



Debriefing

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Representing at World Humanitarian Summit

The world is witnessing the highest level of human suffering since the Second World War. For the first time in the 70-year history of the United Nations, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul on 23-24 May to address the humanitarian issues with a shared approach and accountability. The key themes of the WHS included the following:

1. PREVENT AND END CONFLICT
2. RESPECT RULES OF WAR
3. LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND
4. WORKING DIFFERENTLY TO END NEED
5. INVEST IN HUMANITY

Main Program

The main Summit programme included High-Level Leaders' Roundtables on priority action areas outlined in the Secretary-General's Report; Special Sessions on specific thematic areas; and a Summit Announcement Plenary for Member States and other stakeholders to announce action commitments.

Side Events

Alongside the main programme, a number of side events were organized by different stakeholders in the form of briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions. Similarly, on-site exhibitions were organized on different themes of humanitarian concerns.

CLIMATE INDUCED DISPLACEMENT: PROTECTION FROM HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

May 24, 2016

Background

Climate-induced displacement and migration involve two different dimensions; a) cause dimension e.g. climate-induced disaster events and their residual impacts, and b) consequence dimension e.g. socio-economic deprivation and violation of human rights etc. Every conflict and unrest has its own cause and character but there has been a causal link between climate and conflict as climate change has catalytic effects to a potential conflict. Sudden dramatic onset disasters like cyclone, river erosion etc. displaces people nearby, and they forced to migrate permanently when disaster ravaged economic and social context 'push' them away. Fleeing from climate hotspots is not an 'adaptation strategy'; it is an attempt of 'survival' in the context of 'adaptation failure'. The flow of present-day migration is the likely result of 0.85 degree centigrade temperature rise since the late 19th century. We are expecting to limit temperature rise conveniently below 1.5 degree centigrade by 2100. Ironically, we are heading towards a world with of 2.7 degree centigrade temperature rise or more by 2050.

South Asian¹ geography is diverse, ranging from the world's highest elevations in Hindu-Kush Himalayas to the low-lying coastal plains and islands of the Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and Bay of Bengal.² Due to these unique geo-climatic conditions, South Asia is exposed to a wide array of natural hazards that can trigger human mobility (displacement, migration and planned relocation), including sudden-onset tropical cyclones, flash floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, avalanches and glacial lake outburst floods, as well as slow-onset desertification, droughts, salt water intrusion, and erosion.³

Over the years, these natural hazards have resulted in significant displacement in South Asia. Between 2008 and 2013, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) estimated that more than 46 million people were displaced by sudden-onset disasters in South Asia.⁴ India ranked the highest, with some 26 million people displaced during that same period. In a densely populated region with approximately 1.7 billion people, a single event in South Asia can result in large-scale movements. For example, an estimated 11 million people were displaced in 2010 when Pakistan's Indus River flooded,⁵ while in October 2013 the Indian Government evacuated over one million people in anticipation of Tropical Cyclone Phailin reaching its shores, with 13.2 million people ultimately affected by the disaster.⁶

¹The South Asia Region consists of the Member States to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and most recently, Afghanistan.

² Notably, many natural features such as river basins, fault zones, or mountain ranges are shared by several countries; therefore, impacts of climate change and natural hazards in this region often "transcend national boundaries" and require intergovernmental cooperation. The World Bank, GFDRR, *Disaster Risk Management in South Asia - A Regional Overview* (Washington DC 2012) 31.

³Asian Development Bank, *Addressing climate change and migration in Asia and the Pacific* (Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines 2012).

⁴ IDMC, "Global Estimates 2014: People displaced by disasters," September 2014.

⁵IDMC, 'Pakistan: Displacement caused by conflict and natural disasters, achievements and challenges' (2012).

