

Climate Mobility Innovation Lab

Asia and the Pacific



NEWSLETTER - January & February 2026

The first two months of the year have already set a dynamic pace for the Climate Mobility Innovation Lab (CMIL). In 2025, we witnessed both the profound impacts of climate change on community resilience and the hope inspired by innovative, locally driven solutions.

This first issue of the year (January–February) opens with several key updates: the awarding of the first-ever CCF projects, including the signing of contracts for locally-led preparedness, adaptation and resilience projects in Indonesia, with the Philippines soon to follow; the launch of the Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF) call for applications in Fiji, supporting projects in Ba and Macuata provinces; progress on shaping the Asia-Pacific Youth Climate Mobility Initiative and its regional roadmap; continued work on human mobility and nature-based solutions; and recent engagements with government counterparts in Lao PDR to roll out the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD) and the CCF.

Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF) – Call for Applications Now Open in Fiji

CMIL, together with IOM's Country Office in Fiji, has officially launched the Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF) call for applications in Fiji, aimed at addressing the growing risks of climate-induced displacement driven by intensifying cyclones, flooding, and sea-level rise.

Drawing on the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD) risk scoring, and following consultations with government counterparts, IOM has identified two priority hotspot locations - Ba and Macuata provinces - where climate displacement risks are high. This targeted approach reflects our commitment to translating data into evidence-based investment decisions and tangible, local-level adaptation and resilience action.

We therefore invite national and local organizations with new or ongoing adaptation and resilience initiatives in Ba and Macuata provinces to apply for CCF grants of up to USD 25,000.

The CCF prioritizes local-level, quick-impact projects that can be completed within six months and align with its core objectives: reducing climate displacement risks, strengthening community resilience, and leveraging co-financing. In Fiji, the initiative is guided by the RICD to ensure support is directed to areas where displacement risks are most likely to emerge.

To learn more and apply, please visit iom.int/ccf

For inquiries or collaboration opportunities, including providing matching funds, contact us at FijiCCF@IOM.int.

Deadline for applications: **15 March 2026, 23:59 (GMT+12)**.

 climate catalytic fund

Call for applications

Climate Catalytic Fund in Fiji

Provinces of Ba and Macuata

Deadline for application submission: **15 March 2026**

SCAN TO APPLY



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IOM Awards Contracts for First Batch of CCF Projects in Indonesia

IOM Indonesia, with support from CMIL, has signed contracts for the first batch of Climate Catalytic Fund (CCF) projects in Indonesia. The selected projects will be implemented in the regencies of Aceh Timur and Bandung Barat, and in the city of Makassar - all identified as high-risk areas through the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD).

CLIMATE CATALYTIC FUND (CCF) Project Overview

PROJECT TITLE & LOCATION	CLIMATE CHALLENGE	CORE SOLUTION	KEY IMPACT
 Solar-Powered Irrigation for Climate-Resilient Agriculture Desa Wangunharja	Chronic water scarcity & erratic rainfall	15 kWp solar PV & automated water pumps connected to a hilltop reservoir	~40 ha irrigated year-round; projected ~\$1M annual revenue increase
 Community-Based Green Retrofit and Healthy Housing Adaptation for Climate Resilience Kuala Simpang Ulim	Extreme heat (often >35°C) & tidal flooding	Retrofitting homes with reflective roofing & climate-adaptive ventilation	Directly protects 86 beneficiaries (low-income & women); reduces indoor heat
 Women-led Climate Adaptation and Solar Innovation for Heat and Drought Resilience Tallo, Makassar	Intensifying heatwaves & drought in informal settlements	Solar-powered cooling points, rainwater harvesting & fish ponds	Empowers female leadership; builds resilience for 18.3k+ indirect beneficiaries
 Reducing Food Loss and Waste through Farmer-Led Initiatives for Regenerative Futures Desa Mekarwangi	Degraded soil & severe post-harvest spoilage	Nature-based bio-immunizers & Chitasil edible coatings for crops	Post-harvest loss cut to <5%; supports 1,000 farmers directly
 Empowering Untia Village through Bioreactor Ozone (BIZON) Technology for Sustainable Clean Water Solutions Untia Village	Severe saltwater intrusion & waterborne diseases	Bioreactor Ozone (BIZON) tech to purify highly saline water	Provides 50k L potable water daily for 500 vulnerable residents

Detailed project factsheets will be shared in the next issue of CMIL's newsletter.

Asia-Pacific Youth Climate Mobility Initiative

CMIL has continued to expand its initiative on youth and climate mobility and has completed a series of regional consultations aimed at developing a targeted and actionable regional roadmap for IOM's work in supporting and empowering climate-affected youth across Asia and the Pacific. A key focus has been on translating complex terminology into actionable concepts that young people can understand and engage with, while building a sustainable regional ecosystem for collaboration.

💡 Key insights from the regional consultations, which included Thai Climate Justice for All, Green Path Migrant, Planet Impacts, and the ASEAN Youth Forum:

Conceptual barriers remain a core challenge: Regional partners reported that the official definition of “climate mobility” is often too academic and unclear. Many young people describe climate-affected migration simply as “moving house” and do not identify themselves as “climate migrants.” This highlights the need to simplify the terminology into a single, concise definition and disseminate it through short, youth-friendly formats, such as social media posts and visual content.

