Climate change

June 2020

This is a selection of features and individual articles published by Forced Migration Review (FMR) focusing on climate change – its role in causing people to be displaced, and responses to it.

We have published three major features on this topic, in 2008, 2015 and 2020, plus a number of additional individual articles. Below you will find an outline and links for each of the features, and then a list of additional articles. For each of the individual articles we have included the title, author(s), date of publication, introductory sentence/s and a weblink.

Most of the articles are also available in Arabic, French and Spanish, and available as podcasts (English only). This thematic listing is online at www.fmreview.org/thematic-listings.

FMR provides a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, refugees and internally displaced people, and those who work with them. All back issues are online at www.fmreview.org/issues. To request FMR updates, please visit www.fmreview.org/request/alerts.

Climate crisis and local communities
FMR 64, June 2020
Local communities around the world have been coping with the effects of a changing climate for decades and have far-reaching insights and experience to share. In this FMR feature, we focus on the impact on local communities, on their coping strategies and on broader questions of access, rights and justice. The eleven articles in this feature are written by representatives of affected communities, by staff of international agencies working alongside these communities, and by researchers. Topics include managing relocation, food production diversification, gender and power relationships, mobility strategies, resilience and adaptation, advocacy and campaigning, and climate justice. Case-studies focus on Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mongolia, Pacific Islands, Somalia/Somaliland and Western Sahara.

www.fmreview.org/issue64

Disasters and displacement in a changing climate
FMR 49, May 2015
In light of the increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters associated with climate change, the number of people displaced in the context of disasters is rising. Existing national, regional and international legal regimes, however, currently respond to only some of the protection concerns arising from such displacement. Crafting an appropriate response demands a cross-sectoral approach that addresses different forms of human mobility and which also recognises the local knowledge, values and beliefs of affected communities. This issue includes 36 articles on different aspects of the theme.

www.fmreview.org/climatechange-disasters

Climate change and displacement
FMR 31, October 2008
This issue of FMR debates the numbers, the definitions and the modalities involved in climate-related displacement – and the tension between the need for research and the need to act. Thirty-eight articles by UN, academic, international and local actors explore the extent of the potential displacement crisis, community adaptation and coping strategies, and the search for solutions. This issue of FMR was noted for pioneering the coming together of climate scientists and migration researchers.

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fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk • www.fmreview.org
Skype: fmreview • +44 (0)1865 281700

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Additional articles

Transformative climate action in cities
François Gemenne, Caroline Zickgraf, Anneliese Depoux, Laetitia Pettinotti, Agathe Cavicchioli and Sarah Rosengaertner [2020]
A critical, but understudied, issue of concern is how climate change will affect migrant populations living in cities (including refugees and internally displaced people), and how local governance and actions to combat the effects of climate change will address migrants’ vulnerability and support their inclusion in cities.
www.fmreview.org/cities/gemenne-zickgraf-depoux-pettinotti-cavicchioli-rosengaertner

Disaster-induced displacement in the Caribbean and the Pacific
Mo Hamza, Ida Koch and Malte Plewa [2017]
People in Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to displacement by disaster. Governments in the Caribbean and the Pacific need urgently to do more risk management and planning, rather than focusing almost exclusively on response and relocation.
www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/hamza-koch-plewa

Planned relocation in Asia and the Pacific
Jessie Connell and Sabira Coelho [2018]
Promising policy developments are underway in Asia and the Pacific to address climate and disaster-related displacement, yet the deeper governance structures required to embed protection are not yet in place, especially for planned relocation. There needs to be greater emphasis on assisting governments to set up inter-ministerial structures equipped to deal with the complex cross-cutting issues that planned relocation involves.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/connell-coelho

Voluntary immobility: indigenous voices in the Pacific
Carol Farbotko [2018]
In recent years, the international community has been paying increasing attention to the movement and planned relocation of people affected by climate change. In the Pacific region, however, many indigenous people are saying they intend to remain on their ancestral lands.
www.fmreview.org/syria2018/farbotko

The RCM Guide: a novel protection tool for cross-border disaster-induced displacement in the Americas
Walter Kälin and David Cantor [2017]
States in the Americas confront complex challenges in the face of human mobility caused by both sudden- and slow-onset disasters. A new regional guide presents practices and measures to help address the protection needs of cross-border disaster-displaced persons.
www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/kaelin-cantor

