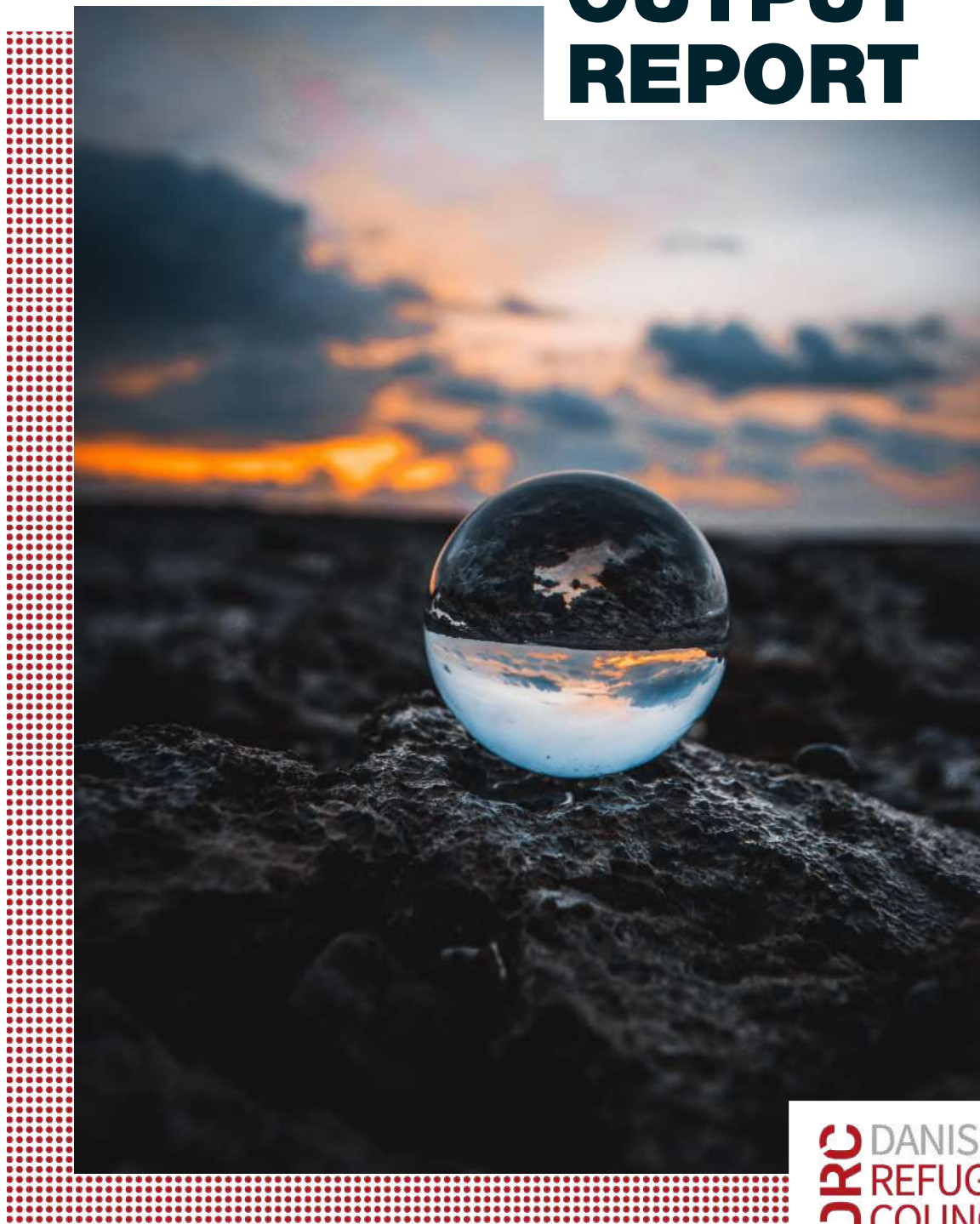


# OUTPUT REPORT



**DRC** DANISH  
REFUGEE  
COUNCIL

## **DRC GLOBAL EVENT 2020**

**ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEGRADATION AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT**

## Introduction

This report highlights key messages, insights and learnings from the first-ever Danish Refugee Council Global Event 2020 Journey. It is a celebration and a **show of gratitude** to the more than 45 collaborators external to DRC who lent their time, expertise and experience to the benefit of the humanitarian sector. Thanks to them, it will become smarter and more responsible to people affected by forced displacement, climate change and environmental degradation.

The report documents the explorative endeavor and the different perspectives and takeaways that emerged in each step of the journey with the hope to **inform and inspire new ways of approaching complex issues and engaging new partners** by DRC and the humanitarian sector as a whole.

Finally, we hope to inspire an even wider community of change makers beyond the more than 200 participants who took part in the Global Event on November 25, 2020. It is our wish that this report, along with Global Event, can help all of us to **widen our perspectives and push us to take action in the face of the climate crisis** that is disproportionately affecting displaced populations.

For any comments or questions regarding the journey, the Global Event or this report, please reach out to: [nana.heltberg@drc.ngo](mailto:nana.heltberg@drc.ngo).

At [www.drc.ngo/climate](http://www.drc.ngo/climate) you will find recordings of many of the contributions that were shared during this process.

*Every year, DRC sets out to explore problems and their solutions around a pressing topic of transnational dimensions, which affects displaced populations, and which challenge the humanitarian sector. As we strongly believe in the value of collaborative action and knowledge, DRC seeks to enable an event brimming with actors that we do not normally engage with – actors who will make us smarter, more responsive and accountable towards displacement affected people. These collaborations help us qualify the purpose that makes us deliver every day – to better protect people affected by displacement.*

- Danish Refugee Council, 2020



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# About the DRC GLOBAL EVENT 2020

In this new decade, **the need for addressing global challenges, particularly climate change, environmental degradation and forced displacement is more pressing than ever.** To address these challenges, we as an organisation working with displacement need to find new, nimble and comprehensive solutions beyond business as usual.

As Denmark's largest international NGO working in 40 countries across the globe – in some of the most difficult situations and in emerging economies, and with a reach to more than 5,7 million displaced and vulnerable people – the Danish Refugee Council is well-positioned to seek new ways of responding to these challenges. **We cannot however do this alone.** This is why we embarked on a journey to set the stage for new ways of addressing the challenges posed by the climate crisis.

The DRC Global Event was a ground-breaking initiative seeking to **better understand and prepare the humanitarian sector to respond to climate change and environmental degradation.** This explorative journey brought together practitioners and thought leaders across industry, academia, the humanitarian sector, the tech and the start-up community with leading DRC experts exploring the intersection of climate change, environmental degradation and forced displacement in a series of events and workshops.

## The Global Event journey

The journey began with a virtual **Launch Event** that set the scene and **opened up the agenda** for diverse views and inputs. During the day, around 40 collaborators and DRC Global Event ambassadors explored and discussed perspectives in the edges and at the heart of the climate and environmental degradation agendas.

The **Launch Event** was followed by five **Response Community Workshops** in September and October. In these workshops, experts and thought leaders from academia, industry and the humanitarian sector **shared visions for the future** of the response theme and collectively identified starting points for action to leverage the potentials and address the challenges identified.

The Global Event journey was enriched by concrete ideas for **Climate Adaption Tools** for the Humanitarian Sector created by students in the **Hack4Humanity** hackathon co-organised by DRC and the Technical University of Denmark.

The journey culminated in the **DRC Global Event** on 25 November 2020. It was a day of sharing, discussing and highlighting **inspiring perspectives and ground-breaking initiatives tackling, adapting to and addressing climate change and displacement** challenges. The virtual event highlighted the insights gathered in the journey and opened up the conversation and calls to action to the humanitarian sector and other actors searching for ways to better respond to the climate crisis and its effects on forced displacement.

**LAUNCH EVENT**  
Access highlights and talks [here](#)

**RESPONSE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**

**DTU&DRC HACK4HUMANITY**  
[www.hack4humanity.com](http://www.hack4humanity.com)

**DRC GLOBAL EVENT 2020**  
Access to all sessions [here](#)

# PRE-READ

A pre-read document exploring the nexus of climate change, environmental degradation, and its effect on forced displacement created by DareDisrupt was shared with the collaborators and DRC ambassadors at the start of the journey.

The document primed the mindset of the participants, providing a broad understanding of where the future might be heading in the nexus at hand. It set the stage, provided contextual understanding and a common language, aiming to spark the imagination of the group on where the humanitarian sector may be able to apply and expand its impact in the climate decade to come.

The pre-read introduced the five different interconnected lenses for approaching the climate and displacement nexus, called “**response themes**”. The themes offered different vantage points into the issue, unravelling both opportunities and challenges. For each response theme, we identified key “**accelerators**”, – a mix of climate science, technological, socio-economic, regulatory, and other trends, that help contextualise and assess the room for impact. To ignite critical thinking and imagination of where the future may be heading, each response theme included selected “**signals**” – small examples of what is already happening in the world. Signals are hints and indicators suggesting potential trajectories of the future at the intersection of climate change, environmental degradation and forced displacement.

When reading this, imagine what problems there are to solve? What value-creating role could you play? Who could be new partners in your ecosystem?

