

# **CARAM ASIA ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

## **The CARAM Asia Secretariat**

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## **The CARAM Asia Vision**

All people have the right to stay or move and live and work in dignity with equal rights in a society, where their quality of life is ensured.

## **CARAM Asia Annual Report**

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## **REGIONAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

2009 was a challenging but good year for the CARAM Asia network in general. The activities and involvements demonstrate the growing capacity and prominence of the membership and the network at large. The network has grown with more new members including migrant workers and domestic workers associations who joined the CARAM network in 2009.

As a result of the network's growing profile, CARAM Asia held a Regional Consultation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the Right to Health, Mr Anand Grover from the 30th-31st of October, 2009 in Malaysia. Participants in this process also included representatives from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Delegation of the European Commission (EC) and representatives from other civil society groups including the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC). This consultation was able to create a space for members to impress on the UNSR the risks and vulnerabilities facing migrants in both sending and receiving countries.

The ILO proposed new Domestic Worker Convention and Recommendation sets the precedence as the ONLY international standard specifically for domestic workers. Although NGOs are not ILO members, CARAM Asia found ways to still intervene in the Domestic Workers standard setting process since the last 2

years and we will continue our advocacy until this historic standard is voted in by 2011.

In line with enhancing its visibility, CARAM Asia issued 13 media statements in 2009 alone and signed on to 3 joint statements as part of an effort to consciously step up our media intervention. This was definitely a positive achievement as previously the CARAM network did not issue so many statements. Coverage of the network has been found in the Star, The New Straits Times, Sun Daily, Malay Mail, The Jakarta Post, Lanka Web, Kompas, The Straits Times, Sin Chew, Oman Observer, Manila Times, The Nut Graph, Malaysiakini, and Aliran. We have also published a number of documents including a new annual report.

On a wider scale, the CARAM Asia network also continues to address new and cross cutting issues. In 2009 we worked with other regional organizations on inter linkages between Migration and Trafficking using CEDAW GR 26 as well as inter linkages between migrant workers, refugees and undocumented workers.

## **FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS TASK FORCE REPORT:**

The advocacy for FDWs charted a few miles stones this year. We broke traditional trade unions norms, influenced policy change in Malaysia and Nepal.

Since earlier this year, the ILO moves towards developing an International recognition of domestic work as Work with a new standard setting process that solicited feedback from its tripartite members. This international move falls in line with our campaign for the recognition of domestic work as work and it is the outcome of the many efforts of FDWs, domestic workers groups, NGOs and other stake holders who had long been making the same calls.

	<p>Regionally, for the first time in the history of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Asia Pacific regional office, NGOs are invited to their regional meetings. The CARAM Asia network was the only groups of NGOs and migrant workers associations present at the ITUC-Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Domestic Workers held from 14 - 15 October 2009 in Malaysia.</p>
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The conference was not just historic as it is also the first regional conference among ITUC regional members. The draft ILO Domestic Workers Convention crafted in this meeting will then be presented to the ITUC General Council for

adoption. CARAM Asia members present at this conference were instrumental in shaping the content of this draft convention to be proposed by ITUC to the ILO governing body, which is the highest decision making body in ILO.

Our regional and national campaign for One-Paid-Day-off-a-week also made some progress with some governments. The Malaysian government put forward an amendment of the Employment Act to make it mandatory for employers to give a weekly paid day off to FDWs in the country. This is inline with the campaign that CARAM Asia has launch since 2 years ago.

In August, the Nepal government decided to review lifting its ban on Nepali women from migrating to work, therefore, it is in the process of developing a policy on Nepali migrant domestic workers, CARAM Asia member, Nepal Institute for Development (NIDS) was commissioned by the government to develop this policy. The CARAM Asia network gave input to the policy proposed by NIDS.

Among the key activities for the year 2009

- CARAM have Conducted research and findings involving domestic workers and followed by discussion with FDWs to reply the ILO Questionnaire for the development of the ILO proposed Convention for Domestic Workers and compile cases for UNSR consultations in 2009.
- In 2009, with the advent of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) General Comment 26 on Migrant Women, CARAM Asia jointly organized:
  - a. Workshop with IRAW Asia Pacific & GAATW on "Application of the CEDAW Framework in Addressing the Rights of Women Migrant Workers in ASEAN countries." The Workshop focus on to familiarise members on the application of the new International standard.
  - b. CEDAW Roundtable Discussion for capacity building on ILO's Domestic Workers Convention with the ADWN local domestic workers network. Workshop focused on translations and capacity building using the FDW toolkit, participating in the Asian Rural Women's Conference and the International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR).

