Key Messages for addressing Human Mobility in the Context of Slow-Onset Events and the Adverse Effects of Climate Change

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KEY MESSAGE 1:
POLICIES COVERING DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT SHOULD (EQUALLY) CONSIDER SLOW-ONSET PROCESSES

Map displaying sea-level rise and coastal risks
Source: Atlas of Environmental Migration

Major slow-onset hazards:

- Sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, salinization (Coastal belts and Pacific Islands)
- Glacial retreat (Hindukush Himalayan mountain countries)
- Desertification (Mongolia, Iran)

KEY MESSAGE 2: POLICY AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSES SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE INTER-CONNECTEDNESS OF SLOW AND SUDDEN ONSET PROCESSES

"See that small piece of land in the middle of the river? I was born there 50 years ago. But then the river grew and washed away our home."

- Resident of Sirajganj, Bangladesh

Climate variability, slow onset processes often affect the same regions

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZt6MfMrSOQ

FIGURE 2: Highlighted impacts of slow-onset events on natural resources, economic sectors and displacement risk for small island developing states (SIDS)

FIGURE 3: Links between physical and socioeconomic environment, individual well-being and displacement risk

KEY MESSAGE 3:

AS SLOW-ONSET PROCESSES INTERACT WITH OTHER DRIVERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO HUMAN MOBILITY, RESPONSES SHOULD BE CROSS-SECTORAL AND REQUIRE RELATED INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (NO MATTER OF CHOICE: DISPLACEMENT IN A CHANGING CLIMATE)

KEY MESSAGE 4:

QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION, LINKED TO PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SLOW-ONSET EVENTS IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO DEFINE POLICY AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSES

"Natural disasters impact rural-urban migration. There is drought in summer, dzud in winter. People lose their livestock and are tired of herding. People, who lose their livestock, cannot find any jobs in the countryside, so they move to the city and other settlements to make a living. There are also many violations in rural areas. People with many livestock, wealthy, with many relatives discriminate and oppress the others who are poorer". -Migrant M, 37 years old, 11th khoroo, Bayanzurkh district, Ulaanbaatar

Source: IOM, 2018. *MONGOLIA: INTERNAL MIGRATION STUDY*

KEY MESSAGE 5. PLANNING SHOULD BE LONG-TERM AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN MOBILITY

"For me it's better for me to migrate (permanently) because we cannot stop the climate change"

- Whiskey, youth representative, Daku village, Fiji

"The ideal would be a migration for 5 years to earn money to then come back and build a home."

- Village elders, Daku village, Fiji

KEY MESSAGE 6.
AS TIME IS A KEY FACTOR IN THE CONTEXT OF SLOW-ONSET EVENTS AND RELATED MOBILITY OUTCOMES, PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES SHOULD HAVE SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM MILESTONES

"We used to grow crops and vegetables. However the river washed away our home… Because of these changes, we were forced to move to Dhaka"

- Faruq, Bhola Basti, Dhaka

KEY MESSAGE 7. TO ADDRESS SLOW-ONSET RELATED HUMAN MOBILITY, WE SHOULD CONSIDER A SUITE OF OPTIONS THAT ENSURE THAT MIGRATION IS A CHOICE NOT A NECESSITY

Help people to stay

Minimizing forced migration

Enhancing livelihoods/DRR
Extension of access to insurance/creation of social safety nets

Help people to move

Facilitating migration as adaptation

Skills training
Facilitating internal mobility
Facilitating cross border mobility
Facilitating remittances
Planned relocation

Help people that are forced to move

Assisting people on the move

Emergency and humanitarian operations

This includes policy and operational responses at the regional, national and local levels

Some of IOM's climate change and disaster related project in Asia and the Pacific

Data collection and preparedness on climate and disaster induced displacement

Community awareness on community-Based Climate Change Adaptation

Assessing the climate change, environmental degradation and migration nexus in South Asia

Strengthening national capacity on labour migration for CCA

Micronesia

Facilitating regional frameworks and data collection on disasters in the Pacific

Assessing vulnerabilities and response to environmental changes in Cambodia

Study on planned relocation processes and outcomes

Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy

Community based planning to adapt to climate change

Displacement policy development in Vanuatu

Types of IOM projects to address slow-onset processes in Asia and the Pacific

Research and Data Collection

- "Assessing the evidence" research projects
  - Scoping study on trafficking and climate change
  - Planned relocation process and outcomes
  - Labour migration as a climate change adaptation strategy
- Use of DTM to track seasonal movements

Policy Development

- National policy development 'displacement policy' and work on planned relocation guidelines
- Development of regional policy frameworks
- Capacity Building for policymakers

Operational responses

- Climate risk education
- Rehabilitation and reinforcing risk-mitigating infrastructure
- Community based planning and integration into disaster plans and policies
- Labour market information systems research and skills development for climate change adaptation

Available tools and guidance for policy development and implementation

Guides and handbooks:

- **Climate change adaptation:**
  - Migration for Adaptation: A Guidebook to Integrate Migration and Translocality into Community-Based Adaptation (TransRe, 2018)
  - Supplementary guidelines on human mobility to NAP Technical Guidelines (IOM, forthcoming)
- **Disaster risk reduction:**
  - Words into Action guidelines - Disaster displacement: How to reduce risk, address impacts and strengthen resilience (NRC/ISDR, 2018)
- **Emergency preparedness and response:**
  - The MEND Guide: Comprehensive Guide for Planning Mass Evacuations in Natural Disasters (CCCM, 2014)
- **Migration and development:**
  - Migration in the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners (IOM, 2018)
  - Guidelines on mainstreaming migration into local development planning (JMDI, 2017)
- **Cross border disaster displacement:**
  - Agenda for the Protection of Cross-border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (Nansen Initiative, 2015)
- **Planned relocation:**
  - A Toolbox: Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change (GU, IOM, UNHCR, 2017)

THANK YOU

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