Deep Dive

**Signals**  
The future of data and predictive modelling

**Data Feminism**  
Women need controlling rights to their own bodies and data. It's not just about rights to have their own bodies but also to have their own data. It's about a right to high volume, white, and diverse bodies. It's about a right to high volume, white, and diverse bodies. It's about a right to high volume, white, and diverse bodies. It's about a right to high volume, white, and diverse bodies.

**Trends**  
Accelerators behind regenerative and circular practices

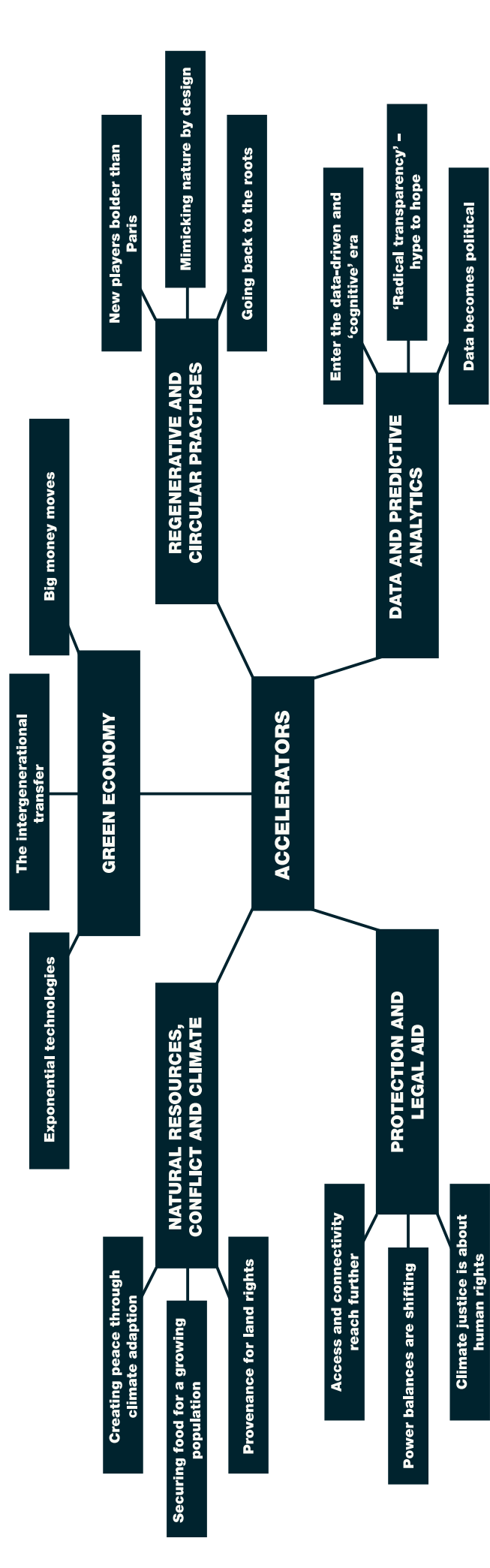
**[regenerative]**  
The world's most powerful regenerative agriculture brands are worth \$6.8B. The world's most powerful regenerative agriculture brands are worth \$6.8B. The world's most powerful regenerative agriculture brands are worth \$6.8B.

**Going back to the roots**  
On the heels of the climate crisis, we see the rise of community and microbusinesses that flourish in the very heart of the climate crisis. These businesses are not just about regenerative and sustainable production of food, but also about regenerative and sustainable production of food, but also about regenerative and sustainable production of food.

**Climate change and environmental degradation**  
From science to policy, industry and mobilisation

The results of climate change are already here. Climate change is accelerating, and the world is facing a climate crisis. The world is facing a climate crisis. The world is facing a climate crisis. The world is facing a climate crisis. The world is facing a climate crisis.

**New players bolder than Paris**  
At the world's largest climate summit, new players are emerging in the climate space. These players are not just about regenerative and sustainable production of food, but also about regenerative and sustainable production of food, but also about regenerative and sustainable production of food.



# THE LAUNCH EVENT

The journey leading up to the Global Event was launched on September 1, 2020 in a one-day virtual event bringing together around 35 external collaborators and DRC Global Event ambassadors for a day of inspiration, new knowledge and insightful conversations. The purpose of the event was to set the stage for the explorative journey, open up for new perspectives as well as create a shared language and understanding of some of the key challenges and opportunities in the decade of Climate Change.

You can access the talks on [the event page](#).

## Programme

● WARM WELCOME

● OPENING KEYNOTE

● "Generation Dread - Eco-anxiety and eco-grief"

● "Leading in the Decade of Climate"

● A WALKING REFLECTION: 'WHAT IF?'

● PRACTITIONERS' PANEL

● Perspectives from the ground

● CLOSING KEYNOTE

● "The Day after COVID"



*"We need new partnerships that can help us link our work to the work across sectors and industries, to ensure that we better understand the issues at stake and the challenges faced by displaced persons. Most importantly, we need to design relevant and sustainable solutions to address the impact of climate change and environmental degradation and its impact on the forced displacement situations around the world."*

- Opening remarks by Charlotte Silente,  
Secretary General of the Danish Refugee Council

### OPENING KEYNOTE

## Generation Dread - Eco-anxiety and eco-grief

Dr. Britt Wray



*"If we don't learn to acknowledge the emotional ramifications of what it means to face this crisis, then we are neither going to be able to effectively engage with it at the scale that it demands nor at an adequate pace."*

WATCH THE SESSION HERE

How do we change the way we interact with the natural world? How are the emotions and feelings connected to being human in the planetary health crisis? These soft sides to the hard predicament we are facing are often ignored. We deal with scientific facts, technological ambitions and political arguments while ignoring that it is human psychology that drives our behavior.

Ecoanxiety, climate anxiety, ecological grief and pre-traumatic stress are terms used to describe the different ways the planetary health crisis is affecting the mental well-being of people around the world - from those deciding not to have children before climate change is mitigated to suicides linked to drought by Indian farmers whose sense of hope for the future has gradually eroded.

**We need emotional intelligence more than ever and we should talk about and address the emotional sides of the crisis we are in.**

TALK:

# Leading in the Decade of Climate

**Märtha Rehnberg, DareDisrupt**

Technology is offering opportunities for empowerment from the bottom up. **Having technological intuition is about daring to create powerful visions about the future,** like having free energy from solar sources that can attract talent and capital.

In this journey, we will together be envisioning plausible and desirable futures. This is because our ideas turn into actions in the present. To analyse and imagine alternative futures, we are on the lookout for these three characteristics:



tendencies of **exponential acceleration** across natural systems, society, business, technology and science.



**creative crossings:** new actors penetrating the humanitarian sector, disrupting the industries at the heart of the Anthropocene, and bringing new paradigms of thinking.



**value shifts:** radical and ridiculous human behavior, business models or scientific breakthroughs and experiments.



*“What value shifts are betting on? In this journey, we are allowed to think ridiculous and wacky value shifts and discuss them together. The alternative is that we just continue to do what we do today, measure success in every quarter and lose sight of the problems we are trying to solve in the first place.”*

WATCH THE SESSION HERE

PRACTITIONERS' PANEL:

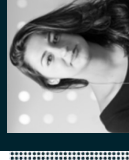
# Perspectives from the ground

WATCH THE SESSION HERE



**Mads Twomey Madsen,**  
Pandora

Pandora, world's largest jewelry brand, has upped its ambitions to become carbon neutral and to fully shift to recycled silver and gold by 2025. They started with these powerful visions and are now figuring out how to get there. The shift has come with new partnerships and roles as Pandora engages with the recycling industry and seeks to inspire suppliers by driving demand for recycled materials. For Pandora, circularity is not only about mitigation but is also a climate adaptation strategy.



**Lubomila Jordananova,**  
PlanA

PlanA, a data-driven start-up, works with data and algorithms to help companies and industries to reduce their carbon footprints and therefore tackle climate change. PlanA's algorithms can shed light on where and how climate change will hit the hardest. Companies can gain information how their choices on things like infrastructure and supply chain will affect their carbon footprint.



**Ruth Andrade,**  
LUSH

LUSH, cosmetics brand and an activist organisation, wishes to improve the health and vitality of every system it touches. Regenerative principles guide their work: shifting from problems to potential; moving locus of control to the edges; and leveraging catalytic interventions. LUSH works with climate adaptation by diversifying, working with community groups on food sovereignty, using drought-resistant species as well as drawing on permaculture principles. For LUSH, climate change adaptation is a strategy that encompasses the whole supply chain.



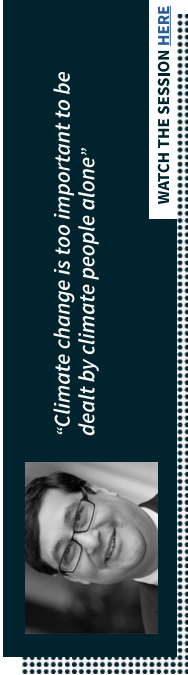
**Harald Friedl,**  
Global Leader on System Change Circular Economy

“Now is the time to talk about systems change,” says Harald Friedl. Companies, cities, and countries are all inter-related systems and need to be treated as such. We have the motivation to change and the technologies needed. There are interesting initiatives taking place, such as the Circular Battery Alliance and Circular Car Initiative that are based on radical collaboration and transparency. How can we create local income generation that is based on circular models and create value the long-term locally? How do we think of shelters in the future? And how can we create more sustainable infrastructure using the circular lens?

