral and departmental programming. This would help to inform measures in comprehensively addressing risks and vulnerability pertaining to the mobility dimensions of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster impact in the country. It should, however, be noted that mainstreaming the HSA as part of activities for addressing MECC in the context of departmental programmes and projects will require adequate capacity, knowledge and expertise. Thus, the proposition is for the government to undertake a capacity and needs assessment across national agencies with the support of the IOM. The new 'IOM Integrated Human Mobility Assessment Tool', developed in collaboration with the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) and the PDD, could be deployed to undertake the proposed assessment. This would help to ascertain the capacities of the different national agencies, identify gaps, needs and priority areas for cooperation and project the HSA as part of sectoral and departmental programming on climate change, DRM and environmental migration.





GLOSSARY

IOM Glossary – Key Definitions on Migration, Environment and Climate Change

Climate Migration: “The movement of a person or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment due to climate change, are obliged to leave their habitual place of residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, within a State or across an international border. Note: This is a working definition of the International Organization for Migration with an analytic and advocacy purpose which does not have any specific legal value. Climate migration is a subcategory of environmental migration; it defines a singular type of environmental migration, where the change in the environment is due to climate change. Migration in this context can be associated with greater vulnerability of affected people, particularly if it is forced. Yet, migration can also be a form of adaptation to environmental stressors, helping to build resilience of affected individuals and communities” (IOM, 2019, p. 31).

Disaster Displacement: “The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of a disaster or in order to avoid the impact of an immediate and foreseeable natural hazard. Note: Such displacement results from the fact that affected persons are (i) exposed to (ii) a natural hazard in a situation where (iii) they are too vulnerable and lack the resilience to withstand the impacts of that hazard. It is the effects of natural hazards, including the adverse impacts of climate change that may overwhelm the resilience or adaptive capacity of an affected community or society, thus leading to a disaster that potentially results in displacement. Disaster displacement may take the form of spontaneous flight, an evacuation ordered or enforced by authorities or an involuntary planned relocation process. Such displacement can occur within a country (internal displacement), or across international borders (cross-border disaster displacement)” (IOM, 2019, p. 51).

Disaster: “A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts. Note: The International Law Commission adopted the following alternative definition of disaster, which includes an express reference to mass displacement: ‘disaster’ means a calamitous event or series of events resulting in widespread loss of life, great human suffering and distress, mass displacement, or large-scale material or environmental damage, thereby seriously disrupting the functioning of society” (IOM, 2019, pp. 50-51).

Environmental Migration: “A person or group(s) of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are forced to leave their places of habitual residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move within or outside their country of origin or habitual residence. Note: There is no international agreement on a term to be used to describe persons or groups of persons that move for environment related reasons. This definition of environmental migrant is not meant to create any new legal categories. It is a working definition aimed at describing all the various situations in which people move in the context of environmental factors” (IOM, 2019, pp. 64-65).

Hazard “A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Note: Each year millions of people are displaced by the adverse effects of natural hazards, such as floods, tropical storms, earthquakes, landslides, droughts, salt water intrusion, glacial melting, glacial lake outburst floods, and melting permafrost. Of these, the great majority is displaced by weather- and climate-related hazards. The largest increases in displacement resulting from the

effects of natural hazards are related to sudden-onset weather and climate-related hazards, and floods in particular. In addition, people are increasingly forced to move because of the slow-onset effects of sea level rise, desertification or environmental degradation. Climate change, combined with people's increasing exposure and vulnerability, is expected to magnify these trends, as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense in the coming decades" (IOM, 2019, p. 89)..

Human Mobility: "A generic term covering all the different forms of movements of persons. Note: The term human mobility reflects a wider range of movements of persons than the term 'migration'. The term is usually understood as encompassing also tourists that are generally considered as not engaging in migration. As an example of the emergence of this term, the international organization members of the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility created in the context of the Conferences of the Parties of the OECS Framework Convention on Climate Change have started to use the term human mobility to cover all the broad range of types of movements that can take place in the context of climate change " (IOM, 2019, pp. 93-94).

