



Displaced by war, driven by weather: Dual roots of modern migration

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I. INTRODUCTION

Rachel Carson, one of the most influential environmentalists of the 20th century, in her seminal work, *Silent Spring* (1962) writes, “*Man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself*.” These lines reflect her deep conviction that mankind is inseparably connected to nature and any harm or destruction caused by human activities to the nature will ultimately and undoubtedly rebound, threatening human survival.

Climate change-induced extreme weather events and deteriorating environmental conditions are creating a series of interrelated crises that threaten human rights, increase poverty and livelihood losses, disturb intercommunal harmony, and open the door for further forced migration (Jha, M.K., & Dev, M. 2024)¹. The relationship between human relocation and climate change is becoming more complex. Today, the majority of the world's displaced people live in countries that are both unprepared to handle the impacts of climate change and very vulnerable to them, because they lack access to shelter, basic utilities, and infrastructure in more remote locations, overcrowded camps, or informal settlements, displaced individuals may be disproportionately affected by extreme weather events such as heat waves, floods, droughts, and storms. By upending their means of sustenance, the climate disaster is also making it more difficult for displaced people to start over on their own. Climate change may exacerbate conflicts and tensions over fuel, water, and arable land, putting the peaceful coexistence of host communities and displaced persons at risk

(Froese, R., & Schilling, J. 2019)². The bulk of refugees and internally displaced people come from countries that are especially vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, making maintaining peace and guaranteeing a safe return a difficult task.

DIFFERENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Geographical features like low-lying terrains and others like limited adaptation affect how climate change affects each place differently (Barron, S. 2012)³, areas with the second feature are disproportionately threatened by rising sea levels.

Accordingly, relocating will be a strategy for dealing with the consequences of climate change. Many individuals will also move away from the affected regions because of environmental disasters. The World Bank's 2021 Groundswell Report predicts that 216 million people will experience internal migration inside their countries by 2050, with the majority of these movements

¹ Jha, M. K., & Dev, M. (2024). *Impacts of Climate Change. In Smart Internet of Things for Environment and Healthcare* (pp. 139-159). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

² Froese, R., & Schilling, J. (2019). *The nexus of climate change, land use, and conflicts. Current climate change reports*, 5, 24-35.

³ Barron, S., Canete, G., Carmichael, J., Flanders, D., Pond, E., Sheppard, S., & Tatebe, K. (2012). *A climate change adaptation planning process for low-lying, communities vulnerable to sea level rise. Sustainability*, 4(9), 2176-2208.



taking place in sub-Saharan Africa (Rigaud, K. K. 2021)⁴.

According to NASA, the rising global temperatures would render most of the Gulf uninhabitable by 2050. The Arctic is one region that will be most affected by global warming. Small islands like the Pacific Islands and Solomon Islands, as well as low-lying regions, are especially susceptible to the catastrophic consequences of increasing sea levels brought on by climate change.

Rising sea levels will have an impact on China, Bangladesh, India, and other countries in Southeast Asia. As sea levels rise, a significant amount of Bangladesh—roughly 17%—may be underwater by 2050, requiring many people to relocate. According to some estimates, climate warming may force up to 45 million Indians to leave the country by 2050. India may be affected by climate change to differing degrees due to its size and variety. Land degradation, coastal floods, and desertification are a few examples.

People throughout the world will be negatively impacted by climate change and the ensuing rise in global temperatures, which will raise sea levels. Even if they will be distributed unequally, the consequences will make matters worse for the underprivileged and impoverished, who are already more vulnerable because of their low resources.

The Cancun Adaptation Framework of 2010 was a major advancement in the area of migration, relocation, and migration connected to climate change. The UNFCCC has worked with several countries to develop the *National Adaptation Programmes of Action* (NAPA)¹. It uses a range of strategies and adaptation initiatives to combat climate change. *The United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP) ⁵ fights against human migration, migration, and global warming. UNEP and its Copenhagen Climate Centre oversee *Nationally Determined Contribution Action Projects* (NDCs)⁶. The NDC, which reflects the combined

effort of all nations to battle climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, places a strong focus on mitigation strategies. UNEP recommends that the displaced persons be included in the Nationally Determined Contribution Action Project and the National Adaptation Plan. It continues by stating that the adaptation strategies of the at-risk population should be fulfilled. This is in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, which seek to empower both host countries and displaced people.