⁶ <http://reliefweb.int/report/india/government-india-and-world-bank-sign-153-million-agreement-odisha-disaster-recovery>

(Nansen Initiative- *Climate Change, Disasters, and Human Mobility in South Asia*)

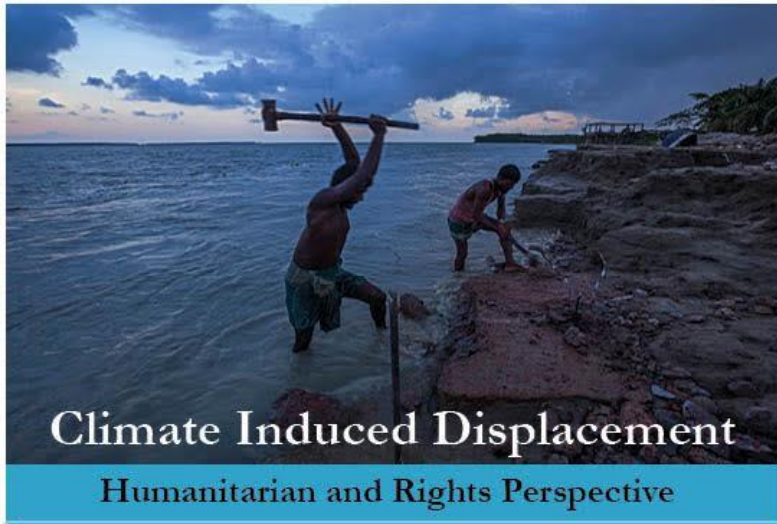
On May 24, 2016, a special Side Event was organized by 15 leading organizations on the above discipline which was attended a by a host of audience from across the globe. APRRN presentation titled “**Protection from Human Rights Perspective**” included the following talking points which were elaborated in the panel discussion followed by questions and answers.

A. GROUND REALITY

- Many forced migrants are in host countries in conflict or in high intensity political transition struggling for their own stabilization
- Rising feeling of intrusion into host countries’ indigenosity due to conflict over scarce resources/ Symptoms indicating incidences of xenophobic outburst, hatred and revulsion
- Securitization of migration/militarization of borders on the rise
- In the aftermath of a disaster, lack of documentation hinder cross border movement and access to minimal protection and assistance (if any)
- Increasing fear and uncertainty for those individuals, possibly further compromising their ability to access assistance and protection
- Refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and irregular migrants are further at risk in places where disasters strike
- Access to services and relief could be restricted to the displaced due to their immigration status
- Growing erosion of host compassion and aid fatigue is witnessed in the last decades
- Unfortunately, refugees, like undocumented migrants DO NOT form part of the national DRR and disaster response agendas
- An increasing number of refugees live in urban settings often in the poorest and most disaster risk prone areas

FUTURE DIRECTION

- Enhanced understanding of overall displacement dynamics (drivers, trends, patterns, pathways, characteristics of population) and general and specific protection needs of displaced
- Identification of good practices, at regional, national and community levels, in establishing mechanisms for disaster preparedness, building resilience, and responding/managing displacement risks
- Identification and collaboration with institutions, programs and policies that address interests and rights of displaced populations to move (including transit) with dignity, in safety and with full respect for their HRs
- Differentiation of disaster-displaced people from other migrants which, in turn, could facilitate the development of policy responses for specific protection
- Voluntary, informed choice through legal framework both at domestic and regional setting is vital
- APRRN’s Vision for Regional Protection is a cardinal document for larger advocacy for policy reform in the region



Climate Induced Displacement

Humanitarian and Rights Perspective

Public Seminar:
24th May 2016, 15.00 to 16.30 hours at LKCC Rumeli Hall 6
World Humanitarian Summit Istanbul

250 million people are at risk of displacement due to climate change by 2050. Bangladesh, where 35 million people live less than one meter above sea level, will be one of the hard hit countries. How can the humanitarian system better address this challenge?

Panel Speakers: Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, MP- Minister for Disaster Management & Relief Bangladesh (tbc), Md. Shahidul Haque-Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bangladesh (tbc), Corazon Soliman- Secretary of Dept. of Social Welfare and Development Philippines (tbc), Prof Walter Kalein, Michael Mosselmanns, Nick Guttman, Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen, Naser Memon, Manu Gupta, Degan Ali, Alice Thomas, Gopal Sivakoti, Bertrand Noiret, Arvinn Gadgil, Ann Singeo, Aashish Khullar. Moderator : Rezaul Karim Chowdhury



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