In February 2009, The ASEAN Secretary General mentioned the domestic worker's account from CARAM Asia's workshop on violations faced by FDW during his speech at the ASEAN People's Forum (APF). After the ASEAN Sec. Gen finished the dialogue session with civil society (CS), CARAM Asia delegates met him and stressed on the fact that the violations are systemic and not limited to individual cases. The issues raised by the FDWs from CARAM Asia's delegation were widely reported by the local media during the APF.

- CARAM continued to advocate and lobby for domestic work to be recognised as workers. We contribute to the development of 2 new international standards relating to FDWs:

1. A General Comment on Domestic Workers under the Migrant Worker 1990 Convention.

2. The ITUC- Asia Pacific draft content for ILO Proposed Domestic Workers Convention and provide a sample reply to the ILO Questionnaire on this new standard collaborating with MTUC and Malaysian member, Tenaganita.

- Submission to the UN Migrant Workers' Committee for the Development of a General Comment on Migrant Domestic Workers, intervened during Dialogue with the Migrant Worker Committee, issued statements and recommendations to governments, contribute to Nepal's policy on FDWs, contribute to the development of a the ASEAN Civil Society Framework Instrument on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers with a specific section on foreign domestic workers, speaking with the UNSR on Health, and national level lobbying in different countries.
- As part of our Coalition and Alliance Building effort - we built coalitions with:

The International Domestic Workers Network (IDWN) who campaigned for the realisation of the ILO DW Convention

The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) - the leading global union who has persistently called for the proposed convention on the International Labour Conference (ILC) agenda

Asian Domestic Workers Network (ADWN), a network of grass root local DWs

The ITUC, especially the regional network of trade unions in Asia Pacific countries.

- The other activities undertaken for the year 2009:
  - i) From 6-9th May, CARAM Asia alongside the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific and

Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW), jointly organised a CEDAW Roundtable discussion held in Kuala Lumpur



- i) CARAM also Co-organised a CEDAW workshop and Roundtable, attended the ITUC-AP regional Conference on Domestic Workers, the Global Network's Regional Conference on the ILO Convention for Domestic Workers, the GFMD, the UNSR consultations, the ASEAN Taskforce on Migrant Workers, the International Migrants Alliance and the United for Foreign Domestic Workers Rights coalition.
- ii) We as the co-secretariat of United for Foreign Domestic Workers Rights coalition had collectively developed a comics to raise awareness on FDW issues that can be easily comprehend. The comic was a popular advocacy material as it brings out messages in a simple and attractive manner.



## TASK FORCE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF MIGRANTS LIVING WITH HIV AND THEIR SPOUSES (TFEM) REPORT:

In year 2009 TFEM continued its networking at the regional level by actively involved in the Seven Sisters Coalition [7S]. CARAM Asia, represented by TFEM is the member of 7S Management Committee and had successfully put more awareness regarding migrants' community on the agenda of the coalition.

Among the key activities for the year 2009

- In 20 – 23 June 2009, CARAM took part in the **UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board Core Working Group** :

TFEM and RAKS Thai managed to have physical presence in the PCB meeting held in Geneva, through the sponsorship of World AIDS Campaign [for TFEM] and Thai Government [for RAKS Thai]. Furthermore, Malu S Marin had been selected to speak in the thematic session as well as two other migrants' representatives, Jerico Paterno and Noel Quinto from Philippines, shared their experience as former migrants and the HIV-related restrictions.

- In May 2009, CARAM participated in International Harm Reduction Conference – Bangkok, Thailand as a Local Organising Committee together with RAKS Thai to work on the cross border issue between HIV, migration and drug use. However, raising the awareness about the connection between migration and drug use was not very successful as this was only the first IHRC for CARAM Asia.



- In July 21 - 23, 2009 in Jakarta, Indonesia- A Workshop **On Psycho Social & Life Skills Workshop** was conducted AND participated by former migrant workers and their spouses. Another follow up workshop was held in Kathmandu in November 2009 aiming for migrants living with HIV and their spouses.



- From August 9 to 13, 2009, Caram Asia took part in the **The 9<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Congress in Asia and The Pacific [ICAAP9]**-through TFEM and SOH held in Bali.

Apart from the main event, CARAM Asia also actively involved in several pre-congress events such as South East Asia Women's Court and Migrants' Forum.



