Socio-economic implications of climate induced migration

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Migration in context

Migration is the outcome of a weighing of push (source) and pull (destination) factors that are social, economic, political in nature.

Location characteristics of the source region and the aspiration of the destination region are as much important as enabling factors such as enabling policies and restrictions (visa, kin groups, economic possibilities).

Climate Change is expected to alter these factors with a threat to particularly affect the poorest of the society, the less skilled and women.

How?

Climatic change

Temperature and Precipitation changes

Rapid onset climatic changes Slow onset climatic changes

Sea level rise

Glacier melting

(75% of all world pop. In LECZ in Asia/P. and on av. 13% of a countries pop., 2000); highest abs. pop in LECZ in LLDC and LDC

Glacier lake outburst

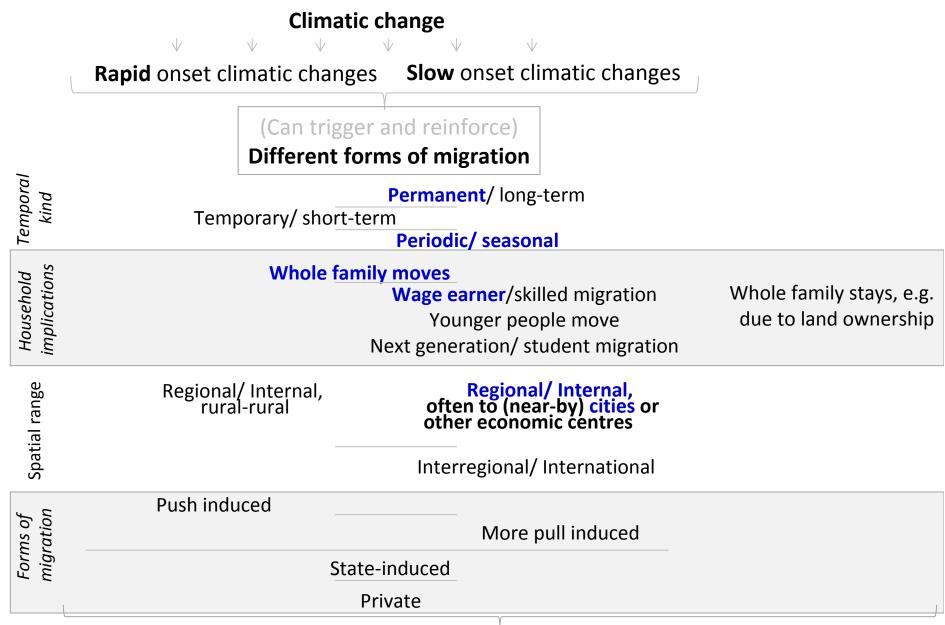
Floods

Droughts

Heat waves

- Impacts are acute and conceivable, but most often (assumed) temporary & not recurring
- Impacts are less acute and therefore less conceivable
 Action might be delayed, but then more sure or firm

