

# Climate Change and Human Mobility: International Insights for a Resilient EU

MSc. Sergio Ampudia

17 October, 2024

Pretoria, South Africa

Esta foto de Autor desconocido está bajo licencia [CC BY-NC-ND](#)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 869395.

# Context

75.9  
million  
internally  
displaced  
people  
worldwide

26.4  
million new  
internal  
displacements  
due to  
disasters

20.3  
million  
displacements  
due to  
weather-  
related  
disasters

6.1 million  
due to  
geophysical  
disasters

3.3 – 3.6 billion people

Low

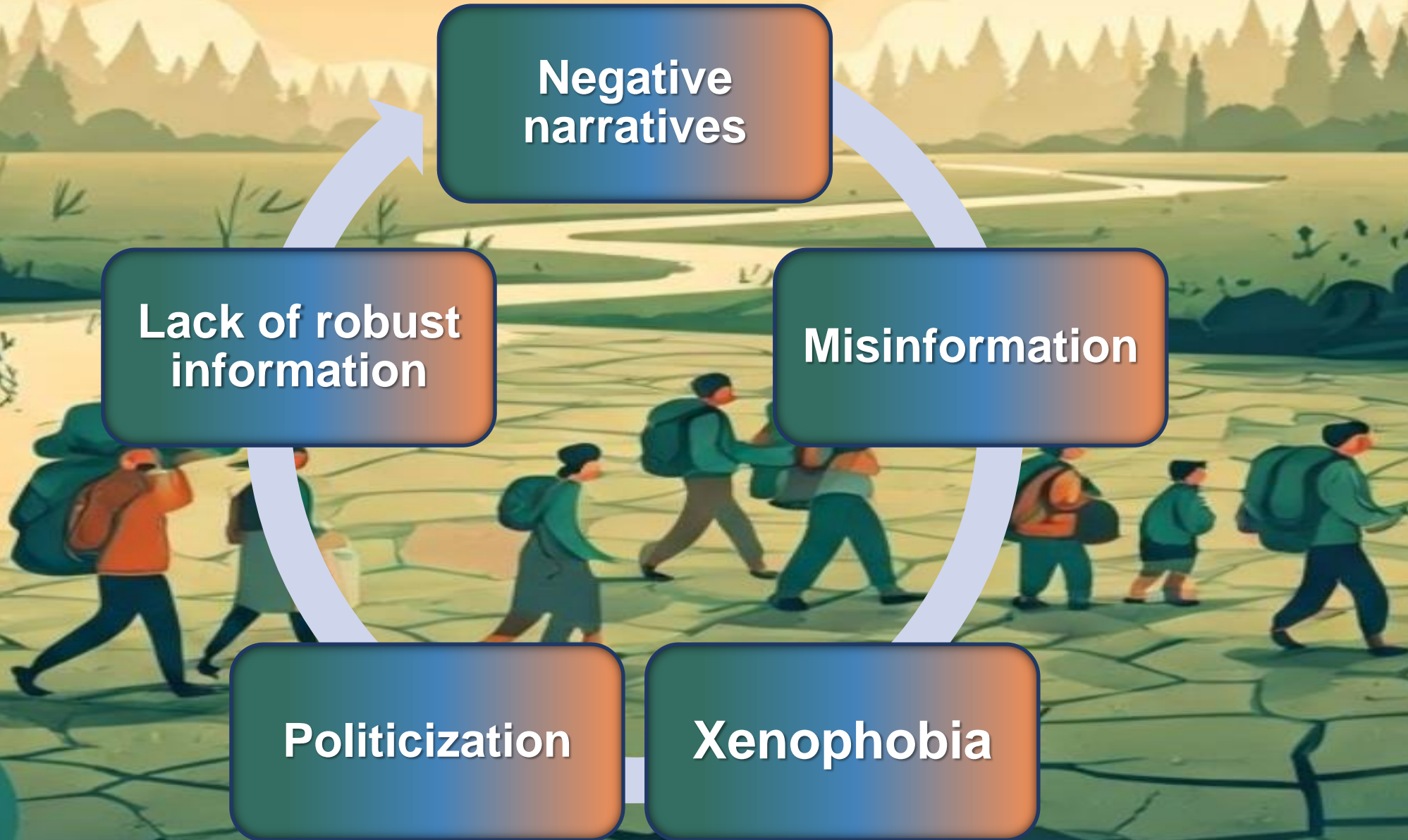
are living in **highly** vulnerable areas  
to climate change impacts

