

The Politics of Climate Migration: National Security and Humanitarian Dilemmas

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Abstract

Climate change is increasingly impacting human mobility by way of drought, flooding, sea level rise, extreme heat, food insecurity and lost livelihoods. In the process of population movements, humanitarian issues are now mixed in with national security issues, making for a complex political problem. This is a research paper that focuses on the politics of climate migration as told in the opposing narratives of climate displacement, border management, resource scarcity and state security. It looks at the polarizing climate related mobility ideas of territorial stability, social cohesion, economic resources and political order and humanitarian ideas of protection, human rights, dignity, and international responsibility. The paper also addresses the challenges faced by governments in identifying climate-induced migration within other climate-related migration and displacement where environmental drivers interact with various drivers of conflict, poverty, political instability and socio-economic inequality. It claims that, if the climate migration is seen mainly as a security issue, border control measures might be implemented that conflict with migrants' protection needs, particularly of vulnerable groups. Similarly, ignoring valid issues regarding infrastructure, resources, social stability and social governance can diminish a nation's readiness. Overall, a holistic policy approach is required, which is security and humanitarian protection-focused, prioritizing climate adaptation, planned migration, regional cooperation, resilient livelihoods and inclusive migration governance practices. The paper highlights policies that reflect on climate affected populations as people and communities deserving of protection, participation and sustainable futures, rather than as a threat to security; and it identifies and explores the intersection of environmental change with issues of justice, sovereignty and human security.

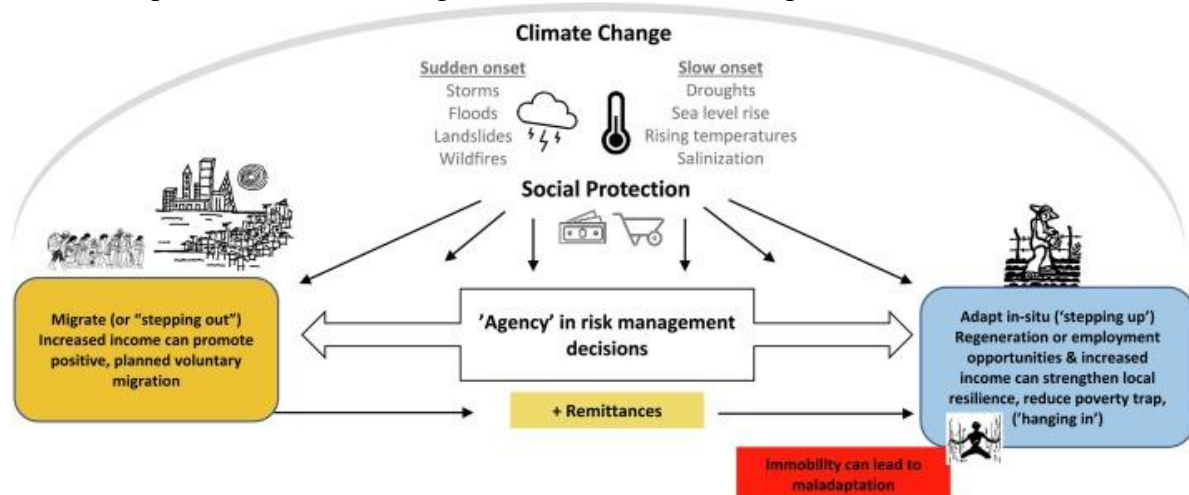
Keywords: Climate migration; Climate change; National security; Humanitarian protection; Forced displacement; Environmental displacement; Migration governance; Climate justice; Human security; Border management; Adaptation; Planned relocation; International cooperation; Vulnerable communities; Environmental refugees.