Within the main event, CARAM Asia launched the research findings on stigma and discrimination against migrants living with HIV; held a Community Voices Dialogue; Press Conference and skills building on PAR Manual. The congress had been a learning experience for migrants' representatives funded by CARAM Asia through TFEM.

Among the key initiatives during the **ICAAP9** was

- i) **South East Asia Women's Court** - Dina, migrant's representative from CARAM Asia became the first testifier at the Court, followed by Nining Ivana. They both shared their experience as female migrant workers. Eni Lestary from International Migrants Alliance Hong Kong was one of the expert witnesses. SP and SBMI were also actively involved in the preparation of the event. The initiative was held at Bali International Convention Center – Nusa Dua.

The SEA Women's Court is a forum where women can address their rights through the voices and visions of the testifiers, offering their personal testimonies and life experiences in front of five selected member of Jury. The court seeks to bring to the center of people's collective conscience and political responses the non-negotiable rights of women to safe mobility and free movement; right to health, well being with secure and sustainable livelihoods. The Jury are expected to make visible the linkages between migration, trafficking and HIV.



- ii) **Book Launch – Living with Hope; Stories of Asian Migrants Living with HIV** - The launching was held **at Wantylan Community Dialogue Space** and attended by UNSR on Right to Health – Anand Grover; the Director of UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific – Prasada Rao and Caitlin Wiesen, the UNDP Regional Center HIV/AIDS Practice Leader Program Officer.
- iii) **Oral Session on Migrant Workers, Safe Away from Home** - Amara Quesada from Action for Health Initiatives, Inc [ACHIEVE] – Philippines and Lee Sangnim from Services for the Health in Asian & African Region [SHARE] presented their abstracts. Lee's presentation was about **'Improving treatment access for HIV-positive migrants in Japan through health professional training'**, sharing on best practices conducted for healthcare workers in order to give better treatment for migrants. Amara presented a paper on **'Addressing vulnerabilities of women migrant workers through partnerships and capacity building'**.
- Iv) **Skills Building Session - Empowering migrants' communities through Participatory Action Research [PAR]** - Amara T Quesada from Action for Health Initiatives Inc [ACHIEVE] and Brahm Press from RAKS Thai facilitated a skills building session on conducting Participatory Action Research [PAR]. The objectives of this skills building workshop was to teach the participants the basics of PAR and to develop strategies on how to substantially involve community in the conduct of PAR. In addition, a PAR Manual book was also launched during the session.
- V) **HIV and National Borders: Building Research/Evidence on Mobility, Migration and HIV** - Malu Marin presented the research findings on HIV and Labour Migration in Southeast Asia. Susan Timberlake from UNAIDS also presented the overview of the research review and gaps compiled by the International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions.
- vi) **Community Voices:** a special session was attended by CARAM Asia's members.
- vii) **Oral Session – Female and Frustrated; Helping Positive Women Deal with Everyday Issues** - Cristina Montoya, a spouse of a former seafarer and a member of Babae Plus Philippines, shared her story on disclosing her status to her children.
- viii) **The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Labour Migration and HIV** - Jerico Paterno, our CARAM Asia's migrant's representative from Philippines spoke in this session

addressing his personal experience of vulnerabilities associated with migration.

- ix) **Community Programme Committee of International AIDS Congress** - TFEM and CARAM Asia through TFEM had been selected to sit as the Community Programme Committee [CPC] member for the upcoming XVIII International AIDS Conference 2010 in Vienna

## STATE OF HEALTH TASK FORCE REPORT 2009:

Planning of the MSD was done through a core group of UNRTF (now JUNIMA) members, including SoH Convener represented CARAM, Marta Vallejo of the UNDP and her assistant Indali, Nanette Motus of the IOM, and sporadic input by members of the ILO and UNAIDS. Further input was garnered from CARAM secretariat and members through the convener. With recognition that the violation of migrant worker's health and human rights with co-influence of HIV & AIDS is a multi sectoral problem and cannot be successfully dealt with by a single agency. CARAM Asia had taken initiative to organize Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue with ASEAN States and Planning for the event started in the middle of 2008.

The MSD was considered a success in the sense that it promoted engagement on the issue of migrants and HIV in the ASEAN region with the various ministries that influence the issue, especially as it concerns mandatory HIV testing of migrants. It was also a success because a set of recommendations were developed that were presented at the ASEAN Summit later. Although there are few details on the substance of how the recommendations were presented or received, they were a formal part of the Summit, which means that it was officially addressed.