Human Security [^]: "condition that exists when the vital core of human lives is protected, and when people have the freedom and capacity to live with dignity" (Adger et al., 2014, p. 759).

Internal Migration: "The movement of people within a State involving the establishment of a new temporary or permanent residence. Note: Internal migration movements can be temporary or permanent and include those who have been displaced from their habitual place of residence such as internally displaced persons, as well as persons who decide to move to a new place, such as in the case of rural-urban migration. The term also covers both nationals and non-nationals moving within a State, provided that they move away from their place of habitual residence" (IOM, 2019, p. 108).

Planned Relocation: "In the context of disasters or environmental degradation, including when due to the effects of climate change, a planned process in which persons or groups of persons move or are assisted to move away from their homes or place of temporary residence, are settled in a new location, and provided with the conditions for rebuilding their lives. Note: The term is generally used to identify relocations that are carried out within national borders under the authority of the State and denotes a long process that lasts until relocated persons are incorporated into all aspects of life in the new setting and no longer have needs or vulnerabilities stemming from the Planned Relocation" (IOM, 2019, p. 157).

Reintegration: "A process which enables individuals to re-establish the economic, social and psychosocial relationships needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity and inclusion in civic life. Note: Social reintegration implies the access by a returning migrant to public services and infrastructures in his or her country of origin, including access to health, education, housing, justice and social protection schemes. Psychosocial reintegration is the reinsertion of a returning migrant into personal support networks (friends, relatives, neighbours) and civil society structures (associations, self-help groups and other organizations). This also includes the re-engagement with the values, mores, way of living, language, moral principles, ideology, and traditions of the country of origin's society. Economic reintegration is the process by which a returning migrant re-enters the economic life of his or her country of origin and is able sustain a livelihood" (IOM, 2019, p. 176).

Trapped Populations: "Populations who do not migrate, yet are situated in areas under threat, [...] at risk of becoming 'trapped' or having to stay behind, where they will be more vulnerable to environmental shocks and impoverishment. Note: The notion of trapped populations applies in particular to poorer households who may not have the resources to move and whose livelihoods are affected" (IOM, 2019, p. 220).

Vulnerable Group: "Depending on the context, any group or sector of society (such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, ethnic or religious minorities, migrants, , particularly those who are in an irregular situation, or persons of diverse sex, sexual orientation and gender identity (SSOGI)) that is at higher risk of being subjected to discriminatory practices, violence, social disadvantage, or economic hardship than other groups within the State. These groups are also at higher risk in periods of conflict, crisis or disasters" (IOM, 2019, p. 230).

ANNEX I

ANNEX 1. INDICATORS ON THE CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION FROM THE HUMAN SECURITY PERSPECTIVE IN NATIONAL MIGRATION, DRR, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS

List of Indicators (Environmental Migration, Climate Change and DRR Clusters)			
CLUSTER 1: Environmental Migration from the Human Security Perspective Within National Migration Legal and Policy Frameworks			
Indicator	Question	Answer	Additional Remarks/Observations
1.1	Does the country present legal and policy instruments relate to the distinct dimensions of human (im)mobility?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
1.2	Do these legal and policy instruments make references to disasters, as well as climate and/or other environmental changes, as drivers of (im)mobility?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
1.3	Do these legal and policy instruments propose the development of specific measures to address population movements in the context of disasters, as well as climate and/or environmental changes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
1.4	Have these legal and policy instruments been adopted, amended or complemented since the adoption of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
1.5	Existence of legal and policy instruments that facilitate an integrated approach among distinct governmental bodies/levels, as well as the coordination between climate, environmental and other relevant actors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
1.5.1	Existence of legal and policy instruments defining the distinct responsibilities, rights and roles from such actors, as well as provided for accountability mechanisms.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
1.6	Existence of legal and policy instruments that facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration ¹ in the context of climate change.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
1.7	Existence of legal and policy instruments that take into consideration the special needs of individuals migrating as a result of climate and/or other environmental changes, as well as the special needs of destination communities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
1.8	Existence of legal and policy instruments that ensure the fulfilment of migrants' human rights?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
1.8.1	Could they be also applicable to individuals migrating as a result of climate and/or other environmental changes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

¹Safe, orderly, and regular migration covers all internal, international, or both dimensions holistically and comprehensively. In other words, it can be defined as migration processes that occur through recognised and authorised channels. Migration patterns that are not safe, orderly, and regular relate to the movement of people outside the law, regulation, international agreements, or all governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit, or destination.