## CLOSING KEYNOTE

# The Day after COVID-19

Dr. Adil Najam



WATCH THE SESSION HERE

We live in the age of climate adaptation. It is no longer a future issue. Because we have failed to mitigate climate change, at least 2.5 billion people are facing climate change today. **Although mitigation will remain a concern, we need to also focus on adapting to the effects of a changing climate.**

Adaptation is not about carbon and a lot of it falls into the space of humanitarian work. **We need to break down sectoral walls.** And we should tackle the problems less like we would do in a First World country like Denmark and more like you would in a country like Pakistan.

Climate change is very much about water when it comes to adaptation: water melts and disappears. There are droughts, floods or heavy rainfall. And when we talk about water, we talk about food. Adaptation is also about infrastructure and mobility. It's also about climate disasters. Heat is an early manifestation of climate change and is killing people already. However, if it's dealt with as a development issue, many deaths can be avoided. Climate refugees are already a reality. This often resembles economic migration: for example, when livelihoods shrink, the young and most capable move out.



## SOME OF THE KEY INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS SHARED DURING THE LAUNCH EVENT

- Eco-anxiety can affect individuals, organisations or whole sectors, as can be seen in the climate science community. Many people have been feeling the stress from their research, lacked the tools to process their feelings and had to fight burn-out causing some to even leave the field. **Emotional support is needed to allow people to continue do the difficult work so that we are not paralyzed by the scale of the problems.**
- We can expect more and more private companies to move into climate adaptation in the near future.
- Can we move into a new system while accepting the rules of the old system? We need a shift in values and even need new economic models but this will take a while. What do we do in the meantime? How do we support and leverage the open-source movement for the benefit of the displacement affected populations?
- It's important for DRC and other NGOs to communicate the climate challenges they observe so that new partners, such as technologists, can understand what challenges are out there.
- Power of language: you can't address and change things, if you can't name them. And if we don't share the same definitions, we can't act in a coordinated way.
- Even if we are on a tight time schedule, we need to give people time to understand and ask questions to accept the challenges.
- How do we make climate change smart and sustainable solutions widely available? How do we scale solutions fast enough to create systems change?



# RESPONSE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The Launch Event was followed by five half-day Response Community Workshops, diving into different elements in the intersection of climate change, environmental degradation and forced displacement. These workshops brought together practitioners and thought leaders across industry, academia, the humanitarian sector, the tech and the start-up community with leading DRC experts. Many of the participants in the workshops were new to DRC and the humanitarian sector and brought unique perspectives and experiences into exploring the issues at hand.

By using futures thinking and design fiction methodologies, the response communities envisioned plausible futures within each response theme. These possible futures helped the participants identify a wide range of questions, challenges and opportunities within the climate and displacement nexus. Some of the key insights and questions posed at the workshops are documented in the following pages. The discussions, the 'how might we' questions and new connections created at the workshops informed the action-oriented deep-dive sessions at the DRC Global Event.

## THE FIVE RESPONSE COMMUNITIES:

1. PROTECTION AND LEGAL AID
2. NATURAL RESOURCES, CONFLICT AND CLIMATE
3. GREEN ECONOMY
4. REGENERATIVE AND CIRCULAR PRACTICES
5. DATA AND PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS

## Programme

### WARM WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

### INTRODUCTION TO RESPONSE AREA

### SETTING THE SCENE: STARTING WITH THE FUTURE

Why and how do we work with the future(s)?

### GROUP WORK: ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF THE CLIMATE AND DISPLACEMENT NEXUS

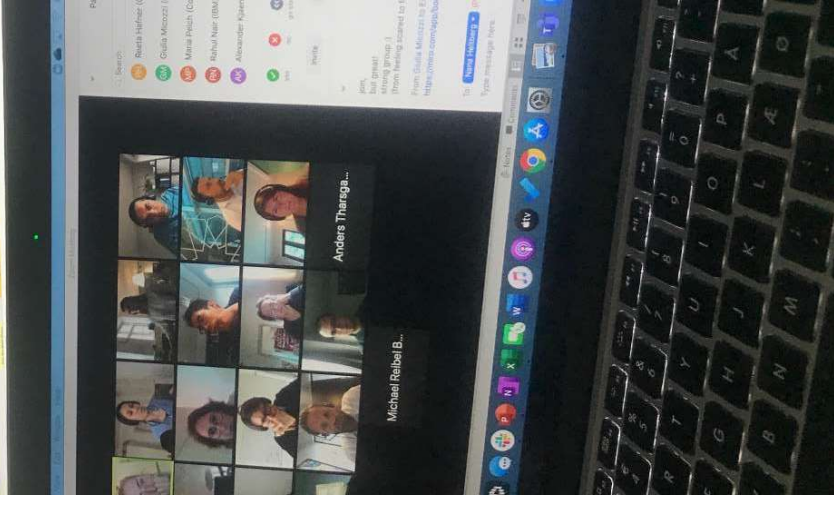
What are the signals of change in the future of this response area?  
What value shifts we can observe?  
What opportunities and challenges might lie ahead?

### GROUP WORK: TELLING THE STORY OF THE FUTURE

How will the future look in the eyes of beneficiaries and other relevant actors? How can this help us to better respond today and in the future?

### FROM ENVISIONING TO ACTION

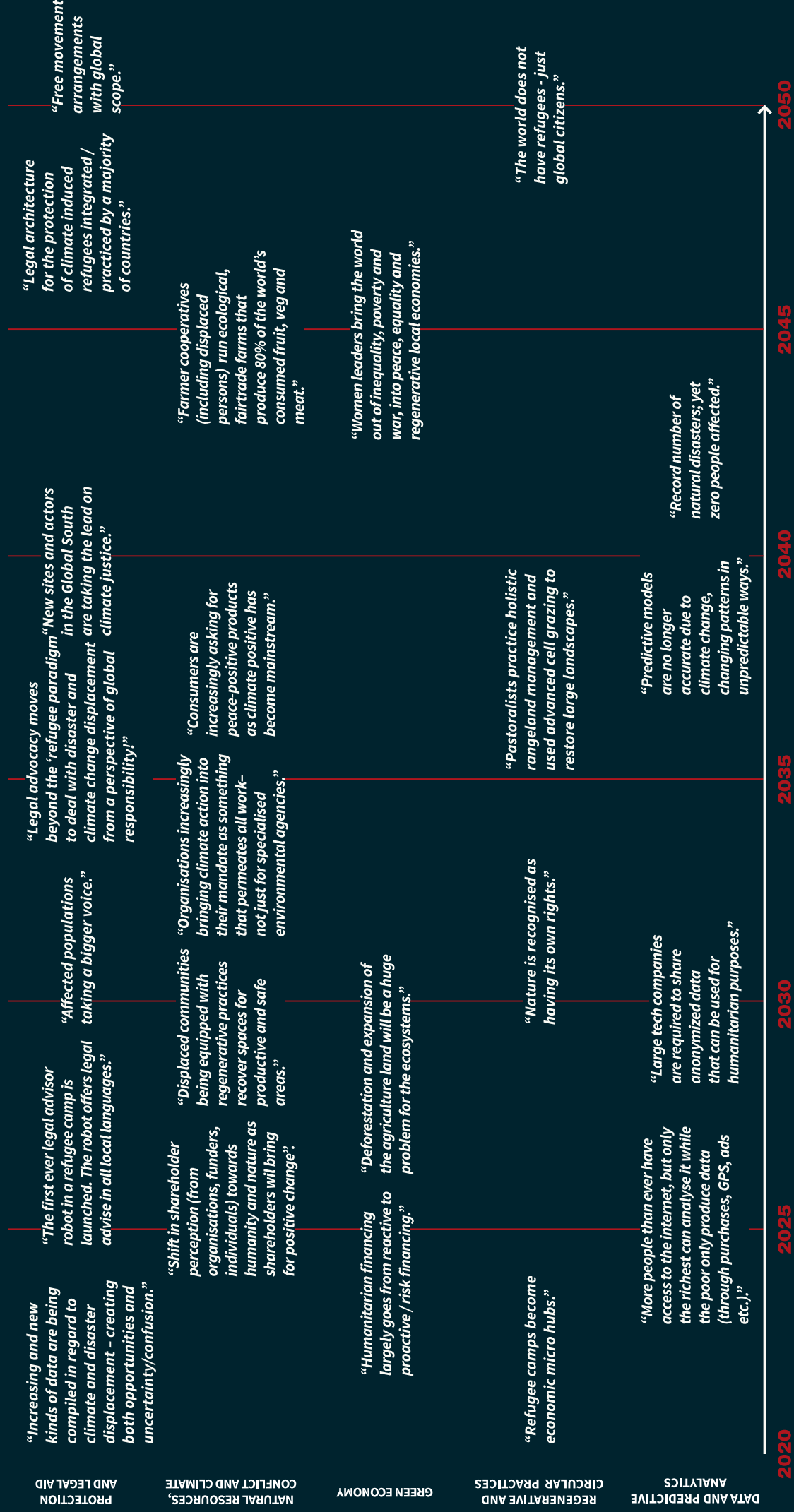
Where can we place our efforts going forward? How might we...?