High

Human mortality 15 times higher in these regions

Sources: GRID, 2024  
IPCC AR6 Synthesis  
Report, 2023

# Misconceptions and challenges

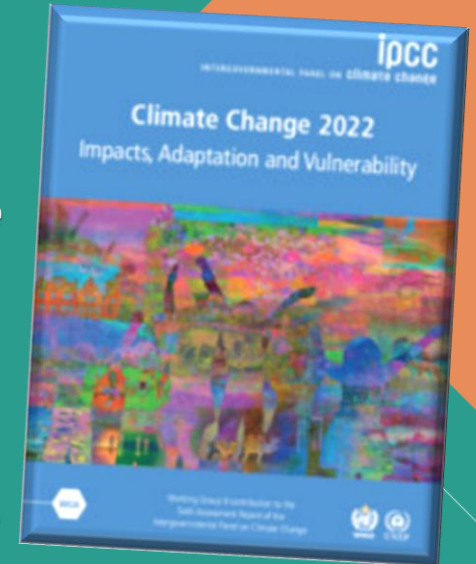


# Climate change, human mobility and HABITABLE

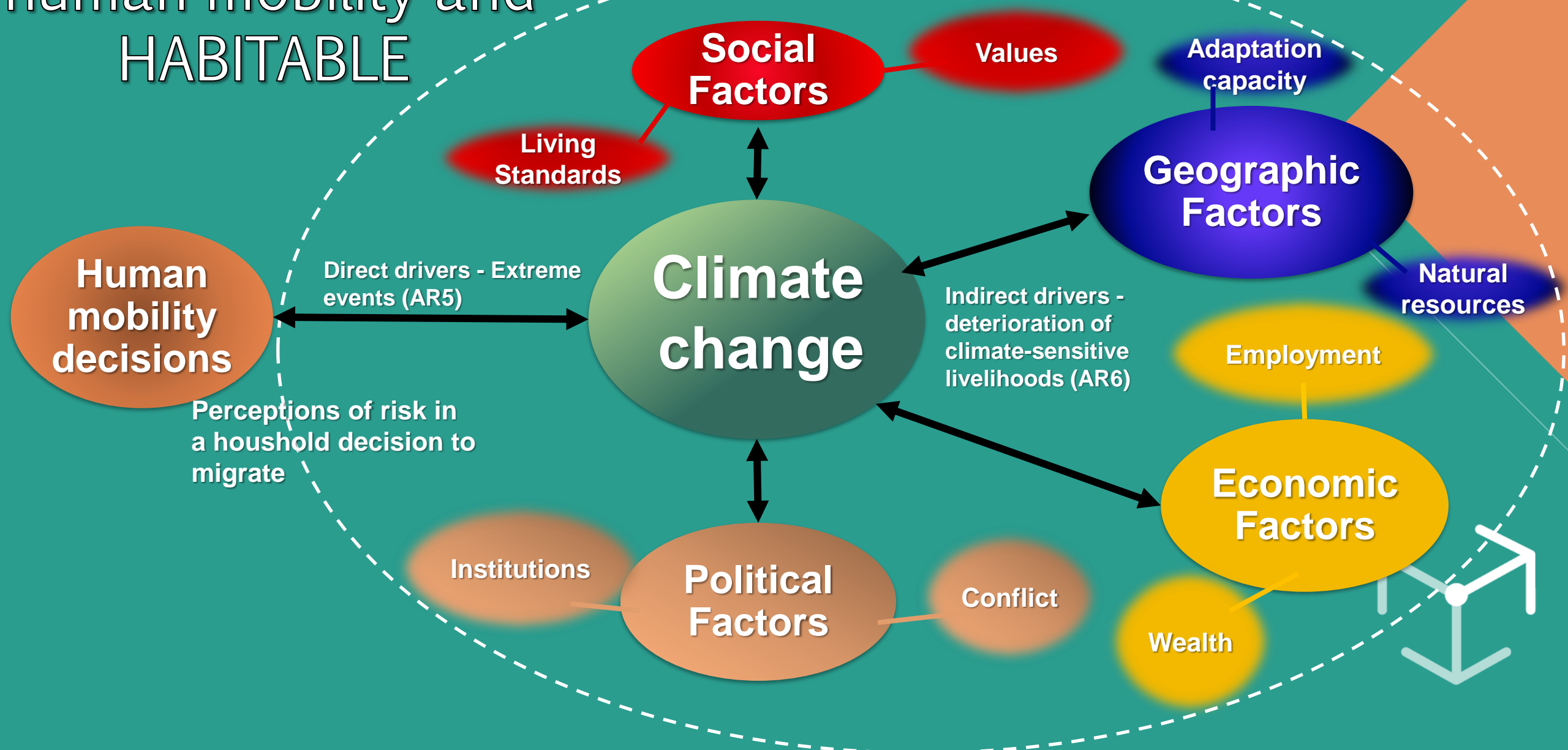


*“Exposure and vulnerability are influenced by a **wide range of social, economic, and cultural factors** [...]” IPCC AR5 (2014)*