CONFLICT, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

One example of the damage that conflict may do to the environment is the destruction of 700 oil fields in Kuwait during the first Gulf conflict. Initially, the cloud of smoke overflowed them for more than 800 km. Eleven million barrels of crude oil spilled into the Persian Gulf, creating a slick nine miles wide. For many years, the ecosystem was contaminated by the over 300 oil lakes that formed on the inland desert plain.

After months of fighting the fire with an international coalition of firefighters, the last well was capped in November 1991. The effects of the fires are still evident over 30 years later, with up to 90% of the contaminated soil still visible. Precious land resources are strained by landmines and shelling, and the ecosystem is greatly impacted by the large-scale refugee influx. However the effects of conflict on the environment go well beyond oil field fires.

“According to the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR)⁷, a UN organization tasked with providing assistance and protection to refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless peoples, the number of people forcibly displaced has doubled to almost 80 million by the end of 2019, as fewer and fewer people can return home.” About 35 million of them are refugees, asylum seekers, or otherwise displaced outside of their country, while 45 million are displaced inside their country.

Climate change not only intensifies its own harmful impacts like extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and resource scarcity but also acts as a catalyst for conflict by exacerbating social, economic, and political tensions. As the climate catastrophe worsens in the next years and decades due to desertification and rising sea levels, an

⁴ Rigaud, K. K., de Sherbinin, A., Jones, B., Abu-Ata, N. E., & Adamo, S. (2021). *Groundswell Africa: A deep dive into internal climate migration in Senegal*. Washington, DC, USA: World Bank.

⁵ *The United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP)

⁶ *Nationally Determined Contribution Action Projects* (NDCs)

⁷ *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR)



increasing number of people will be forced to leave their homes.

Climate change contributes to an increase in conflict, although it typically does so in indirect ways. As a consequence, the most vulnerable become even more vulnerable. The most vulnerable populations in the places where the *United Nations High Commission for Refugees* (UNHCR) works are those who have left their country due to conflict and are now dealing with the effects of a hostile environment. Furthermore, it is becoming more and more obvious that evacuees who have been displaced from their homes due to a combination of natural catastrophes, conflict, and other human-caused circumstances may never be able to return home (Koubi, V. 2019).

SUSCEPTIBLE REGIONS ENDURE STRONGER CLIMATE EFFECTS

In fragile places, competition for resources, particularly water, is increasing, as is food insecurity and urbanization (since small agricultural holdings are no longer viable after a series of droughts or disasters). When climate change is combined with other worldwide issues like

land degradation and environmental overexploitation, an already challenging situation may become much more problematic. Ninety percent of refugees worldwide are from countries that are either already experiencing the repercussions of the climate crisis or are ill-equipped to handle them. The latter is crucial because, while climate change impacts every square inch of our world, its consequences are not the same for every people. Unfortunately, the nations who have contributed the least to global emissions are the ones feeling the effects of the crises the most.

Responses that are ineffective or inappropriate may arise from an oversimplification of the complex and context-dependent interactions between migration, conflict, and climate change. However, many communities are already feeling the effects of the climate emergency, and the likelihood of conflict and violence will only escalate unless they take more steps to assist them in preparing for and adapting to the unavoidable rise in severe weather events. This alludes to the reality that food security is at risk because many parts of the world are now suffering droughts and that rainfall patterns may be very erratic, with either too little or too much rain. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine exacerbates the situation even more. The failure of governments to fulfill their social promises and provide basic services has the potential and in some cases already has led to the rise of non-state entities,

such as extremist organizations. People whose livelihoods are vulnerable to climate change, such as pastoralists or those with small farm holdings, are under a lot of stress, as are agricultural commodities like wheat, which are exported in large quantities by Russia and Ukraine. However, the loss of human security and wellbeing brought on by climate change is already having an impact on communities all over the world.

THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN AFRICA Vulnerability to Climate Change

Among the most varied in the globe in light of the most recent report from the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC)⁸, meteorologist Swapna Panickal of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology revealed that the Indian Ocean is warming more quickly than any other ocean in the world. The IPCC emphasised the many disasters that might strike humanity in the next decades both globally and in the Indian Ocean region. This is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of Indo-Pacific issues long-dormant *Indian Ocean Rim Association* (IORA)⁹ need to take the initiative and protect the region's interests in the face of the impending climate disaster.

Enduring longer droughts, higher average temperatures, and more frequent and severe floods as a consequence of climate change. The IPCC predicted that climate change will make it harder for African countries to manage their water resources, agricultural output, and health.

