



Gender , Migration and Climate Change: Understanding Women's Vulnerabilities and Response

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Objectives of Presentation

- 1) Clarify links between gender migration and climate change;
- 2) Examine gender norms , concepts and practices that make them vulnerable particularly in times of natural disasters;
- 3) Analyze how gender-responsive strategies can enhance disaster risk reduction strategies

Clarifying definitions

- Forced migrants;
- Ecological/environmental refugees;
- Climate change migrants;
- Displaced people;
- Environmental migrants



Migration and Climate Change

- Internal (Rural-rural; rural-urban seasonal migration for temporary work) and External (Other countries)
- Normally motivated by search for better economic opportunities; family reunification; career advancement;
- Distress migration – prompted by extreme natural or ecological disasters resulting in either either temporary (reliance on community networks and relatives) or permanent displacement.(relocation settlement)

Table I. Typology of Potential Migrants

<i>Direct Climate Changes</i>	<i>Indirect Climate Change</i>	<i>Type of Movement</i>	<i>Time Span</i>
Gradual Climate Change	Chronic disasters, such as drought or 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, famines, floods	Forced distress migration	temporary
Sudden or gradual climate change	Extreme temperatures; sea level rise	Permanent migration	Lifetime

Source: Clionadh Raleigh, Lisa Jordan and Idean Salehyan.2007. Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Migration and Conflict . World Bank, p. 20.

Areas that are environmentally at Risk

- South and SEA particularly vulnerable and environmentally at risk ;
- Major cities with dense populations are located in coastal areas: Jakarta, Manila, Shanghai, Bangkok and Mumbai;
- Small island states;
- Arid and Semi-arid regions in Africa

Philippines as Disaster-Prone Country

- 20 or more typhoons a year;
- Recurrent environmental tragedies
 - Ormoc (1991)
 - Cherry Hill (1999)
 - Payatas (2000)
 - Bagui La Trinidad (2001)
 - Camiguin (2001)
 - Southern –Leyte Surigao (2003)
 - Aurora (2004)
 - Frank (2008)

Table II: Ranking of Disaster-related 20th century Philippine Fatalities

Hazard Event	Number of People killed	Damage (USD millions)
Typhoon	28812	5653
Earthquake	9572	517
Volcano	6331	228
Flood	2545	431

Source: "Natural Disaster Risk Management in the Philippines: Enhancing Poverty Alleviation Through Disaster Reduction". The World Bank and National Disaster Coordinating Council of the Philippines, 2003

Gender Vulnerabilities

- Gender is the socially ascribed roles of women and men that is based on patriarchal assumptions of male superiority;
- Reflected in social relations; economic system and order as well as legal frameworks that institutionalizes gender inequality in terms of rights, resources and voice

Table III Matrix of Women's Role in Disaster Management

Community level actions strategies	Action points
Policy-making in disaster management	Integrate women into the policy-making process
Development of human resources	Develop training programs to increase women's knowledge
Information management	Involve women in data collection and assessment
Mobilization of women	Organize women's groups to address needs during calamities
Local emergency management committees	Institutionalize women's participation in emergency committees and link them with outside support groups
Representation/participation in decision-making	Ensure women's participation in decision-making bodies
Priorities for women in the organization of recovery program	Involve women in restoration work e.g. food production, housing
Warning systems and response mechanisms	Use media to reach and tap women
Women's involvement in response and relief operations	Promote collaboration to ensure that women's needs are addressed and to ensure their participation in the relief and response process

Source: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, 2004

