

“Beyond Labels, Beyond Borders”

Quezon City, Philippines

---An overview ---

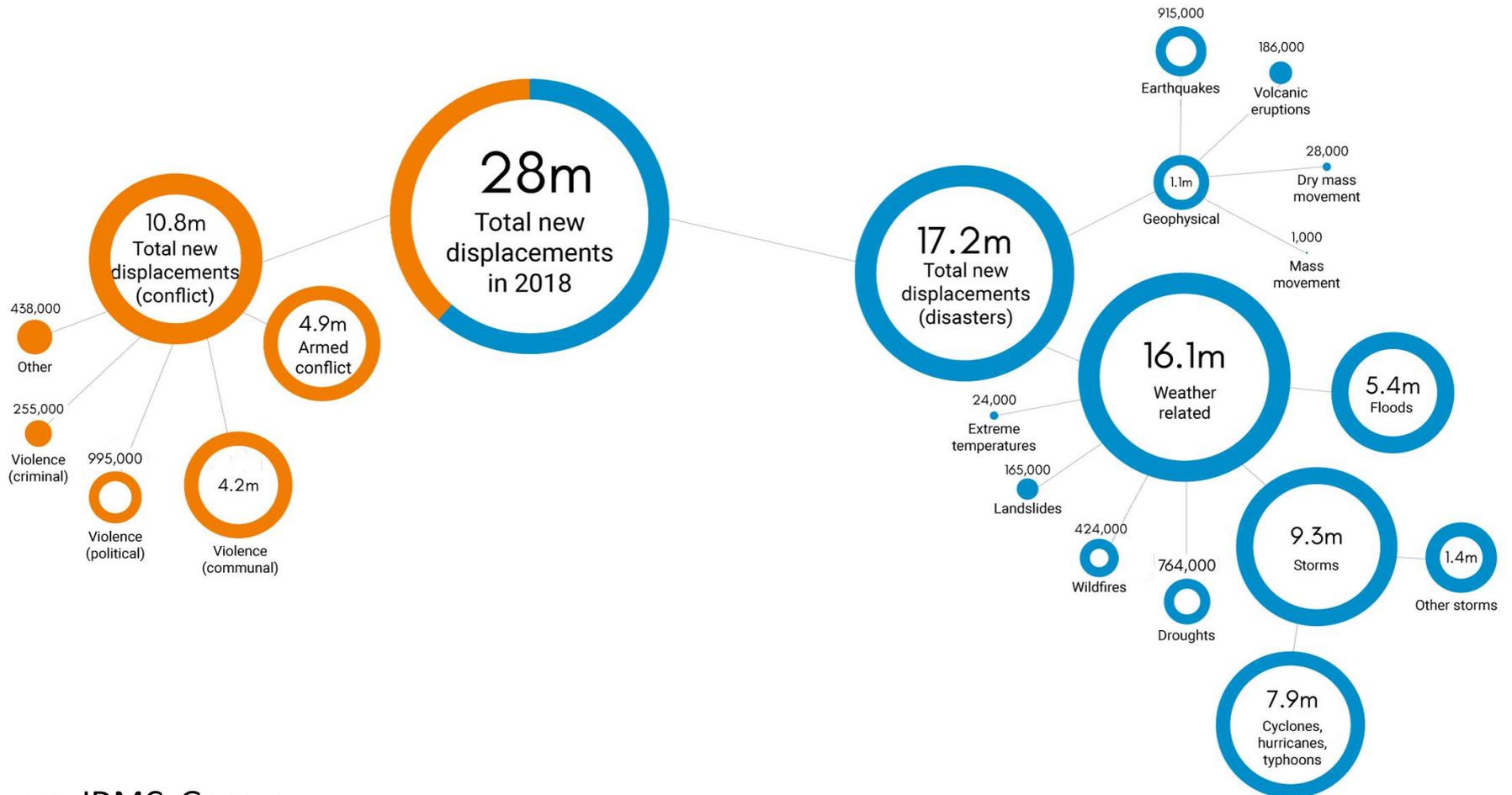
Climate induced