Towards a regional agreement on environmental displacement?
Erika Pires Ramos, Fernanda de Salles Cavedon-Capdeville, Lilian Yamamoto and Diogo Andreola Serraglio [2017]
Efforts towards a regional agreement on migration in South America should be extended to recognise and protect those displaced for environmental reasons.
www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/piresramos-cavedoncapdeville-yamamoto-serraglio

The pavements and slums of Dhaka
Nellie LeBeau and Hugh Tuckfield [2017]
Almost half a million people every year seek refuge in Dhaka, compelled by a nexus of climate change, poverty and environmental degradation. Many end up living on the pavements.
www.fmreview.org/shelter/lebeau-tuckfield

Ensuring the rights of climate-displaced people in Bangladesh
Prabal Barua, Mohammad Shahjahan, Mohammad Arifur Rahman, Syed Hafizur Rahman and Morshed Hossan Molla [2017]
Five critical areas require urgent action with the threat of internal displacement as a result of climate change already severe and growing in Bangladesh.
www.fmreview.org/resettlement/barua-shahjahan-rahman-rahman-molla

The Ngomeni rock water catchment dam in Mwingi district, Kenya, which serves hundreds of households, drying up for the first time in years in 2011, according to residents.
Integrating protection into disaster risk preparedness in the Dominican Republic
Andrea Verdeja [2016]
Addressing protection as a key element of community-based disaster risk reduction and preparedness efforts is essential to safeguarding human rights in disaster and emergency settings.
www.fmreview.org/community-protection/verdeja

The concept of crisis migration
Jane McAdam [2014]
Crisis migration needs to be understood in terms of ‘tipping points’, which are triggered not just by events but also by underlying structural processes. It is important for policymakers for there to be an adequate theory behind the concept of ‘crisis migration’ so that responses are appropriate, timely and thoughtful.
www.fmreview.org/crisis/mcadam

Illegal migration in the Indian Sunderbans
Sahana Bose [2014]
It is expected that due to sea level rise in the future many millions of Bangladeshis will flee to India, exacerbating further the ongoing disputes between India and Bangladesh. Human security will be the most important agenda item for Indian-Bangladeshi relations in the coming decades.
www.fmreview.org/crisis/bose

Choice and necessity: relocations in the Arctic and South Pacific
Robin Bronen [2014]
Relocation – whereby livelihoods, housing and public infrastructure are reconstructed in another location – may be the best adaptation response for communities whose current location becomes uninhabitable or is vulnerable to future climate-induced threats.
www.fmreview.org/crisis/bronen

Rising waters, displaced lives
Lindsey Brickle and Alice Thomas [2014]
Although Pakistan and Colombia have relatively advanced disaster management frameworks, they were unprepared and ill-equipped to assist and protect people displaced by recent floods.
www.fmreview.org/crisis/brickle-thomas

Questioning ‘drought displacement’: environment, politics and migration in Somalia
Anna Lindley [2014]
The role of the recent drought in producing migration cannot be understood in isolation from human practices and past and concurrent political processes. The environmental dimensions of recent displacement prompt a series of policy challenges in relation to prevention, response and rights protection.
www.fmreview.org/crisis/lindley

Populations ‘trapped’ at times of crisis
Richard Black and Michael Collyer [2014]
A focus on those who are trapped challenges both theoretical and practical approaches to mobility and crisis, which prioritise movement. Those who have lost control of the decision to move away from potential danger have inevitably lost a lot more too.
www.fmreview.org/crisis/black-collyer

New Orleans: a lesson in post-disaster resilience
Paul Kadetz [2014]
Factors that foster social cohesion in communities – such as shared long-term networks and shared community identity, central organisation to which the community adheres, and established trust – have been identified as critical for post-disaster resilience and recovery.
www.fmreview.org/crisis/kadetz

Environmental stress, displacement and the challenge of rights protection
Roger Zetter and James Morrissey [2014]
Examination of migration histories and current politics in Kenya, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Ghana sheds light on how rights are articulated for groups and individuals displaced in a context of environmental stress and climate change. Both migration and rights are sensitive issues in these case-study countries, and the conjunction of the two is especially sensitive.
www.fmreview.org/crisis/zetter-morrissey

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Planting mangroves in Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati, to help protect the coast from sea level rise and storms.