Among the key activities for the year 2009

- On February 12-13, The MSD was finally held in Bangkok. It is officially known as "High Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for migrants in the ASEAN Region".



- In August 2009, CARAM Asia produced a Handbook on Participatory Action Research in the context of Migration and Health Issues for conducting action research with migrants and their communities. The SoH task force worked to finalize PAR Handbook that was handed down in very initial draft form. It has had to undergo numerous revisions and edits to make it user-friendly. Considerable editing has been done by the convener, PO, as well as two other hired individuals, one a CARAM member and the other an outside person. The SoH PO did lots of coordination in production of book. The publication was launched in 9<sup>th</sup> ICAAP held in Bali, Indonesia.

The handbook was launched in a skills building session on PAR during 9<sup>th</sup> ICAAP in Bali and its copies were disseminated among participants of the session as well as among participants of ICAAP via putting the CARAM Asia material at the stall. The copies are also given to CARAM Members. The book is being disseminated among other CSOs via different occasions.

- On 12<sup>th</sup> August CARAM Asia's SoH Task Force organized a session on community voices during the the 9<sup>th</sup> ICAAP event. Community Voices –Open Dialogue were organized to raise the migrant worker's voices on the issue of Mandatory Testing (MT) and to make people aware how migrant's life gets affected because of the issue.



Returnee migrant workers from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Indonesia shared their experiences one by one with help of translators. Awareness material published by CARAM Asia was also disseminated among participants.

- **Also during the 9<sup>th</sup> ICAAP** - CARAM Asia SOH Task Force along with couple of other NGOs met with Mr. Anand Grover, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The purpose of the meeting was to raise the issue of MW's violation of health rights and to do advocacy on the issue of mandatory testing. CARAM Asia has

submitted a **Statement for Protection of Health Rights of Migrant Workers** and urged the Rapporteur to take necessary steps by including the subject in his report to the UN General Assembly/UN Council. Mr. Grover made a commitment to report the issue to the Human Rights Commission

- On December 2009, a capacity building workshop on UNGASS reporting mechanisms was organized in Kathmandu, Nepal with cooperation of NIDS. The participants of workshop were comprised on CARAM Asia members who basically signed for the Migration, Health and HIV (MHH) Task Force during 3rd General Assembly of the network. Other members who are engaged in UNGASS reporting process or otherwise interested in learning about UNGASS reporting procedures were invited as well.

## **MIGRATION, HEALTH AND GLOBALISATION TASK FORCE REPORT:**

The main activities for the Migration, Health and Globalisation taskforce over the past year have been the participatory action research on Remittances: Impacts on migrant workers quality of life and also initiatives for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

In 2008, the MHG task force held a PAR Planning Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. By 2009, the research started. This participatory research is conducted with migrant workers for migrant workers. Migrant workers, their families and communities were interviewed in the research on the state of their welfare and livelihood. The report due to be launch by end of this year will give critical insights on how workers' rights, impact of migration on their labour rights and the quality of life for the workers and their families.

Among the key activities for the year 2009

- In September 2009, research participants gathered to exchange findings and share experiences and to level off research methodology and research design. This further included a comparative evaluation of the quality of life based on common evaluation methods of the conditions and quality of life of migrant and family in both the source and destination country. Such a regional framework of research and analysis is aimed at combining both the source and destination country perspectives and provide a comprehensive solution to migrant rights protection.
- In November 2009, during the GFMD Meeting, the MHG task force and the network continue to denounce the current structure of the GFMD and have drafted a critique paper to complement our participation in both the Civil Society Days and alternative event days.



The critique paper is a summary of many of the findings produced from the ongoing PAR research. It is a first concrete step at providing alternative prescriptions to the debate surrounding migration and development.

The critique paper is based on the initial findings of the MHG PAR research, and will serve a substantial document that will aim to debunk the myth of migration for development and will be handed out throughout our time at the event. A few members from the PAR research team together with migrant workers leaders went to Athens to join the International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees and organized a workshop presenting alternative prescriptions to the debate surrounding migration and development.

## Financial Report and Analysis

### Annex A

#### **Application of the CEDAW Framework in Addressing the Rights of Women Migrant Workers in ASEAN countries**

As the 14th ASEAN Summit took place in Hua Hin, Thailand from 27 February to 1 March 2009, civil society groups from across the region gathered in Bangkok for their annual pre-ASEAN Summit meeting, ASEAN People's Forum (APF) from 20-22 February.