Can trigger and reinforce migration



Socio-economic implications

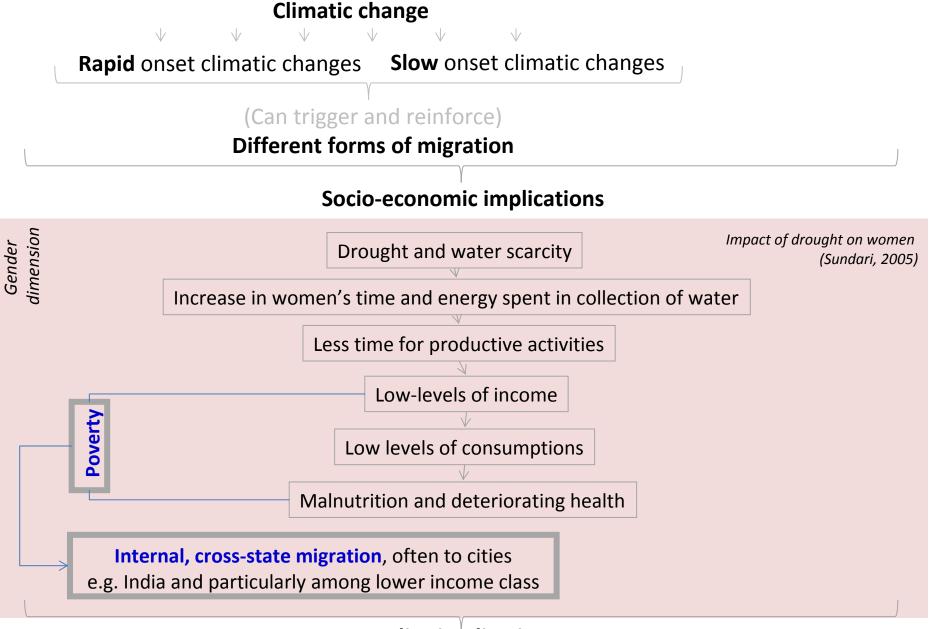
Climatic change Rapid onset climatic changes **Slow** onset climatic changes (Can trigger and reinforce) **Different forms of migration Socio-economic implications** Women migration Women are responsible for fetching water (future drought conditions) dimension Gender Women often have no property rights (pos. or neg. for migration) Women move for work, marriage or because of loss of land (w/wo family) Family disruption implications Family suffers, moves into poverty (threat Disease communication, e.g. AIDS Family Women left alone raising kids and with household organization to suicide) **Epidemic outbreaks** Religion Caste/ Freedom to be flee caste rules implications Remittances Economic Brain drain (internat. migr.)/ Less skilled (regional migr.) Special skills drain

One particular socio-economic implication for drought

Staying

Migration

Migration Staying Staying



Policy implications

Policy options can target

PROTECTION SOLUTIONS PREVENTION Target movements itself Conditions in Conditions in (hinder or support the destination regions source regions migration process) Migration might: Migration might: Particularly a •Aggravate existing problems •Aggravate existing problems problem, when (poorest and less skilled are least (particularly if destination is traditional pathways likely to move), vulnerable to CC impacts, e.g. are hit by CC, might •Impact the local economy cities at the coast), be affected by •Stress social coherence, (mostly negative), gender, different age •Alter age, education & gender Alter age, education & or social groups balance (brain drain, lack of gender balance, •Impact the **local economy** women etc.), (positive or negative).

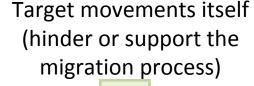
Policy options can target

PREVENTION

PROTECTION

SOLUTIONS

Conditions in source regions



Conditions in destination regions



- •Enable for economic opportunities in other areas than cities & less vulnerable regions
- •Increase in economic situation in source countries, might increase migration in the short and only decrease it in the long run
- •Pay attention to the left behind and poorest members, e.g. women

- •Foster regional cooperation within and across countries
- •Increase ability to influence migration through **legalization of flows**, e.g. to prevent trafficking
- •Let communities be part of resettlement organization
- •Allow flexible adjustment of immigration policies

- •For planed resettlements consider forming new settlements
- •Otherwise, allow for proper social integration of new migrants
- •Particular focus on cities in vulnerable areas, e.g. coasts
- •Allow for proper facilities in new destinations, e.g. slums, infrastructure, health care
- •Redirect from vulnerable inner urban areas

Summary

- •Migration is a way to increase income and employment, but not necessarily quality of life
- •In Asia-Pacific most migration occurs **from rural-urban areas**, less rural-rural (BAN, Rahman et al., 1996) Urban incomes are more secure, **still the poorest can't move**
- •Pay particular attention to **cities in Low Elevation Coastal Zones** (LECZ) and the destination areas for newcomers in cities
- •Rural-urban migration has contributed to larger child labour
- •Less wealthy migrate to areas close by and fuel internal migration, while the more wealthy classes contribute to international migration
- •Female migration is often regional in nature, and if so often supported by lower income women and the less skilled, as well as women from lower castes in India
- •Influence migration movements through dedicated economic or infrastructure (e.g. educational) supply or closure
- •Increase infrastructure and health care in receiving urban areas, but also support economic development in other, non-urban areas