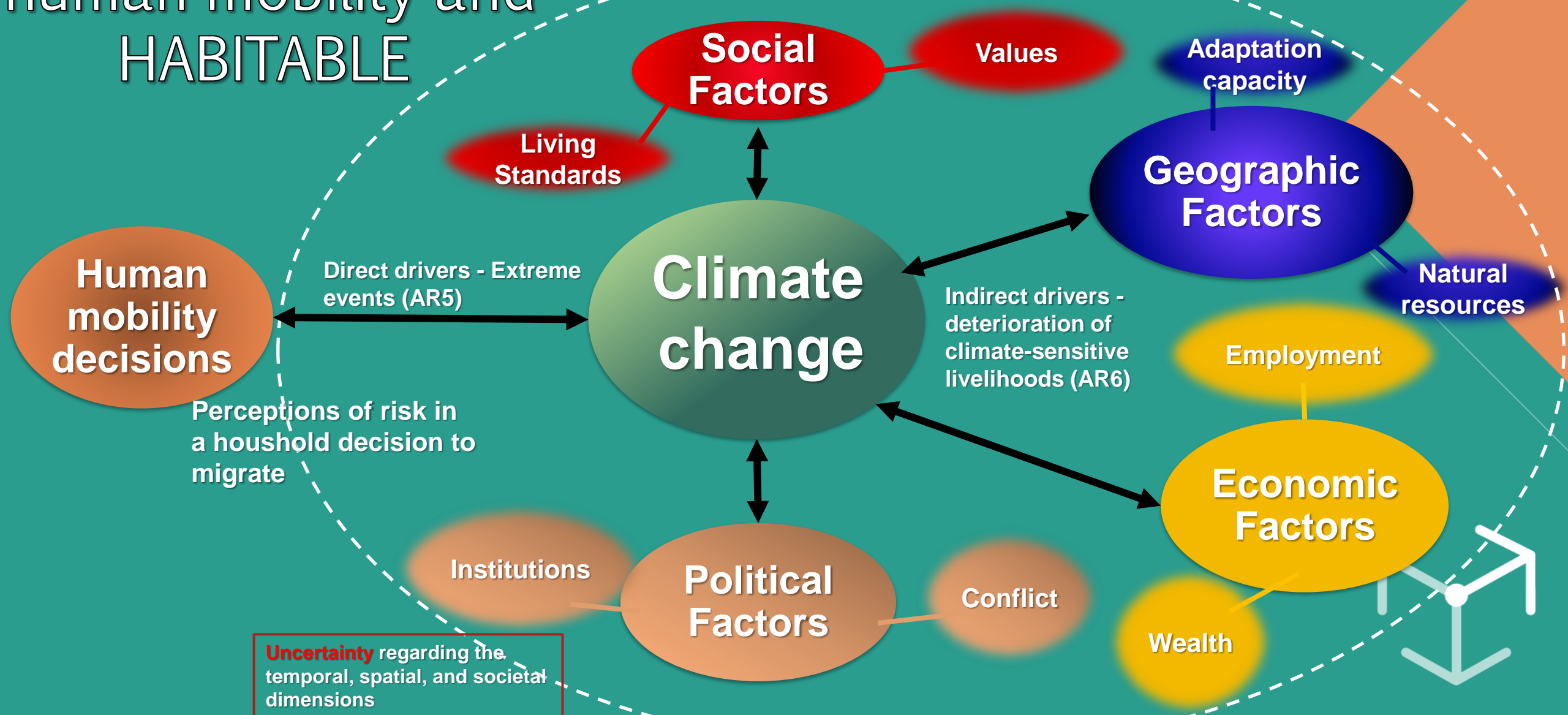
*“Migration and displacement are **directly** induced by the impacts of climate change and that climate change impacts have a major influence on **key enabling conditions for migration, such as sociodemographic, economic and political factors**” IPCC AR6 (2023)*