1.9	Existence of legal and policy instruments that present any criteria to identify and characterise cross-border movements in situations of disasters.	() Yes () No	
1.10	Are there good practices and/or exceptional measures established by legal and policy instruments that allow for adequate admission and stay of people affected by disasters?	() Yes () No	
1.11	Are there legal and policy instruments with provisions on the granting of humanitarian visas?	() Yes () No	
1.11.1	<i>(If instruments (i.e. humanitarian visas) are in place for the reception of cross-border displaced people as a result of disasters)</i> Are there provisions and/or measures to safeguard their human rights, as well as access to assistance and basic needs (i.e. education, food, health, labour market, etc.)?	() Yes () No	
1.11.2	Are these individuals provided with personal documentation (according to their migratory status)?	() Yes () No	
1.13	Are there government initiatives (plans, programmes, projects, strategies, etc.) in place to identify, develop and strengthen solutions for internal and/or cross-border population movements in the context of slow-onset events?	() Yes () No	
1.14	Are there any legal and policy instruments that enable the granting of refugee status (or similar protection measures) to persons displaced in the context of disasters?	() Yes () No	
1.15	Are there any specific measures to support migrants facing crisis situations in the host country, such as disasters (including pandemics), facilitating their access to consular and humanitarian protection?	() Yes () No	
1.16	Are there provisions for humanitarian actions (i.e. suspension of deportation, change of migratory status, resident permit extension) for migrants when a disaster in their country of origin prevents and/or hinders their return?	() Yes () No	
1.17	Are there provisions related to the stay and/or return of cross-border migrants or displaced people when the conditions that caused the (forced) movement persist?	() Yes () No	
1.18	Is there any legal or policy instrument that provides the concession of resident permits for seasonal workers, prioritising individuals from countries facing the impacts of climate and/or other environmental changes?	() Yes () No	

1.19	Are there provisions related to the establishment of mechanisms capable of collecting, managing and disseminating data on human (im)mobility in the context of climate and/or other environmental changes?	() Yes () No	
1.20	Are there provisions on the access of information, consultation and participation of affected individuals in decision-making processes related to human (im)mobility in the context of climate and/or other environmental changes?	() Yes () No	
1.21	Does the country present a specific legal or policy instrument (mechanisms) related to internal movement of people? <i>(For instance, internal displacement, rural-urban migration, resettlement in the context of land and/or urban planning, etc.)</i>	() Yes () No	
1.21.1	Does such legal or policy instrument integrate the provisions established under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement?	() Yes () No	
1.21.2	Does such legal or policy instrument related to internal displacement also apply to internally-displaced persons in the context of disasters, as well as climate and/or other environmental change?	() Yes () No	
1.22	Has the country concluded bilateral agreements with other countries, or is it a party to a regional agreement or instrument with direct or indirect provisions allowing admission and stay of migrants from a country affected by sudden-onset disaster? <i>(Examples of instrument include free movement agreements, transhumance agreements, regional refugee protection frameworks, regional disaster response frameworks with provisions for entry and stay applicable in disaster situations.)</i>	() Yes () No	
1.22.1	Does the country participate in any bilateral, subregional or regional mechanisms, agreements, frameworks or programmes that provide solutions to facilitate temporary or seasonal regular migration pathways, including visa options or international labour standards and rights-based labour migration schemes for persons affected by slow-onset effects of climate change and environmental degradation, in particular from countries affected by desertification, land degradation, drought or sea level rise?	() Yes () No	
1.22.2	Has the country concluded bilateral or regional cooperation frameworks or agreements on return, readmission and reintegration that include specific provisions for non-return or temporary suspension of removal to countries affected by disasters?	() Yes () No	