displacement/migration

Harjeet Singh

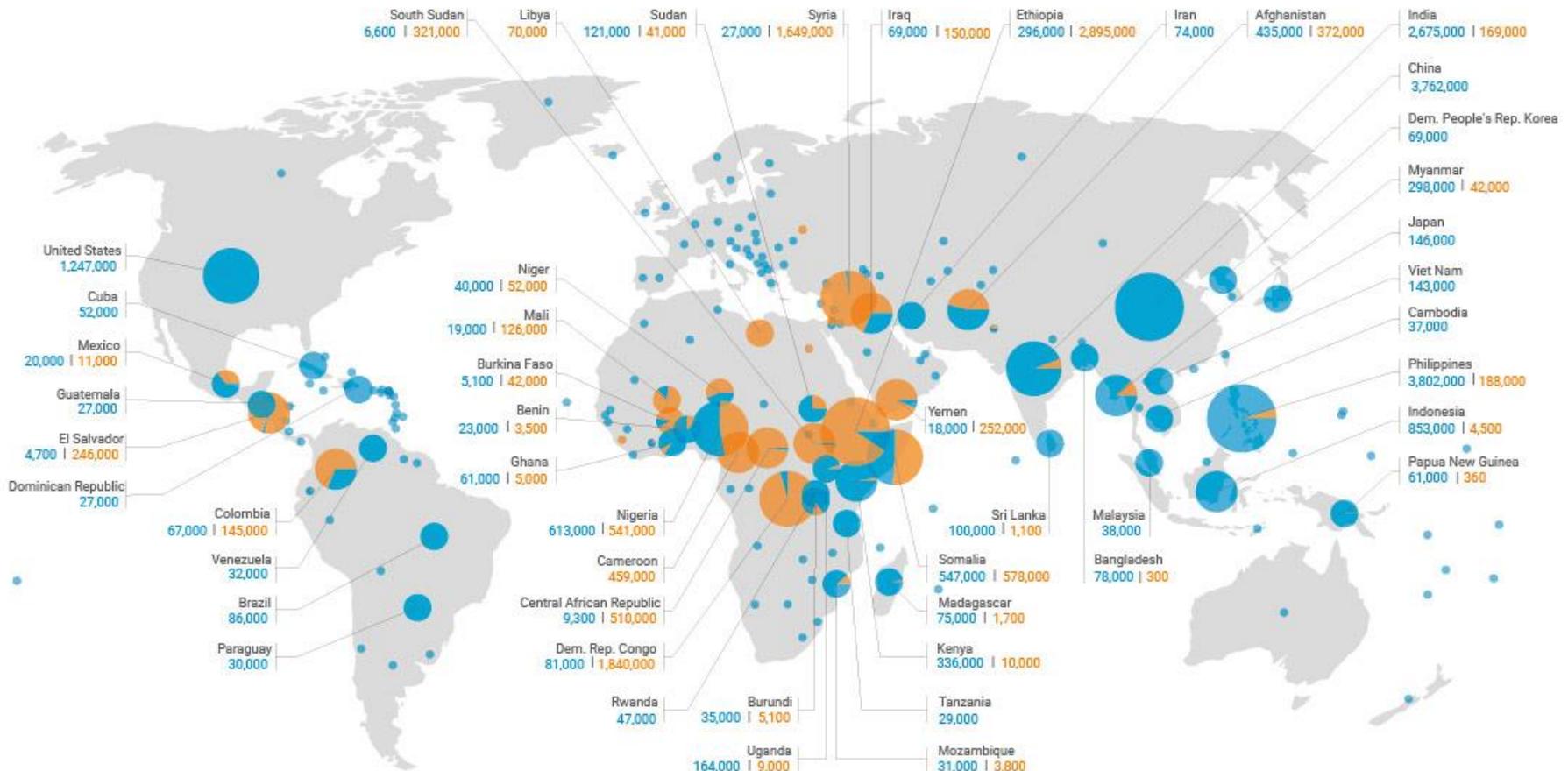
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Scale of displacement



