**Call for inputs**

**Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protect of human rights**

**in the context of climate change**

**“Addressing the human rights implications of climate change displacement including legal protection of people displaced across international borders”**

1. What experiences and examples are you aware of, of individuals or communities, displaced by climate change?

World Vision is currently working on a project looking at the intersectionality of urban fragility, climate change and gender inequality and social exclusion. A deep dive into stories of children living at the intersection of those accelerators produced the following testimonies from children in communities displaced by climate change.

A) In Bangladesh, 30-70 % of the land gets flooded. As a result, between 2014 and 2020, 9.4 million people were forced to displace.[[1]](#footnote-1) Sumaiya, an 11-year-old girl supported by World Vision, had to move from Bhola to Dhaka due to the annual monsoon floods. When the floodwaters rose, her family would bring their chickens and goats into the house to keep them from drowning. They huddled in one room for days on end. Snakes and frogs washed into the house with the floodwater. After they moved to Dhaka, the situation has not improved much as the family is surrounded by raw sewage, trash, and chemical pollution from the city swamping their home. At the age of 11, she was out of school, exposed to the risks of child labour and early forced marriage.  “The families are living an inhumane life here in the lowland, making platforms of bamboo in the midst of high-rise buildings. Basically, people who are prey to river erosion, the most vulnerable and oppressed, migrated here. During rainy season, their situation becomes worse. All the platforms get drowned and they cannot communicate easily. But they have no choice but to live there.”

B) In  Honduras, approximately 4.7 million people were affected by Hurricane Eta and Iota in 2020. A child supported by World Vision had to be sheltered at school, but after the hurricane, as his home was gone. Omar (not his real name) says “The things in my house, everything was ruined. The water reached high up to the electric wires and fire came out. The water reached the ceiling. That’s why we came to this school,” “In the street, the water current carried us. My mum was holding me, she carried me.”

Omar lost everything he knew to the hurricane. His home. His bike. His puppies. Then, on a bright sunny day outside the shelter, he lost his dad, too.

Gang members shot him dead on the street. Omar saw it happen.

1. Do you think there are differences between the notion of climate change migrants and people displaced by climate change? If yes, what are these differences?

Compared to climate change migrants, the notion of people displaced by climate change shows the displacement is forced and constrained. Climate induced natural hazards - the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, such as abnormally heavy rainfall, prolonged droughts, desertification, environmental degradation, or sea-level rise and cyclones – are driving people out of home and causing the climate crisis. People are forced to displace, so we consider those as ‘displaced by climate change’.

1. Please provide examples of policies, practices and legal remedies and concepts of how States, business enterprises, civil society and intergovernmental organizations can provide protection for people and communities displaced by climate change.

World Vision is a member of the Urban Settlements Working Group of the global shelter cluster. As a member we support the Area-based/settlements approach as a good practice that can provide protection of people and communities displaced by climate change, in addition to it being a preferred approach for addressing urban crises: Area-based/settlements approaches should be considered as a concrete way to enable localization, in the sense that they align humanitarian priorities with local actors’ knowledge. In the case of climate displacement, area-based/settlement approaches are useful approaches to ensure climate displaced people are integrated in a socially cohesive manner with host communities they settle in. Area-based/settlements approaches should be considered as a concrete way to support the way local actors work. They often do not work in “sectors”, but more flexibly, and area-based/settlements approaches take these different modalities into consideration.

1. What international, regional and national policies and legal approaches are necessary to protect people and communities displaced by climate change

* On the international level, loss and damage funding mechanisms should provide provisions for those who are forced to displace due to climate change induced disasters.
* On the national level, there should be adaptive/shock responsive social protection mechanisms so that immediate needs including the cash assistance can be provided. Social protection measures should be gender responsive and child sensitive.
* National Adaptation Plans should integrate the considerations (such as social protection, assistance) for the climate-related displacement
* For locally led civil society organisations, access to climate finance is extremely challenging. Climate financing for local NGOs which can provide immediate support for the displaced population should be considered.
* World Vision has field based evidence on linking humanitarian cash assistance to national social protection. In Bangladesh, World Vision has supported the implementation of social protection mechanisms led by the government. Strengthening the national social protection system is critical for providing the minimum life support for those affected by climate change. (<https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/social-accountability/pathway-link-humanitarian-cash-social-protection-through>)
* Cash for work is another important support for the refugees from the protracted crisis. World Vision has provided waste management support in Azraq refugee camp with the funding from EU. What was successful in this project was the cash for work for the refugee population who work for the waste management centre at the camp. So cash-for-work or food-for-wor interventions as a part of the broad social protection scheme for the displaed population is extremely important. <https://south.euneighbours.eu/story/green-centre-azraq-refugee-camp-syrian-refugees-clear-streets-brighter/>

1. What do you understand by the concept of “climate change refugee”? Do you think that the UN Refugee Convention should include a separate category for climate change refugees? How do you think this would work? What other legal options may be possible?

Yes. Having a specific category for climate-induced refugees will have the advantages on 1) highlighting the gravity of the climate emergency and 2) possible access to climate financing, and loss and damage mechanisms once such mechanisms are in place.

\*\*\*

Please find further recent publications from WVI that include issues of climate displacement, but in the context of the food and price shock crisis:

* Hungry and unprotected children: The forgotten refugees: <https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/coronavirus-health-crisis/hungry-and-unprotected-children-forgotten-refugees>
* 2022 Price Shocks report: <https://www.wvi.org/publications/hunger-crisis/price-shocks-rising-food-prices-threaten-lives-thousands-children>

1. <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/multi-hazard-risk-analysis-climate-related-disasters-bangladesh> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)