Policy Dialogue on Climate-Induced Migration in Asia and the Pacific

16-17 June 2011
Bangkok

IOM Approach to Climate Change and Migration

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Director
International Organization for Migration
Environmental Migration - IOM Experience

Bangladesh

Disasters, erosion and sea-level rise –
Disaster risk reduction, emergency response and capacity building
Environmental Migration - IOM Experience

Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan

Social Partnership in Migration Management for Emergency Situations – with a focus on youth
Environmental Migration - IOM Experience

**Philippines**
Implementing durable solutions for the displaced in Bicol, post Typhoon Durian (2006)
Recovery and community development

**Cambodia**
Investing in disaster risk reduction for vulnerable communities
Mapping exercise in Northern Provinces
Building community resilience
Environmental Migration - IOM Experience

Azerbaijan

Adapting to short term shocks and long term trends: land erosion

Effective natural resource management

Kahriz (subterranean water system) rehabilitation

Since 1999 nearly 150 Kahrizes rehabilitated

Impacts on more than 10,000 households in rural areas
Environmental Migration - IOM Experience

Vietnam

Mekong Delta hotspot in regard of climate change-enhanced displacement

Building a concrete, climate-proof bridge in Mang Thit District

Developing partnership and visibility

Conducting scoping missions to gather data and information
Environmental Migration - IOM Experience

Sea-level rise and gradual environmental change –
Sustainable development and climate change adaptation against migration pressures

Mauritius
IOM’s Working Definition of “Environmental Migrants”

“Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad.”

IOM 2007
Managing Environmental Migration: IOM Approach

- Minimize forced migration resulting from environmental factors
- Ensure protection and assistance and devise durable solutions where displacement is inevitable
- Facilitate the role of migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change
Managing the full cycle of environmental migration

1. Prevent forced migration, facilitate migration as adaptation
2. Prepare for displacement and relocation
3. Manage migration: assistance and protection
4. Mitigate impacts of forced or mass migration
5. Address long-term challenges: durable solutions, migration, development, and adaptation
Way Forward: Strategic and Technical

1. **Knowledge Management:** Migration profiles, national assessments, “clearing house”

2. **Capacities enhancement:** policy, institutional, legal, operational

3. **Comprehensive migration policies** and guidelines for adaptation actions
Way Forward: Resources

1. Challenges to mobilizing resources

2. Critical issue of raising funds for migration and climate change issues and “competing” migration priorities.

3. IOM funding facility
Way Forward: Political Commitment

1. Political will and dialogue at national, regional (Colombo Process) international levels
2. Partnerships among states, agencies, different stakeholders
3. Participation and empowerment of local actors
Thank you!

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