

2021-22 Regional Environmental Event

Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 (SCF 2), SEI

Engendering Climate Induced Migration

Perspectives from Asia

Agenda

Multistakeholder Dialogue

February 9, 2022



MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

February 9, 2022 || 1:00-5:00 PM IST IST/1:30-5:30 PM Dhaka/1:15-5:15 PM Kathmandu

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) recognizes migration- both within and from the region as a dominant feature in South Asia. Whereas there are multiple factors of socio-economic, political and humanitarian nature leading to greater human mobility in the region, environmental effects and climate change are causing displacement of thousands every year in the region. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) reported internal displacement of nearly 10 million people in the region, in the year 2019 as a result of sudden onset events. The rising intensity and frequency of extremes such as floods, glacial lake flood outbursts, droughts, cyclones, and slow onset events such as sea level rise, coastal erosion, and salinity intrusion constitute a picture of extremely high risk in the Southern Asian Region.

In the backdrop of growing socio-political, economic and environmental instabilities, the existing inequalities and differentiated vulnerabilities either enable or limit individual agency in adaptation. The developing economies of South Asia are characterised by low socio-economic and human development indicators and high levels of inequality and poverty. These characteristics have a bearing on agency of people and communities and the options available to them to adapt to crises. Migration is one of the ways people cope or adapt to crises and there are both opportunities and challenges associated with it. On the one hand, migration provides a way for people to diversify income and build resilience where lives and livelihoods are threatened by environmental change. On the other hand, concerns are raised over questions of rights, identity, culture, health, safety, decent livelihoods, shelter, pressure on host communities and places. Further, taking cognizance of diverse migrant experiences which are shaped by gender, economic situation, religious and ethnic identity, age, disability and sexual identity is important to map both delimiting and enabling factors associated with migration.

Given the scale of irregular migration, both internal and transboundary, in the South Asian region, serious action is required in terms of plans and policies that reduce the vulnerability of migrants and migrant communities, especially women and girls, in both source and destination areas. Integrating gender into migration and climate change adaptation policies, programs and discussions is a significant step in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on gender equality (SDG 5), reducing inequalities (SDG10), and climate action (SDG13) particularly aiming at strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters. Procedural obligations incorporated under climate agreements and treaties such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris Agreement, specific negotiations such as the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and directives under the Task Force on Displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage under the UNFCCC constitute the guiding principles for policy action and also bolster the case for mainstreaming the gender perspective and recognising the “independence, agency and leadership” of migrant women. More fundamentally, international human rights instruments like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set the ground for ensuring the dignity, safety and human rights of all migrants in the context of climate change.

With human rights and gender equality in focus, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia launched the Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 (SCF2) programme in 2018 with support from the Swedish government (Sida) with the aim of enhancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Central to this project is fostering regional cooperation and policy dialogue for sustainable development and environmental sustainability through capacity building, knowledge sharing and increased

collaboration. The SCF supports events that emphasize substantive and inclusive dialogue by bringing together representatives from government, civil society, private sector, research or academic institutions and development partners.

As part of SEI SCF-2, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi in collaboration with the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAS) initiated the project “Engendering Climate Induced Migration: Perspectives from Asia”. The objective of the project is to foster an understanding of climate induced migration through a human rights and intersectionality approach, with focus on the gendered aspects of vulnerability along the rural-urban and international migratory spectrum. This project consists of a series of events, workshops and consultations that have been developed as a knowledge and experience sharing platform for different stakeholders involved in migration and climate adaptation landscape and enabling long-term multistakeholder regional collaboration. An integral aspect of this project is bringing to the fore experiences of the migrant communities in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. To this objective, consultations largely comprising focused group discussions and interviews were carried out with migrant communities in Gorakhpur District, and South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas District- Sundarban, in India; Sindhupalchok District in Nepal, and Shariatpur District in Central Bangladesh. These on-ground consultations were carried out by organizations namely Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) and EnGIO in India, Prakriti Resource Centre (PRC) in Nepal, Centre for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) and Shariatpur Development Society (SDS) in Bangladesh who are the key partners to this project.