Country-wise Displacement



The country names and figures are shown only when the total new displacements value exceeds 20,000. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures. The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

Displacement



- **Climate change is a critical driver of displacement** risk across the world, in conjunction with rapid and badly managed urbanisation as well as increasing inequality and poverty.
- Displacement linked to **slow-onset events** such as sea level rise, desertification and salinisation are displacing millions more, particularly in the Sub-Saharan Africa and Pacific regions.
- Displacement/migration is triggered by disasters, but **dependent on economic and social factors** like resource availability, social networks and livelihood opportunities.

Issues



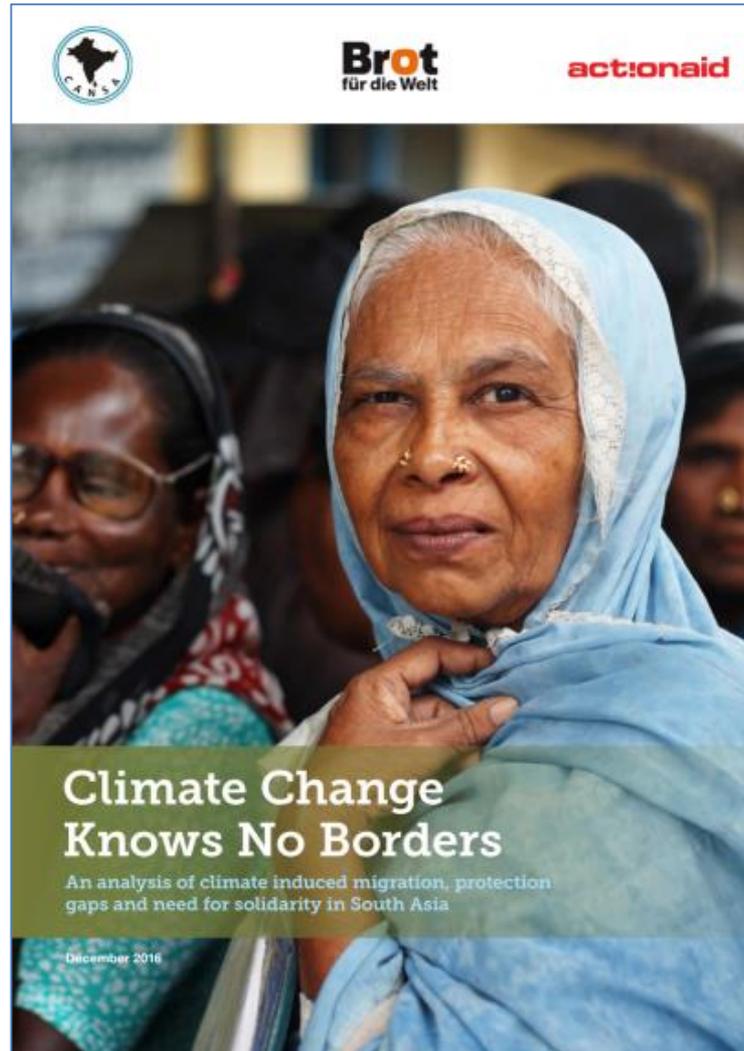
- The **scale** of climate induced displacement/migration will depend on: extent of **future emissions, the rate of population growth and distribution**; and effectiveness of adequately resourced local and national adaptation strategies.
- **Dramatic onset disasters usually cause mass displacement**, whereas people undergo routine migration, followed later by permanent migration due to slow onset disasters.
- **Permanent migration**, however, is usually not the first adaptive response
- For **short- to medium-term migration**, people usually move to adjacent villages or towns, especially when basic services are no longer available.

Issues (Contd.)



