

Setting Agenda for WHS'2016 in Istanbul

Climate Induced Displacement Humanitarian and Rights Perspective

1. IPCC warned on Climate induced Displacement

As early as 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned in their first assessment report-AR 1 that “the greatest single impact of climate change could be on human migration” with millions of people displaced by shoreline erosion, coastal flooding and severe drought.

Following the above, the latest IPCC report 2014 (AR 5) also have done the study by hundred number of scientist and able to prove that, the migration will be happened and there a large scale human rights impact apprehended due to climate change catastrophe. The very basic rights such as right to food & water, right to health, right to housing would be severely hampered. This would lead to large scale mass departure of affected people from vulnerable countries. The vulnerability caused by the adverse impact of climate change and that will force them to migrate, both internally with in the country and cross-border migration.

2. Displacement is not now a distant reality

Despite having lack of precise figures, there is no doubt that the parts of the earth are becoming less habitable due to climate processes such as sea-level rise, salinity of agricultural land, desertification and growing water scarcity, and climate events such as flooding, storms and glacial lake outburst. The number of natural disasters has more than doubled over the last two decades, and millions of people being displaced by sudden and slow-onset climate-related natural disasters. Further climate change, with global temperatures expected to rise between 2 and 5 degrees centigrade by the end of this century, could have a major impact on the movement of people.

The latest IDMC report 2015 said that, more than 19.3 million people were displaced by disasters in 100 countries in 2014, where less than 02 million were displaced those are related with conflict & violation. Report also said to displace 26.4 million people in average since 2008, that’s equivalent to one person were climatic in every second.

In south Asia, Bangladesh has been identified as one of the most affected and vulnerable countries and moving in the risk rank between the positions of 1-6 in last decades. In 2013, cyclone *Mahasen* forced to displace around 1.1 million people in Bangladesh.

Following the recent years other climatic impacts like river and sea-shore erosion, salinity and increase water logging have been increased and brought widespread devastation in coastal and non-coastal areas and forced another million people to internal and external or cross border movement.

3. Bangladesh govt. trying solely to deal the issue

In earlier in 2009 our government has prepared “Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP-2009)” in addressing the problems associated with climate change. The BCCSAP, in fact a knowledge-based document with a 10 year action plan to build capacity and resilience with in the country to meet climate change challenges over the next 20-25 years under six thematic areas for action. These thematic areas are: (i) food security, social protection, and health; (ii) comprehensive disaster management; (iii) infrastructural development; (iv) research and knowledge management; (v) mitigation and low-carbon development; and (vi) capacity building and institutional strengthening. The BCCSAP had been facilitating financial support through its trust fund to govt. development programs which has been incorporated with the Sixth Five Year Plan as well as the Perspective Plan 2021 for the country.

In the BCCSAP, there has also declared an obligation by the government to resettlement of climate induced migrants. Government also promised to invoke the free movement of natural person and said that it must be monitored and adequate institutional support is to be provided’ (BCCSAP 2009, p-2) and,

Table 1: The Long-Term Climate Risk Index (CRI): the 10 countries most affected from 1994 to 2013 (annual averages) Global Climate Risk Index 2015

CRI 1994-2013 (1993-2012)	Country	CRI score	Death toll	Deaths per 100,000 inhabitants	Total losses in million US\$ PPP	Losses per unit GDP in %	Number of Events (total 1994-2013)
1 (1)	Honduras	10.33	309.70	4.60	813.56	3.30	69
2 (2)	Myanmar	14.00	7137.40	14.80	1256.20	0.87	41
3 (3)	Haiti	16.17	307.80	3.41	261.41	1.86	61
4 (4)	Nicaragua	16.67	160.15	2.98	301.75	1.71	49
5 (7)	Philippines	19.50	933.85	1.13	2786.28	0.74	328
6 (5)	Bangladesh	20.83	749.10	0.54	3128.80	1.20	228
7 (6)	Vietnam	23.50	391.70	0.48	2918.12	1.01	216
8 (8)	Dominican Republic	31.00	210.45	2.38	274.06	0.37	54
9 (10)	Guatemala	31.17	83.20	0.68	477.79	0.62	80
10 (12)	Pakistan	31.50	456.95	0.31	3988.92	0.77	141

migration must be made through convert this population into trained and useful citizens for any country in case of cross border movement (p-16). But this declaration didn’t translate into any particular

point of action and implementation due to limitation of proper international support.

4. EquityBD is campaigning on displacement & cross-border Issue.

EquityBD has been doing campaign and its advocacy activities since 2007 on climate induced migration demanding a new national mechanism and international protocol. EquityBD noticed that the global discourse were hardly emphasis the climate

Displacement trend due to climate change impact in Bangladesh			
Climate sequences	No of population loss livelihood	Displaced	Frequencies
Sea shore, coastal river erosion	50,000 to 200,000	60,000	Per year
Salinity	1,20,000	15,000 to 20,000	Per year
Cyclone and tidal surge	3,00,000 to 4,00,000	1,00,000 to 1,20,000	Every three years
Water logging	3,50,00	30,000	Per year
Study on climate change, loss of livelihoods and forced displacement in Bangladesh (Ahsan Uddin Ahmed and Neelormi, 2008)			

migration issue which was major concern of most vulnerable countries especially for Bangladesh. Because the climate induced migration issue and its demand for global facilitation has be emerged through a view and concept of "Climate Justice". The concept of climate justice has included the issue of i. Paying climate change compensation by rich countries as they are responsible for tempering the earth, ii New international protocol for climate induced migrants as they have very little alternatives to cope with climate adverse impact within the country like Bangladesh and iii. A climate integrated national development plan that will support a sustainable management of environment along with economic activities in future.