The emerging evidence from the ground consultations will be presented at this multi-stakeholder dialogue to provide deeper insights into the migratory landscape in the South Asian region. Directly informed by the voices and experiences of women and men in communities affected by the increased frequency and intensity of environmental and climate hazards, sessions of the Dialogue will help a better understanding of the adaptive/maladaptive nature of migration, particularly the internal rural-urban and transboundary irregular migration, identify the gaps in the laws, policies, and frameworks pertaining to migration in the region and draw the pathway for better governance that strengthens and reinforces gender equality and substantive and procedural rights of people. The dialogue will aim at exploring actions for creating just and equitable systems and processes especially accounting for the marginalized social groups and groups who experience multiple, compounded forms of risks and vulnerabilities.

AGENDA	
1:00-1:15 PM IST	<p><u>Welcome Address</u> Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, Senior Fellow and Director, Earth Sciences and Climate Change Division, TERI Mr Sanjay Vashist, Director, CANSA Dr Sara Vigil, Research Fellow, SEI</p>
1:15-1:25 PM IST	<p><u>Setting the tone of the dialogue</u> Brief on the project, its key components and approach and objectives of the Multistakeholder Dialogue Ms Smita Chakravarty, TERI</p>
SESSION I	
1:25-2:30 PM IST	<p><u>Engendering Climate Induced Migration: Perspectives from India, Bangladesh and Nepal</u> Chaired by Mr Sanjay Vashist, CAN - South Asia <u>Learnings from Community Consultations</u> Presentations by partner organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community consultations held at: Gorakhpur, India <i>Ms Archana Srivastava & Dr Shiraz Wajih</i> Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, India ○ Community consultations held at: South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas District, Sundarban, India <i>Mr Jayanta Basu</i> Environment Governed Integrated Organisation (EnGIO), Kolkata, India ○ Community consultations held at: Sindhupalchok District, Central Nepal <i>Ms Pragya Sherchan & Mr Prabin Man Singh</i> Prakriti Resource Centre, Nepal ○ Community consultations held at: Shariatpur District, Bangladesh <i>Ms Rabeya Begum & Mr Md Shamsuddoha</i> Shariatpur Development Society (SDS), Bangladesh & Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD), Bangladesh
2:30-2:35 PM IST	Video presentation on the community consultations
2:35-3:05 PM IST	<u>Interaction and Q/A Session</u>
3:05-3:15 PM IST	<u>Break</u>

SESSION II

<p>3:15-4:30 PM IST</p>	<p><u>Panel Discussion</u> <u>The way forward to integrate intersectional human rights and gender analysis in national, regional and global policy frameworks to respond to climate/environmental induced migration challenges in South Asia</u></p> <p>This session is aimed at discussing relevant laws, policies, and frameworks in the region on migration and linkages to gender equality and human rights and identifying the entry points for inclusive local, regional and transboundary governance.</p> <p>Chaired by Amb. Ajai Malhotra <i>Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva// Distinguished Fellow & Senior Adviser (Climate Change), The Energy and Resources Institute// Former Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prof Santosh Kumar <i>National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India</i> ○ Prof Mizan R. Khan <i>Deputy Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Bangladesh // Programme Director of Least Developed Countries University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC)</i> ○ Dr Andreea Raluca Torre <i>Research Affiliate, Stockholm Environment Institute</i> ○ Dr Amina Maharjan <i>Livelihoods Specialist on Migration for the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal</i> ○ Dr Mini Govindan <i>Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi</i> ○ Ms Ritu Bharadwaj <i>Senior researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development</i> ○ Mr Harjeet Singh <i>Senior Advisor, CAN International // Strategic Advisor - Global Partnerships, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative</i>
<p>4:30-4:45 PM IST</p>	<p><u>Q/A Session</u></p>
<p>4:45-5:00 PM IST</p>	<p><u>Closing Remarks & Vote of thanks</u> Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, TERI</p>