

Climate-change related migration from a gender perspective: patterns, challenges and opportunities for intervention

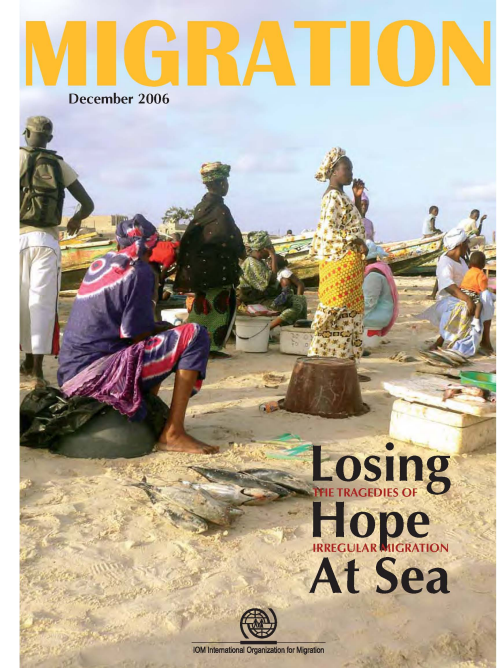
Sharmind Neelormi
Gender CC, Bangladesh



SBSTA Side Event, Bonn, 09 June 2009

Forced out-migration is fundamentally different than voluntary migration.

The latter often takes place in quest of better opportunities, not really driven by failed livelihoods and disparity.



Climate Change & Failed Livelihoods

Livelihoods of the poorest are often rely heavily on natural resources and extremely sensitive to climate-driven phenomenon.



Any change in natural variability above threshold put such livelihoods in deep hardship. A significant change above and below the thresholds of 'coping limit' causes failed livelihood.



When forced outmigration is taken place?



It happens when livelihood insecurity becomes so high that inherent power of social capital cannot keep one person/household to strive and live in the neighbourhood.



Failed livelihoods due to climate variability, change and extreme conditions generally lead to forced outmigration.

Since forced out-migration will take place involving men, women and children, the fundamental question appears why then bother about gender perspectives?



Is it the case that

women will be **differentially treated** in the process of forced out-migration, or

gender relation will **add additional burden** on women representing a household engaged in forced out-migration?

PATTERNS OF MIGRATION

Seasonal Migration

Permanent Migration



From 'hot spots'
to safer grounds

Within country

International

Male member (only) is out-migrating

Female member is (only) out-migrating

Families are out-migrating

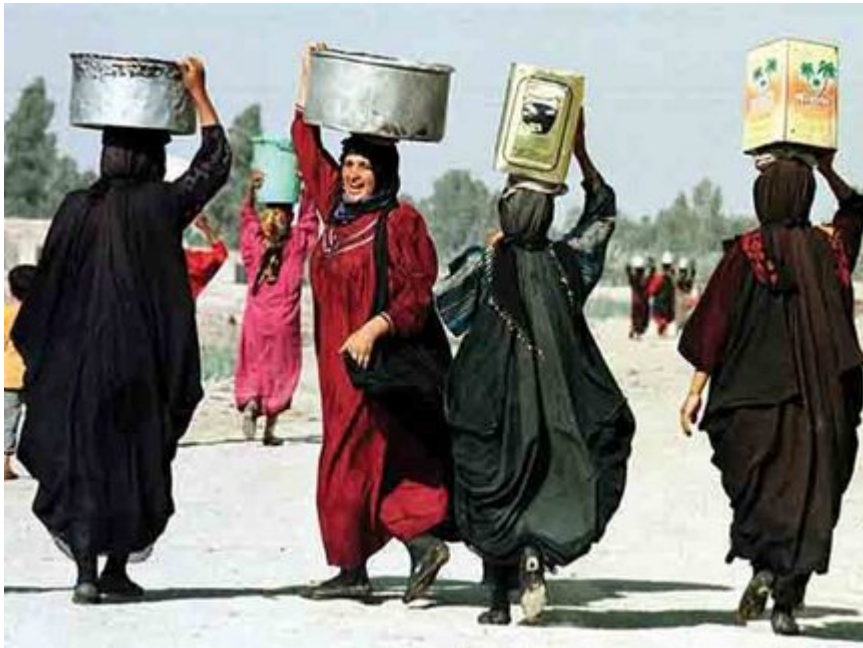
Most
dominant
pattern

When the male member out-migrates alone, there is no denying the fact that the female has to assume additional burden, including financial burden, towards maintaining the well being of the household.



In absence of male member, the household suddenly becomes 'female headed', though for wrong reasons.

Fellow **males** representing the male dominated society **often take advantage of the situation**, if the household loses touch or contact of its default head of the family.



Women are easy victims of societal vices in such circumstances. In dire conditions, left out women always find it difficult to take refuge in legal provisions.

When families out-migrate, they often end up being in peri-urban areas.

Since urban social structure is distinctly different than the case for rural social structure, **women find it extremely difficult to cope** with such a transformation of life.

Since the maintenance of **living** in peri-urban set up appears **manifold costly** for the same household in a rural set up, **the woman of the household** now is **forced to sell cheap labour** to earn money - a proposition which takes **a huge toll on her nutrient-deprived body and soul**.

We believe that climate injustice on forced displacees may be somewhat compensated if they are given 'preferential migrant status' in Annex-1 countries.

When we are talking about forced out-migration under the UNFCCC processes, we must not forget that the preferential status of potential out-migrants should reduce women's plight and give them a better opportunity to survive.





THANK YOU