Drivers of Migration

Migration is increasingly influenced by climate change factors, with extreme weather, resource shortages, and urban migration increasingly serving as influential driving forces. Communities reliant on farming and livestock are particularly vulnerable in this regard, since expanding frequency and intensity of droughts and flooding lead to crop failures and loss of livestock. Families dependent on agriculture need to move to secure food and water when there are extremely dry periods prolonging the loss of crops. In nations such as Somalia and Sudan, the presence of extended dry seasons are common, leading to subsequent migration. Climate change will weaken agricultural productivity and reduce access to water, and urgent competition for these essential resources weakens

⁸ *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*

⁹ *Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)*



household and community stability, leading to escalating conflicts that forcibly displace communities. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) suggests environmental degradation has the potential to aggravate existing social tensions resulting in forced migration. Additionally, climate pressures exacerbate the urbanization of rural populations hoping a city will provide better resources and opportunities. Unfortunately, many of these new arrivals to these cities are unable to settle into employment, housing, or social networks leading to greater vulnerability, stress on urban infrastructure, and the growth of informal settlements.

Economic and Social Disruption

Migration usually destroys communities' social capital. Traditional support structures may be disrupted and families may be fractured. From an economic perspective, displaced people can lose their jobs and find themselves in a poverty cycle that is hard to break. Besides the issues related to displaced families, the reduced agricultural productivity can also potentially cause economic dislocation in local communities.

Climate-induced migration and Environmental Degradation

Environmental degradation often exacerbates migration. When people are relocated due to war and armed conflict, they may overuse limited natural resources in host areas, resulting in deforestation, soil erosion, and the loss of soils and ecosystems, which together form a vicious cycle of mass migration where the environmental degradation responsible for potential conflict, is further exacerbated by the act of migration.

Africa remains the most vulnerable continent to the impacts of climate change, yet it is the least responsible for climate change at the global scale. The ND-GAIN Index indicates that among the 25 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on human development, 14 of them are contending with conflict. Many African nations have weak governance, insufficient climate adaptation strategies and ill-equipped to counteract the climate threats due to insufficient investment in mitigation measures. In just the year 2020, over 30 million new internal migrations were the result of climate-related disasters, with more than 75 percent attributed to climate-related disasters alone. Migration due to hunger and temperature and water insecurity caused by environmental degradation has forced approximately 21.5 million people to relocate each year since 2010.

Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to experience the most significant migration, with projections indicating that climate change may uproot 85.7 million people in the region by 2050. The situation is compounded by socio-economic vulnerabilities, rapid urbanisation, population growth, and governance challenges. These factors undermine resilience, hinder peacebuilding, and increase the risk of prolonged migration.

While the nexus of climate and migration gains traction and is arguably more accepted, responses remain siloed. The gaps in policy and implementation to respond to forced migration are significant. The need for adaptation, early warning systems, climate finance and a full suite of protections is urgent. Vulnerable populations, especially women and children, face heightened threats of exploitation, trafficking and gender-based violence.

The Aswan Forum on Sustainable Peace and Development, convened by the *Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCCCA)*¹⁰, tackled these hurdles through policy discussions. It showed best practices, listed gaps, and put forth recommendations for what African countries and their partners can do. Emphasis was placed on coordinated policies, inclusive planning, and context-specific responses to promote sustainable peace and development against climate change-induced migration.

Climate change, conflict, and migration: Risks and challenges for Africa

Climate change, conflict, and migration are all deeply interrelated and this poses complex challenges to vulnerable populations around the world. Climate change disrupts population movements by undermining livelihoods based on natural resources, especially in communities that host displaced populations. In situations where the land and water resources are under pressure as competition between groups increases, the pressures threaten social cohesion and create tensions between communities. Such conflict then complicates the ability of individuals and institutions to prepare or adapt to the climate crisis, adding further stress to overstretched and unstable government and response capacity. Moreover, when conflict and myriad extreme weather events converge, they trigger a cycle of prolonged migration, instability, and violence.

¹⁰ *Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCCCA)*



Climate change presents serious threats to people living in vulnerability and in conflict-affected areas, increasing their risk exposure. Factors such as poverty, gender, age, and disability contribute to the impact of climate migration. Specifically, women and girls face additional vulnerabilities. Generally, women and girls are affected differently by climate-related disruptions or their capabilities of escape from unsafe environments are lessened by structural inequalities and thus they are trapped in nonvoluntary immobility.