Introduction

Migration is now more and more a problem of environment and security, and is strongly affected by the effects of climate change, leading to an increasing number of people moving. Migration is increasingly faced with the consequences of climate change and has become up to now a major socioeconomic and political issue, which has turned into a complex environmental and security challenge. Climate change risks such as increased temperature, longer droughts, sea level rise, heavy rainfall, floods, cyclones, and other climate change impacts can pose a threat to livelihoods, infrastructure, access to basic resources and existing social and economic vulnerabilities. Environmental change is not always behind migration, but can contribute to influencing migration decisions in the context of poverty, conflict, weak governance, food insecurity and limited livelihood opportunities. This has made mobility as a consequence of climate change one of the central issues of present-day discussions on sustainable development, human security, migration control and international relations.

Political aspects of climate migration are particularly relevant as the migration of people within and across regions, and across national borders can pose threats to existing laws, institutions

and security systems. The issue of climate-induced displacement is increasingly discussed in government discourses in terms of 'border management'; 'resource competition' and 'social stability and national security'. This securitization can bring to the fore the actual threat migrants pose to security, but it can also draw a picture of migrants as primarily threats to security rather than people and communities vulnerable to environmental and socioeconomic forces. A complex policy challenge is emerging, as states are required to guarantee territorial security and social stability, protect human rights and to offer protective measures for populations of people that are displaced or forced to migrate due to environmental pressures.



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The humanitarian side of climate migration is complicated, too. Displacement resulting from climate change-related disaster events may involve the loss of home, livelihood, social network, and a lack of basic services for the individual, but international protection regimes do not necessarily recognize climate change related displacement as a specific type of displacement. Large protection gaps remain, particularly for those living in low-lying coastal communities, small island nations, in drought-prone and other highly vulnerable regions. This is made worse by the lack of responsibility and capacity. A community's share of GHGs is comparatively small, however, it can have disproportionate impacts from climate change, challenging climate justice, climate responsibility, compensation, adaptation and equitable mobility.

Climate migration also highlights the limitations of 'environmental causes' as the basis for interpreting climate change induced migration as a product of the environment. Mobility can be used not only as a response to the climate stress but also as an adaptation strategy. Planned relocation, temporary migration, seasonal mobility, and internal migration are possible options for households to diversify their income, reduce hazard exposure, and rebuild their livelihoods. Under these conditions, however, when the vulnerability is high, resources are limited or there is a catastrophe, migration can be a forced choice rather than an adaptive choice. This is an important difference when designing policies to protect and enable safe, orderly and dignified forms of movement for the affected populations.

Politics of climate migration is an intersection of what is environmental change, what is national sovereignty, what is international security, what is human rights and what is human responsibility. National and international governments, international organizations, civil society and affected communities sometimes perceive different causes, risks and responses regarding mobility related to climate change. A security approach could be on prevention while a humanitarian approach could be on protection, dignity, livelihood security and access to basic rights. Policies should be designed which take into account the security concerns of states and the rights and vulnerabilities of people affected by climate change.

The present research paper attempts to shed light on the political aspects of climate migration,

which will highlight the national security and humanitarian issues. It seeks to understand the role of climate-related mobility in the security discourse, how environmental mobility is threatening the current migration protection system, and how the interests of the state and its humanitarian duties can be reconciled. The study further examines the role of climate justice, climate adaptation, and climate international cooperation and anticipatory policy for the new types of climate related migration. This research underscores the importance of coordinated, rights-based and equitable responses to climate migration, which is a complex and multifaceted political and humanitarian issue, rather than an environmental problem.

Background of the study

Climate change has increasingly become one of the drivers of human mobility, posing complex issues, and not only environmental issues. Climate change hazards—such as rising temperatures, changing precipitation, long periods of drought, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, flooding, storms, and others—can threaten livelihoods, food security, access to water and housing, and access to essential services. While climate change itself does not drive migration, it can exacerbate social, economic, political and environmental conditions that can affect the decision to migrate. Migration can be temporary or permanent, within a country or across borders and voluntary, planned, or forced due to the rapid deterioration of a country's situation. The link between climate change and migration is a critical one for national security. The massive influx of populations may overwhelm housing, jobs, public services, natural resources and infrastructure in receiving locations. These pressures can be compounded in politically sensitive environments with existing poverty and inequality, ethnic tensions and resource competition. Climate related mobility has therefore become a topic of discussion not only in the field of the environment and development but also as a topic of security policy. The large scale of migration can be seen as a threat by governments in four ways: to border management, social stability, territorial government and political order. However, when climate migrants are regarded as a threat to security, instead of as a vulnerable population, such interpretations can be problematic.