- In the case of long-distance routine economic migration, people usually settle in large urban slums, which often lack basic services.
- **Women, children, the elderly and disabled** and the poorest of the poor have fewer options for either planned or forced migration.
- Displaced and **trapped people** face persistent insecurity of basic needs such as food, water and sanitation.
- People with more **social and human capital** migrate in a planned way.
- **Long-term issues emerging from extreme weather events** also force people to migrate, especially during the post-disaster response and recovery phase when governance mechanisms are inadequate or fail.

Assessing Climate-Induced Migration and Policy Responses in South Asia



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Key findings



- Migration has **always taken place** in South Asia, for long before climate change became an issue.
- “**Push factors**” include conflict, poverty, land access and ethnicity, while there are also many “**pull factors**” such as development, livelihoods, seasonal labour, kinship and access to health or services.
- South Asian countries are **slow to recognise** the role of climate change as an additional push factor, and the level to which it is driving migration.
- Climate change is thus still **largely invisible** in the migration discourse in South Asia and vice versa.

Key findings (Contd.)

- The **rights of migrants and their families** are being **threatened by unsafe migration**, which is often driven by desperation and a lack of options caused by climate disasters.
- The **impacts of migration on women**, both those migrating and **those left behind**, is also not yet adequately understood or addressed by national or international policies.
- There is **need for clear definitions** of climate migration and displacement which national governments should use to gather and analyse data on the role of climate change in migration, and develop appropriate policies accordingly.
- **Policy makers must recognise** that in the face of climate change, **migration levels are likely to increase**, and that they have a responsibility to ensure people's protection and human rights.

Key findings (Contd.)

- The **efforts to enhance resilience** to climate change, particularly of **human safety, livelihoods and food security**, must be increased to arrest the growing scale of migration.
- **Development, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies** should be integrated for effective resilience.
- **South Asian solidarity** should become the basis for common equitable approaches and solutions to challenges in the region.
- The Task Force on Displacement should develop **displacement scenarios** based on warming levels (with a special focus on slow-onset events) and relevant measures required, also drawing from the work of Global Compact.
- The Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM) under the UNFCCC must work to ensure **legal protection and fulfilment of human rights** of those that are forced to migrate or displaced by climate change.

Displacement discussion at UNFCCC

- UN climate change summit in the Mexican city of Cancún in 2010 for the first time recognised the relationship between climate change and different forms of forced human mobility.
- It called on governments to “commit to measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation.”
- Subsequent decisions at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) summits advanced the agenda in subsequent years.
- The Paris Agreement not only acknowledged the rights of migrants but also gave a mandate to establish a Task Force on Displacement (TFD) to provide recommendations to the Conference of Parties (COP), the apex body of the UNFCCC.

Other Global initiatives

- In 2016, 193 nations at the UN General Assembly adopted the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**, recognising the need for a comprehensive approach to issues related to migration and refugees and enhanced global cooperation.
- It decided to start the process in April 2017 to develop a “**Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.**”
- The General Assembly held an intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018 in Morocco and **adopted the global compact.**
- **Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)**, chaired by France and co-chaired by Fiji, has been engaging closely with UNFCCC as part of Task Force on Displacement.

Where are we now at UNFCCC?

- Task Force on Displacement submitted its report ExCom, which endorsed and sent it to COP24 in 2018 for approval.
- The recommendations were accepted by COP24 suggesting wide range of actions at various levels.
- The mandate of Task Force on Displacement has been extended.
- The Task Force on Displacement developed its workplan in July, which will be endorsed by ExCom in October 2019.

