

# Climate Migration: Resilient Solutions for Host Communities – Comparative Lessons from East Africa to Salt Lake City

- Panelists
  - Anicet Adjahossou, Senior Reintegration Officer – Sustainable Solutions, UNHCR
  - Natalie El-Deiry, Executive Director, International Rescue Committee - Utah
  - Kim Schmit, Community Organizer, Bridging Borders
- Moderator
  - Judy Dorsey, Brendle Group



UN Civil Society Conference, August 27, 2019, 5:00-6:15 PM, Room 155E

# Workshop Themes

- Increased understanding of climate migration – impacts on cities
- Matching climate science with indigenous knowledge
- Navigating an influx of new community members – sustainability benefits
- Fostering action - steps we can all take to address climate migration





# Introductions

- Panelists
  - Anicet Adjahossou, Senior Reintegration Officer – Sustainable Solutions, UNHCR
  - Natalie El-Deiry, Deputy Director, Development and Strategic Initiatives, IRC
  - Kim Schmit, Community Organizer, Bridging Borders
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  - Judy Dorsey, Brendle Group
- Audience





# Why Climate Migration?

- Researchers and policy makers are voicing climate migration as **the most serious outcome of climate change** (Worldwatch Institute, 2015)
- **Climate change is a force multiplier**, a chronic stressor causing increased natural disasters and conflict (Miller, 2017)
- **The scale of climate migration** is estimated at 200 million people by mid-century (Behrman, 2018), twice the rate of current migration.
- **Uninhabitable hot zones** – Climate models predict 150 to 750 million cooling person days (CPDs) of severe deadly wet bulb temperatures. The difference between 1.5C and 2C surface temperature rise is an estimated 150 million additional lives lost (Wallace-Wells, 2019)
- **Trapped Populations.** The people most vulnerable to climate change have the fewest resources and legal rights to move (Behrman, 2018)



# How does climate migration fit with mitigation and adaptation?

- **Climate mitigation** is aimed at **preventing climate change**. Still a top priority and an important lens in designing adaptation and migration strategies. Millions of lives are at stake in how well we do with mitigation.
- **Climate adaptation** is aimed at **preparing for or responding to climate change**. The goals are to reduce exposure and increase resilience. Voluntary migration is one of many examples of how people are adapting to climate change.
- **Climate migration** is an **outcome of climate change**. How we respond to climate migration could cover a wide spectrum from “climate apartheid” to a just transition that **protects all people**, not just those who can afford it.



