



Environmental Displacement

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Impacts of Environmental Factors on Migration

- Direct and determinative causal linkages between environmental factors and migration are difficult to identify
 - Migration results from combination of drivers in source and destination countries
 - Climate change and other environmental factors may exacerbate migration pressures....
 - Migration may be an effective adaptation tool

Variation in Displacement Patterns

- Rapidity of initial migration/displacement
 - Slow-onset
 - Intensified drought/desertification
 - Rising sea levels/coastal erosion
 - Rapid-onset
 - Intensified acute disasters (hurricanes, cyclones)
 - Conflict related to competition for resources
- Length of displacement
 - Temporary – short and longer term
 - Permanent

Geographic variation in migration

- Internal
 - Rural to urban/rural to rural
 - Urban to rural/urban to urban
 - Camps or self settled
- International
 - Cross border to neighboring countries
 - More distant movements

Legal Frameworks

- Weak instruments for addressing slow onset situations, particularly re: international movements
- Stronger instruments for addressing emergency movements, particularly related to conflict
- Evolving regime for addressing internal movements (e.g., African Union Convention on Internally Displaced Persons)
- Evolving regime for natural disaster displacement, particularly if temporary
 - Temporary status may not be appropriate for all climate change related migration

Organizational Frameworks

- Clearer lines of authority for conflict and statelessness (less for internally displaced)
- Evolving organizational frameworks for natural disasters
- Weak organizational framework for voluntary/gradual migration
 - No international organization with clear responsibilities
 - International Organization for Migration has longest history
 - Global Migration Group coordination mechanism but no real authority
 - UN environmental agencies not members

Constraints on Improving Legal and Political Frameworks

- Notions of state sovereignty, particularly regarding admissions of 'voluntary' migrants (slow-onset)
- Weak scientific evidence on likely migration impacts and patterns
 - Difficulty of distinguishing environmental factors from other causes of migration

Constraints (cont)

- Equity issues—should environmental migrants be given preference for admission, assistance and protection over other migrants?
- Silos that impede consultation on related topics such as climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; environmental migration, conflict-induced displacement and development-induced involuntary resettlement

Recommendations

- Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Identify strategies that best allow people to remain where they are
 - Identify strategies that best protect people's lives and livelihoods when migration is necessary or desirable
 - Provide technical assistance to governments developing adaptation and DRR strategies that affect or require migration as to best practices
 - Assess the efficacy of adaptation and DRR strategies involving migration

Recommendations (cont)

- Understanding Patterns of Mobility
 - Identify likely patterns of migration, particularly focusing on the three dimensions that determine categorization (causes, geography and time)
 - Assess systematically the applicability of existing national and international legal and institutional frameworks to the likely patterns of migration
 - Identify likely host countries and communities (particularly in the developing world) that lack the capacity, legal frameworks and institutional arrangements required to cope with the migration.

Recommendations (cont)

- Towards a Normative Framework
 - Identify norms in existing human rights and humanitarian law that help governments and international organizations protect the rights of environmental migrants
 - Identify gaps in existing law
 - Develop guiding principles that reinforce existing norms and fill gaps
 - Use Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as model

Recommendations (cont)

- Organizational Arrangements
 - Assess the efficacy of current coordination mechanisms
 - Foster intergovernmental dialogue on climate change and migration
 - Develop and implement new organizational arrangements as needed to address future migration and displacement precipitated in whole or part by climate change.