# Time line of selected signals from all the workshops

As part of the workshops, the participants were asked to envision plausible events and developments in the future – negative, positive and neutral. Here are selected signals created in the workshops placed on a timeline of 2020-2050.



## RESPONSE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON PROTECTION AND LEGAL AID



The number of people displaced due to disaster and climate change greatly outnumbers people displaced by conflict. Conflict, persecution, violence and disasters, environmental degradation and climate change are interlinked causes/drivers of displacement. At the same time, a gap exists between the protection needs and protection responses to people and communities displaced by climate change.

This response community started with the following questions:

*What are the legal aid and protection needs of displaced people in a future of increased effects of climate change and environmental degradation?*

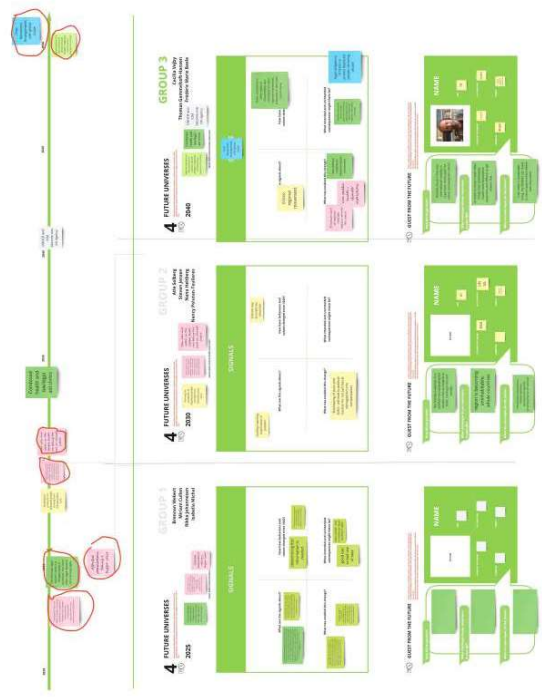
*How can we better reach and provide legal aid to communities that need it the most?*

The response community envisioned possible futures within this response theme and discussed potential future value shifts, opportunities and challenges. The insights informed the conversation in the Climate and Protection panel session at the Global Event.

## SOME OF THE KEY INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS THAT AROSE IN THE WORKSHOP

- As effects of climate change become even more visible, the 'polluter pays' principle and climate justice in general could become the dominant discourse in global politics leading to compensation and global responsibility.
- If legal aid robots were used in displacement settings, how could the capacities and needs of the communities in question be taken into account?
- We need to know how the future of climate and displacement will look like in order to prepare. For this, we need to have communities of climate scientists, legal experts and humanitarians, speaking together.
- There are interesting practices in the global health frameworks that could inform responses to climate-related displacement, for example in the Global Fund and the Global Health Cluster as an operational framework for sharing data.
- More and more data is compiled related to climate and disaster displacement. This creates opportunities, uncertainties and security considerations.

### PROTECTION AND LEGAL AID



### HOW MIGHT WE...

- operationalise and support implementation of political commitments, now?
- address ethical questions on issues affecting everyone, in an environment changing so fast while balancing rights with access to rights?
- protect people from the risks of future human rights violations associated with our use of data?
- ensure the human component in legal aid in the future?



## RESPONSE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON GREEN ECONOMY



The fact that displacement-affected communities are often among the most adversely affected by climate change and environmental degradation does not necessarily translate into assistance and support. Focus is often on ensuring protection and meeting basic needs in the short term. Environmental sustainability is in many cases not top of mind and is sometimes nothing more than an afterthought. The concept of a green economy offers a perspective of a transition in the way we look at economic and social development. From being a 'nice-to-have', environmental sustainability or even regeneration takes centre stage and design of job growth programs, social services, infrastructure, and related investment and financing initiatives start with environmental sustainability or regeneration.

This response community started with the following questions:

***How can we unlock the opportunities of the 'green transition' to the benefit of displaced populations that are often disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change and environmental degradation?***

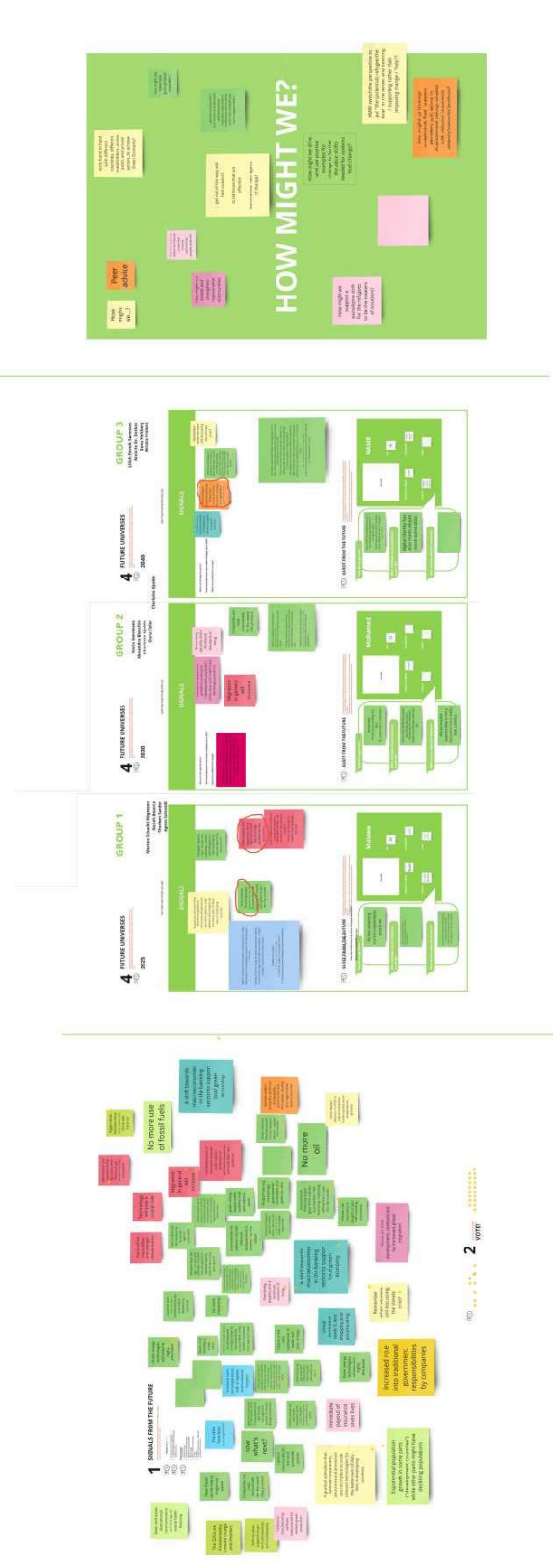
They envisioned possible futures within green economy and discussed potential future value shifts, opportunities and challenges. The insights informed the conversation in the sustainable financing for climate and displacement session at the Global Event.

## SOME OF THE KEY INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS THAT AROSE IN THE WORKSHOP

- Education is one key element in transforming towards more sustainable and regenerative practices.
- The planetary health crisis will create new areas of poverty.
- We need a paradigm shift in thinking to convince stakeholders to love risk and invest in the long-term future by, for example, investing in building green infrastructure and local communities. Insurance is key to mitigating risks of investments. The humanitarian sector could have a role in supporting investors in getting to know developing markets.
- We need to join forces and connect with different sectors, to learn and share with each other to bring about systems change.
- We see a lot of changes happening towards greener practices already today but getting the needed scale will depend on planning and getting incentives right.

## HOW MIGHT WE...

- get out of the way and best support to let those that are affected become their own agents of change?
- leverage investments that supports planetary well-being in displacement settings coupled with relevant insurance schemes/measures/products?
- create green economy jobs outside of the developed world?
- get from vision to action and results: create new inclusive people-centered partnerships?
- make local green projects investible?



## RESPONSE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON REGENERATIVE AND CIRCULAR PRACTICES



The adoption of circular practices and regenerative practices and business models is spreading as a response to the global problems created by our lavish use of resources. It is driven by an accelerated wish and need to break away from the linear, extractive “take, make and dispose” model of production and consumption and to adopt a systems approach where “waste” from one process becomes “food” into another. At the same time, responding to emergencies is core to the mandate of DRC and similar organisations. For some, the speed needed to address survival needs is incompatible with circular and regenerative practices. For others, it’s a long-overdue opportunity for responses to lay the foundations for longer-term recovery and development that put both the people and the planet at the centre.