Climate-induced migration further complicates the susceptibility to risk as it acts as a "risk multiplier" of risks. Individuals from displaced communities now become more exposed to inconsistent essential services (healthcare, food, clean water, safe housing, etc.), and if individuals are fleeing war, then the resides from which they escape advertise a range of deficiencies. The COVID-19 pandemic has since compounded the impact of ineffective or inconsistent essential service delivery. *Gender-based violence* (GBV) to displaced communities, particularly women and children has increased and pre-determined potentially for arbitrary excuses related to *sexual and gender-based violence* (SGBV) effects or related data-driven responses post-migration during a public health crisis pre-direct. Displaced persons were not only subjected to threats and violence to use their vulnerabilities of political and ethnic identities to refer to war-torn conflict, a body of individuals disintegrated everywhere throughout a Phased and Phased conflict had become lobotomized permanent residents, but also deserving candidates and beneficiaries of human rights violations were subsequently positioned as risks to national and public safety state in its respond. Apart from claims to continue to enshrine or establish measures to combat formerly displaced persons becoming SGBV victims, radicalized to violence, victims of abductions, trafficking, or smuggling was an indictment to international refugee policy.

Even with the increasing awareness of these issues, current policy responses are far from cohesive. Migration frameworks typically do not acknowledge environmental drivers, while climate policies don't tend to integrate displaced populations. We need to create stronger policy coherence across sectors like food security, development, and human rights, by mainstreaming climate and migration challenges. To tackle the multifaceted risks of climate change and forced migration and bolster resilience in the communities that are most impacted, an integrated, intersectional, and sectoral response is required.

MIGRATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Journalist and author Sonia Nazario has documented extensively how climate change and violence coalesce to drive migration from Central America. In her Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Enrique's Journey* and in her reporting for *The New York Times*, she shows us how droughts and crop failures are worsening—especially in the "*Dry Corridor*" in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—cause maize and bean harvests to fail, impoverishing rural families into hunger. When agricultural livelihoods collapse, gang violence, extortion, and insecurity only worsen the situation, particularly for vulnerable youth. This dual assault of both the collapse of environmental and social factors leaves many with no choice but to flee. With survival taking priority, thousands begin the dangerous step north and see migration to the U.S. border as the only option for safety, stability, and a future.

Climate researcher Walter Kälin, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, noted that "climate change is *a threat multiplier*" for regions that are already fragile, as it leads to worse poverty, more failed governance, and increased violence - the central push-pull factors of migration. Amali Tower, who runs Climate Refugees, observes that climate-change-related disruptions to agriculture in the Dry Corridor should not be viewed as isolated incidents, but are also part of the ongoing ecological collapse

Additionally, the *World Food Programme* (WFP) ¹¹and *FAO* reports that over 8 million people in the Northern Triangle are food insecure, with climate shocks and violence acting as mutually reinforcing triggers for migration. As Robert Albro of the American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies argues, migration from the region cannot be understood through the lens of violence alone, it must also account for "environmental degradation and the structural inequalities it reveals."

CLIMATE CHANGE: GREATEST THREAT TO INDIAN OCEAN REGION

The Indian Ocean is rapidly becoming a hotspot of the global climate crisis. According to meteorologist Dr. Swapna Panickal from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, the Indian Ocean is warming faster than any other ocean in the world. The latest *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC) report underscores the grave

¹¹ *World Food Programme (WFP)*



implications of this trend of rising sea levels, intensified cyclones, erratic monsoons, and marine heatwaves are posing existential threats to the region's nations.

Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll, a leading climate scientist, highlights that climate change is already reshaping lives across the region. Cyclones like Amphan (2020) and Mocha (2023) displaced millions in India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. In the Sundarbans, islands like Ghoramara and Lohachara are disappearing, forcing entire communities to migrate inland. In the Maldives and Seychelles, rising seas and saltwater intrusion are rendering lands uninhabitable, turning climate-induced migration into a growing humanitarian emergency.

Despite the severity of the crisis, regional cooperation remains inadequate. The *Indian Ocean Rim Association* (IORA), an intergovernmental body of 23 nations, must assume a leadership role. As Arjun Gargeyas (2021) asserts, IORA can provide a platform for coordinated action in facilitating early warning systems, disaster resilience strategies, climate financing, and protection frameworks for displaced populations. It should work to ensure vulnerable communities benefit from global mechanisms like the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27.

The challenges faced by Indian Ocean states are not isolated as they are interlinked by geography, climate, and shared vulnerabilities. Addressing climate-induced migration must become central to maritime security and regional cooperation. Without collective action, the Indian Ocean could shift from being a zone of opportunity to one defined by instability, migration, and deepening inequality.

