



Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change, Natural Disasters, and Conflicts

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FACTS AND FIGURES (1)

- Climate change will **push tens of millions of people to migrate within their countries by 2050** in three regions - Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America that together represent 55 percent of the developing world's population;
- In 2018, the heightened vulnerability and exposure to sudden onset hazards resulted in **17.2 million displaced due to new disasters in 144 countries** and territories;
- **East Asia and Pacific region accounted for most of the internal displacement** associated with disasters recorded worldwide in 2018, with **more than 13 million new displacements**;



FACTS AND FIGURES (2)

- In **Sub-Saharan Africa almost 2.6 million people have been forced to flee their homes** due to drought, cyclones, and floods in 2018;
- **The South American region is frequently affected by disasters and extreme events**, as climate change is believed to affect the frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards , causing floods, droughts and hailstorms;
- At **least 40 per cent conflicts** are linked to the contested control or use of natural resources such as land, water, minerals or oil in the last 70 years.
- From **1998 to 2017**, disaster-hit countries reported direct economic **losses of \$2.9 trillion**, of which climate-related disasters accounted for \$2.2 trillion.



The Global Agenda (1)

1. Hugo Observatory on Environment, Migration and Climate

- Sophisticated research and best practice on the environment and human mobility nexus.

2. The Sustainable Development Goals

- Include a commitment to facilitate “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration”

3. The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction

- Creates a global framework for reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health, aiming to substantially reduce the number of displaced people globally by 2030

4. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change

- With the creation of a Taskforce under the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to prevent, minimize and address climate change displacement.



The Global Agenda (2)

5. The Platform on Disaster Displacement

- To forge consensus on the rights and protection needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.

6. United Nations

- The General Assembly High-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants as a way to build international consensus to address the growing challenge of international migration and the increasing flow of refugees.
- In its presidential statement on 20 July 2011 (S/PRST/2011/15), the United Nations Security Council, feared “that possible adverse effects of climate change may, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security.” Rather than constituting a direct threat to peace and security, climate change predominantly acts as a multi-dimensional threat multiplier exacerbating conditions and factors that can heighten the risk of conflict, crime and violent extremism.

7. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- It clearly identifies slow onset environmental degradation, natural disasters and climate change impacts as drivers of contemporary migration

8. Kampala Convention

- African governments made a series of commitments on collecting and sharing data as part of efforts to prevent internal displacement and protect and assist Internally Displaced Persons



Key milestones addressing the issues

- December 2010: **UNFCCC Cancun Adaptation Framework**. Cancun, Mexico.
- June 2011: **Nansen Conference on Climate Change and Displacement in the 21st century** Oslo, Norway.
- December 2011: **UNHCR Ministerial meeting**, Switzerland and Norway's pledge Geneva, Switzerland.
- October 2012: **Launch of the Nansen Initiative**. Geneva, Switzerland.
- March 2015: **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**. Sendai, Japan.
- October 2015: **Nansen Initiative Global Consultation**: Endorsement of the Protection Agenda Geneva, Switzerland.
- December 2015: UNFCCC COP21 Decision to establish a **Task Force on Displacement** Paris, France.
- May 2016: **Launch of the Platform on Disaster Displacement**, World Humanitarian Summit Istanbul, Turkey.



PROGRESS TOWARDS BETTER PROTECTION

- May 2017: The 5th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) includes disaster displacement in its outcome documents.
- June 2017: ECOSOC Resolution E/2017/L.24 encourages all relevant actors to strengthen efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change.
- June 2017: Human Rights Council Resolution HRC/35/L.32 calls for better protection of migrants and persons displaced across international borders in the context of the adverse impacts of climate change.
- December 2017: UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/132 recognizes disaster displacement and encourages States to reduce disaster displacement risks.
- July 2018: The GCM final text recognizes climate change, disasters and environmental degradation as drivers of migration and States commit to actions to minimize such drivers and to enhance availability of regular pathways for people compelled to move.