Key Recommendations from TFD

- Enhancing understanding of **human mobility (including migration, displacement and planned relocation), both internal and cross-border**, in the context of climate change.
- **Strengthen coordination, coherence and collaboration** across relevant bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and institutional arrangements, programmes and platforms.
- **Facilitate the efforts of countries** to develop climate change related risk assessments and improved standards for data collection on and analyses of internal and cross-border human mobility in a manner that includes the participation of communities.
- Parties to facilitate the efforts of developing country Parties to **formulate laws, policies and strategies**; enhance research and data collection; strengthen preparedness and so on.
- United Nations agencies, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to support **through finance, technology and capacity building**; support and enhance regional, subregional and transboundary cooperation.
- Invite the Secretary-General to consider steps, including a **system-wide strategic review, for greater coherence in the United Nations system** to address human mobility in the context of climate change to facilitate the inclusion of integrated approaches.

Market solutions to help climate victims fail human rights test

Finance through innovative and public sources must be raised
to address loss & damage and protect human rights

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5 Key Human Rights Principles

1. **Ensuring a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment** in order to respect, protect and fulfil human rights of current and future generations;
2. Enabling **transparency in decision making and the extent of public participation** in decision making relating to how loss and damage associated with climate change will be repaired and redressed, with participation and protection of particularly vulnerable groups, and – crucially – victims of climate change harms themselves;
3. Providing **access to effective remedies for loss and damage** associated with climate change harm recognizing that climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population who are already in vulnerable situations owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability, national or social origin, birth or other status;
4. **Ensuring differentiated responsibility**, evaluating the extent to which those with larger responsibility for climate change harms contribute to remedying, redressing and repairing loss and damage associated with climate change; and
5. **Respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights** in the actions they take to address environmental challenges and pursue sustainable development.

Analysis

- We find that **no market mechanisms are compliant with a human rights-centred approach** to achieving the financing needed to address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change.
- On the contrary, most put the **financial burden back on developing countries**, who are least responsible for causing the climate crisis.
- Market mechanisms also **fail to enable transparency, accountability and participatory decision-making** that meaningfully includes the most vulnerable communities impacted by climate change.

The **clear winners** of our human rights test are:

- better **state budgeting** that shifts state subsidies away from fossil fuels and towards addressing the impacts of climate change and funding a Just Transition; and
- **progressive taxes** such as the Climate Damages Tax (on oil, gas and coal extraction) and the Financial Transaction Tax (a small levy to raise revenue from the trading of financial instruments).

Funds

- A **Climate Damages Tax** on the fossil fuel industry could raise the funds necessary to repair the financial costs of loss and damage and would also fund programmes to help communities sustainably move towards a low carbon economy.
- It would raise revenues of between USD\$75-150 billion (at a rate of USD\$6 per tonne of CO₂) and USD\$500-1,000 billion (at a rate of USD\$40 per tonne of CO₂) a year. It puts the onus on those responsible for the root causes of climate change impacts and introduces a regulatory incentive on the fossil fuel giants.
- A **Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)** covering the European Union putting a levy on shares and bonds at 0.1% and derivative agreements at 0.01% has the potential to raise USD\$63 billion, and a similar global FTT could raise significantly more, given the scale of financial instrument trading internationally.
- Reducing the ongoing **state subsidies for fossil fuels** could raise USD\$300 billion, increasing to USD \$5.3 trillion when indirect subsidies are included. This would end the paradox of governments continuing to lower the cost of fossil fuel energy production while claiming to be committed to mitigation, adaptation and redressing the loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

The Way Forward

Connecting the inside and outside strategy!

- **Advancing the work at local, national and regional levels by engaging governments and CSOs**
 - Research, documentation and dissemination
 - Policy, institutional and budget review
 - Sensitization and mobilization of various stakeholders including media
 - Developing a joint strategy with stakeholders to “avert, minimize and address” displacement; and facilitate implementation.
- **UNFCCC and other global processes**
 - UNFCCC must remain the focal agency and work with Task Force for Displacement to implement recommendations in conjunction with other bodies and processes.
 - Disseminate research findings from the ground related to needs and gaps.
 - Input into the Loss and Damage finance process
 - Demand finance to enhance action on mitigation and resilience building as well as to address displacement.

Thank you

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