CLIMATE-INDUCED MIGRATION AND INDIA

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a critical global issue, but its impacts on climate-induced migration in India reveal a complex, locally nuanced challenge. While Western environmentalists often emphasize global climate concerns like biodiversity loss and the extinction of iconic species, many Southern environmentalists including those in India often argue that this “climate centrism” can divert attention from urgent local environmental problems such as water scarcity, pollution, mining impacts, and solid waste

management (S.C. Lele, 2012).¹² In India, environmentalists have historically been cautious in discussing climate change, concerned about balancing development needs and poverty alleviation. This cautious approach has sometimes been seen as “foot-dragging” by Northern critics (Ananthapadmanabhan, 2007), but it underscores the reality that climate risks intersect with existing socio-economic vulnerabilities, making climate-induced migration a complex, multifactorial phenomenon.

India's role in climate politics has evolved considerably. N.K. Dubash (2018) highlights how India has become a key player, integrating climate concerns into its growth and development strategies. Climate-induced migration is understood not only as an environmental threat but also as a socio-economic challenge that demands ethical and practical policy responses. India's discourse on climate change now emphasizes regional impacts, sustainability, energy transitions, and climate justice, reflecting changes in both domestic priorities and international commitments.

Meteorological analyses by S.K. Dash and J.C.R. Hunt (2007) reveal significant warming trends in India over the last 25 years, with regional and seasonal variations shaped by monsoons, mountain airflow, and airborne dust. These climatic shifts exacerbate droughts, floods, and health risks, severely impacting agriculture and triggering internal migration. Rural populations dependent on rain-fed farming face crop failures and water shortages, pushing many toward migration. Urban areas, in turn, are experiencing increased pressure as climate migrants seek better opportunities, often straining infrastructure and social services. Kularathne, N. K. (2022).¹³

To address these challenges and reduce climate-induced migration, India has launched several initiatives emphasizing resilience, adaptation, and sustainable development. The *National Action Plan on Climate Change*

¹² Lele, S. (2012). *Buying our way out of environmental problems? Current Conservation*, 6(1).

¹³ Kularathne, N. K. (2022). *Modeling Climate Variables in Colombo District and Identification of Possible Climate Change Impacts*.



(NAPCC)¹⁴, introduced in 2008, is the cornerstone of India's climate strategy. It includes missions such as the National Solar Mission, promoting renewable energy; the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, focusing on climate-resilient farming practices; and water conservation efforts. These initiatives directly target the root causes of migration by enhancing agricultural productivity and water security, helping vulnerable communities withstand climate stresses.

At the state level, programs like Kerala's Climate Change Action Plan and Tamil Nadu's Climate Resilient Agriculture promote localized adaptation techniques such as drought-resistant crops and efficient water management systems. These efforts support farmers and rural communities, reducing the need for distress migration caused by environmental degradation.

India has also invested in early warning systems for floods, cyclones, and other extreme weather events, allowing for timely evacuations and minimizing forced migration. Urban initiatives under the Smart Cities Mission focus on developing climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable urban planning to accommodate migrants and reduce vulnerability in cities.

Moreover, community-based disaster risk reduction programs actively involve local populations in preparedness and response planning, empowering them to cope better with climate impacts. This participatory approach strengthens social cohesion and resilience, which are essential to reducing migration risks. In alignment with this, initiatives like India's *Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure* (CDRI)¹⁵ underscore the importance of inclusive, resilient infrastructure development. By integrating community knowledge with global best practices, CDRI aims to ensure that infrastructure not only survives disasters but also supports vulnerable communities, minimizing disruptions and fostering long-term stability.

Climate-induced migration in India reflects a complex interplay of environmental, social, and economic factors. India's evolving climate policies and diverse adaptation initiatives demonstrate a commitment to addressing these challenges through integrated strategies. By combining mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development, India seeks not only to reduce migration but also to

support vulnerable populations in building safer, more resilient futures amid a changing climate.

FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE DEAL TO THE SHARM EL-SHEIKH PLAN.