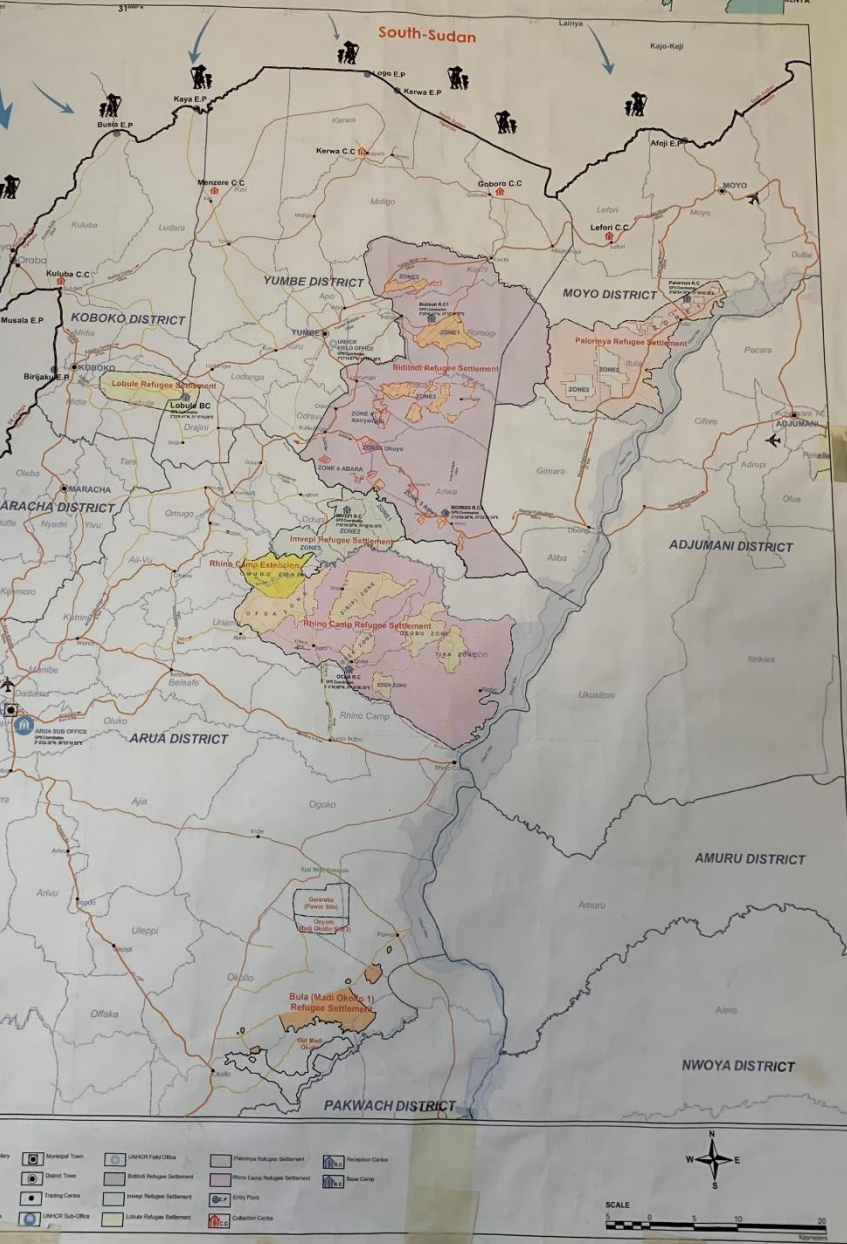
# Emerging Climate Migration Policies and Programs

- 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants:
  - States commit themselves to addressing the ‘drivers that create or exacerbate large movements, including combating environmental degradation and ensuring effective responses to natural disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change’.
- 2015 Nansen Initiative’s Agenda for Protection
- 2015 Brookings Institute, Georgetown University and UNHCR “Guidance on Protecting People from Disasters and Environmental Change through Planned Relocation”
- 2015 COP 21 Paris: UNFCCC adds Climate Migration Task Force
- 2015: IOM adds Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division
  - 2016: “Assessing the Evidence: Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Kenya”



## Access Roads to Bidibidi, Imvepi, Lobule, Palorinya and Rhino Camp Refugee Settlements

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by United Nations



# Opportunities for Cities in Climate Migration

- A new frontier in green building – sustainable resettlement
- A nascent field with room to innovate
- A shift from temporary facilities focused on immediate logistics to wholly integrated resilient sustained communities
- In U.S. cities, refugees provide a potential for a skilled labor force struggling with economic growth (Goldbaum, 2019) and (Cooper, 2019)

# Towards a Just System for Protecting Climate Migrants

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1. Modernize U.S. system for refugee resettlement
2. Build a geo-structural linkage between ghg emissions and global hot zones for migration
3. Foster bi-lateral design approaches for sustainable resettlement
4. Inspire sector-based leadership (Business, Government, Research, Philanthropy and Faith)
5. Accelerate gender equity goals
6. Personal steps anyone can take





# Innovations in Sustainable Settlement: Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement in Kenya - East Africa



- In East Africa, civil wars and related conflicts have translated to an ever-growing refugee crisis in the region.
- Turkana County is amongst the financially poorest and most resource scarce in Kenya – which was exacerbated by the refugee influx, leading to high tensions between communities.
- In 2015, UNHCR and the Turkana County Government required new ways to develop economic opportunities and sustainable development models for 60,000 refugees and host communities.

# Applying A Shared Used Scenario – New Way of Working



**Creating an enabling environment:** Refugees can make their choices, increase self-reliance, and invest in national service delivery systems through introduction of sustainable models, building local capacities.