Human Rights , Climate Change and Migration

Obligations and responsibilities of States and other duty-bearers to address the human mobility challenges created by climate change :

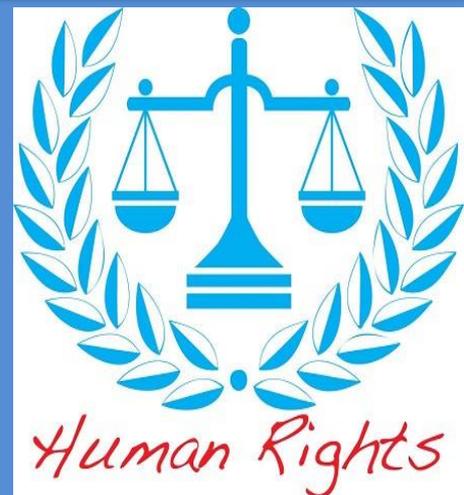
- Ensure the dignity, safety, and human rights of migrants in the context of climate change;
- Reduce the risk of forced migration through climate change mitigation;
- Reduce climate change risks through adaptation;
- Protect the human rights of people who are in particularly vulnerable situations;
- Ensure liberty and freedom of movement for all persons
- Ensure durable legal status for all those forced to move and to ensure safeguards in the context of returns;
- Ensure meaningful and informed participation;
- Guarantee human rights in relocation;
- Ensure access to justice for those affected by climate change;
- Cooperate internationally in order to protect the rights of migrants.





How to address the relationship between Human Rights, Climate Change and Migration (1)

- ✓ **To enhance understanding** of the relationship between the adverse impacts of climate change, human rights and international migration;
- ✓ **To identify challenges** in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of migrants in the context of the adverse impacts of climate change;
- ✓ **To identify opportunities** for States, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate the protection and fulfilment of the human rights of migrants in the context of the adverse impacts of climate change;





How to address the relationship between Human Rights, Climate Change and Migration (2)

- ✓ **To highlight the need** for international cooperation and assistance in responding to the challenges posed by climate change and migration, particularly for those most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change;
- ✓ **To contribute to** relevant processes that address migration in the context of climate change, including the stocktaking efforts for the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration and the work of the Task Force on Displacement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).





Strengthening DRR/M: entry points

- **Address general weaknesses that complicate effective responses**
 - poor institutional capacity,
 - high levels of poverty,
 - poor data, and
 - limited modeling of climate change impacts at the local scale
- **Strengthen ecosystem resilience while also improving the resilience of communities and societies to the impacts of climate change.**



Improved Science and Information

- **Modelling and forecasting - Early-warning systems:** vulnerability assessment & monitoring; seasonal climate forecasting; environmental monitoring;
- **Disaster preparedness plans ;**
- **Data-sharing protocol** to facilitate info sharing; establish network of climate and development Innovation Centers ;
- Invest in **infrastructure and technology;** upgrade national hydro-meteorological services; data rescue .



Better understanding of the risks and trends...



Strengthened understanding of the multidimensional role of the environment in the context of disasters

Integrating environmental concerns into DRR and implementing environment-based solutions.

- Policy-level interventions to **build ecosystem resilience**
- Enhanced knowledge and innovation to building resilience at community level especially focused on the “**climate change- Human Mobility- security**” nexus
- Field-level **risk and vulnerability assessment**, capacity-building and risk reduction projects



CHALLENGES ...& OPPORTUNITIES...

1. How can we raise more awareness and enhance knowledge management of national and local capacities relating to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction?
2. What are the tools and knowledge required for developing an effective methodology for identifying which regions are most vulnerable to the different types of hazard and at the most detailed scale possible?
3. What practical actions are necessary for improving forecasting, early-warning systems, identification and assessment of natural hazard risks?
4. What are the elements of useful toolkits for policy development and integrating DRR/CCA strategies into national policies and sectoral action plans?



Thank You!

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