The Paris Agreement, forged at COP-21 in 2015, is viewed through contrasting lenses. According to K.C.Ratha (2019)¹⁶, it represents a symbolic political victory, veiled in corporate lobbying and national interests, to limit global warming to 1.5°C appearing increasingly unrealistic. He argues that the agreement prioritizes political expediency over genuine environmental action. Conversely, R. Falkner (2016)¹⁷ sees it as a paradigm shift, embracing voluntary national commitments within a global framework that avoids contentious burden-sharing. By using mechanisms like "naming and shaming" and the "ratchet mechanism," the Paris Agreement fosters incremental ambition. However, its effectiveness remains uncertain. History shows that governments often pledge bold actions but falter in implementation. Success hinges on sustained political will, both domestically and internationally. Ultimately, while the Paris Agreement sets a flexible and potentially collaborative foundation, its real test lies in whether it can drive concrete action to rapidly decarbonise the global economy.

The Loss and Damage Fund, established at COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh (2022) represents a major step toward climate justice by recognizing and addressing the irreversible impacts of climate change, particularly in vulnerable developing countries. One of its key objectives is to support communities displaced by climate-induced disasters such as rising sea levels, prolonged droughts, floods, and storms. These events are no longer future threats—they are present realities forcing millions to flee their homes.

For displaced communities, the fund offers critical support. It provides financial resources for emergency relief, relocation, and the rebuilding of homes and infrastructure in safer areas. More importantly, it helps countries develop long-term

¹⁴ *National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)*

¹⁵ *Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)*

¹⁶ Ratha, K. C. (2019). *Paris Climate Deal*. *Indian Journal of Asian Affairs*, 32(1/2), 67-90.

¹⁷ Falkner, R. (2016). *The Paris Agreement and the new logic of international climate politics*. *International Affairs*, 92(5), 1107-1125.



strategies for managing climate migration, including early warning systems, risk assessments, and climate-resilient urban planning. This ensures migration is not just reactive but managed with foresight and dignity.

As Harjeet Singh, Head of Global Political Strategy at *Climate Action Network*, notes, “The Loss and Damage Fund is a lifeline for communities on the front lines of climate breakdown. It moves beyond pledges and brings accountability and support to those who suffer the most yet contribute the least.”

Echoing this urgency, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated, “Loss and damage can no longer be swept under the rug. It is a moral imperative.” By centering those most affected, COP27’s Loss and Damage Fund brings fairness, responsibility, and humanity into global climate policy—shifting the focus from crisis response to long-term resilience and justice.

II. CONCLUSION

To quote, Rachel Carson, “*We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost’s familiar poem, they are not equally fair... the road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster*”. Her apprehension resonates in the worries of policy formulators as Climate change, conflict, and migration form a deeply interconnected triad that poses one of the most urgent humanitarian and developmental challenges of our time. Rising temperatures and unsustainable weather events combined with environmental destruction seriously impair the livelihoods of those impacted by stresses of poverty and fragility while millions of others are forced to flee their homes to search out safety and provide for their families. From the drought-affected Dry Corridor in Central America, the rapidly warming Indian Ocean, and the conflict-affected areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, climate-induced migration is not only upon us but a present reality.

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Disparate vulnerability, particularly for women, children, and the poor, shows the structural inequalities inherent to the crisis. Many do not have the means to escape dangerous conditions, therefore force the notion of “involuntary immobility” or abandonment into even less comfortable position. As the data and case studies show, climate change acts as a “threat multiplier” that heightens existing tensions, incites violence, and complicates peacebuilding.

Although there is a growing awareness, policy responses remain fragmented. Existing climate and migration frameworks operate within silos that fail to address the relationship between environmental drivers and human mobility, or vice versa. Despite the fragmented approach, there are positive developments. India’s adaptation initiatives, the Aswan Forum’s regional dialogue, and global initiatives like the Loss and Damage Fund derived from COP27, provide a sense of hope for a more integrated and justice-based process. These drivers prioritize the importance of community-based adaptation and continue to shape conversations centered on climate-induced migration, including: early warning systems; forward-thinking community-based adaptation; stakeholder engagement in planning; and long-term funding opportunities to support displaced communities.

Overall, climate-induced migration is not only an environmental or humanitarian issue. It is a global governance and solidarity issue. Addressing climate-induced migration requires an accountable, collective and intersectional response that brings together climate action, human rights, development, and peacebuilding. Responses must ensure the ability of marginalised communities to plan and adapt to climate changes for the long-term, not just during a crisis. Climate change is accelerating, timely action is essential. There is a clear responsibility for governments, with limitations temporarily lifted or through humanitarian assistance, to engage and further develop global systems with the aim of protecting vulnerable communities, while ensuring “no one left behind”, amidst increasingly unstable and uncertain settings.



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