Triple-D (Data, Disasters, Displacement) webinar series

Session 2: Debunking Data – Indicators and Methods

Concept Note

Context

According to IDMC[1], more than 23 million new internal displacement were caused by disasters linked to natural hazards in 2021. For instance, according to DTM[2], in Burundi more than 110,000 people have been displaced in the contexts of torrential rains, floods and strong winds since 2018. In addition, numerous estimates predict an increase of the impact of climate change on human mobility, with the World Bank's projection[3] that, without timely and substantial climate and development action, by 2050 up to 216 million people could be forced to move within their own countries due to slow-onset climate change impacts. These are only a few of the numbers we increasingly hear when talking about the impact of climate change on human mobility, but how are these data collected? What are the methods and models used to estimate the number of people displaced and moving in the context of sudden-onset events (such as earthquakes), extreme weather events (such as tropical cyclones) and slow-onset events related to the adverse effects of climate change (such as sea-level rise and desertification)?

Defining who falls within the boundaries of an "environmental migrant[4]" may be challenging. Is a person from a drought-prone area and moving for better job opportunities considered an "environmental migrant"? The multiplicity of factors influencing the decision to migrate or compelling someone to move hinder the understanding of who is actually moving due to the impacts of climate change, especially when slow-onset environmental degradation is at work. How do we create tools and methodologies that are able to consider multicausality and complexity? Is it useful to combine data coming from different sources (climate data, population distribution data, etc.)? What is the right approach to combine and compare data produced using different methodologies and criteria?

Reflecting on vulnerabilities might help us unpack complexity and come closer to the identification of at-risk populations and understand their protection and assistance needs. Beyond doubt, some population categories are more affected than others by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, due to their individual characteristics and capacity to cope. In particular, some livelihoods, such as farming, herding or fishing, are considerably more affected by adverse environmental factors, making

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[1] [IDMC | GRID 2022 | 2022 Global Report on Internal Displacement (internal-displacement.org)](internal-displacement.org)
[2] https://displacement.iom.int/reports/burundi-natural-disasters-overview-january-2018-december-2021?close=true
[3] https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36248
[4] Defined by IOM's Glossary on Migration as: *"A person or group(s) of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are forced to leave their places of habitual residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move within or outside their country of origin or habitual residence."*

people practicing them more vulnerable. Can vulnerability indicators be created to reflect this situation? How do we integrate them in predicting how many people will move due to disasters?

Objectives

- Identify key challenges in defining "environmental migrants" from a methodological point of view
- Understand data collection methodologies used to capture people displaced by disasters
- Explore useful indicators which could help in identifying populations who are more vulnerable in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation

Target audience

- Advisory Committee Members of the PDD
- External researchers
- Practitioners dealing with data, displacement and migration

Webinar set-up

Technology: Zoom (recorded by the PDD for future use)

Date/time: 31 May 2022, 16:00-17:30 CET

Format and Programme

The webinar of about 1.5 hours will take the form of an open discussion, moderated with the help of guiding questions that will be collected in advance/at the time of registration. The working language will be English.

Moderator: Nando Lewis, IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

Opening remarks: Atle Solberg, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

List of panellists:

- Ingrid Boas, Environmental Policy Group - Wageningen University
- Alex de Sherbinin, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) – Columbia University
- Ivana Hajzmanova, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)
- Diogo Andreola Serraglio, South American Network for Environmental Migrations (RESAMA)

Programme:

- Welcome remarks 'housekeeping rules' (5-7')
- Definitions
- Guiding questions for the panel
  - How do we create tools and methodologies that are able to consider multicausality and complexity? Is it useful to combine data coming from different sources (climate data, population distribution data, etc.)? What is the right approach to combine and compare data produced using different methodologies and criteria?
  - What are the main indicators and factors that can help us in identifying people vulnerable to disaster displacement? Which are the limitations in current data collection

methodologies? What are the main available tools you could use to estimate the number of people who will be displaced by disasters in the future?

- o As a key researcher in this field, what are your recommendations to overcome existing challenges in the identification of "environmental migrants" and to better prepare data collection methodologies that include them and produce timely and actionable data to address their specific needs?

- Summary of the recommendations resulting from the webinar and promote next session (5')

Practical and Organisation Information

Participation is open to all but registration in advance is required. The meeting will take place in a virtual environment and access instructions will be provided to participants along with their registration. The session will be held in an interactive format via Zoom with four to five presenters to allow for ample opportunity for discussions and debates. The session will be convened by the DKWG, co-chaired by IOM and IDMC, and supported by the Secretariat of the PDD.

Contacts

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