Mobility is Driven by Multiple Factors: In Southeast Asia, youth mobility is rarely driven by a single “climate factor,” but rather by a combination of climate impacts, economic opportunities, conflict, and structural development issues, such as dam construction and forestry policies. This underscores the need for stronger cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge generation.

Definitions Need Localisation: Concepts such as climate mobility - and the responses designed to address it - are often developed outside the region. When conceptualising climate mobility and designing related programmes, regional and local contexts must be respected, with solutions co-created alongside local actors and young people.

🚀 **Some key next steps, include:**

- Developing a regional youth co-creation ecosystem through a long-term, sustainable digital platform.
 - Delivering context-specific communication and education, including translation.
 - Strengthening partnerships through peer-to-peer exchanges.
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Nature based solutions and human mobility



CMIL, in collaboration with experts on nature-based solutions (NbS), has continued its efforts to enhance the linkages between NbS and climate mobility, and has made progress on the following:

- **Conceptual study finalised** – The final draft establishing the link between NbS and climate mobility has been completed and is currently being prepared for graphic design, with publication planned for March.
- **NbS project pipeline advancing** – Initial medium- and large-scale NbS projects in Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, and the Philippines have been identified based on the criteria set out in the conceptual study. Work is now underway to consolidate these into a common regional pipeline.
- **CCF NbS guidance developed** – Draft guidance has been completed for review, providing practical direction on implementing small-scale, locally led NbS projects through the Climate Catalytic Fund.

These publications will be launched at an upcoming webinar on nature-based solutions and climate mobility in the Pacific in March, co-hosted with the Pacific Community - which is a CROP agency and the Pacific region's leading technical and scientific organisation, supporting governments with data, research, and practical solutions to advance sustainable development.

CMIL Lays the Groundwork for RICD and CCF in Lao PDR

CMIL recently undertook a mission to Vientiane, Lao PDR, to explore the potential rollout of its flagship initiatives - RICD and CCF - in the country.

Together with IOM Lao PDR, CMIL met with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment to discuss how climate risk, vulnerability, and mobility data can inform evidence-based planning and help mobilise finance for locally led adaptation in Lao PDR. Discussions focused on piloting the RICD and CCF through a co-creation approach, ensuring close collaboration with government counterparts to identify priority locations and support community-based initiatives that strengthen resilience to climate impacts.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology expressed strong interest in collaborating with CMIL to co-develop the RICD, jointly identify priority locations, and contribute to the selection of CCF projects, with the aim of enhancing local ownership and contextual relevance. CMIL will continue to support follow-up discussions and resource mobilisation efforts to advance this collaboration.



Fill in the Blanks – Episode 4: Climate Mobility & Community Resilience



CMIL has released the fourth episode of its Fill in the Blanks podcast series, hosted by Ms. Sonali Manimaran. This episode explores the drivers of climate mobility in the Asia-Pacific region and the critical need to shift from short-term disaster response to long-term resilience planning.

In this episode, Ms. Manimaran speaks with Dr. Indrajit Pal, Associate Professor and Chair of Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). Dr. Pal shares insights from delta communities, noting that migration is often a survival strategy of last resort. He also introduces the Risk Index for Climate Displacement (RICD), a tool co-developed with CMIL, highlighting the importance of bridging scientific research with local policy to address displacement risks.

Summary of Activities

Bangkok, Thailand | January | Held a first working group meeting with the Thai Department for Climate Change and Environment and Nanyang Technological University to exchange information on the RICD and the Thai Climate Risk Index and kick start the RICD roll out.

Hong Kong SAR, China | January | Held meetings with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and private sector partners, including the Stoic Foundation, to discuss climate finance, adaptation, mobility, and data.

Bangkok, Thailand | January | Participated in a panel discussion on youth and climate mobility at the 2026 Asian Climate and Environment Summit (ACE Summit 2026). Expanded network with local youth in Thailand and Bangladesh.

Bangkok, Thailand | February | Took part in the 4th Partnership Forum organized by the Asian Development Bank, which convened community leaders, government officials, development partners, and global funds to explore collaboration opportunities for strengthening climate resilience at the local level.

About Climate Mobility Innovation Labs

IOM's [Climate Mobility Innovation Labs \(CMIL\)](#) across Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Mediterranean serve as dynamic hubs for innovation, capacity strengthening, and collaboration. By prioritising scalable solutions and meaningful community engagement, CMIL empowers communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and respond to the challenges of climate mobility. Globally, CMIL initiatives play a vital role in advancing evidence-based, community-led action for resilient and sustainable futures. CMIL's work includes:

- [Risk Index for Climate Displacement \(RICD\)](#) - a decision support tool co-created by CMIL, in collaboration with a broad network of government, scientific, academic, and other partners in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Pacific.
- [Climate Catalytic Fund \(CCF\)](#) - a blended finance mechanism, that mobilizes rapid and flexible match-funded grants to translate data-driven risk insights from the RICD into concrete, locally-led adaptation action.

CMIL welcomes partners to contribute their expertise, resources, and influence to our mission—whether through technical assistance, financial support, or advocacy. Join us at cmil-ap@iom.int.



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If you'd like to explore our work further or get involved, don't hesitate to contact us at cmil-ap@iom.int

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