# Climate change, human mobility and HABITABLE



# Climate change, human mobility and HABITABLE



# Climate change, human mobility and HABITABLE

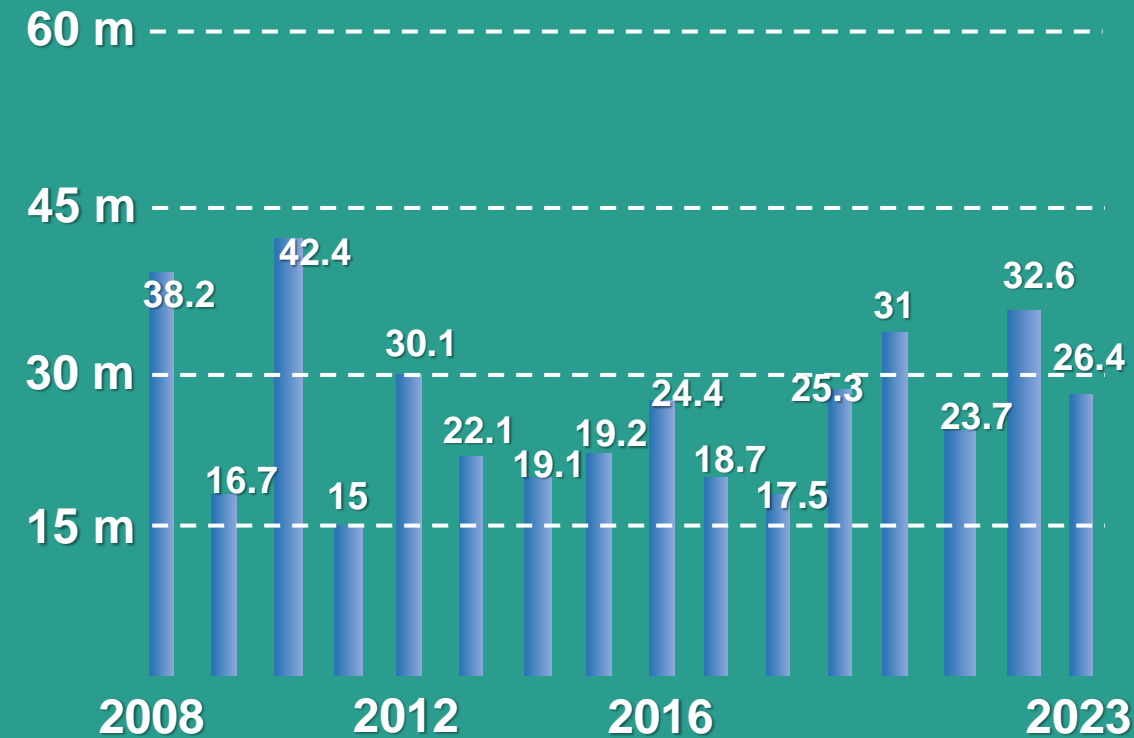
- Defining a universal habitability threshold is problematic, and it requires **policies to consider subjective perceptions and context-dependent social tipping points.**
- Policies **must address:**
  - Local realities,
  - Gender dynamics,
  - Power asymmetries,
  - Prioritize human well-being,
  - Consider migration as a viable mechanism to manage climatic risk, and
  - Evaluate how climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities,