CLUSTER 2: Environmental Migration from a Human Security Perspective Within National Climate Policies and Legal Frameworks			
Indicator	Question	Answer	Observations
2.1	Does the country have specific legal and policy instruments addressing climate change adaptation and/or mitigation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2.2	Have these specific legal and policy instruments been adopted, amended or complemented since the adoption of the 2015 Paris Agreement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2.3	Are there legal and policy instruments in place that recognise human (im)mobility in the context of disasters, climate and/or other environmental changes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
2.3.1	Do they present provisions that facilitate the adoption of integrated approaches to averting, minimising, and addressing human (im)mobility in the context of disasters, climate and/or other environmental changes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Indicate the climate agenda instruments that have been adopted and/or communicated by the country			
2.4	National Policy on Climate Change <i>(Please include complete title and year of publication, if yes)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2.4.1	Is it backed up by a normative instrument for its establishment and operationalization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2.4.2	Does it mention, address and/or identify concrete actions related to the distinct dimensions of human (im)mobility?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
2.5	National Adaptation Plan <i>(Please include complete title and year of publication, if yes)</i>		
2.5.1	Is it backed up by a normative instrument for its establishment and operationalization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2.5.2	Does it mention, address and/or identify concrete actions related to the distinct dimensions of human (im)mobility - challenges and opportunities - in its formulation and subsequent implementation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
2.5.3	Is there an institutional framework that facilitates the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
2.6	Nationally Determined Contributions <i>(Please include complete title and year of publication, if yes)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2.6.1	Is it backed up by a normative instrument for its establishment and operationalization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

2.6.2	Does it mention, address and/or outline concrete actions related to the distinct dimensions of human (im)mobility?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
2.7	National Communications <i>(Please include complete title and year of publication, if yes)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2.7.1	Is it backed up by a normative instrument for its establishment and operationalization?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2.7.2	Does it mention, address and/or outline concrete actions related to the distinct dimensions of human (im)mobility?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
2.8	Do the existing legal and policy climate instruments allow for the adaptation to climate impacts, avoiding humanitarian crises as a result?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
2.9	Have the existing legal and policy climate instruments been designed and implemented with the participation of relevant stakeholders (for instance, besides national authorities, these would also include civil society and non-governmental organizations)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	

CLUSTER 3: Environmental Migration from a Human Security Perspective Within National DRR Governance Frameworks			
Indicator	Question	Answer	Observations
3.1	Has the country established legal and policy instruments related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)? <i>(Please include complete title and year of publication, if yes)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.2	Have the existing legal and policy instruments related to DRR been adopted, amended or complemented since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.3	Have the existing legal and policy instruments related to DRR incorporated the distinct dimensions ¹ of human (im)mobility?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
3.3.1	How well is the human (im)mobility dimension integrated into the national DRR legal and policy instruments (on a scale of 1 to 5) ² ? <i>(Consider provisions related to preparedness, management and response to human displacement in the context of disaster, as well as measures to enhance the resilience of displaced people and host communities).</i>		
3.3.2	Do these legal and policy DRR instruments consider all the stages of the human displacement cycle due to disasters, including effective measures to protect displaced people in this context?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.4	Have the existing legal and policy instruments related to DRR established powers and responsibilities to distinct actors dealing with the topic in terms of preparedness, management and responses to disaster-related displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.5	Is there any national strategy on DRR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.5.1	Is this national strategy backed up by the (existing) DRR policy and legal instruments?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.5.2	Does this national strategy encompass the distinct dimensions of human (im)mobility?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	

¹Please refer to the human (im)mobility dimension incorporated in the existing legal and policy instruments. It is to be noted that, in the context of disasters, the human (im)mobility dimension goes beyond migration, displacement and planned relocation, also encompassing evacuation and sheltering of individuals.

² 1=not integrated, 2=less integrated, 3= neutral, 4=more integrated, 5=completely integrated.