For the first time, the ASEAN Secretary General together with the Thai foreign minister came to the APF to have a dialogue with civil society for over an hour. This dialogue itself is an advancement of space for civil society who had to struggle to negotiate for direct meetings with ASEAN in previous years. Thailand is the current Chair government of ASEAN.

CARAM Asia jointly organised a workshop with IRAW Asia Pacific & GAATW on "Application of the CEDAW Framework in Addressing the Rights of Women Migrant Workers in ASEAN countries." MAP Foundation brought a foreign domestic worker (FDW) working in Thailand, to map out gendered based discrimination based by FDWs through her sharing of experience. Her sharing of realities on the ground was so impactful that it was reported and published in two newspapers, namely The Nation (Thailand) and Asia One (Singapore).

During the Q&A session, another returnee domestic worker who is a CARAM Asia member also voiced the systemic human rights violations faced by FDWs and her organisation's SP's planned meeting with Indonesian government as a follow-up from the CEDAW Committee's recommendation to the Indonesian government.

CARAM Asia delegates also spoke to the ASEAN Sec General, very briefly during the short civil society interface with him on 22 Feb. CARAM Asia programme officer on the Foreign Domestic Worker programme thanked the Sec Gen for meeting with CS on a Sunday and reminded him that FDWs and most informal economy workers worked on Sundays without a Paid Day Off! She called for ASEAN states to give equal labour rights to all workers. He replied that migrant workers do face discrimination in their labour rights.

As domestic work is not recognised as work in the same manner with other type of work performed by other migrant workers, states can argue that they fall outside of the ambit of protections in the Migrant Workers Convention 1990. However since late 2008, the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) committee adopted the General Comment 26 with very specific provisions covering protection of rights for foreign domestic workers. CEDAW has the most ratification by states and its new comment is an essential advocacy tool that can hold states accountable for the systemic discrimination against domestic workers.

The CARAM Asia network raised the visibility of domestic workers issues and the importance for the recognition of domestic work as work. In fact, the campaign for domestic workers became the interlinking advocacy focus for advocates from all three sectors of women rights, migration and trafficking.

The meeting provided clarity to all participants that international laws are not a redress mechanism for individual cases but it is a way to hold states accountable for institutional discrimination against women and institutional exploitation of migrant workers. The meeting served as an important



advocacy tool to ensure gendered sensitive policies in relation to trafficking, migration and gender dynamics. Furthermore domestic workers advocates can learn from women's groups' experience in advocating for a Domestic Violence Act and hold states accountable to violence perpetuated in private homes.

## Annex B

### **Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers (TF AMW)**

After a 2 year process with 7 regional and 8 national consultations to draft the ASEAN Civil Society Framework Instrument on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers, the Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers (TF AMW) finalised the framework instrument.

The civil society Framework Instrument has a specific section on foreign domestic workers which called on all states to ensure domestic workers are specifically included as a recognised category of worker covered by national labour laws and to ensure their rights to freedom of association and assembly are protected.

The document also specifically highlighted for FDWs to be entitled for at a minimum, one day of paid leave in each seven days period and be allowed off days for public holidays or festivals celebrated by them.

CARAM Asia as a member of the TF AMW had been actively involved in all the consultations to draft the civil society framework instrument and some of its members and secretariat staff had also held meetings with ASEAN governments highlighting its content, including calling for the inclusion of FDWs into the coverage of the ASEAN government's version of the framework instrument. The most recent interfaced with ASEAN government was during the ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting held from 12 to 13 May in Lao PDR.

A representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Director of Social Welfare, Women, Labour and Migrant Workers (MW) division meets with the task force on ASEAN Migrant Workers to formally receive the document on 11 May, 2009. He circulated it to the Senior Labour Officials during informal sessions in the Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) as only the government chairing the meeting or the chair of ASEAN can set the agenda for ASEAN meetings.

## Annex C

# **The Impact of Climate Change on Migratory Patterns and Arising Issues Facing Migrant Populations**

By Christopher Pearman  
Information and Communications Officer

The evidence amassed over the past two decades now suggests that climate change currently stands as one of the greatest threats to face the planet. Since 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has officially acknowledged that large scale migration is likely to be one of the biggest issues to arise from the long term effects of climatic change.<sup>1</sup> In fact such is the link between climate change and migration that it is now estimated that in the long term up to a billion people may be forced to migrate in the long term from their place of origin.

However despite the formulation of an international framework known as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and subsequent internationally acknowledged declarations, there remains no international mechanism in place that officially recognises climate migrants or refugees or the subsequent rights thereof. Furthermore, to highlight the inability of governments to tackle this important issue, there currently remains a lack of international consensus on even the actual definition of what constitutes a climate migrant or refugee.

