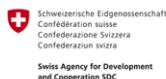




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WEP, GIZ Strengthen Women's Leadership on Climate Mobility Through Regional HMCCC Fellowship

ABUJA, Nigeria

31 August 2026

Women Environmental Programme (WEP), in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, is strengthening the capacity of emerging women leaders across West Africa to address climate-induced human mobility through the Women's Fellowship on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (HMCCC).

The six-month regional fellowship brings together selected Fellows and Mentors from 12 ECOWAS Member States, providing a platform for knowledge development, mentorship, policy engagement and regional collaboration on climate mobility.

As part of the fellowship, WEP is convening a three-day capacity-building workshop from 31 August to 2 September 2026 at Bolton White Hotel, Abuja, bringing together selected Fellows and Mentors alongside key stakeholders working on climate change, gender, migration and humanitarian issues.

The workshop aims to empower women leaders from the ECOWAS region with the knowledge, tools and platforms to lead policy dialogue, implement solutions and build inclusive networks for sustainable and climate-resilient development.

During the opening of the workshop, Dr Priscilla Achakpa, Global Lead, WEP, remarked:

"Women are not just victims of climate mobility; they are essential drivers of the solution. By equipping women leaders with policy tools, evidence-based advocacy skills and strong regional networks, we can shift the response across West Africa from crisis management towards strategic, gender-responsive resilience."

Also speaking during the opening, Betts Apemi Owabomate, Technical Adviser on Migration and Climate Change, GIZ, remarked:

"Women are crucial actors in climate adaptation, resilience, and community leadership. For us, it is not only about ensuring that women have mobility and are represented in policies. It is also about ensuring that they have a voice in these policies and actively participate in decision-making processes."

The workshop focuses on four key areas: Climate Mobility, Gender Mainstreaming, Policy Engagement and Advocacy, and Leadership Development.

Participants explore climate-induced migration, displacement and planned relocation in West Africa, with attention to gender-responsive and inclusive policies. They also develop practical skills in policy analysis, evidence-based advocacy, stakeholder engagement and communication, while strengthening their leadership capacity to mobilise communities and drive locally led, sustainable solutions to climate mobility challenges.

Representing the Federal Ministry of Environment Department of Climate Change, Dr Iniobong Abiola-Awe, (Director, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment) remarked during the opening of the workshop:



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“There is a need for more comprehensive approach to addressing climate change and its impact on vulnerable communities, groups and the environment also climate mobility interventions cannot be effective without ensuring that gender analysis is integrated into vulnerability assessments and mobility planning.”

Following the in-person workshop, the Fellows continue their engagement with their assigned Mentors throughout the fellowship. The mentorship component provides continued guidance and support as Fellows strengthen their leadership, develop practical initiatives and contribute to policy and community-level action on climate mobility.

The Women’s Fellowship on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change is implemented by Women Environmental Programme (WEP) under the GIZ-led Global Programme on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (GP HMCCC) II. The programme is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and implemented in West Africa in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as the programme’s political partner.

Through the fellowship, WEP and its partners are strengthening a network of women leaders equipped to contribute meaningfully to climate and migration policy processes, advance gender-responsive solutions, and support sustainable and climate-resilient development across West Africa.

About Women Environmental Programme (WEP)

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) is a Nigerian non-governmental organisation working to advance environmental sustainability, gender equality, climate resilience and inclusive development.

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