This response community started with the following questions:

***How can humanitarian response be designed to be regenerative? What can the humanitarian sector learn from circular approaches? How can we bring about both small actions and large systemic change to the benefit of displaced people and the planet as a whole?***

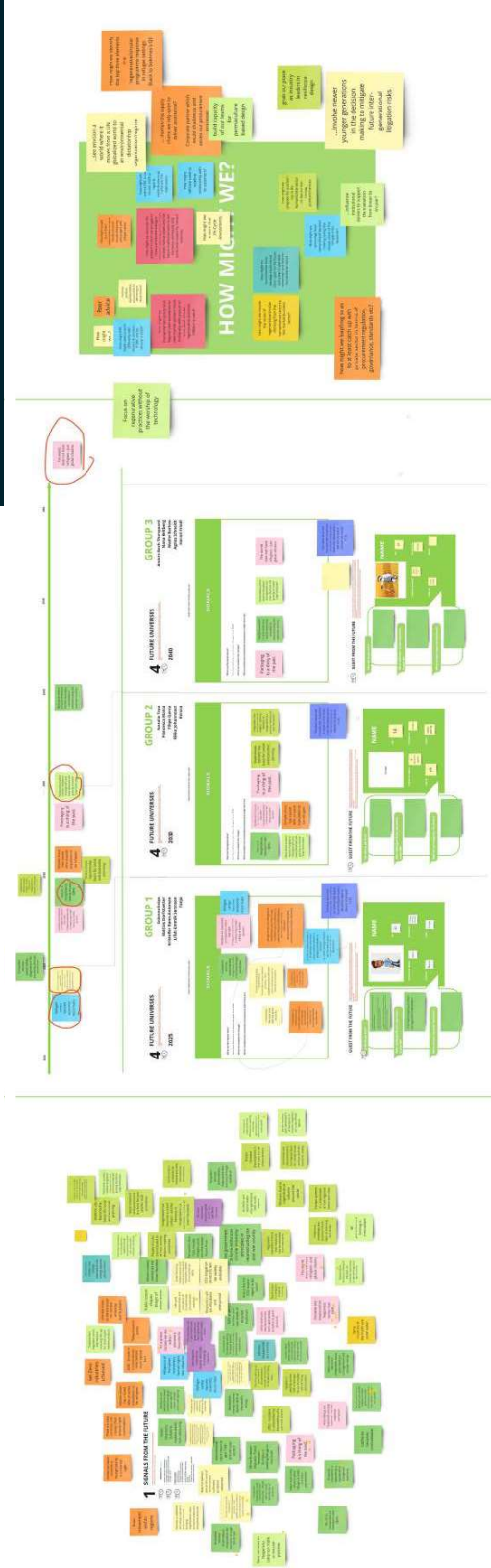
They envisioned possible futures within regeneration and circularity then discussed potential future value shifts, opportunities and challenges. The insights informed the conversation in the ‘Circular design for urban displacement contexts’ session at the Global Event.

## SOME OF THE KEY INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS THAT AROSE IN THE WORKSHOP

- How do regenerative and circular humanitarian practices differ in rural areas vs. urban displacement contexts?
- We need to be bold enough and braver to imagine the future to be able to meet the challenges we face with the climate and ecological crises.
- Respecting local experiences and Indigenous knowledge is a big part of regenerative design. We should have humility in the face of this wisdom. Also, youths play a big part in the transition and we need inter-generational bonds in order to share knowledge and insights between generations.
- What are the skills and knowledge the sector needs in order to embrace circular and regenerative practices?
- Could we require a regenerative code of conduct in procurement? Many companies have already established stricter code of conducts that enforce sustainability. We should seek to learn from them and find ways to measure and regeneration. In addition to circularity and regeneration, it should include considerations of local sourcing and local economic development.

## HOW MIGHT WE...

- influence institutional donors to support the transition from linear to circular?
- rethink DRC to become regenerative and circular by 2025?
- the humanitarian actors, look beyond cash assistance to view market systems more holistically with pursuit of more local, circular, regenerative practices firmly in mind?
- encourage local ownership of decision making during the design phase of refugee crisis responses?
- leapfrog to catch up with the private sector in terms of procurement regulation, governance, standards, etc?



## RESPONSE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON DATA AND PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS



Climate change and natural hazards drive forced displacement in different ways. Future forecasts vary from 25 million to 1 billion environmental migrants by 2050, moving either within their countries or across borders, on a permanent or temporary basis, with 200 million being the most widely cited estimate. Understanding the complex interplay between migration/displacement, conflict, climate and livelihoods is vital for DRC and the sector to be able to analyse, understand, prepare and respond to the crises that will arise due to climate change. This requires a better understanding of the relevant data, indicators, tipping points, models, etc. Without good data, we cannot even see the challenges we face, and where and how we can support effective responses.

This response community started with the following questions:

***How can data help us to better understand and respond to the effects of climate change on displacement?***

They envisioned possible futures within the response theme and discussed potential future value shifts, opportunities and challenges. The insights informed the conversation in the 'Data and displacement' session at the Global Event.

## SOME OF THE KEY INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS THAT AROSE IN THE WORKSHOP

- There are huge opportunities for driving digital inclusion and data-based decision making. However, the risk of worsening the digital divide is real as more and more people have access to the internet but only the rich can benefit from data generated mostly by the poor.
- We need to find better ways to make use of the positive impacts of technology (such as access to information and digital learning) while mitigating the negative impacts, such as privacy and security considerations and inequalities.
- The humanitarian sector struggles with the lack of proper data and systems. There is also a need for upskilling in data literacy.
- In order to engage beneficiary communities in using their data for their own benefit, in addition to internet access, we need to focus on user interfaces that allow non-technical users to access and extract knowledge.
- Groundbreaking work is being done by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) in forecast-based financing using risk modelling and predictive analytics.
- If we wish to increase access to data from the private sector, we need to find financially sustainable models for this engagement and make impact visible.



- ### HOW MIGHT WE...
- collect data for climate related migration in a high quality AND, more crucially, ethical way?
  - make sure that data benefits people affected by forced displacement and find ways to engage/enable beneficiary communities to use data to help to address their challenges themselves?
  - motivate humanitarian organisations to invest in making data accessible in a timely and consistent manner?
  - build an alliance to make the case for forecast based financing for addressing climate-induced displacement?

# HACK4HUMANITY

## ABOUT THE DRC-DTU HACK4HUMANITY

The need for stronger climate adaptation data and practices, coupled with an interest to explore what and how data and automation could be applied, were among the main drivers for the Hack4Humanity co-organised by the Technical University of Denmark and DRC on October 16, 2020 at DTU Skylab. It brought together 22 students from eight universities for a 12-hour hackathon\* with a focus on developing ideas for climate adaptation tools for the Humanitarian Sector. Fourteen mentors and experts from DTU, DRC and partners supported the teams during the day.

The hackathon led to **six ideas being pitched** to a jury from DTU Compute, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danish Refugee Council and the startup LinkAiders.



\*A hackathon is a creative problem-solving methodology, used to create functioning concepts and systems that can be applied to concrete challenges and problems.

The challenge the teams ideated on was:

**HOW CAN DRC DEVELOP AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM, BASED ON THE LATEST DATA AND SCIENTIFIC WORK THAT IS ABLE TO MEASURE THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF A PLANNED ACTIVITY?**

The following two teams stood out:

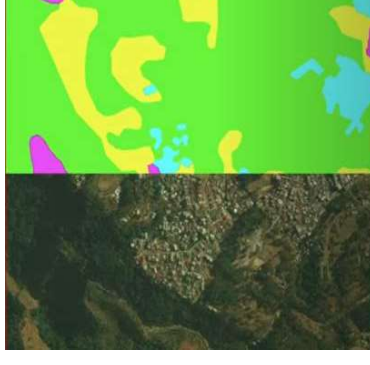
### CLIMATION

Selected as 'the best pitch'



### DATEG

Selected 'the most promising solution'



The student teams have, since the Hackathon and the Global Event, further refined their suggested solutions and together with DRC and DTU Skylab are exploring ways to take their ideas forward.

# THE DRC GLOBAL EVENT on Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Forced Displacement

**November 25, 2020**

The explorative journey culminated in the DRC Global Event at the end of November 2020. Conversations, questions and ideas shared at Launch Event and the Response Community workshops informed the program. The Global Event was a day full of inspiration, conversations, hands-on experiences, sharing and calls to action to support the humanitarian sector to better respond to the climate crisis and its effects on forced displacement. During the virtual event, thought leaders and change makers from the humanitarian sector and beyond shared their knowledge, insights and experiences in conversation with leading DRC experts with the over 200 people who joined the event during the day.

On this day, we moved from diving into existing knowledge on how climate and environmental degradation interconnect with migration and displacement, to looking at issues of protection, conflict and natural resources and data in more detail. We explored visions for the humanitarian sector and how the sector needs to change in order to respond to the climate crisis in this decade. We were introduced to hands-on regenerative work in rural settings and visited the world of green economy with a focus on sustainable financing to see how investments could be directed to the benefit of displaced people. We looked for ways to make humanitarian responses in urban settings more circular and regenerative. We were guided by sustainability leaders on how to bring green leadership into humanitarian organisations and closed the event with a strong imperative to put climate justice at the heart of our work on climate change and environmental degradation.