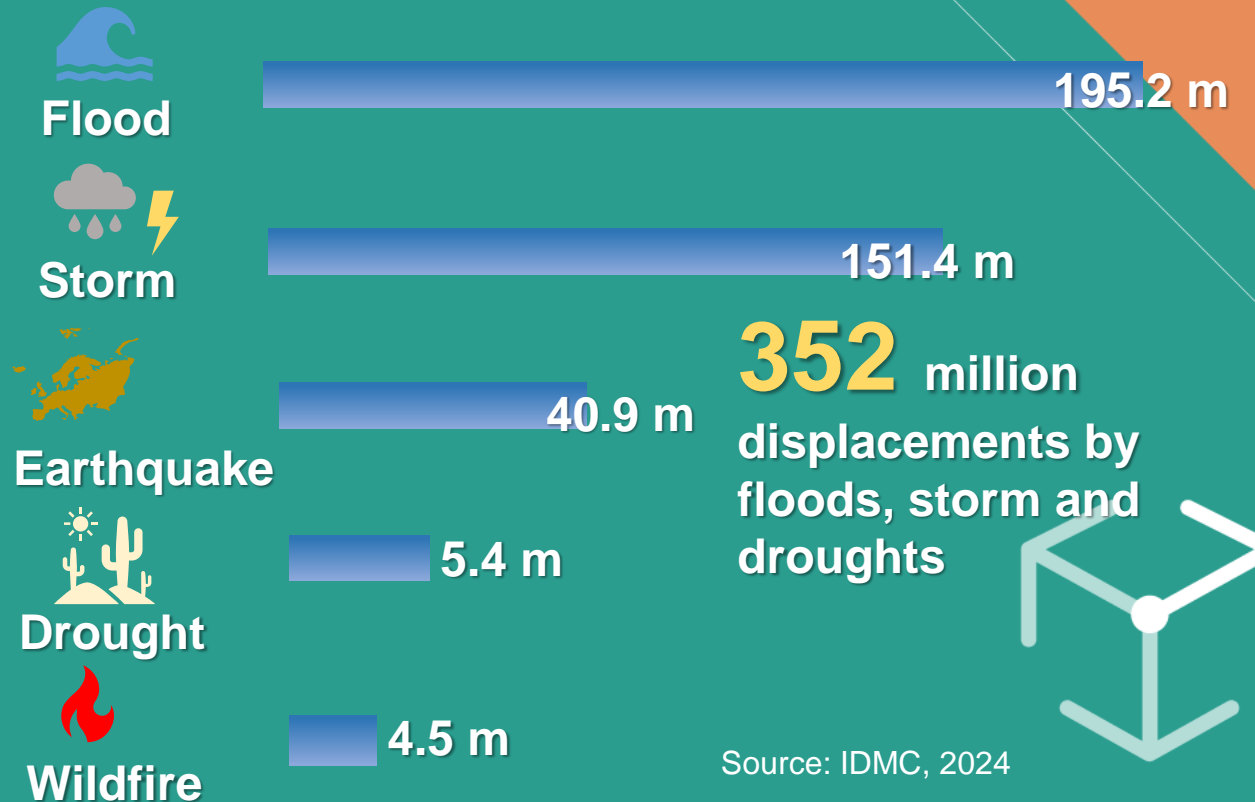
# Adaptive strategies vs loss and damage

- Migration can be both **adaptation** and forced by **loss and damage**
- It can serve as a beneficial adaptation strategy when the habitability of certain areas is compromised.

