
**KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on
Environmental Change and Migration**

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

Workshop

**QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF
ENVIRONMENTALLY-INDUCED MIGRATION**

9-10 May 2016 in Washington DC

1. Introduction

Jointly with the University of Liege, the KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration will be hosting a workshop entitled “Quantitative Assessment of Environmentally-induced Migration” on 9-10 May 2015 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC. The Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) is a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues (for more information see www.knomad.org)

The need for this workshop¹ arises from the a) lack of quantitative comprehension of the environment-migration nexus, and b) the difficulty in comparing that data which does exist on the topic.

Despite the burgeoning research on the relationship between human migration and adverse environmental conditions – from sudden-onset natural disasters and extreme weather events to more gradual variations in climate and progressive environmental deterioration – there is still a relative dearth of rigorous estimates and projections of those displaced by environmental changes and a quantification of the impacts of voluntary and forced movements on migrants, destination, transit and sending zones.

While a considerable number of datasets documents the environment-migration nexus, methodological and data-related limitations render cross-study comparability difficult. Major constraints concern insufficiently detailed data on various socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, the definition of migrants, the choice and definition of proxy variables for environmental factors, the empirical methodology, and the geographic level of representation of data sources. Furthermore, the literature lacks a sufficient number of rigorous studies to perform a meta-analysis in the spirit of Hsiang, Burke, and Miguel (2013) for conflict.

To better inform migration as well as climate change and other environmental policies, there is a need to provide reliable estimates and projections of environmentally-induced

¹ This workshop is part of the EDGE project, supported by the European Commission through the Horizon 2020 EU Programme for Research and Innovation.

population movements across several countries, utilizing multiple sources of information as well as one unifying methodological framework. Moving beyond scattered datasets and case studies, such projections will also shed light on how environmental changes and migration interact in the long run.

2. Objectives

An important step in this direction, the KNOMAD workshop will focus on the current state of play in the quantitative assessment of human movement – internal and international, forced and ‘voluntary’ – related to declining environmental conditions, and its impacts on migrants as well as on sending, transit, and receiving locations. The workshop seeks to address three categories in particular:

1. Current methodologies in quantifying the environment-migration nexus, e.g. household surveys, mobile data, and modeling
2. Harmonizing existing data sets
3. Maximizing the utility of quantitative assessments for policymakers and key stakeholders

The first day of the workshop will review existent quantitative data and methods used in exploring the links between environmental events and migration and will promote discussion on the comparability of these data sets. The second day will begin with a morning meeting for partners involved in the joint initiative “Towards a Quantitative Assessment of the Environment-Migration Nexus: Building a Foundation for Global Maps of Displacement.” It will finish with an afternoon session dedicated to the World Bank’s study on climate change, migration and resilience. The latter seeks to develop area and livelihood-based analogs to predict pathways and magnitude of migration until 2050, including potential hot-spots. This is done by modeling biophysical impacts of climate change, poverty/area-adaptive context and household dynamics data and evidence based against a set of socio-economic pathways. The models and analogs will be used to inform climate-resilient policies. An improved characterization of the issue, paired with a recognition of its multi-faceted challenges, would help to foster constructive dialogue on the practical implications of integrating mobility and migration into the sustainable development discourse.

3. Participation

The workshop foresees the attendance of about 30 researchers and practitioners. The following criteria could be used to identify participants:

- Researchers and practitioners involved in quantitative data and methods exploring the links between environmental events and migration
- Representatives of different regions and research institutions

4. Venue and Date

Venue: World Bank HQ, 1818 H Street, MC 6-100, Washington D.C.

Date: May 9-10

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

DAY 1: May 9th

9:00 Welcome and Introductions

Tour de table: What are the key issues to address the environment-migration nexus with quantitative data? What do we know? What don't we know?

09:45 Presentation of Quantitative Projects Achieved and Underway

- 1) Household surveys (MECLEP and others)
- 2) Longitudinal studies (Princeton)
- 3) Using mobile data

10:45 *Break*

11:00 Presentation of Quantitative Projects Achieved and Underway (continued)

12:30 *Lunch*

Presentation of the World Bank's Upcoming Report on Climate Change, Resilience and Migration

14:00 Quantitative Datasets available

- 1) Climate variability datasets (IFPRI)
- 2) Population data (World Bank)
- 3) Displaced by disasters (IDMC)

15:15 *Break*

15:30 Breakout Groups – Comparing datasets

- 1) Issues of interoperability
- 2) Assessing trends

16:30 Discussion of breakout groups

17:00 Concluding remarks/ wrap-up

17:15 Adjourn

DAY 2: May 10th

“Towards a Quantitative Assessment of the Environment-Migration Nexus: Building a Foundation for Global Maps of Displacement”

09:00 Welcome/ Introduction of Partners and presentation of the project

09:30 Finalization of Project – Addressing outstanding issues

10:00 Fundraising Strategies

10:30 Break

Consultation on World Bank’s Upcoming Report on Climate Change, Resilience and Migration

11:00 Expert feedback on the methodology

11:30 Exploring synergies and broader engagement

12:15 Conclusion of meeting

12:30 Lunch