**Building people's skills and capabilities:** enhancing the overall economy by enabling refugees and other stakeholders to be productive, providing education, health, credit, water, etc..

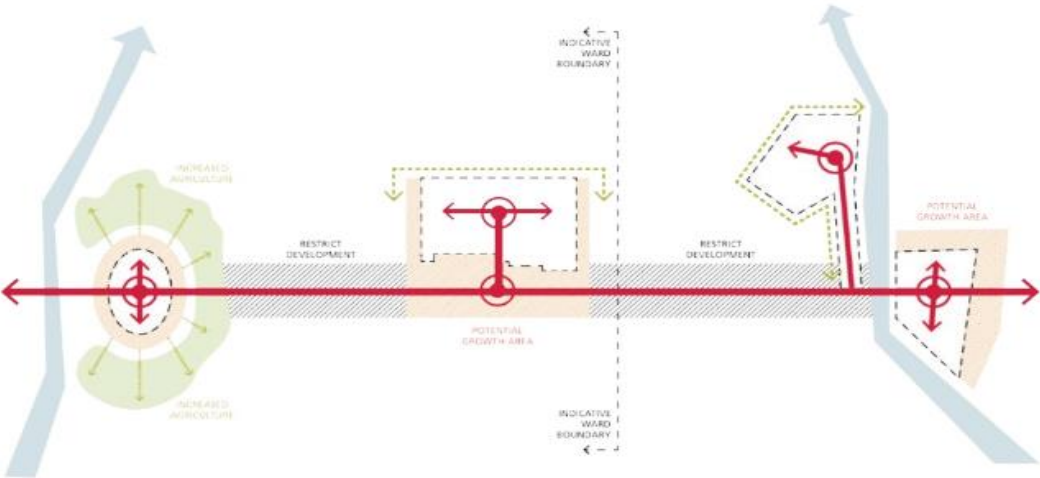
**Collaboration  
& Coordination**

**Theory of  
Choice for  