	<i>(Please refer to the human (im)mobility dimension incorporated in the existing legal and policy instruments. It is to be noted that, in the context of disasters, the human (im)mobility dimension goes beyond migration, displacement and planned relocation, also encompassing evacuation and sheltering of individuals.)</i>		
3.5.3	Does this national strategy integrate migrants in DRR and related measures, as well as ensure migrants' participation in DRR decision-making processes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.6	Are there preparedness and recovery response plans based on normative instruments?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.6.1	Do these plans incorporate the human (im)mobility dimension into preparedness and recovery measures, including provisions on the right of displaced people to humanitarian assistance?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
3.6.2	Do these plans include considerations about migrants affected by disasters in the host country?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.7	Do existing legal and policy DRR instruments stipulate the development of early warning systems with respective actions plans at the national and/or local levels?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.7.1	Do the system and respective action plan include any measure related to human displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.8	Do the existing legal and policy DRR instruments foresee the establishment of evacuation and/or sheltering mechanisms and/or plans, including preventive evacuation in the aftermath of an early warning?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.8.1	Do these mechanisms and plans address evacuees' and/or sheltered people's human rights?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.9	Do the existing legal and policy DRR instruments present provisions related to the development of risk assessment reports, as well as access to information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.9.1	If existing, do risk assessment reports include data on the risk of human displacement, as well as distinct levels of exposure and vulnerability to risks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.9.2	Are there measures in place related to information sharing, as well as training, on disaster-related human displacement for official actors, civil society, and communities affected or at risk?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.10	Do the existing legal and policy DRR instruments adopt provisions aimed at preventing human settlements in risk areas? <i>(Please also consider the existence of urban planning mechanisms and tools.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

3.10.1	Do the existing legal and policy DRR instruments adopt provisions aimed at relocating people and communities from risk areas? <i>(Please also consider the existence of specific guidelines for relocation and/or resettlement of people.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.10.2	Do such provisions stipulate the development of mechanisms to safeguard the rights of affected people?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.10.3	Do such provisions call for the development of assessment reports related to the (eventual) relocation of persons from human settlements in risk areas?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.11	Do the existing legal and policy DRR instruments foresee the development of specific policies, plans or programmes aimed at durable solutions for disaster-related human displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.12	Are there normative instruments and related mechanisms to promote access to information and the participation of displaced people, people at risk of displacement, as well as host communities in actions related to disaster-related displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
3.13	At the national level, is there articulation and coordination between DRR, climate and mobility national policy and legal frameworks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	

Source: Developed by authors (2022)

ANNEX II

ANNEXES II. INDICATORS ON THE INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH INTO NATIONAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS THAT ADDRESS THE MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND DISASTERS

The Integration of the Human Security Perspective into Environmental Migration and DRR Policy and Legal Instruments That Address the Distinct Dimensions of Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Disasters				
Type of (In)security	Indicator	Question	Answer	Observations
4.1 Economic (In)security	4.1.1	Do existing national policy and legal instruments make provisions to address or extend support to people living in poverty in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disaster-related migration, displacement and/or planned relocation processes?	() Yes () No () Partially	
	4.1.2	Do existing national policy and legal instruments address unemployment due to migration, displacement and/or planned relocation processes in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	() Yes () No () Partially	
	4.1.3	Do existing national policy and legal instruments make provisions for the maintenance, protection of livelihood systems or livelihood alternatives, and income diversification for those individuals who migrate, have been displaced and/or relocated in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	() Yes () No () Partially	
	4.1.4	Do existing national policy and legal instruments facilitate access to education, skills training and related skills development (i.e. TVET/green/blue jobs) for individuals who migrate, displace and/or relocate in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	() Yes () No () Partially	
	4.1.5	Do existing policy and legal instruments make provisions for or address rural-urban migration and/or displacement, as well as other circular, seasonal and/or return migration that arise from the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	() Yes () No () Partially	
4.2 Food (In)security	4.2.1	Do existing policy and legal instruments promote enhanced food assistance and improved nutrition to people who have migrated, been displaced and/or relocated as a result of the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	() Yes () No () Partially	