Securitisation of climate migration evokes political and ethical questions. If migration is mostly perceived as a security threat, the policy reaction can be mostly one of border control, surveillance, detention, territorial protection and restriction of movement. These measures may overwhelm the context that leads to displacement, which is a humanitarian situation. These measures may obscure the humanitarian background of displacement. Climate-related disasters can impact communities that have less control over global greenhouse gas emissions but also less access to financial and institutional capacity to adapt to environmental change. This raises a vital issue of climate justice around who should pay the price of climate change, who can move safely, and who can be protected once they have moved.

Humanitarian aspects of climate migration are especially relevant since climate-induced climate migrants can become entrapped in legal and institutional blind spots. International refugee law does not currently define refugees in terms of climate change as a reason to claim refugee status under the 1951 Refugee Convention. Climate change is not a refugee cause in itself under the 1951 Refugee Convention so far as international refugee law is concerned. While doing so, it poses challenges for those who lose their homes and living standards due to environmental changes, but fail to meet traditional refugee standards. Protection may rely instead on home-based migration policies, humanitarian arrangements and disaster response systems, regional arrangements and international cooperation.

Furthermore, the challenges of climate migration are not only of state sovereignty versus international responsibility, but also of climate justice. Climate-related displacement reveals the importance of protecting national security and regulating national borders, which are interests legitimate to States, but also shows that environmental risks cannot be contained by political lines. Actions by one country will impact communities and states in other countries in terms of

emissions, adaptation, migration, and/or border management. So, international cooperation is crucial due to the unequal vulnerability to climate change. Coordination between governments, international organizations, humanitarian organizations, civil society organizations, and impacted communities is essential to the effective responses.

It is also important to note that not all migration is an adaptation failure. Planned relocation, temporary mobility, seasonal migration and other types of mobility can sometimes serve as adaptive strategies if they are underpinned by sufficient resources and strong institutions. On the other hand, individuals can also be caught in environmentally weak places if they do not have the means, networks, infrastructure or legal avenues to relocate. The climate change-migration nexus is therefore complex, not just in terms of climate changes leading to mass migration, but also because of the fact that the direction of migration is not unidirectional.

Competing narratives add to the politics of climate migration. Climate-induced migration has been described as a source of instability, competition and/or geopolitical insecurity in some political and media discourses. Other approaches focus on human rights, social justice, resilience, adaptation and protection of vulnerable populations. These conflicting viewpoints shape the policy landscape for migration and the way international institutions think about climate migration. The need to examine the political contestation over the issue is therefore important to understand the nature of climate migration policies as primarily security interest or humanitarian concerns.

The problem has specific significance in the developing world and climate-sensitive areas, such as in coastal regions, small island nations, Africa and South Asia. Agribased communities may suffer disproportionate impacts of environmental change. High population density, socioeconomic inequalities, lack of adaptive capacity and informal employment in countries where these are prevalent can interact with climate related mobility. IDPs could strain fast-growing urban centres, and movements across the border can bring new political and diplomatic challenges.

In this context, the study, *The Politics of Climate Migration: National Security and Humanitarian Dilemmas* aims to explore the balance between security and humanitarian responses to climate-induced mobility. It reviews the political and security dimensions of climate migration, government's actions and reactions to real or perceived migration, and the impact of government action and reaction on the rights and protection of migrants and vulnerable communities. The study also underscores the importance of policies that take into account legitimate national security interests, while not turning climate-affected populations into security threats. The balance needs to be achieved through enhanced adaptation actions, better mobility arrangements, international coordination, sharing responsibility, and human rights-based protection systems.