**402.4** million displacements in 208 countries and territories



**17,000** Disaster events reported



**352** million displacements by floods, storm and droughts

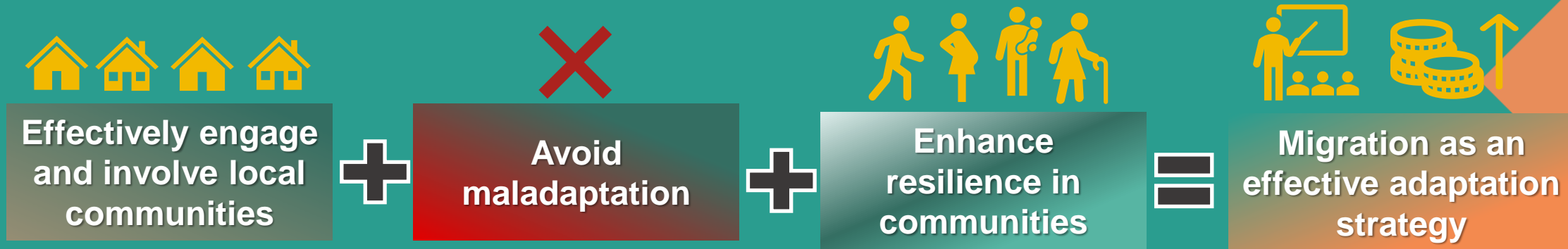
Source: IDMC, 2024





# Adaptive strategies vs loss and damage

- For migration to be an **effective adaptation** strategy

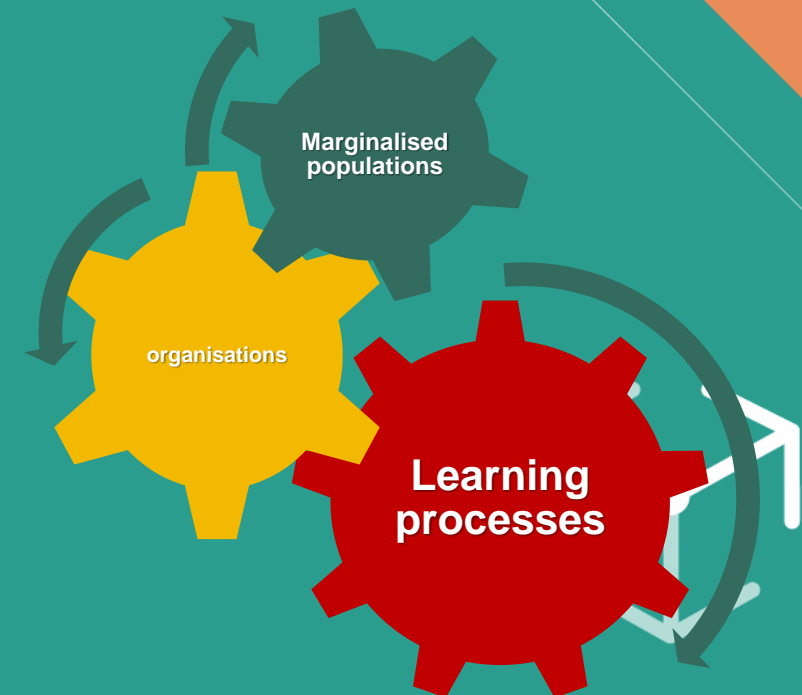


Shallow understanding of the vulnerability context,

Inequitable stakeholder participation in the design and implementation,

Retrofitting of adaptation into existing development agendas, and

Lack of critical engagement with how "adaptation success" is defined.



