

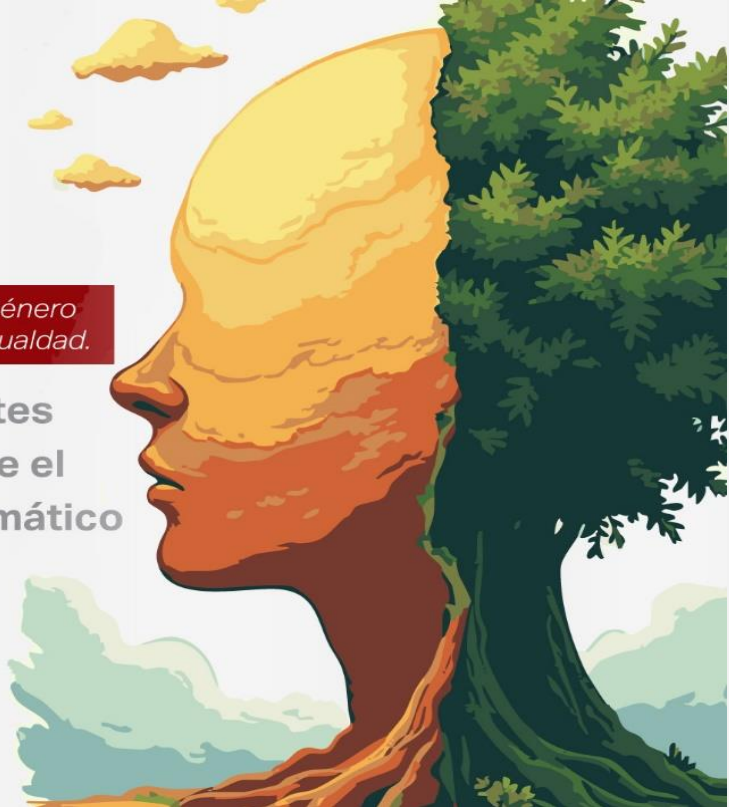


Conferencia Dominicana de Estudios de Género
Construcción de Conocimientos para la Igualdad.

EL SUR GLOBAL: Las perspectivas, aportes y la construcción de conocimientos sobre el Desplazamiento Forzado por Cambio Climático



14 Y 15 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2025



Concept Note XIII Dominican Conference on Gender Studies Knowledge Construction for Equality¹

The Global South: Perspectives, Contributions, and Knowledge Building on Forced Displacement due to Climate Change
November 2025

Since its inception in 2003, the Gender Studies Center (CEG) at INTEC has organized 12 Dominican Conferences on Gender Studies under the theme *Knowledge Construction for Equality*. Six volumes of the *Miradas Desencadenantes* series have been published to disseminate the outcomes of discussions emerging from the Conference.

Between 2003 and 2010, the Conference's content was based primarily on the theses and final research projects developed by students of the Master's in Gender and Development. From the 6th Conference onward, this internal focus shifted to incorporate research findings from other universities, regions, and countries. An open call was launched, inviting both national and international researchers to present studies, innovations, and academic productions developed during the two years leading up to each edition of the Conference.²

Aligned with this inclusive and expanding perspective, the Gender Studies Center will host the XIII Dominican Conference on Gender Studies on November 14–15, 2025, focusing on the theoretical production on Forced Displacement due to Climate Change, highlighting not only national and regional viewpoints but also expanding the lens to include perspectives from the Global South.

¹ <https://www.intec.edu.do/notas-de-prensa/item/centro-de-estudios-de-genero-del-intec-convoca-a-investigadores-a-postular-sus-trabajos-para->

² <https://www.intec.edu.do/notas-de-prensa/item/centro-de-estudios-de-genero-del-intec-celebrara-su-xii-conferencia-dominicana-de-estudios-de-genero#:~:text=La%20Conferencia%20Dominicana%20de%20Estudios%20de%20G%C3%A9nero,en%20g%C3%A9nero%2C%20entre%20otros%20temas.%20SANTO%20DOMINGO.>

This effort builds upon and strengthens the momentum created by the establishment of the academic chair on Forced Displacement due to Climate Change, aiming to influence not only academic environments but also development agencies and policy and decision-makers.

