



Executive summary

The Mobile Resilience Initiative

Harnessing mobile operator leadership for climate adaptation and resilience

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Call to action

Harnessing mobile operator data for disaster management and climate adaptation is no longer optional. Disasters are increasing, funding is shrinking, and lives are at stake. Collective action is needed so that mobile operators can provide timely privacy-safe data when it matters most.

The challenge

Displacement is rising fast. In 2024, on average over one million people were displaced each week, with 70% of displacements driven by climate-related disasters ([IDMC 2025](#)). Long-term climate pressures could force hundreds of millions to move ([World Bank 2021](#)). Without reliable data, responders cannot act effectively.

The opportunity

Mobile operator data is a uniquely powerful but underused resource for preparedness and response to climate events. With around six billion unique subscribers, mobile networks capture information at population scale. These signals show how people move and where they stay, providing insights that are otherwise unavailable at the speed required. When effectively managed, mobile operator data can fill critical information gaps during displacement crises and for preparedness planning. It has already demonstrated value in preparedness, early warning, rapid needs estimation, targeting and recovery monitoring ([GSMA 2024](#)).

Leadership needed

Despite proven methods, data often arrives too late. Standards for readiness are missing and processes are ad hoc. We seek to join the hands of leaders who will:

- **Lead awareness** of the mobile industry's role as a key force in climate adaptation and resilience.
- **Define readiness** by showing how operators can establish agreements and pipelines that protect populations when disasters strike.
- **Set standards** by shaping an industry-wide benchmark for mobility data on displacement, disaster preparedness and climate mobility, which others can adopt with confidence.
- **Safeguard trust** by upholding joint principles for privacy-safe and cost-efficient use of mobile data, ensuring protection and resilience for affected populations.

Introducing: The Mobile Resilience Initiative

We are building a **not-for-profit coalition** that brings together mobile network operators, technology vendors, governments and humanitarian actors. Flowminder will coordinate as a

neutral convener, ensuring the initiative remains independent and mission-driven. The shared goal is to establish verifiable benchmarks so that, when disaster strikes, operators can deliver privacy-preserving, decision-ready outputs within hours, not weeks. The coalition will also provide a platform for members to share best practice, develop joint assets, and **demonstrate visible leadership** in climate adaptation and resilience.

Why Flowminder

For over fifteen years Flowminder has supported mobile operators in leveraging their data to save lives and strengthen resilience. From pioneering displacement tracking after the 2010 Haiti earthquake to GLOMO award-winning work in Nepal in 2015, we have worked with 13 different operators, repeatedly demonstrating how anonymised mobile data can provide rapid insights when no other source exists. Today, we support operators to leverage their data for resilience in the DRC, Ghana, Haiti and Pakistan. Trusted by UN agencies, governments and industry, Flowminder combines proven technical expertise with a neutral, not-for-profit mission.

MWC Barcelona 2026

MWC 2026 will serve as the public launch milestone for the resilience initiative. In the lead-up, leaders will convene on three occasions to agree the principles, scope and roadmap. At MWC, founding members will showcase their commitment, humanitarian partners from the UN sector will frame the urgency, and governments will highlight the national need for readiness. The event will also invite wider industry participation to drive adoption across 2026–2027.

Get involved: Next steps for partners

- **Sign up** your organisation (see below) as a founding member, and position your organisation as a leader in climate resilience.
- **Delegate a representative** to join the Mobile Resilience Initiative working group.
- **Contribute** expertise and support to sustain coordination.
- **Engage now** in shaping standards, defining best practice and showcasing leadership at MWC 2026.

Indicative dates*

- First meeting: to be held mid November 2025
- Second meeting: early January 2026
- Third meeting: late February, immediately preceding MWC Barcelona
- **Initiative launch during MWC Barcelona 2 - 5 March 2026**

**Logistics and exact dates to be determined based on members' availability*

Contact

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