# Loss and Damage & Planned relocation



Population displacement is a form of **Loss and Damage**.

**HOWEVER**



Countries must acknowledge that **well-planned relocation** can also serve as an **adaptation strategy**.

Positive outcomes for affected individuals

Enhancing resilience



# Loss and Damage & Planned relocation

Equity  
concerns!

## SUCCESSFUL

planned relocation

Equity to  
effectively  
mitigate **loss and  
damage.**



International cooperation is **VITAL**  
in influencing the design,  
implementation, and evaluation of  
planned relocation processes.



# International Cooperation, UNESCO, and HABITABLE



25

Strategic  
Recommendations



# HABITABLE Futures: Promoting Mobility in the Context of Climate Change, Disasters, and Environmental Policies in the EU.

Legal Actions	Protection and Assistance Actions	Cooperation and finance Actions	Monitoring and Evaluation Actions
10 Recommendations		International Cooperation	
5 Recommendations		Regional Cooperation	
10 Recommendations		National Cooperation	



# Strategic Recommendations



**Teitiota v. New Zealand**



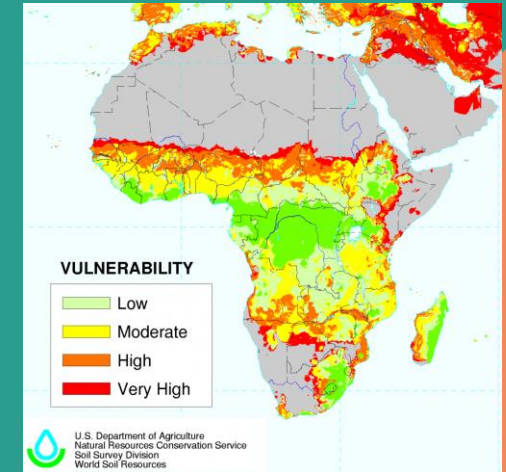
**Neubauer et al. vs. Germany**



## International Cooperation

Legal Action	EU Institution(s)
Advocate for the principle of non-refoulement and implement complementary protection measures, these could include issuing, for example, temporary residence permits for individuals displaced by climate-related impacts.	EC - DG CLIMA  European Parliament - Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

# Strategic Recommendations



Climate vulnerability and risk assessments (VRA)

## Regional Cooperation

Protection and Assistance Action	EU Institution(s)
Encourage regional cooperation to establish humanitarian corridors in vulnerable regions, ensuring access to essential services and respect for fundamental rights throughout the migration pathway.	EC - DG HOME European External Action (EEAS)



Relevant partners

# Strategic Recommendations



## National Cooperation

Cooperation and finance Action	EU Institution(s)
Support and apply standardized methodologies for identifying and measuring loss and damage needs related to human mobility, incorporating these needs into revised Nationally Determined Contributions or National Adaptation Plans.	National Governments  EC - DG CLIMA

Methodological challenges in quantifying Economic and Non-Economic **Losses and Damage**





# Policy Integration and Human Rights-based Approach

## Human Rights-based Approach

Ensure safe and dignified migration conditions

Address the protection gap for cross-border climate migrants

Enhance data collection

Expand collaboration with academic institutions to better understand migration drivers



# EU's role

**Leadership** position to  
shape global responses and set an example  
for international cooperation

Necessary to shift  
the narrative from  
**crisis** to  
**resilience**

Opportunities



# Next steps



Accelerate adaptation planning, implementation, and finance **to enable safe, empowered, and informed decisions on human mobility.**

Implement commitments on human mobility within the **loss and damage** landscape,

Strengthen solidarity with the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, and

Enhance the inclusive mobilisation of the whole of society .



## Final HABITABLE Conference

4-6 December, 2024

Nairobi, Kenya





Sergio Ampudia  
Thank you!



unesco