

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOMELESSNESS: A GLOBAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

Submitted on behalf of the Global Climate-Homelessness Initiative Group

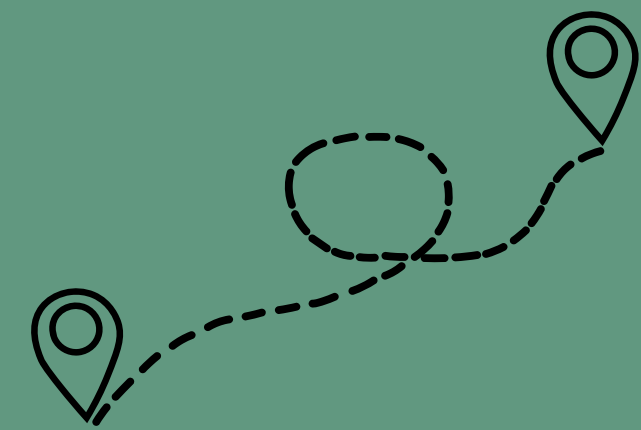


Climate change presents **severe health and wellbeing risks** for homeless and inadequately housed populations globally.

## THESE RISKS ARE MANIFESTED IN TWO WAYS:

### MIGRATION:

Climate-driven migration is increasing globally and is directly associated with homelessness as **populations are forced from regions due to weather extremes and degraded environments** in which they cannot subsist.



#### Responses – from most impactful:

- Risk remediation to **facilitate populations staying in place**, focusing on access to housing as well as improvements to existing housing and infrastructure.
- **Planned migration:** Needs to be developed in collaboration with communities and include plans for housing, infrastructure, livelihoods.
- **Early homelessness intervention** at migration stopping points targeting those most at risk.



### EXPOSURE:

Unhoused and inadequately housed populations are **highly exposed to weather extremes and weather-related risks** such as disease and pollutants. These exposures **compound existing health vulnerabilities** and result in increases in illness morbidity and mortality rates.

#### Responses – from most impactful:

- Deploying housing and poverty reduction strategies that **prevent housing loss and degradation** and **facilitate rapid and supported re-housing for exposed individuals**.
- In weather-related disaster response plans, **including strategies to support homeless populations**. Also, planning international aid to low and middle-income countries experiencing weather-related crises.
- Using **stakeholder engagement** to **design strategies for slum remediation/improvement**, providing warming and cooling centres, and improving access to public water.

## CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES:

- Culturally-situated, trauma-informed practices prioritizing prevention.
- Designing explicit and targeted policies and plans in consultation with local stakeholders.
- Specific attention to those most at risk: Women, children, disabled, elderly, Indigenous, populations experiencing discrimination.
- Developing data infrastructures and research funding to support risk modelling that includes homeless populations.

