CLIMATE CHANGE IS ADVANCING RAPIDLY and placing people’s human rights at risk. 24.2 million people were newly internally displaced by natural disasters in 2016. It is likely that 200 million people will be displaced by climate change by 2050.

Climate-forced displacement is having severe impacts on human rights. Climate impacts exacerbate existing inequities in society. A majority of disaster-related displacements occur in low- and lower-middle income countries and disproportionately affect small island developing states. The spectrum we have developed outlines human rights at risk and key concerns for frontline communities, from the tipping point at which communities decide they must consider radical adaptation measures through migration or resettlement.

The right to self-determination must be at the core of relocation planning. Frontline communities have the most appropriate solutions to these challenges. But these communities receive the smallest share of funding and are sidelined by state and international decision makers.

- Trends in financing favor climate change mitigation over other approaches.
- No reliable mechanisms exist for community organizations to access international climate funds directly.
- Indigenous communities face additional hurdles accessing funds from national governments — and it is even more difficult for unrecognized tribes.

Funders have an important role to play to fill this void. Our guide offers concrete steps funders can take to advance community-led, human rights-based solutions to climate-forced displacement by:

- Assessing how climate-forced displacement relates to a current strategy or portfolio
- Effectively partnering with grassroots communities working on issues along the climate-forced displacement spectrum
- Advancing a human rights-based approach to climate-forced displacement
- Acting as a bridge and network builder to amplify the voice and impact of grassroots communities

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3 IDMC, GRID 2017, 10.