

On March 11 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic<sup>1</sup>. As COVID-19 spread world-wide, governments took measures to restrict international mobility in order to reduce the impact of the pandemic. Even though most of these restrictions applied on international travels, several countries have also limited internal movements. The implications on the situation of the pandemic in climate mobility in South America must be analysed and addressed in integral approach<sup>2</sup>.



## TEMPORAL MIGRATION AND RESTRICTIONS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Throughout the region, many households in environmentally degraded areas rely on temporal internal migration to complement their incomes<sup>3</sup>. This seasonal migration originated in rural areas and bound towards cities and different agricultural areas supports livelihood diversification. This is the case for instance, in Chile<sup>4</sup>, Argentina<sup>5</sup> or Peru<sup>6</sup>. However, mobility restrictions created by the pandemic may limit the capacity of these migrants to access employment opportunities. This situation puts them in a particularly vulnerable condition as they subsist in areas where environmental challenges do not enable the fulfillment of their needs.

On the other hand, displacement often results from extreme natural events which are relatively recurrent in South America. In the current pandemic setting, it should be considered that usual practices in disasters, such as displacement, evacuations and concentration in temporary shelters, may contradict recommendations to fight COVID-19 (lockdowns, isolation and social distancing). This situation requires specific efforts in disaster preparedness around shelter and camps management, mobility and humanitarian assistance.

## RETURN MIGRATION AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: THE PERUVIAN CASE

Following the declaration of national emergency on March 15, residents of Lima have been returning to their communities of origin as they are unable to face the economic difficulties created by the pandemic. These are internal migrants who had moved to Lima, often leaving vulnerable situations in their areas of origin. Their return implies an environmental impact that must be taken into account, since some of them return to areas with limited resources. This situation also reflects the precariousness of their income and their livelihoods in their area of residence, as they had to move not being able to subsist in the pandemic scenario.