Drawing upon research published by the leading international bodies and independent scholars, the purpose of this paper is to categorically map for the reader, the linkage between climate change and migration assessing specific issues relating to gender, health and likely push and pull factors linked to climate induced migration. This will pay specific attention to issues relating to the context of Asia, a continent that is already witnessing the world's first climate migrants.

In the interests of portraying a linear definition of what I mean by a climate migrant, the paper will rely on the most broadly accepted definition (though not internationally accepted) given by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

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*This refers to 'persons or groups of people who for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment as a result of climate change that adversely affect their lives or living conditions are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so either temporarily or permanently and who move either within their country or abroad.'* (IOM, 2008)

This paper has demonstrated that the link between migration and climate change is one of growing importance to the lives of millions throughout the continent of Asia who face increasing risks both economically and socially. Despite this, it has been apparent that the international and regional bodies remain largely unwilling to practically tackle the emerging problems or pledge to any long-term commitment on the link between climate change and migration. Moreover the countries whose populations face the severest effects of climate change and therefore the likeliest to migrate, lack the resources to address the needs of the populations.

## **Executive Summary**

- On the whole the international community currently relies on informal and unaccountable bodies to tackle the impending problems brought about by climate change. Furthermore, despite the fact that the international community remains

acutely aware of the fact that migration will severely increase due to the effects of climate change, it remains largely unwilling to tackle this problem through any substantial commitment or address the needs of the people involved.

- A lack of definition between refugees, IDPs and migrants compromises any substantive way of tackling the problems arising from climate change and allows nations to mitigate their responsibility at the national, regional and international levels.
- While regional bodies such as SAARC and ASEAN have made some initial steps to bring solidarity to tackling this issue, theory and practise remains deeply divided. Furthermore, the issue of climate induced migration continues to be overlooked and many countries have deliberately ignored their neighbours concerns in favour of national goals.
- While many country's NAPA agreements to plan to relocate affected people, they provide only short term solutions to long term problems. As a result, government's fail to take into account migrant's access to healthcare services or means of securing an income.
- While the Kyoto Protocol clearly states an agreement of signatories for developed nations to assist developing nations, the informal nature of the agreements by the international bodies (and subsequent lack of accountability) severely hampers efforts to tackle the problem. At the same time, affluent nations continue to channel any funds through World Bank and IMF initiatives further indebting nations. Another concern is the issue of corruption as many research bodies have noted clear distrust of local monitoring bodies. A lack of formal loan mechanisms to provide people with a chance to combat the effects of climate change is also seen as a direct push factor for people to migrate.
- Climate induced migration and mobility relates to a whole manner of issues including an increase in human trafficking, domestic and sexual abuse and wider health concerns including a likely rise in HIV.
- Health remains a clear concern for climate migrants as both source and destination countries lack either the desire or resources to provide adequate levels of funding for their access to health. Furthermore, displaced people or those deprived of access to health are more vulnerable to certain diseases, this is especially apparent in women and children due to water contamination and lack of food security etc.
- Women continue to be the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change as their mobility is often more limited than men due to perceived social roles and responsibilities. At the same time they are largely left out of the decision making process at all levels.

## **Recommendations**

- The international community through the UNFCCC must immediately seek to define a climate migrant in order to create a platform of base understanding. Furthermore, this legislation must include specific references to gender and health vulnerability of migrant and mobile populations who have been or are likely to be directly affected by climate change. This must also lead to an increase of research/prevention projects which include gender sensitive intervention programs as well as prioritizing the most

vulnerable demographics.

- Governments within Asia both nationally and regionally must establish specific climate change task forces rather than delegate and dilute issues to multiple existing bodies that often lack coherence. These must include specific attention to access to health and gender.
- ASEAN and SAARC mechanisms, through such bodies as the ACCI, must directly include reference to migrants and mobile population and seek to promote a humanitarian immigration policy. Furthermore, any immigration system herein must not discriminate based on a climate migrant's health status.
- The United Nations, European Union etc must remove neo-liberal stipulations that seek to combat the effects of climate change through a profit driven mentality and instead address the scale of finance according to the vulnerability and risks faced by the population.
- The WHO and other international bodies such as the UNEP must collaborate with national and regional bodies to form disease surveillance improvement programs that address the needs of mobile populations including climate induced migrants.

(Full Report is available at [www.caramasia.org](http://www.caramasia.org))

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