*"The essence of this journey has been to accept that this day and age is a defining time where we have to embrace transformation. Maybe this means that you do what you are best at while meeting the challenges in our changing world. All the collaborators from within and outside of our sector and the DRC ambassadors have been essential in assisting us in the transformation, in helping us develop our thinking to allow us and our fellow humanitarian workers to do the best work we can. We are grateful for this."*



- Rikke Johannessen, lead moderator of the event and Head of Unit, Programme Innovation and Business Engagement, DRC

## Programme

- **OPENING KEYNOTE:**  
Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Forced Displacement
- **PARALLEL SESSIONS:**  
Diving into the Climate-Displacement Nexus  
Protection & legal aid, climate and displacement  
Land, displacement and climate change  
Data and displacement
- **CONVERSATION:**  
Vision from the Humanitarian Sector
- **ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF HACK4HUMANITY**
- **TALK:**  
Resilience Design - Integrating Regenerative Practices Into Humanitarian Work
- **PARALLEL SESSIONS:**  
Seeds of Change  
Sustainable financing for climate and displacement  
Circular design for urban displacement contexts
- **CONVERSATION:**  
Green Leadership
- **CLOSING KEYNOTE:**  
Climate Justice: 'Leave No One Behind'







*“We don’t need to use climate migration or displacement as a scare tactic for climate action. Often, what it does is to promote more restrictive migration policies rather than climate action. And it dehumanises people and takes away their agency and their stories.”*

[WATCH THE SESSION HERE](#)

**OPENING KEYNOTE**

**Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Forced Displacement**

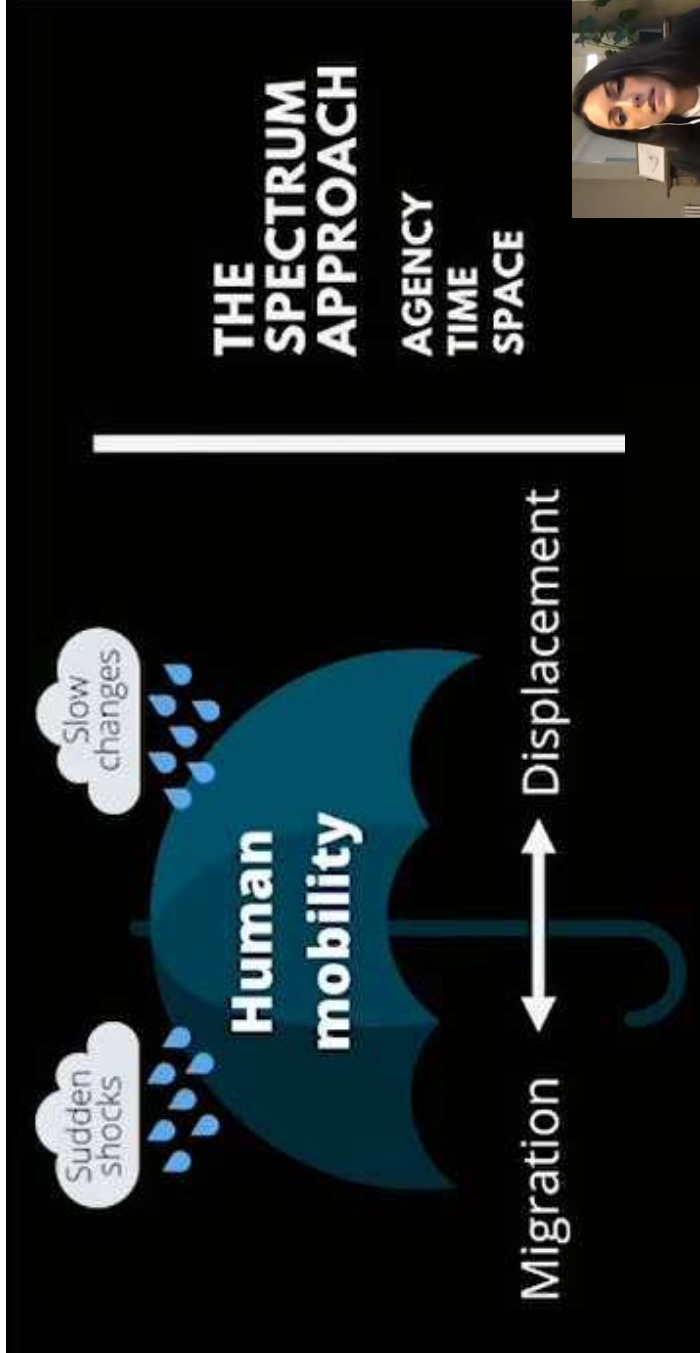
**Dr. Caroline Zickgraf, The Hugo Observatory**

Climate change does not act alone to drive displacement. It is a threat multiplier that deepens vulnerabilities and inequalities. Sea level rise, temperature rise, climate variability and unpredictability, extreme weather events and biodiversity loss are some of the ways we see climate change affecting displacement in combination with other factors.

Natural disasters have displaced 288 million people since 2008. Three times as many people are forced to move because of environmental disasters than conflict. **This is not a hypothetical future issue but something that is happening and needs to be acted upon now.** However, what numbers don’t capture are slow onset changes, such as coastal erosion or sea-level rise, cross-border displacement or ‘voluntary’ migration linked to changes in climate.

Legally, there is no such a thing as a climate refugee. The relationship between climate change and human mobility is complex and non-linear and unlike often portrayed by the media or in the public. Deterministic assumptions hinder our ability to support those at risk of displacement. Both context and other factors interlinked with climate need to be taken into account. The poorest and the most marginalised will suffer the greatest consequences as they lack the resources to move when they would need to. It is also important to recognise that many people don’t want to move.

We are trying to avoid displacement whenever possible and to decrease the number of people who will be forced to flee the impacts of climate and provide solutions for those displaced now and in the future. From a humanitarian response perspective, **we should focus on needs rather than categorising based on reasons behind displacement, promote sustainable livelihoods, recognise the power of migration to adapt to climate change as well as support existing mechanisms** – we don’t always have to reinvent responses for the climate context.





**Dr. Miriam Cullen,**  
Copenhagen University



**Elizabeth Allcock,** DRC



**Atle Solberg,**  
Platform on Disaster  
Displacement Secretariat

Facilitated by  
**Brennan Webert,** DRC

**PARALLEL SESSION  
INSPIRED BY:**



**RESPONSE  
COMMUNITY  
WORKSHOP ON  
PROTECTION  
AND LEGAL AID**

**DEEP DIVES INTO CLIMATE AND  
DISPLACEMENT**

## Legal Aid, Protection, Climate and Displacement

So far, attempts to claim refugee status for reasons associated with climate change have been unsuccessful. Environmental factors are not recognised as criteria to define a refugee under the 1951 Refugee Convention. Other avenues include regional conventions with broader definitions of refugees and complementary protection under Human Rights Law. However, refugee law and complementary protection are reactive in their essence. **The scope of understanding protection should be broadened to include, for instance, protecting people in their countries of origin through climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and development initiatives.**

The protection needs of people crossing borders as a result of causes linked to climate change are diverse. There is a lot of complexity and no one-size-fits-all policies and frameworks. However, there are global, regional and national frameworks that can guide us. The Nansen Initiative has identified different humanitarian protection measures that have been used by countries, such as regular migration legislation and creation of exceptional migration categories, free movement protocols and anticipatory approaches that use migration as climate-adaptation mechanism.

At the same time, **the complex drivers of migration and displacement should be acknowledged in the practices of DRC and other organisations.** For example, the work of DRC with people crossing Yemen from the Horn of Africa has shown new driving forces behind displacement. Data gathered might indicate that these are voluntary migrants. But with a closer look, you see that the economic migration narrative is too simplified. In many cases, there are significant underlying factors linked to climate change, such as drought, desertification and land grabbing for commercial agriculture. Without legal avenues for countering these forces, people seek sanctuary from tensions fueled by climate change. This complexity is not captured in pre-determined categorisation often used in assessments.

There is a lot of potential for **DRC to move from being reactive to proactive.** DRC's strength is that it has a **strong mandate and people on the ground, giving it credibility and strong messaging that can be leveraged for advocacy** and creating a better policy space. What is needed is a strategy for messaging at different levels, presence in multi-lateral forums, such as the Platform for Disaster Displacement, and strong collaboration with other organisations. Collaboration is also key across organisations and sectors in order to tackle the multifaceted problems stemming from climate change. DRC needs to be strategic about its engagement and bring its expertise where it matters the most.

**DEEP DIVES INTO CLIMATE AND  
DISPLACEMENT**

## Land, Displacement and Climate Change

Violent conflict occurs as a result of complex interlocked factors. Climate change compounds these and erodes the ability of communities to adapt to effects of climate change. Marginalised groups, including displaced people, are often particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks and stressors. We are in a situation in which many communities living in conflict and displacement-affected regions are subjected to constant, multiple and interlocking stressors. This presents a profound challenge to the humanitarian sector.