PoCs**

**Participatory  
Approaches &  
Inclusion**

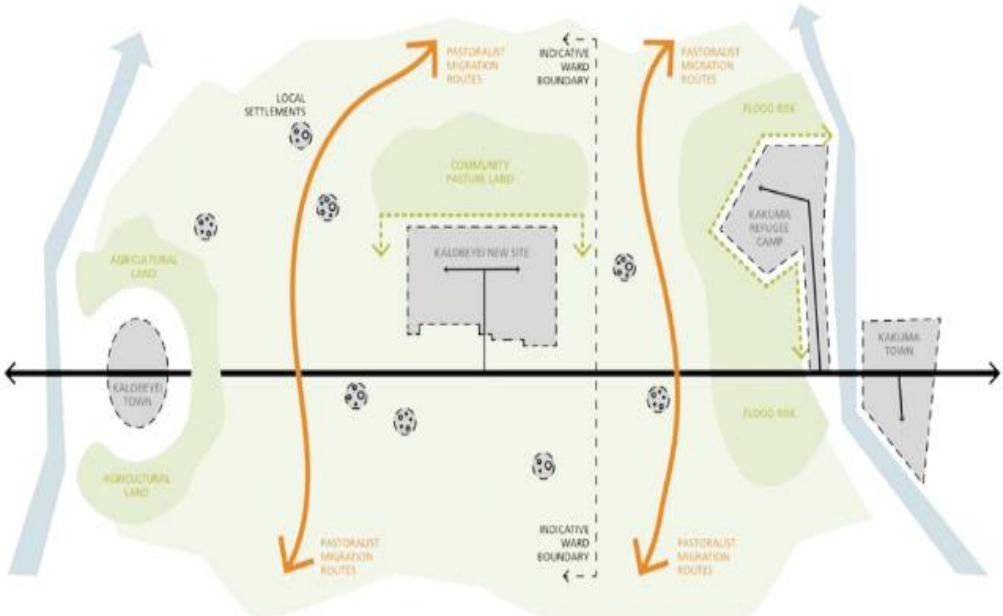


# Incorporating Sectors



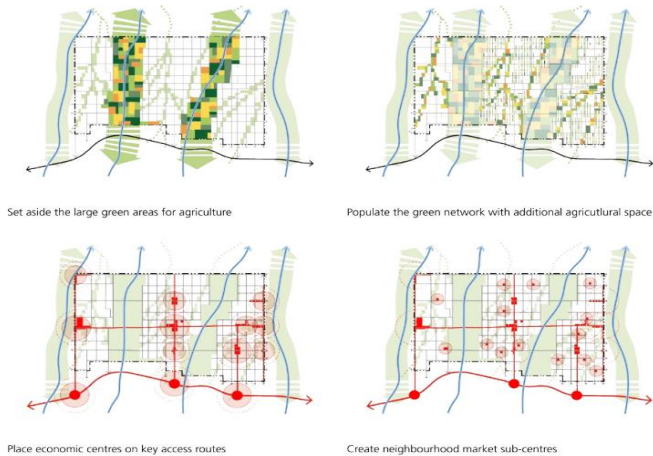
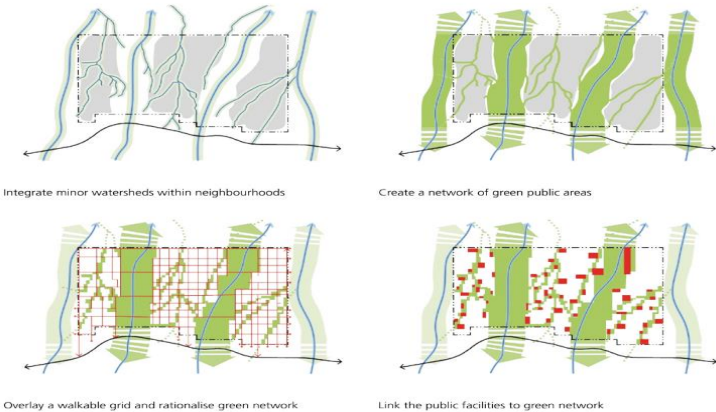
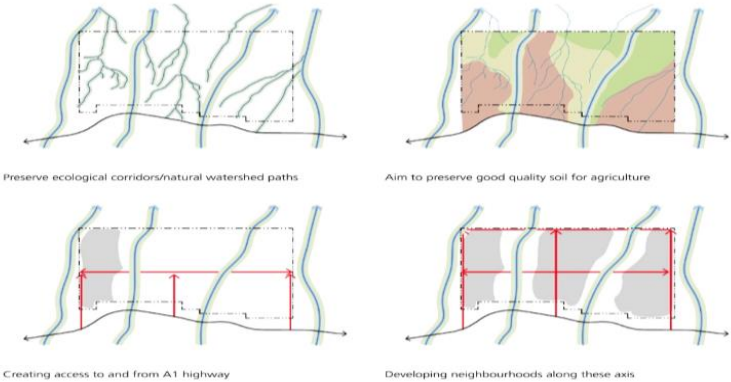
Ensuring Balanced, Integrated and Compact Development