More and more, the concept of environmental mobility is emerging as an issue of growing importance, which necessitates a new approach to traditional divisions among environmental policy, migration governance, humanitarian action and national security. Climate change is a multi-faceted ecological, economic, social, political and humanitarian problem. A deeper understanding of these interrelated dimensions can help to inform policies and guidance that safeguards climate migrants and mitigates concerns about social stability and national security.

Justification

The impact of climate change on migration has grown, as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, droughts, water scarcity, poor agricultural yields and the slow deterioration of livelihoods are all having an effect on human migration patterns. While migration may be an effective adaptation option, climate induced displacement also poses complex political, social, economic and humanitarian challenges. The importance of studying climate-induced mobility as a consequence of climate change, but also as a new and emerging challenge to governance, security, human rights, and international cooperation is therefore warranted in the study of such

mobility in the form of a research paper. One of the principal motivations for the study is the conflict between the security over-riding the humanitarian concerns. Large scale climate migration can be seen by governments as a pressure point when it comes to border management, public services, jobs, infrastructure, political stability and social cohesion. These perceptions may lead to support for restrictive migration policies, more border control, securitization of migration, and more surveillance. Meanwhile, people affected by the climate emergency could lose their jobs, their homes, access to services, and social connections. The study is of particular relevance for its analysis of whether security-oriented responses are sufficient to engage with the right, vulnerabilities and protection needs of climatically affected populations. The research is equally justified because of the conceptual and legal ambiguities of climate migration. The persons displaced due to climate and environmental changes may not fall clearly in one of the refugee, IDP, economic migrant or voluntary migrant categories. This poses tremendous issues on how to legally recognize the victim, how to provide international protection, who bears responsibility and access to durable solutions. These gaps can inform an understanding of the shortcomings of current migration and humanitarian policies. An additional rationale is the disparities in the distribution of climate risks and migration pressures. Some communities might be most affected by the impacts of climate change, despite emitting relatively low amounts of global warming pollution. Displacement can be disproportionately affecting developing countries, coastal communities, small island states, agriculture dependent communities and economically vulnerable groups. This implies questions of climate justice, climate historical responsibility, financial support from the international community, and equitable burden sharing. An approach to the study of climate migration can thus reveal the link between environmental risk and global inequalities. The study also has a particular relevance in the context of national and international policy making, as climate-related mobility involves coordination between environmental policy, migration governance, disaster management, development planning, humanitarian assistance and security institutions. A security-driven narrow approach might miss the socioeconomic drivers of vulnerability, while a humanitarian-driven approach might not be sufficiently responsive to governance and security issues of receiving communities. The research can support the identification of potential ways in which the legitimate security concerns of the State and the protection of human rights are balanced with humanitarian protection. Lastly, the study is warranted by the need for long term and preventive policy approaches. The solution to climate migration is not solely when people are displaced. Investment in adaptation, climate-resilient livelihoods, planned relocation, disaster preparedness, social protection, regional cooperation and safe migration pathways may help to mitigate forced displacement and enhance the resilience of vulnerable groups. This research can help to move towards a more balanced framework that integrates security, human dignity, climate justice and sustainable development in the political decisions that dictate climate migration. The study is important generally because there has been a convergence of climate change, international politics, national security, human rights, humanitarian protection and global inequality in the context of climate migration. It is crucial to have a deep understanding of these interwoven dimensions to create policies that align with state governments' governance and security needs without compromising the protection of vulnerable groups during migration.

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the links between climate change and migration by investigating the impact of climate change events like floods, droughts, sea-level rise, extreme temperatures, environmental degradation on patterns of migration.
2. To examine the political aspects of climate change induced migration, focusing on the policies that governments adopt on migration and displacement, border management and environmental security.
3. To evaluate the potential effects of climate migration on national security, such as on

borders, public resources, social stability, infrastructure, jobs, and political systems.