In order for us to work more effectively for systems change in relation to land-related conflict driving displacement, **we need to get better at understanding the protracted and multidimensional nature of shocks and drivers of displacement** relating to, among others, violence, conflict, ecological degradation. We should also find ways to **increase both people's resilience and ecological resilience** at many levels and through integrated action.

**We need to talk more and systemise ecosystem-based approaches and ecological regeneration.** Ecosystems need to be enforced by using nature-based solutions and active regeneration involving approaches such as landscaping techniques and ecological design. This can be done only by **working closely with communities** as they are the ones that determine which services a landscape should produce. What we should do, is to equip communities with methodologies, tools and action processes that can be used collectively to restore the ecosystem.

Regenerative practices have the potential to flip the story of displacement by empowering displaced and host communities and over time help with climate adaptation and mitigation. DRC is doing some groundbreaking work here in pilot projects in Burundi, Uganda and Yemen. On top of scaling this work, **we should also develop frameworks and start to address ecosystem-scale regeneration** in which conflict and fragile zones have a role to play.

Focus should not, however, only be on regeneration alone as we risk returning to technical solutions to multidimensional problems. **We need to work with the political and conflict drivers of displacement and vulnerability,** moving into the triple nexus involving development and peacemaking approaches and actors as well as communities and authorities.

The strategies of environmental peacemaking we can employ are dependent on the ecosystems. Regenerative approaches might work well in arid and semi-arid regions where as if people engaged in the conflict have organised around natural resources, regeneration might feed the conflict economies.



**Olivia Lazard,**  
Peace in Design Consulting  
Ltd.



**Benedict Irwin,**  
CARE Ethiopia

Facilitated by  
**Maria Pade Lange and  
Padmini Iyer,** DRC

**PARALLEL SESSION  
INSPIRED BY:**



**NATURAL  
RESOURCES,  
CONFLICT AND  
CLIMATE**



**Dr. Véronique Lefebvre,**  
Flowminder Foundation



**Vicente Anzellini,**  
Internal Displacement  
Monitoring Centre



**Andy Norris,**  
Catapult

Facilitated by  
**Alexander Kjaerum, DRC**  
and **Jane Linekar,** the Mixed  
Migration Centre

**PARALLEL SESSION  
INSPIRED BY:**

**DATA AND  
PREDICTIVE  
ANALYTICS**

## DEEP DIVES INTO CLIMATE AND DISPLACEMENT

### Data and Displacement

How can data help us to better understand and respond to the effects of climate change on displacement? Many of the most vulnerable groups to climate change leave very limited “digital footprints” and therefore are “invisible” in some of the old and new data sources that are being used to fill data gaps.

The International Displacement Monitoring Centre uses a variety of data sources to analyse and compile data on internal displacement on an annual basis. They are able to classify disaster displacement by different hazards, seeing that in most cases, internal displacement is triggered by hydro-meteorological hazards like floods, storms and wildfires. **This means that in the future, we will be able to monitor the impact of climate change on disaster displacement in terms of natural hazards.**

**Satellite data offers opportunities for gaining data from places with limited access,** as in the case of Yemen. Catapult has been working with a number of actors to improve access to data from Yemen to inform humanitarian responses. For example, they have been able to monitor changes in the IDP settlements in the city of Marid, expansion in the number of mortality rates due to the COVID pandemic by monitoring burials using satellite data as well as supporting with understanding groundwater depletion – a potential factor driving displacement. Satellite data can be used to monitor long-term changes in the environment as there is more than 40 years of historical open-source spatial data available.

Flowminder works with mobile phone usage data to monitor displacement and to make predictions. It provides data of phone usage by the location of the nearest cell tower. **Mobile data can enable measuring of near real time and large-scale mobility patterns and continuous monitoring of movements.** It can also be used to measure long-term trends, such as the impact of slow onset disasters on displacement. As with other data sources, mobile usage data works best when combined with other sources, such face-to-face surveys.

**Privacy and data protection are key in ensuring the safe and ethical use of data.** In practice, this means, for example, not giving away individual trajectories but only group statistics and making sure that data cannot be traced back to individuals. GDPR rules also guide ethical and safe use of data. Many of the data sources, such as satellite imagery used by Catapult, are publicly available with a level of resolution that does not allow for identifying individuals. However, mapping the unmapped, especially in conflict regions, is sensitive and needs to be done with great care following protocols of ethical usage of data.

## CONVERSATION Vision for the Humanitarian Sector



**Grainne O'Hara,**  
UNHCR



**Gernot Laganda,**  
United Nations' World  
Food Program (WFP)



**Karin Sorensen,** DRC

Climate change will hit unevenly. For humanitarian needs, this means that things are going to get worse before they get better. Even though funding is also rising, it is not catching up with the growing needs for humanitarian assistance, meaning that the funding gap is getting wider. What humanitarian organisations often do is to ask for more funding. But this is not a sustainable option. Funds will be more limited than ever as many countries prioritise investing closer to home due to the pandemic.

One way of trying to bridge the gap is to **turn to private sector financing through insurance mechanisms.** This way, we can transfer some of the larger and less frequent risks to the market. Another way is to work with **foresight, and employ more forecast and early warning and crisis alert systems to trigger action before a crisis hits.**

**The humanitarian, development and peace and security nexus also hold some answers.** If we really want to rise to the challenges of climate change, on top of humanitarian funding, we need to connect to development sector and draw in private sector and other actors. We also need to focus on peace and security; conflicts need to be resolved.

The money that makes a big difference in the long run is not in donor funding but the investments made by governments. Public investments today have a huge impact on how, for example, food systems will look tomorrow.

Even if we succeed with all of this, there will still be a funding gap. This means that we need to become better humanitarians. **We need to use existing funds smarter and more efficiently, work more in partnership with others,** including as UN organisations, NGOs and governments. And **we need to become more environmentally conscious in our work.**

Compound disasters are becoming more common as the world is much more complex and inter-connected. **We need integrated responses** to tackle these threats that materialize in parallel, reach across borders and affect each other, such as pandemics, financial shocks and climate stresses. World Food Programme (WFP), for example, is working across teams and combining different funding sources to work more holistically on these crises.

The interlinkage between climate and conflict gives us signals on where to focus resources. Out of 20 countries today ranked as the most vulnerable to climate change, 12 are also affected by conflict. These are the places where we see the most need and can target our responses accordingly.

Another challenge is that vulnerabilities shift swiftly. Many people who were not considered vulnerable last year have become vulnerable. **We need to be flexible and have accurate data at hand to target responses.** This requires connected data sources and solid use of data across organisations and government.

WATCH THE SESSION HERE

# Design for Regenerative: Integrating regenerative practices into humanitarian work

## Warren Brush, Quail Springs Permaculture and True Nature Design

The receiving landscape gives us the capacity to buffer from the impacts of climate change. It makes a huge difference whether a landscape is resilient, like a natural forest, or degraded and therefore vulnerable to external shocks.

**“Resilience grows from an intricate web of beneficial relationships within our ecological, social and market systems.”** Stability comes from the web of connections. Designing for resilience is not new. For decades, several movements have been working on creating regenerative systems, including the permaculture, agroecology, food forestry and rainwater harvesting movements.

Resilience design combines the learnings from these movements into the unique operating environments of the humanitarian and development spaces. The Resilience Design framework is based on a set of principles that can be applied at different levels, such as the garden, whole farm, community and watershed levels. At the core of the work is building a healthy hydrology and a living soil.

**Resilience happens when the silos of different sectors start to find opportunities to connect and work together.** For example, waste from a butchery is a health issue if not dealt with properly. But it can be turned into high-level organic fertiliser, making it a livelihood opportunity when used in the agriculture system. It also means fewer chemicals in the environment, touching on natural resource management.

DRC has been looking at how to use nature’s laboratory to inform DRC strategy in East Africa to inform its programming. **Nature has developed stability and can teach us about biodiversity and resilience.** Nature is systems based, not linear. In nature, nutrients are cycled and local resources used. It is essentially regenerative rather than degenerative.



*“Resilience really comes down to empowerment. Not just empowering the people but empowering the landscape to support the agro-ecosystem that makes it possible for us to have a stable and resilient human settlement system.”*

WATCH THE SESSION HERE



## SEEDS OF CHANGE

### Sustainable Financing for Climate and Displacement

Sustainable financing in different forms plays a key role in supporting climate smart solutions and the green transition. While displacement-affected communities are often among the most adversely affected by climate change and environmental degradation, financing for assistance to these communities is often short term and inefficient in supporting durable change. Global financing trends, such as climate insurance, crowd funding and sustainable investing, may offer new inspiration for more sustainable financing to respond to situations of forced displacement.