	4.2.2	Do existing policy and legal instruments stipulate for the development of climate-smart agricultural practices (climate adaptation and food security) for affected or vulnerable populations that migrate, are displaced and/or relocate in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.2.3	Do existing policy and legal instruments relate food (in)security measures to the needs of populations in the context of protracted displacement and rising (forced) populations movements (i.e. rural-urban, seasonal and/or circular migration/return migration)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
4.3 Health (In)security	4.3.1	Do existing policy and legal instruments enable and/or improve access to basic healthcare for affected or vulnerable populations who migrate, are displaced and/or relocate as a result of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.3.2	Are there national policy and legal instruments aimed at providing water and related basic nutrition assistance, as well as promoting good sanitation before, during and in the aftermath of migration, displacement and/or relocation processes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.3.3	Do existing national policy and legal instruments integrate migrants, displaced and/or relocated people in measures to address vulnerability to infectious diseases (i.e. vaccination, preventive healthcare, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.3.4	Are there specific national policy and legal instruments dealing with strategies to cope with immobility in the event of pandemics?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.3.5	Are there specific national policy and legal instruments stipulating for the provision of health assistance in situations of disaster?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
4.4 Environmental (In)security	4.4.1	Do existing policy and legal instruments encourage the development and implementation of climate adaptation strategies to address (forced) population movements in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	

	4.4.2	Do existing policy and legal instruments encourage the notion of migration as an adaptation strategy to climate/environmental risks and impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.4.3	Are there national policy and legal instruments that facilitate the development of ecosystem-based approaches to avert (forced) population movements in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.4.4	Do existing policy and legal instruments at the national level that call for the development of strategies and plans also make provisions to tackle the (im)mobility dimension of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
4.5 Personal (In)security	4.5.1	Are there existing policy and legal instruments that regulate or extend provisions to promote the security of migrants, displaced and/or relocated people in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters in situations of violence (i.e. injuries and killings of community members, migrants, displaced persons)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.5.2	Do existing policy and legal instruments stipulate for the improvement of local governance, the implementation of law enforcement systems, as well as leadership strategies to cope with the distinct dimensions of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.5.3	Do existing policy and legal instruments address the special needs of vulnerable groups, which include not only children, elderly, persons with disabilities and women but also migrants, displaced and/or relocated persons in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
4.6 Community (In)security	4.6.1	Are there policy and legal instruments regulating peacebuilding efforts at the national level that consider the challenges related to the distinct dimensions of human mobility in the context of climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	

	4.6.2	Do the existing policy and legal instruments at the national level aim to enhance participation of migrants, displaced and/or relocated people in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters in community development?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.6.3	Are there policy and legal instruments with provisions on (community)disarmament programmes in promoting/ensuring community security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.6.4	Do existing policy and legal instruments stipulate for inclusive community-based climate adaptation and development programmes that allows for the participation of environmental migrants or persons displaced due to disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
4.7 Political (In)security	4.7.1	Are there policy and legal instruments that support the improvement of rule of law, local governance and leadership at the national level?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	
	4.7.1.1	If yes, do they consider the challenges related to the distinct dimensions of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and/or disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially	

Source: Developed by authors (2022)