4. To discuss the humanitarian issues climate migrants are confronting, such as displacement, loss of livelihood, access to shelter and basic services, vulnerability and protection of human rights.
5. To explore the relationship between national security and humanitarianism in government response to climate induced displacement.

Literature Review

The Politics of Climate Migration: National Security and Humanitarian Dilemmas

Climate migration has become a major interdisciplinary issue at the nexus of climate change, international relations, migration studies, human security and humanitarian governance. In recent years, the literature has shifted from considering environmentally induced migration as a direct result of environmental degradation to considering it as a complex phenomenon that is influenced by the economic situation, political institutions, social networks, adaptation capacity, conflict, and migration policies. The systematic review of 161 studies by Ghosh and Orchiston (2022) revealed that climate-migration research covers the themes of vulnerability, adaptation, resilience, livelihood, conflict and security, health, and policy. They also noted key gaps in terms of the experiences of migrants in destination places and the impact of climate change migration on host communities.

Climate Change and Human Mobility

A frequent theme of early scholarship was that environmental change was an important motive for migration. Black et al. (2011) noted that the factors affecting migration, such as economic, political, social and demographic conditions, mean that the impact of environmental change on migration can only be understood with reference to all of these factors. This view offered an alternative to deterministic views that assumed that climate change inevitably resulted in mass migration. Households may instead use migration as an adaptation strategy, however, especially in situations where they have adequate financial, social and institutional capabilities.

In the same way, as noted by McLeman (2019) climate change is expected to drive migration and displacement, especially in low-income countries, and international migration will depend significantly on policies of the countries of destination. The limitation of freedom to migrate due to restrictive immigration policy and increasingly tougher borders may restrict the capacity of vulnerable groups to migrate as an adaptation strategy.

The literature, then, increasingly starts to think of climate mobility as a multi-causal and context-dependent process. Climate related hazards can compound poverty, livelihood insecurity, poor governance, conflict, food insecurity and access to adaptation resources. As a result, attributing to every movement of person with a climate-related cause the label of “climate refugee” can mask the variety of climate-related mobility experiences and motivations.

The Securitization of Climate Migration

One of the most significant line of thought in the scholarship area explores the shift of climate migration into a national security agenda. According to Baldwin et al. 2014, climate-induced migration has increasingly been included in high-level security debates such as in international organizations or national security institutions. Their analysis highlights that visualisations of climate migration often rely on projections and scenarios of future migration, thus producing political impacts, even though there is significant uncertainty regarding the nature of future migration.

Securitization is a crucial term to grasp in terms of the politics of climate migration. Trombetta (2014) shows that the political construction of migration as a threat can securitize climate induced migration. Securitization can be analysed as a political construction of migration as a threat, as shown by Trombetta (2014). She draws a clear distinction between formal statements

of threat and more habitualised activities of surveillance, monitoring and migration control within the European context. These processes can move the policy focus away from humanitarian protection and into border management and risk prevention.

Climate migration, as explored by Boas (2015), is also explored using securitization theory and examining the idea that migration due to climate change is a threat to security. Her work shows how the image of 'climate refugees' of a large scale can be utilized in climate politics. Securitization thus becomes a tool to focus on not only the climate impacts but also on who is considered to pose a threat, which security interests are relevant and what policy interventions are legitimate.

Critiques of the "Climate Refugee" Narrative

A significant amount of research disputes alarmist climate migration stories. Bettini (2013) critically analyzes the use of "climate migrant" as a term to describe potential "barbarians at the gate", and suggests that apocalyptic images may lead to undesirable political effects. These stories can tell about migrants largely as a danger to the more affluent countries they migrate to, instead of migrants and migrant communities as victims of environmental disadvantage.