# Incorporating District Concept



Ensuring Development Responds to Environmental & Economic Constraints

# Incorporating Spatial Planning Concept



Home to 38,000 cohabiting with about 5,000 locals



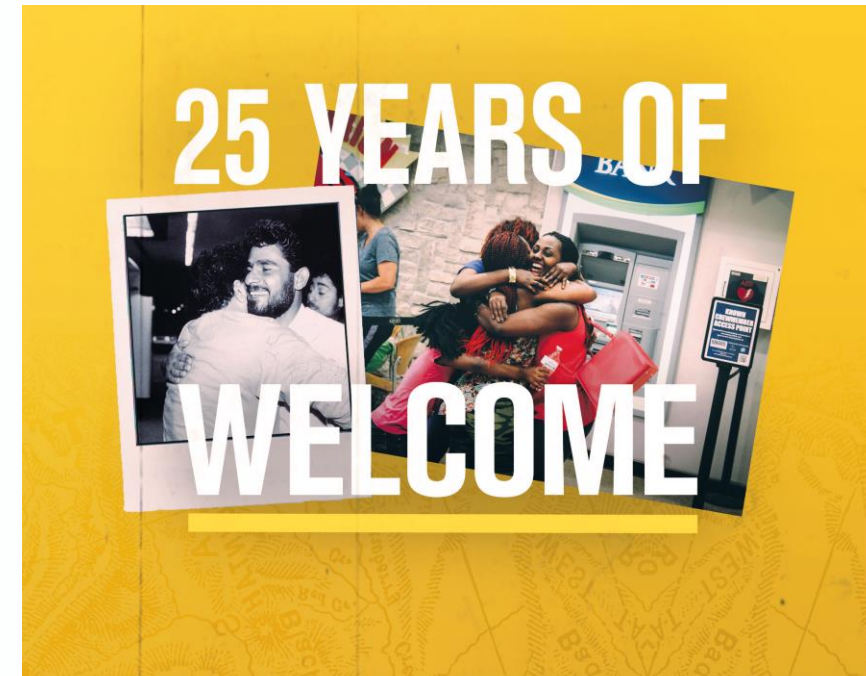




Innovations in Sustainable Resettlement, SLC



- ❖ Resettled over **11,500** since 1994
- ❖ **20+** different programs to serve refugees
- ❖ **2,000** volunteers each year
- ❖ Public/private **partnerships** critical



*Programs are thoughtfully designed to address outcomes that promote integration while creating social connections and learning to navigate life in the U.S.*





## Farming | Community Gardening | Food Access & Farmer's Markets







Kaltum Mohamad - Country of Origin: Sudan



*"I cooked for 2000 people in the refugee camp. I know how to feed people. I named my food business Mother of All...I share my cuisine with all people. I like everybody to taste my food and smile. When I make a lot of money, I will open a restaurant for everyone. I like Utah; everyone is very nice and smiling. Everyone should come taste my food."*

Owner - Mother of All [facebook.com/motherofallcatering](https://facebook.com/motherofallcatering)

Greeta and Kamal Niroula - Country of Origin: Bhutan



*"In Bhutan and in the refugee camp your neighbors are your family. Everyone shares food and has companionship. Now every customer who comes to our restaurant, we try so hard to make them feel welcome, like they are going to their families house. It's coming from our heart."*

Owners - Bhutan House [www.bhutanhouseut.com](http://www.bhutanhouseut.com)



# Bridging Borders – Closing Loops with Best Practices





# Original Stewards of our Earth

*“I remember the smell of mangoes.”*

– Haji Mohamud Barbaar (community leader, Somalia)

*“As a Karen I want to make a suggestion. Please help Karen people to maintain their culture, language and national identity in the resettling countries. They might return to their homeland someday.”*

– Karen Leader (Mae La Refugee Camp)

*“My grandfather knew the soul of salmon...”*

– Vladimir Feodoroff (Skolt Sami fishermen)





# From Exclusion to Partnership

*“We have the knowledge that can contribute to finding solutions to the crisis of climate change. But if you are not prepared to listen, how can we communicate with you?” – Marcos Terena (Xané leader, Inter-Tribal Committee of Brazil)*