REFERENCES

- Adger, W.N., J.M. Pulhin, J. Barnett, G.D. Dabelko, G.K. Hovelsrud, M. Levy, Ú. Oswald Spring, and C.H Vogel
- 2014 Human Security. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp.755-791.
- Arias, P., N. Bellouin, E. Coppola, C. Jones, G. Krinner, J. Marotzke, V. Naik, G. Plattner, M. Rojas, J. Sillmann, T. Storelvmo, P. Thorne, B. Trewin, K. Achutarao, B. Adhikary, K. Armour, G. Bala, R. Barimalala, S. Berger and K. Zickfeld,
- 2021 Technical Summary. In: *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 33–144.
- British Virgin Islands (BVI, London Office)
n.d. BVI Receives UN Funding for Covid-19 Social Response. Available at: <https://bvi.org.uk/bvi-receives-un-funding-for-covid-19-social-response/>
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
2017 Single Market Economy: Free Movement, Travel and Work. 3rd Edition. Available at: <https://csme.caricom.org/documents/booklets/65-free-movement-travel-and-work-3rd-edition/file#:~:text=CARICOM%20nationals%20have%20a%20right,to%20refuse%20undesirable%20persons%20entry>
- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
2018 Country Economic Review: British Virgin Islands. Caribbean Development Bank. Available at: <https://www.caribbean.org/publications-and-resources/resource-library/economic-reviews/country-economic-review-2018-british-virgin-islands>
- Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)
2022 2021 Disasters in Numbers. Available at: <https://www.emdat.be/publications>
- Climate Studies Group Mona (eds.)
2020 The State of the Caribbean Climate. Produced for the Caribbean Development Bank. Commission on Human Security (CHS). Available at: <https://www.caribank.org/publications-and-resources/resource-library/publications/state-caribbean-climate>
- Government of British Virgin Islands (GoBVI)
2022a 2023 Budget Address Delivered by Premier And Minister Of Finance Dr. The Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley. Available at: <http://www.bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/2023-budget-address-delivered-premier-and-minister-finance-dr-honourable-natalio-d>
- 2022b Virgin Islands Food Security and Sustainability Act, 2022. Available at: https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/resources/food_security_and_sustainability_act_2022.pdf
- 2021a BVI Covid-19 Income Support Programme launched to help Families in Need. Available: <https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/bvi-covid-19-income-support-programme-launched-help-families-need>
- 2021b Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy. Department of Disaster Management. Available at: https://eservices.gov.vg/gazette/sites/eservices.gov.vg.gazette/files/archiveattachments/G00383_The%20Virgin%20Islands%20Comprehensive%20Disaster%20Management%20Policy.pdf
- 2021c Vision 2036: Building a Sustainable Virgin Islands – The National Sustainable Development Plan of the Citizens of the Virgin Islands. Available at: https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/national_sustainable_development_plan_.pdf
- 2020 Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act. Available at: <https://www.bvibeacon.com/tag/immigration-and-passport-amendment-act/>
- 2016 Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Regulations. Available at: [https://eservices.gov.vg/gazette/sites/eservices.gov.vg.gazette/files/newattachments/SI%20No%2043%20of%202016%20--%20Immigration%20and%20Passport%20\(Amendment\)%20\(No%202\)%20Regulations,%202016%20final.pdf](https://eservices.gov.vg/gazette/sites/eservices.gov.vg.gazette/files/newattachments/SI%20No%2043%20of%202016%20--%20Immigration%20and%20Passport%20(Amendment)%20(No%202)%20Regulations,%202016%20final.pdf)

- 2019a Virgin Islands Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategic Plan 2019-2025. Department of Disaster Management. Available at: <https://www.bviddm.com/download/comprehensive-disaster-management-strategic-plan/>
- 2019b Disaster Management Act. Available at: <https://www.bvibeacon.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BILL-Disaster-Management-Act-2019.pdf>
- 2019c National Physical Development Plan for the British Virgin Islands. Environmental Systems Ltd and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Available at: https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/resources/bvi_npd_p_-_2019-04-04.pdf
- 2015 Emergency Shelter Policy. Available at: <https://www.bviddm.com/download/bvi-emergency-shelter-policy/>
- 2014 Medium Term Fiscal Plan 2014-2016. Ministry of Finance. Available at: https://bvi.gov.vg/sites/default/files/MTF_P%202014%20-2016.pdf
- 2012 The Virgin Islands Climate Change Adaptation Policy: Achieving Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Development. Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour. Available at: [http://www.bvi.gov.vg/pub/Climate%20Change%20Policy%20Paper%20\(Final\).pdf](http://www.bvi.gov.vg/pub/Climate%20Change%20Policy%20Paper%20(Final).pdf)
- 2007 British Virgin Islands Protected Areas System Plan (2007-2017). Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour. Available at: <https://parkscaribbean.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/British%20Virgin%20Islands%20Protected%20Areas%20System%20Plan%202007-2017.pdf>
- 2006 BVI National Integrated Relief Policy: National Emergency Welfare & Relief Distribution Policy. National Disaster Management Council.
- 2005a National Parks Act. Available at: <https://www.bviddm.com/download/national-parks-act-2004-2005/>
- 2005b Land Surveyors' (Amendment) Act. Available at: <https://www.bviddm.com/download/land-survey-amendment-act/>
- 2004 Physical Planning Act (Act No. 15 of 2004). Available at: https://www.gov.vg/sites/default/files/resources/physical_planning_act_no_15_of_2004.pdf
- 2003a Fisheries Regulations (S.I. 2003 No. 20). Available at: https://elaw.org/sites/default/files/content_type_law_attachment/Fisheries%20Regulations%202003.pdf
- 2003b National Hazard Mitigation Policy for BVI. The Department of Disaster Management and the Caribbean Disaster Management Emergency Response Agency (CDERA).
- 2003c Disaster Management: A Policy Framework. Deputy Governor's Office. Available at: <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/british-virgin-islands-disaster-management-policy-framework>
- 2003d Disaster Management Act. Available at: <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/british-virgin-islands-disaster-management-act-2003-act-no-3-17-april-2003>
- 1985 Beach Protection Act (Cap. 233). Available at: <https://www.bviddm.com/download/beach-protection-act/>
- 1979 Fisheries Act (Cap. 84). Available at: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC001055/>
- 1977 Public Health Act (Chapter 194). Available at: <http://www.bvi.gov.vg/content/public-health-ordinance-cap-194>
- 1970 Emergency Powers (Disasters) (Chapter 239). (Document is not available online).