Likewise, Chaturvedi (2012) has raised doubts over the definition of "climate refugee," which can be used to further the securitisation of vulnerable groups in the Global South. His analysis emphasizes the realism, liberal, and critical viewpoints, and shows how climate displacement is understood differently within each of these viewpoints to generate vastly different policy responses.

This is supported by the Boas et al. (2019) critique of common myths about climate migration. They question the notion of inevitable mass migration and highlight the need for empirical evidence and context in answering the question of climate-related mobility. A more complex perspective acknowledges that climate change may lead to migration, non-mobility, temporary mobility, planned migration and displacement, depending on the situation.

National Security Versus Human Security

There is a tension between the national-security approach to climate migration and the human-security approach because the national-security approach frames migration as a threat to national security. On a traditional national security frame, migration can be seen as issues of border security, political stability, resource competition, social integration and conflict. This can help governments to tighten their borders and migration policies.

The human-security approach, on the other hand, focuses on the security, dignity, livelihoods, rights and well-being of the affected people. While cautioning that human-security discourse can be one way to govern vulnerable populations from afar, as can be national-security approaches, the latter is potentially an alternative to the former (Trombetta 2014).

In particular, the difference is significant in humanitarian policies. Policies could be oriented towards deterrence and exclusion, if climate migrants are seen mainly as a security threat. Considering them mostly as persons who are vulnerable due to climate change might result in a focus on adaptation, protection, planned mobility, disaster response, and livelihood support.

Climate Migration, Conflict, and Political Stability

A second strand of research explores the potential link between climate-induced migration and conflict and political instability. The link is complicated and environmental stress is not the direct cause of conflict. Rather, political conflicts, economic disparities, poor institutional mechanisms, and competition for resources might exacerbate climate-related pressures.

While security and conflict are themes in climate-migration research, Ghosh and Orchiston (2022) show that climate migration also has an impact on livelihoods, socioeconomic conditions, culture, health and host communities, in their systematic review of the subject. This indicates that when thinking about conflict, there is a risk of missing the social and humanitarian

impacts of climate mobility.

Recent studies of national-security strategies further doubt the veracity of threat-focused portrayals. In the study by Vogler (2023), it was observed that the framing of climate migration differed significantly between the regions of the world. In the study conducted by Vogler (2023), 310 national-security strategies from 93 countries were analysed, and it was observed that the framing of climate migration varied significantly between regions of the world. Importantly, the potential destination countries were also represented by a greater proportion of countries using the terms relating to climate migration, many of which have high historical emissions. This discovery poses some troubling questions concerning the linkage between climate responsibility, migration control and global environmental justice.

Humanitarian Protection and International Governance

One of the critical policy challenges is the humanitarian aspect of climate migration as the international refugee protection regime does not automatically qualify all climate migrants as refugees. Climate-related mobility can take place within and across countries, and may be temporary, permanent, voluntary or involuntary. The various forms of mobility pose enormous difficulties to the current legal and humanitarian framework.

McLeman (2019) has suggested that international migration can be a means of adaptation to climate change, and that immigration restrictions can also be a impediment to adaptation. His analysis points to a conflict between climate adaptation targets and a growingly tighter migration regime.

There is thus a growing body of literature that supports a combination of approaches that address adaptation, migration governance, disaster risk reduction, development policy and humanitarian protection, in addition to a refugee law or border control approach. Relocation, temporary mobility pathways, labour migration, humanitarian assistance and regional cooperation have become increasingly in the spotlight as complementary policy instruments.

The Global South and the Politics of Representation

One of the key issues highlighted in the literature is the sometimes exclusive focus of climate-migration discourse on the Global North. However, Baldwin et al. (2014) point out, narratives of security in the west are not always congruent with those of countries in the Global South when it comes to climate migration. Their discussion of India shows that national priorities might be more about the economic migration, energy security, internal displacement and development than the external threats narratives that are often attributed to climate refugees. Many climate sensitive populations reside in developing countries, which have emitted relatively little GHGs, making this an important issue. Therefore, when climate migration is looked upon as a security issue, it can reinforce inequalities around the world since it diverts attention from historical accountability and climate justice to the protection of the borders.