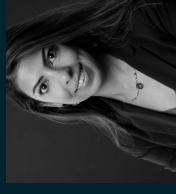
Traditionally, ethical considerations have been driving sustainable investing. However, in recent years, we can see a shift in discourse towards talking about risk. The risks of the impact of not addressing systemic challenges with climate change are at the centre of that. There is also a growing stakeholder expectation towards their investments not contributing to the systemic predicaments but instead to the global commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Green-washing investments are also becoming a thing in the past. We see a rise of multi-stakeholder partnerships reaching objective standards on what is sustainable. Transparency is increasingly demanded of investors who need to show and prove that they walk the talk when claiming to be sustainable. At the same time, large investors have a lot of power to push policy makers and companies to shift towards more circular, sustainable and resilient models. It is the role of a sustainable investor to set clear expectations on what they want the receiver of the funds to do, whether the receiver is a country or a private company. There is an untapped opportunity for **DRC to draw up a framework of best practices or a set of expectations for both private companies and nationals in terms of how they should be addressing displacement issues** that could be used by investors to drive conversations with sovereigns and companies

**Collaboration and partnerships are key in bringing about these needed shifts. We need to acknowledge and play to our advantage the different strengths, skills and capabilities of different actors,** for example of insurance providers and the humanitarian sector. We need to work towards a common goal while dividing responsibilities and ensuring our roles are complementary. One example of this is predictive financing that needs scaling up to reach its full potential in addressing risks before they become crises. There is a lot of interest from the private sector in engaging in predictive financing but what is needed is an enabling environment that can often be provided only by government in collaboration with humanitarian and development actors.



Lise Pretorius, Matter



Tuga Alaskary, InsuResilience



Hanna Lindquist, TRINE

Facilitated by Morten Høgenesen, DRC

PARALLEL SESSION INSPIRED BY:



## SEEDS OF CHANGE

### Circular Design for Urban Displacement Contexts

Displacement is increasingly an urban reality. Rapid and large-scale arrivals, as well as long-term settlement of forcibly displaced populations in urban centres, place high pressure on existing resources and systems. This reality calls for a rethink of humanitarian response in urban settings, promoting more holistic and durable approaches.

Circular design and circular economy are about rethinking and redesigning the way we use resources. They are not new as practices. In fact, circularity has been and is often a necessity when resources are scarce. **Many displaced populations have to deal with scarce resources and be innovative with what is available. This creates huge potentials that humanitarian organisations should tap into.**

For the humanitarian sector to scale up circular practices, four components need to be included:

- **Operations:** make sure you measure the carbon footprint of your organisation, optimize your resources and get waste management in order.
- **Supply chain:** look into the lifecycles of the products you use, what exists and could be sourced locally, create partnerships with suppliers and explore leasing of equipment; if needed only temporarily, send items that are no longer needed back to the supplier.
- **Culture:** leverage the institutional memory you have and put it into practice, via policies and mandates, including a circular action program. Leadership has a key role in this. Circularity will also help you to attract talent.
- **Ecosystem thinking:** foster a circular ecosystem and leverage partnerships when possible.

Many of the resource challenges of the future are already present in many urban areas with increased pressure on waste management, energy, food and water, among others. Cities are also leading the way in developing some of the solutions needed in the future. At the same time, cities are strongly impacted by climate-induced displacement. In order to harness the opportunities and meet these challenges, **silos need to be broken across administrations, and between officials, civil society and humanitarian organisations.** There are many causes where common ground can be found.

**Working together with the private sector is important in unlocking the potentials of circular design.** The private sector is, after all, at the forefront in building solutions and infrastructure and creating jobs in the green transition. We need someone to facilitate partnerships and alliances as the different sectors don't always speak the same language. Cities or organisations like DRC can take up this role.

**We need to avoid climate policies and actions worsening existing inequalities and instead create equitable outcomes.** A good example is the City of Barcelona that has, on top of its climate targets, set social climate targets, such as eliminating energy poverty by 2030 and ensuring that every person has close access to a climate shelter.



**Caterina Safatti,**  
C40



**Charlotte Gjedde,** State  
of Green



**Felipe Camaño García,**  
Independent Expert

Facilitated by  
**Solenne Delga,** DRC

**PARALLEL SESSION  
INSPIRED BY:**



**REGENERATIVE  
AND CIRCULAR  
PRACTICES**

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## CONVERSATION

### Green Leadership



**Charlotte Slente,** DRC  
Secretary General



**Helen Clarkson,** the  
Climate Group



**Laura Storm,**  
Regenerative Leadership  
Expert

*"We're all agents of change. We need to ask ourselves this question in everything we do: are we creating regenerative or degenerative ripple effects?"*

-Laura Storm

*"It has been a strange year. There's a general consensus that people don't want to go back to the way things were prior to the pandemic. We need new ideas, solutions and approaches. Can we create some space to think about what we learnt this year? What do we want to keep in our practices and what do we want to do differently?"*

-Helen Clarkson

The transition towards becoming an environmentally sustainable organisation should **start with analyzing your organisation's environmental footprint.** This knowledge needs to be **combined with a big vision.** It's more about asking the right questions rather than having all the answers to start unlocking the potential for green transition. This will open up the process and unleash collaboration on how to go about achieving your big vision.

When trying to transform to become more sustainable, we often focus on policy, technology and finance and ignore the inner parts of a healthy organisation. **A more holistic approach is needed.** This is when regenerative leadership comes to play. Regenerative is defined to be actions that help to revitalize, restore, replenish and empower. **For a truly regenerative transformation,** leaders need to start with themselves. Self-awareness is key to truly leading in a regenerative and conscious way.

There are many stumbling blocks in the journey towards becoming environmentally sustainable or even regenerative.

Many of them are caused by mental blocks and being stuck with old ways of working, like in the case of flying. Also, organisational silos are big obstacles for transformation. **We need to look at our impact and footprint holistically.** We can learn a lot from natural superorganisms and how they operate.

**We cannot only focus inwardly, it's also about the transformation of a sector.** A key question we need to ask ourselves is "how can we at DRC and the sector get better at listening and sharing power with the communities we work with to get them more in the driver's seat?"

[WATCH THE SESSION HERE](#)



*“We need to listen to the voices of people affected. These voices speak true to power and what it’s like to be at the frontline of the effects of climate change.”*

[WATCH THE SESSION HERE](#)

## CLOSING KEYNOTE **Climate Justice: “No one left behind”**

**Mary Robinson,  
the Elders**

**How can we put justice and equity at the heart of the climate change debate?**

The climate crisis is a human crisis, not just an environmental one. At the heart of the climate crisis, there are real humans, with real lives and livelihoods. The crisis is not a future issue – it is among us here today.

The effects of climate change are not knocking on people’s doors; they have come through the doors with immense power. The climate crisis is a justice crisis where the most vulnerable will suffer the most. These are people who are least responsible for climate change. They should not be left to shoulder the consequences.

Even in a world where we meet the Paris temperature targets, we must think how some people will be relocated. Sometimes people just really cannot go home. **We need to seek solutions that will enable people to move safely and with dignity, rather than being forced to flee.**

As the founder of the Elders, Nelson Mandela, said: “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” And this is the sentiment I also have.



# THANK YOU!

We are truly grateful for those of you who joined us in this Global Event journey: the collaborators, speakers, participants, our partners DaraDisrupt and the Danish Technical University and our colleagues, including the DRC Global Event ambassadors. Thank you for being open to new perspectives and connections and generous with your knowledge and time. And thank you for supporting an open-sourced journey to explore the nexus between climate change, environmental degradation and forced displacement, to support programming, thinking and practice going forward for stronger more resilient work for people affected by displacement.

The Global Event journey was about provoking, learning, sharing, testing new ways of working and meaningfully engaging with partners and topics that are often in the sidelines or outside of DRC's usual line of work. This has been both challenging and exciting and has opened our minds to new possibilities, deeper understanding and partnerships. Thank you for trusting us and taking part in this explorative pilot initiative. We are overly excited that this year's DRC Global Event was a first with many more to come!

## Our key takeaways

The key takeaway for us has been, as stated by Dr. Adil Najam at the Launch Event, that climate change is no longer a future issue. We need to work now on climate mitigation and adaptation, building on our strengths and engaging in complementary partnerships. It is our responsibility to find ways to mitigate the ecological footprint of our work. And we also have a responsibility to grow climate awareness response and protection work. We need to integrate climate and environment thinking and practices into our work with people we support and into our humanitarian programme design, and work with partners that can support this important aim. We were also reminded that DRC is already doing some ground-breaking work, particularly with regenerative practices, that has great potential for addressing the ecological crises our planet is facing and that put an additional burden on people affected by displacement.

The Global Event journey 2020 has demonstrated the potential of inviting different sectors into the humanitarian work and has shown the positive value of bringing people together around a common complex agenda. In order to better understand and address complex issues and predicaments affecting displacement globally, we need to stay open and curious, engage in new conversations and learn from and partner with actors outside of our sector.

We have also learned that we need occasionally to break from the tyranny of the now and find opportunities and spaces for long-term thinking. This means looking into the future and seeking to understand what is emerging from the signals we already see today. Without this, we might lose sight of the problems we work to address, and opportunities and challenges that the future might bring.

## Global Event 2021

The DRC Global Event will be back in 2021 under a new forward-looking theme that will seek to make the humanitarian sector smarter, more responsive and more accountable towards displacement-affected people. And do note – the work on 2020 Global Event theme – climate change, environmental degradation and forced displacement, has just started!

Stay tuned at <https://drc.ngo/>.



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COUNCIL  
DRC