Internal Monitoring Displacement Centre (IDMC)

- 2022 Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022. Internal Monitoring Displacement Centre (IDMC): Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2018 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), 2018. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)/Norwegian Refugee Council.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- 2019 International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration No. 34. International Organization for Migration: Geneva, Switzerland.

- Loft, P.
2022 The Potential for Direct Rule in the British Virgin Islands. House of Commons Research Briefing No.9538. Available at: <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9538/CBP-9538.pdf>
- Mycoo, M., M. Wairiu, D. Campbell, V. Duvat, Y. Golbuu, S. Maharaj, J. Nalau, P. Nunn, J. Pinnegar and O. Warrick
2022 Small Islands. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 2043–2121.
- Oakes, B.
1992 Workers in the British Virgin Islands: the Complexities of Residence and Migration. *Social and Economic Studies*, 41(1), 67- 87.
- O'Neal, O.
2000 The British Virgin Islands National Integrated Development Strategy. Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES). Santiago, Chile: CEPAL/ECLAC.
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
2020 Free Movement of Persons in the Eastern Caribbean. Available at: <https://www.oecs.org/en/free-movement-in-the-eastern-caribbean>
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
2012 British Virgin Islands. Available at: <https://www.paho.org/en/british-virgin-islands>
- Roopnarine, L.
2005 Indo-Caribbean Intra-Island Migration: Not so Marginalized. *Social and Economic Studies*, 54(2), 107-136.
- Thomas-Hope, E.
2002 Skilled Labour Migration from Developing Countries: Study on the Caribbean Region. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_201779.pdf
- United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
2013 British Virgin Islands: Migration Profiles. Available at: <https://esa.un.org/migmgmprofiles/indicators/files/BrVirginIslands.pdf>
- United Nations (UN) Geospatial
2016 British Virgin Islands – National Territory. Available at: <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/british-virgin-islands>
- UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women Eastern Caribbean
2020 British Virgin Islands - Covid-19 Heat Report, Human and Economic Assessment of Impact. UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women.
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC)
2018 Irma and Maria by Numbers. Focus, Magazine of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). Available at: <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/43446>
- 2011 An Assessment of the Economic Impact of Climate Change on the Coastal and Marine Sector in the British Virgin Islands. LC/CAR/L.310. Available at: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/38609/LC_CARL310_en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)
2004 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. United Nations Publication E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2., United Nations: New York, USA.
- Vinke, K., J. Blocher, M. Becker, J.S. Ebay, T. Fong and A. Kambon
2020 Home Lands Island and Archipelagic States' Policymaking for Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change. GIZ/PIK.
- World Bank
2023 Intentional Homicides (per 100,000 people) – British Virgin Islands. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.IHR.PSRC.P5?locations=VG>

World Food Programme (WFP)
2020 Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey: British Virgin Islands Summary Report.
Available: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000116268/download/>