In 2024, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published a report titled *Forging a Global South*, identifying the countries comprising this category. The term "South" has been used since the 1970s to refer to developing countries, based on the observation that most developed and industrialized nations are located north of the developing world. While the term does not suggest homogeneity among these countries, it highlights shared vulnerabilities and common challenges.³

According to Nour Dados and Raewyn Connell, the Global South is more than a metaphor for underdevelopment. It embodies a historical context of colonialism, neo-imperialism, and divergent economic and social changes that have perpetuated significant disparities in living standards, life expectancy, and access to resources.⁴

Forced Displacement and mobility caused by Climate Change are not temporary crises or isolated pandemics. Their impacts on people's lives, properties, and emotional well-being are profound and long-lasting. Analyzing viable options and dismantling prejudice, rejection, and insensitivity is essential to formulating effective responses rooted in the recognition of human dignity. This approach should guide the actions, interventions, and public policies implemented by states responsible for safeguarding the rights threatened by climate change.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reports that over half of the world's population — about 4.5 billion people — have experienced severe weather events in the past 20 years. These events have resulted in the loss of lives, destruction of homes and livelihoods, and economic disruption.⁵

The Dominican Republic is one of the first countries where analyses disseminated by UNHCR have highlighted that displaced persons often come from countries affected by poverty, lack of effective responses to climate change, and are highly vulnerable to its impacts. The country itself is among the most climate-vulnerable nations.

Forced displacement due to extreme weather events is now one of the most visible and alarming expressions of the environmental crisis in the insular Caribbean. In the Dominican Republic, such displacement is linked not only to increasing intensity of hydrometeorological events (floods, storms, droughts) but also to historical processes of territorial inequality, social exclusion, and institutional fragility. Despite advances in risk comprehension and early warning systems, the effects of climate events continue to disproportionately affect rural, impoverished, and peripheral communities.

The research project Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change: Its Impact on the Lives of Women and Girls, conducted by INTEC's Gender Studies Center in partnership with IDRC, analyzes the impacts of climate-related displacement across ten highly exposed municipalities in the Dominican Republic. The study is based on a survey of 473 people and interviews with key actors in the national risk management system.

The survey results highlight the territorial dimension of climate risk. The municipality of Tamayo (Bahoruco province) had the highest representation (16.3%), followed by Tábara Arriba (13.1%) and Las Charcas (10.6%) in Azua. Border provinces like Elías Piña and Independencia were also represented, with

³ Introducción al dossier temático: el Sur Global y la construcción de un nuevo Sistema Internacional Lía Rodríguez de la Vega, Jerónimo Delgado Caicedo, Lina María Luna Beltrán

⁴ <https://legrandcontinent.eu/es/2023/10/20/que-es-el-sur-global/>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/es/climatechange/ipcc-wgii-report>

municipalities including Hondo Valle, Pedro Santana, Cristóbal, and Postrer Río. These communities are characterized by high exposure to extreme weather and limited governmental response capacities. The municipality of Guaymate (La Romana province), with 12.7% participation, added a non-border rural perspective, also marked by high vulnerability.

Study findings indicate that forced displacement leads to material loss (homes, crops, belongings), social disruption (broken support networks, insecurity, violence), physical and mental health impacts, and interruptions in access to essential services such as education and healthcare. Women are particularly affected, facing higher levels of insecurity, caregiving burdens, food shortages, and barriers to accessing resources. However, public policies still lack effective gender-sensitive approaches and differentiated mechanisms in evacuation protocols, shelter management, and reconstruction efforts.

Call for Conference Presenters

Starting in March 2025, the Gender Studies Center (CEG) will issue a call for researchers, activists, and artists to submit proposals for presenting research findings, innovations, interventions, systematizations of experiences, or artistic works. Submissions should take a transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to the issue of forced displacement due to climate change.

The general content of the conference program will be shaped both by the proposals received over the three-month call period and by selected invited experts and researchers, who will share their findings and perspectives with the Dominican Republic.

Particular attention will be given to incorporating Caribbean and island perspectives, fostering collaboration on risks, response strategies, and adaptation solutions developed by other regions in the face of climate-induced mobility and displacement.

The Dominican Republic is among the 13 countries most vulnerable to climate change, making it crucial to understand and respond to its effects on poverty, inequality, and development setbacks — and to act with urgency in recognizing these ongoing, non-transitory risks.

Leading up to the Conference

In the six months prior, a series of Expert Forums on Climate Change Displacement will be held to promote and inform the development of integrated policies addressing risk and vulnerability.

Academic Committee

An academic committee composed of permanent and invited members will be established. The committee, which rotates every two years, will select the most relevant proposals for presentation and dissemination at the Dominican Conference on Gender Studies. Accepted presenters will receive written notification including the duration of their presentation and an invitation to submit the article they will present at the Conference.

Meeting of Academic Chairs in the Dominican Republic

It is proposed that the first day of the Conference includes a Meeting of Academic Chairs, bringing together the leads of relevant academic initiatives. The agenda for this event will be coordinated with the IDRC executive team.