Cities and Climate Change Migrants

Anna Zhuo, Cristyn Edwards, George P.R. Benson — May 16, 2017

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# Preparing the Planning Profession for Climate Migrants

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<tr>
<th><strong>PART I</strong></th>
<th><strong>9:00</strong></th>
<th>The Challenge and the Climate Change Migrant and Refugee Project</th>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>9:10</strong></td>
<td>Global Context and Background Knowledge</td>
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<td><strong>9:15</strong></td>
<td>The Urban Response</td>
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<td><strong>PART II</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:25</strong></td>
<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td><strong>10:05</strong></td>
<td>Plenary and Discussion</td>
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<td><strong>10:15</strong></td>
<td>Next Steps and Closing Remarks</td>
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The Challenge
Number of events related to natural hazards causing loss of lives and assets.

- Climatological events (extreme temperatures, drought, wildfire)
- Hydrological events (flood, mass movement)
- Metrological events (tropical storm, extratropical storm, convective storm, local storm)
- Geophysical events (earthquake, tsunami, volcanic activity)

Source: Munich Re, 2013; GeoRisks Research, NatCatSERVICE
Areas where the population are particularly vulnerable to higher sea levels and floods.

- Great deltas
- Small islands (some will disappear completely)
- Coastlines particularly under threat by extreme weather and greater surf

Areas exposed to desertification and drought

Areas exposed to hurricanes

Areas exposed to ice and permafrost melting

Climate refugees will mainly come from developing countries, where the effect of climate changes comes on top of poverty and war.
One in four states has received or not returned people from disaster-affected countries.
Responses to Climate Change

- Greenhouse gas concentrations
  - Climate change
    - Impacts
      - Responses
        - Mitigation
        - Adaptation
Decarbonisation to prevent further warming is essential; but adaptation is also a pressing need.
Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Refugee and conflict-impacted populations

Labour movement and development

Disaster mitigation and management
What can we do?
Climate Change Migrants and Refugees Project

In partnership with:

climatemigrantsproject.com
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1. Support dialogue
2. Generate ideas and recommendations
3. Empower local governments and urbanists
April 10 – American Planning Association National Conference

June 20 – Canadian Institute of Planners National Conference

September – Washington State Planning Conference

2018 – Engagement with Canada-led G7 Meetings

April 17 – Canadian Association of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies National Conference

July/August – Multiple Vancouver-area Workshops

November – Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development
Global Context
No standard legal definition for climate migrants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Usage (Origination)</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugee</td>
<td>UNGCR (Geneva, 1951)</td>
<td>“A refugee as an individual who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence who is unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on his or her race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migrant</td>
<td>IOM (n.d.)</td>
<td>“Any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person’s legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is…”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Refugee</td>
<td>UNEP (el-Hiwani, 1985)</td>
<td>“Those people who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat, temporarily or permanently, because of a marked environmental disruption (natural and/or triggered by people) that jeopardised their existence and/or seriously affected the quality of their life.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Refugee</td>
<td>(Myers, 2007)</td>
<td>“[P]eople who can no longer gain a secure livelihood in their homelands because of drought, soil erosion, desertification, deforestation and other environmental problems, together with associated problems of population pressures and profound poverty. In their desperation, these people feel they have no alternative but to seek sanctuary elsewhere, however hazardous the attempt. Not all of them have fled their countries, many being internally displaced. But all have abandoned their homelands on a semi-permanent if not permanent basis, with little hope of a foreseeable return.”</td>
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The Existing Global Framework(s)
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<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<td>Sendai Framework (2014)</td>
<td>Framework agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers (1990)</td>
<td>Rights-granting and framework agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals (2014)</td>
<td>Framework agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Urban Agenda (2016)</td>
<td>Framework agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)</td>
<td>Rights-affirming</td>
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Important Current Initiatives
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<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Current Project(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K NOMAD</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>The Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (K NOMAD) is a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues.</td>
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<td>Nansen Initiative</td>
<td>Knowledge-gathering and consultation</td>
<td>The overall goal of the Nansen Initiative is to build consensus among States on key principles and elements to protect people displaced across borders in the context of disasters caused by natural hazards, including those linked to climate change.</td>
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<td>100 Resilient Cities Network Exchange on Migrants</td>
<td>Best practices sharing</td>
<td>The 100 Resilient Cities Network Exchange on Migration was meant to explore solutions that best meet the needs of migrant populations in a manner that enhances the overall resilience of their new home cities.</td>
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<td>Cities of Migration</td>
<td>Best practices sharing</td>
<td>Cities of Migration showcases good ideas in immigrant integration and promotes innovative practices that create inclusion and urban prosperity.</td>
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<td>Global Forum on Migration and Development</td>
<td>Agenda-setting; policy discussions</td>
<td>The GFMD is a voluntary, inter-governmental, non-binding and informal consultative process open to all States Members and Observers of the United Nations to discuss the linkages, challenges, and opportunities of migration and development.</td>
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<td>Global Protection Cluster</td>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>Within the overall humanitarian response architecture, the GPC works to improve the predictability, leadership, effectiveness and accountability of response to ensure that protection is central to humanitarian action, particularly for those in conflict and disaster settings.</td>
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The Challenge

Every year around the world, millions of people are forcibly displaced by floods, windstorms, earthquakes or droughts. Many find refuge within their own country but some have to go abroad. In the context of climate change, such movements are likely to increase. National and international responses to this challenge are insufficient and protection for affected people remains inadequate.

The Response

In view of this protection gap, there is a need for an intergovernmental process to address the challenges of cross-border displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. Launched in 2012 by Switzerland and Norway, the Nansen Initiative is a state-led consultative process to build consensus on a Protection Agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.

The Approach

To feed the Nansen Initiative process with good practices and build a sound knowledge base, regional consultations already took place in the Pacific, Central America, the Horn of Africa, Southeast Asia and South Asia. The results of the consultations will be consolidated and discussed at a global intergovernmental consultation in Geneva in October 2015.
The Future
PAN-CANADIAN FRAMEWORK

on Clean Growth and Climate Change

Canada's Plan to Address Climate Change and Grow the Economy
The Urban Response
100 Resilient Cities

- **100 Resilient Cities**
  - Helps cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social, and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century.

- **Network Exchange on Migrants**
  - Chief Resilience Officers (CROs) from Athens, Amman, Athens, Los Angeles, Medellin, Paris, Montreal, Ramallah, and Thessaloniki
  - Three-day Network Exchange to connect with global experts
  - Share effective city-level practices and tools to addressing migration challenges.
Vacant Apartments for Refugees
Athens, Greece
The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs
New York City, USA
What can cities and urban planners do? A few ideas...

- Establish a **Mayor’s Task Force** on immigration and lead **Local Immigration Partnership Tables** with local organizations, service provision agencies, and community groups.

- Pursue **cross-jurisdictional partnerships** that break down silos between levels of government and non-governmental organizations (e.g. school boards and municipalities need to be at the same table to discuss youth integration).

- Develop more **granular and coordinated data collection and data sharing methods**.

- Adopt a more **robust population forecasting model**, using scenario planning to develop strategies and actions at varying levels of migration.

- Grow the local economy by **supporting immigrant businesses** and entrepreneurs, improving **access to financial services** for migrants and other vulnerable populations, and **reducing barriers** to entry in the labour market.

- **Integrate migration and resettlement into urban resilience planning and city-wide planning** to leverage synergies that address multiple shocks and stresses at once, increasing social and physical capacity for absorption in social services, infrastructure design, housing, municipal services, employment, schools, etc....
Breakout Sessions
Plenary Discussion
Stay in touch! Join us!
Share our message!

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