India as an Emerging Case in Climate-Migration Politics

Recent scholarship gives a good insight into India's role in the climate-migration discourse. This paper, by Bollempalli (2024), explores the way of climate refugees in India in the context of the intersection between climate risk, migration governance and national security. Her analysis indicates that India has been incorporating aspects of a humanitarian climate-mobility approach in various ways, including by relocating people, providing humanitarian assistance, establishing disaster-response mechanisms, and providing ad hoc legal protection. Meanwhile, there are still major structural and legal barriers to be overcome.

This view is relevant in India's case because of the unique challenges it has to confront given its climate risks, the potential for displacement, but also its challenges around border management, regional migration, development, disaster management and humanitarian responsibility. The Indian case illustrates that the debate around climate migration is not one of

“open borders” and “national security”. Its aim must be to reconcile sovereignty, a humanitarian imperative, adaptation, development and regional cooperation, instead.

Material and Methodology

The study uses a qualitative, descriptive and analytical research design to analyse the multifaceted linkages between climate-induced migration, national security, humanitarian protection and migration governance. The study is largely secondary, using data from peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, reports from international organizations, government publications, policy documents and credible institutional databases. Organizations like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and regional and national governmental institutions are of particular interest. The literature was chosen because it related to climate related displacement and mobility, border governance, climate adaptation, conflict, human security, and humanitarian action.

Given the political and policy elements of climate migration, the study adopts a purposive selection of secondary sources to identify literature that directly addresses the political and policy aspects of climate migration. The sources were not examined in the order that they appeared, but were analyzed thematically to reveal common arguments about the nature of climate migration as either a humanitarian, development, or national security issue. Evidence on displacement related to sea-level rise, drought, extreme weather events, food- and drink insecurity, livelihood disruption, and other climatic pressures are taken into account. Academic literature was included if it offered substantive discussion about migration governance, security policies, humanitarian responses, adaptation strategies, or the rights of affected populations and/or provided institutional reports. Those sources that were not clearly written by the author, lacked a methodological credibility or were not directly relevant to the research objectives, were excluded.

The study uses thematic analysis and qualitative content analysis in analyzing the data. The material gathered is arranged under overarching analytical themes such as climate vulnerability and mobility, national security narratives, securitisation and border control, humanitarian protection, IDPs, cross-border migration, human rights, state responsibility, and international cooperation. The study is a comparison of various views in the literature for showing areas of agreement and disagreement. A comparative approach is also employed to explore the perception of climate migration in developed and developing countries in the context of institutional capacity, exposure to climate risks, migration governance and humanitarian resources. The analysis also explores the potential conflict between security-based policies, including border measures and migration controls and humanitarian values, including protection, dignity, non-discrimination and the right to move.

In addition, the methodological framework also embraces a human-security lens, thereby going beyond state-centric approaches to understanding climate migration and exploring its impact on the people and communities whose livelihoods and living conditions are at risk due to environmental shifts. The research in this study therefore considers the territorial stability interests of states and the protection needs of climate affected populations. Special focus is given to the conceptual delineation of the terms of climate mobility, internal displacement, cross-border mobility and refugee status, given their political and legal connotations. This study does not presume that climate change will inevitably lead to migration, but rather looks at climate mobility as a multi-dimensional process that is shaped by socio-economic and governance factors, conflict, livelihoods, adaptation capacity, and current migration trends.

Source triangulation was used to enhance the trustworthiness of the results by triangulating information from several independent academic and institutional sources. Contradictory interpretations were not only not omitted but also examined very critically. There were no

primary human-subject data generated in the study, as this study used only publicly available secondary information and there was no interaction between the researchers and human subjects or collection of personally identifiable information by the researchers. However, academic honesty was upheld by properly citing published information, paraphrasing appropriately and referencing all sources used. The methodology ultimately aims at finding a balance between political challenges and dilemmas related to climate migration and the rights, dignity and humanitarian needs of those who are displaced or vulnerable due to climate change, and how governments and international institutions can deal with legitimate concerns for security.

