

Climate Change, Migration and Conflict



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Focus



- How is climate change influencing migration patterns
 - Both spatial and temporal trends
 - Relative weight of climate change in influencing decision to move
 - Role of governments in mitigating or encouraging migration
- How is climate change contributing to local, national and international tensions
 - The linkage between migration and increased conflict
 - Types of violence
 - Likelihood of increased violence
 - Characteristics of sending and receiving states

Underlying Themes



- Root causes
 - Lack of access to power, resources
 - National-local relations
- Production of vulnerability and the creation and structure of risk as it varies within and across countries
- Information on the indirect effects of climate is difficult to ascertain
 - Use case studies to direct our study

Main Findings



- Disasters vary considerably in their potential to instigate migration
- Individuals and communities in the developing world incorporate environmental risks into their livelihoods
- Labour migration intensifies as a response to chronic environmental hazards
- Distress migration patterns are shaped by assets, social networks and available aid
- Migrations are typically internal and short term and not related to conflict risk

Vulnerability and Resilience



- A great variety of mechanisms are developed to strengthen resilience to environmental hazards
- Coping strategies are underscored by initial assets and networks
- Resilience to hazards is built on factors unrelated to environment such as market availability, access to infrastructure and migration potential

Labour Migration

- Intensifies as a reaction to chronic environmental hazards
- Is typically internal, temporary and circular

Direct Climate Changes	Indirect Climate Changes	Type of Movement	Time Span
Gradual climate change	Chronic disasters such as drought, degradation	Seasonal labor migration. Temporary circulation	Seasonal
Gradual climate change	Chronic disasters- drought/ degradation	Contract labor migration	Yearly
Sudden or gradual climate change	Natural disasters/ severe drought/ Famine/Floods	Forced/distress migration	Temporary
Sudden or gradual climate change	Extreme Temperatures/ Sea Level Rise	Permanent migration	Lifetime

Distress Migration



- Typically internal and temporary. Community relocation is a rare occurrence
- Social capital networks, histories of migration, assets and aid direct post-disaster movements
- Three options:
 - Local Displacement
 - Seek Aid
 - Permanent relocation and resettlement

Government Policies on Environmental Migration



- Policies influence vulnerability and coping
 - To increase resilience
 - To reduce hazard vulnerability
 - To encourage adaptation
- Policies influence labour and distress migration
 - To strengthen rural-urban connections and employment
 - To reduce controls on movement
 - Treat disaster victims in-situ and organize safer relief
 - To direct and organize relocation

Conflict



- There is evidence linking increased population pressure to higher rates of civil war
- Anecdotal accounts of communal conflict as a result of certain migration patterns do not consider political climate
- Evidence linking increased violence to international refugee flows
- The policies of both sending and receiving countries influence these dynamics

Future Research Agendas



- **Labour migration**
 - How to encourage temporary, internal labour migration over distress migration?
 - How can migration benefits be made portable?
 - Is there a labour migration threshold?
- **Distress migration**
 - How can pre-disaster assets guard against distress migration?
 - How can post-disaster policies deter distress migration?
 - How can short term distress migration be less difficult and harmful?
 - How is distress migration exacerbated by complex emergencies?

Future Research Agendas



- Resettlement and relocation
 - Can resettlement be prevented by enacting protective policies now?
 - What is a 'best practice' model for resettlement as a response to different disasters?
 - What is the role of international agencies in devising and directing resettlement schemes?

Conclusions



- Considerable work to be done to address social consequences of climate change, especially with regard to migration
- Previous estimates are incorrect in that they do not consider how people incorporate risks into their livelihoods
- Local development underlies resilience to environmental hazards
- Repeated disasters compounded with insufficient assets and assistance is the worst case scenario