Following the above three issues; campaign was facilitated in making alliances in both national and international level through EquityBD. A proactive CSO has been tried to develop in country to raise voice in favor of climate change issues where migration has got priority in case of national level planning and development process and in international level, we have conducted seminar, press conference and photo exhibition in CoPs (Conference of the Parties) continuously to draw global attention for a new international protocol.

5. Challenges in future dealing with climate induced displacement

a. Bangladesh is not able to manage the future climate displaced

Bangladesh is one of the highest populated countries in the world with 160 million people living at present. This number population has calculated as 970 people per kilometer on average and 25,000 in urban areas which are highest comparing the global average. According to future projection, Bangladesh will stand with sixth largest populated (250 million) country in 2050, where per kilometer population density will be around 1300. Reasonably this highest number of population will create burden over the land, food, water and the natural system also. Apart from the scenario, environmental degradation as a result of climate change would intensify the situation that lead the people to migrate obviously in next future. In that context, the new creation of climate change migrants would not possible to reallocate geographically for Bangladesh as the major opportunities will be shrunk.

Migration is also becoming unavoidable where conflicts over natural resource and the environmental degradation are being happened frequently due to climatic process such sea-shore erosion and salinity increasing in coastal areas in Bangladesh. That's why poor and vulnerable people are forced to leave their damage land in coastal areas. Further, repeated embankment failure of our government there are 50-60000 people are migrating in every year that's reported in a study (Ahsan Uddin & Neelormi, 2008).

b. Global response (CoP negotiations) has failed dealing climate induced displacement

Addressing the climate induced displacement issue and protecting their livelihood from climate change impact has a little output in global climate negotiation process especially in the CoPs. After a long debate, all country parties adopt the "Cancun Adaptation Framework" in the CoP-16 and agreed to undertake action aimed to reduce vulnerability and building resilience of developing country parties taking into account their urgent and immediate needs. This adaptation framework has included one agenda related climate induced migration management and to be implemented under the working definition of IDP (Internal Displaced Person). The Cancun Adaptation Framework has emphasized to take into the account of CBDR (Common But Different Responsibilities) principle by all country parties especially developed country parties for enhancing their action thorough enhancing understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate induced displacement, migration

and planned relocation where appropriate at national, regional and international level (Cancun Agreement: Article 14.f).

The commitment of CBDR principle is absent in the latest global negotiation (CoP-21). The latest negotiation (Paris Agreement) has denied the climate induced displacement issue and the rich countries in fact moved away from their responsibility and commitment for supporting the vulnerable countries deferring it for next years. The issue also included with “Loss & Damage” framework which in fact no output create in future.

c. Latest progress of Nansen Initiative

During 2012 to 2015, The Nansen Initiative has taken the issue to protecting agenda for disaster displacement. The Nansen Initiative is a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to identify and build consensus on key principles and elements to address the protection and assistance needs of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters, including the adverse effects of climate change. It is based upon a pledge by the Governments of Switzerland and Norway, supported by several States, but not participated by the developed countries those are lead and controlling the global process. The nine participating member States of this process are Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Germany, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, and Switzerland and complemented by IOM and UNHCR as standing invitees. However they have able to make a declaration which is complement a non-binding state responsibility to protect the climate induced and disaster related displacement through their internal process. That's why this process is insufficient to address the cross border displacement.

6. What we expect in upcoming WHS

a. WHS must include the agenda on climate induced displacement

The Nansen Initiative has identified at least 50 countries that in recent decades have received or refrained from returning people in the aftermath of disasters, in particular those caused by tropical cyclone, flooding, drought, tsunamis, and other

natural calamities. Apart, the adverse impacts of climate change have already started to prompt population movements in the Asia and Asia-Pacific region. Though cross-border displacement is not yet a significant, but the effects of rising sea levels, submergence of coastal areas, coastal flooding, and coastal erosion will seriously affect the territorial integrity of states with extensive low-lying coastlines (e.g. Bangladesh and other small island states), and thus may force substantial parts of their populations to move internally and abroad when it possible. As a continent, Asia has the highest number of people internally displaced as a consequence of disasters, notably those caused by tropical cyclones, glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and large-scale flooding. The instances of cross-border climate induced displacement have not been proving in Asia, but there is some evidence that the impacts of natural hazards and climate change contribute to people migrating abroad.

Following the above scenario, the upcoming WHS (World Humanitarian Summit) conference is going to be held in Istanbul on 23-24th May 2016. This conference will facilitate a high level round table discussion titled “Leaving No One Behind - A Commitment to Address Forced Displacement” where global leader will participate. This session must include the issue of climate induced cross border displacement and discuss for a new framework and protocol through UN process.

b. Cross border displacement data needed

Due to a lack of national and international initiative, study on cross-border climate induced displacements are not done and recorded properly. The present international initiatives only cover the incidence of displacement, but not recorded on where displaced people flee to or where they eventually settle. Thus, current evidence is not sufficient to determine how many people have crossed international borders in climate induced disaster contexts. As the migration and cross border movement due to climate change becoming emerging issue at present and future, so that it should undertake proper initiative to study and need to record authentic data on this issue through UNFCCC process pursuance by WHS.



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