Limitations of the study

While the study presented here is valuable, it has some limitations that should be taken into account when interpreting the results. Second, the drivers of migration are complex and interdependent, and climate change may only play a small part in the decision to undertake a migration. Second, there is still not enough reliable and comparable information on climate induced migration, since climate change can be one of many reasons behind migration and can be recorded only as such in national migration statistics. Cross-country comparisons may also be limited by the fact that there are multiple definitions of migration, displacement, refuge and climate mobility across countries, impacting the study. Also, national security policies and migration laws evolve with time as a result of political changes and humanitarian crises, as well as changes in the perception of climate risks. A third constraint is related to the diversity of the experiences of the groups that are impacted: While the security and humanitarian impacts of climate migration may differ significantly by gender, age, socio-economic status, geographic location, citizenship status and institutional support, these differences are not adequately captured in the analysis. Finally, it raises complex ethical and political issues relating to border control, human rights, state sovereignty, humanitarian protection and responsibility for climate change. The competing viewpoints make it challenging to create a single framework that captures the government, migrant, host community and international organization perspectives to the extent that they are needed. Therefore the results must be interpreted in the particular geographical, political and temporal context studied and not be generalized throughout the entire region or world.

Future Scope

Further study of “The Politics of Climate Migration: National Security and Humanitarian Dilemmas” can explore the changing nature of human mobility, border management, national security and international humanitarian action in the context of heightened climate change. Climate-related displacement and migration due to economic, political, social and environmental factors can frequently overlap and require more attention to distinguish between the two. Comparative research should be conducted in other climate vulnerable regions in Asia, Africa, small island states and other regions that can be affected in the future to explore the government responses when dealing with displacement and how to protect the rights and dignity of those affected. Studies can also explore how well regional cooperation, planned relocation, climate adaptation, disaster-risk reduction and international legal instruments are working to mitigate the new displacement issues. A crucial aspect is the formulation of inclusive policies, which take into account national security interests and humanitarian obligations, including for women, children, Indigenous groups, low-income families and other vulnerable populations. More research is needed into the potential of technology, climate predictions, geospatial information, and early-warning systems in predicting people's migration, while avoiding discriminatory surveillance. Last but not least, interdisciplinary research linking climate science, political science, international relations, migration studies, economics, and human rights may help to contribute to the development of more inclusive governance structures that consider climate mobility as a human rights problem as well as a security issue; adaptation and

resilience as well as global justice and equity.

Conclusion

Climate migration has become a multifaceted political and humanitarian challenge of environmental change, human mobility, national security, and social justice. An increase in temperature, sea-level rise, extreme weather events and water shortage combined with worsening livelihoods can contribute to increase in displacement and migration especially among communities with low capacity in the economic and institutional sectors to adapt to these changes. While it is important for governments to increasingly consider climate migration as a matter of national security, a security approach can also run the risk of neglecting the human rights, dignity and protection concerns of those affected. However, humanitarian approaches to climate migration may not reflect the broader implications for border management, resource management, social protection, and regional relations. In designing policies, the question that arises is how to balance legitimate security interests with the humanitarian obligations. Proactive adaptation, climate-smart livelihoods, (where necessary) planned migration, inclusive migration policies, and better international cooperation, are required for effective responses. Special focus is needed for vulnerable groups in developing countries, who have comparatively limited emissions of GHGs, but are exposed to disproportionately high risks from climate change. Governments, international organizations, civil society and local communities can all help to shift the adverse dynamics of climate migration from a threat to a shared responsibility and a human-centred governance approach. Ultimately, the politics of climate migration needs to overcome fear-inducing narratives and policies that are grounded in equity, resilience, internationalism and human rights.

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