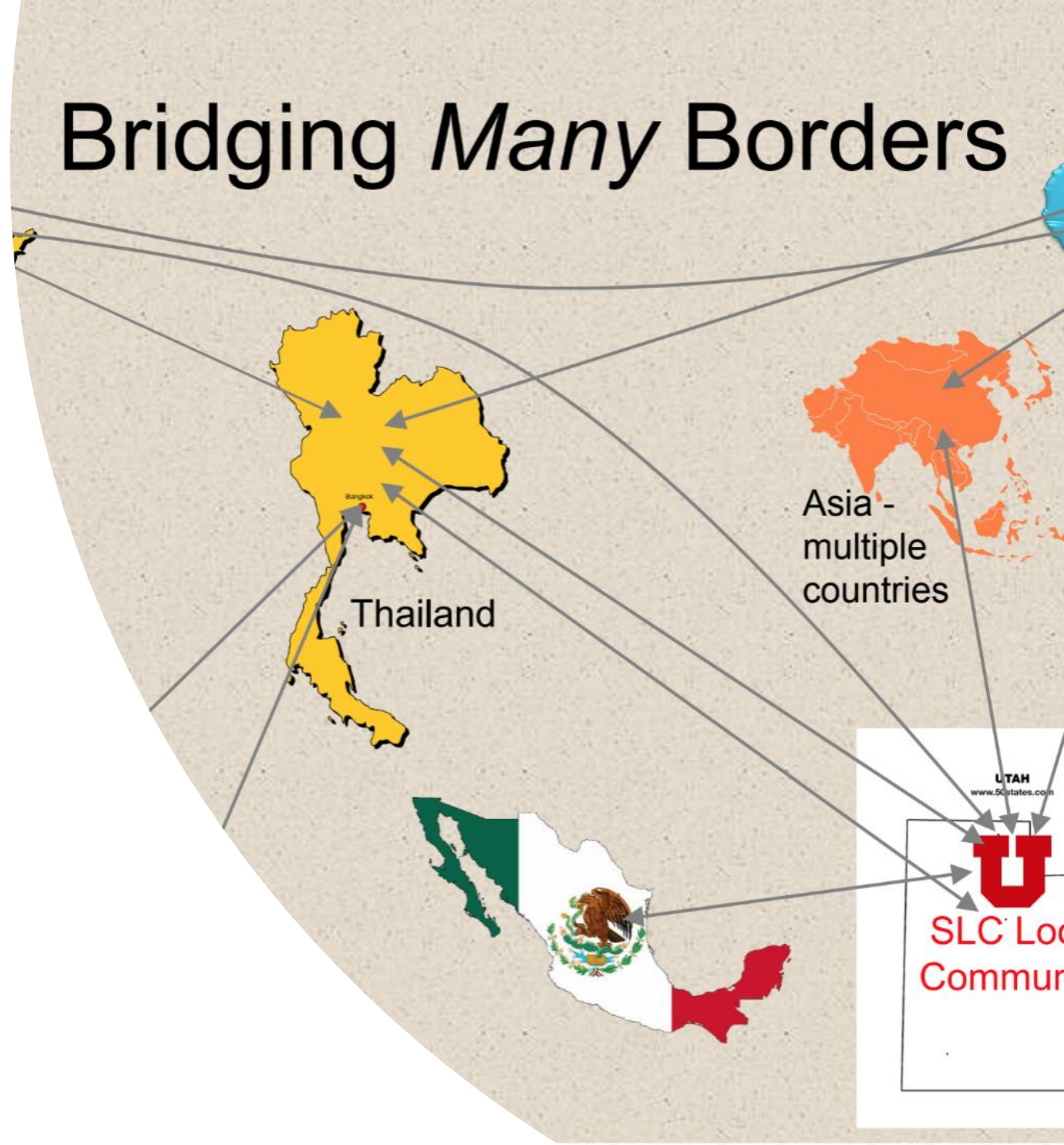


**Spirit Aligned Leadership Program** from left: Jennie Seminole Parker, Kathleen Sanchez, Sharon Day, Thelma Whiskers, Faith Spotted Eagle, Onita Bush & Diane Brown

# Creating Global Learning Communities

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1. Build Off of Existing Networks
2. Displaced People's Desire to Support those "left behind"
3. Migrants & Local Communities as Holders of Critical Knowledge
4. Idea: From Case Management to "*Citizen Scientist*" - Local Climate Scientist
5. Idea: Professional Workshops with and by Refugee Communities





# Panel Discussion

- Are you seeing climate migration show up yet in your day to day work with refugees? In what ways?
- In thinking about the future of climate migration, how is your organization well suited to help and in what ways will it need to change?
- What information and resources will help us to best prepare for climate migration?







## Closing Summary: Personal Steps We Can All Take

- Read and follow along – this is a burgeoning topic
- Get to know refugees and immigrants in your community
- Embrace a global mindset
- Know your contribution to climate change and play fair
- Lend a hand – volunteer, donate/fund, offset, vote