SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMUNICATION

CSE

AAETI

ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE DISASTERS ON THE RISE

- Surface temperature rise will cross 1.5 degree C in the next 20 years, and 2 degree C by the middle of the century
- Like temperature rise in last two decades, extreme weather events are set to increase dangerously
- 1970s saw 100 disasters/year, 2000s saw 360/year, 2010s saw 440/year
- An increase in disasters is resulting in an increase in climate refugees

ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE 2022

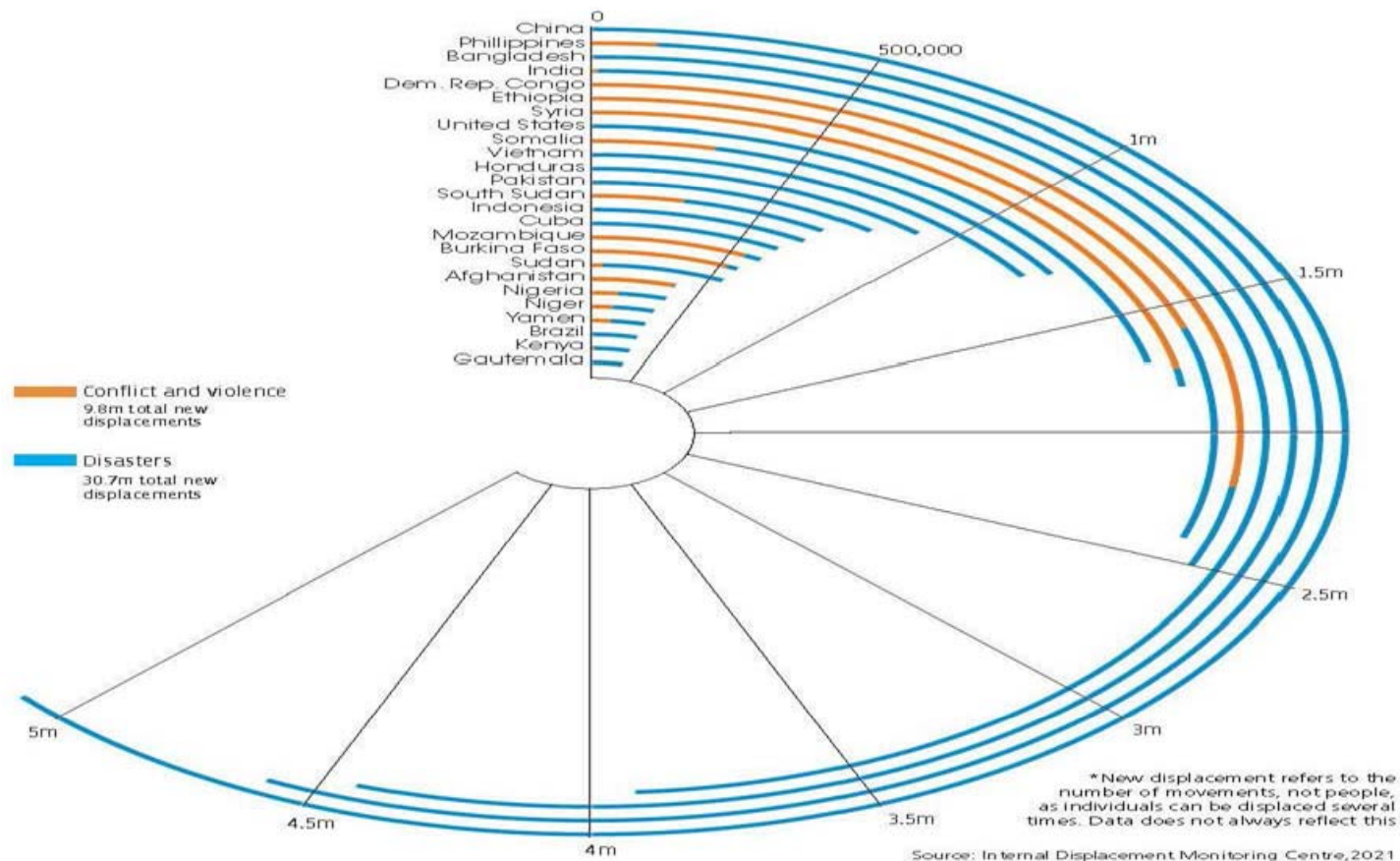# Deteriorating climate a more widespread problem than conflicts

By the end of 2020, new internal displacements took place across 42 countries and territories due to conflict and violence, and 144 countries and territories due to disasters

DISPLACEMENT DUE TO CONFLICTS IN 2020

DISPLACEMENT DUE TO DISASTERS IN 2020

- IPCC, 2022: "Climatic conditions, events and variability are important drivers of migration and displacement"
- Approx. 3.3-3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change
- In 2019, India recorded over 4 million disaster displacements
- World Migration Report, 2020: "Many more people are newly displaced by disasters in any given year, compared with those newly displaced by conflict and violence, and more countries are affected by disaster displacement."
- IDMC estimates that 30.7 million new displacements, triggered by disasters, took place in 2020, 99% of which were weather disasters
- World Bank: "Climate change can force some 216 million people in six world regions to move within their own countries by 2050."

India, fourth worst-hit by disasters

Most disaster-related displacements were the result of tropical storms and floods in East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia. China, the Philippines and Bangladesh each recorded more than 4 million new displacements, many of them pre-emptive evacuations

China
Phillippines
Bangladesh
India
Dem. Rep. Congo
Ethiopia
Syria
United States
Somalia
Vietnam
Honduras
Pakistan
South Sudan
Indonesia
Cuba
Mozambique
Burkina Faso
Sudan
Afghanistan
Nigeria
Niger
Yamen
Brazil
Kenya
Gautemala

0
500,000
1m
1.5m
2.5m
3m
3.5m
4m
4.5m
5m

Conflict and violence
9.8m total new displacements

Disasters
30.7m total new displacements

*New displacement refers to the number of movements, not people, as individuals can be displaced several times. Data does not always reflect this

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2021

TRAFFICKING AND CLIMATE CHANGE NEXUS

- IPCC, 2022: "During and after extreme weather events, women, girls and LGBTQI people are at increased risk of domestic violence, harassment, sexual violence and trafficking."
- "Disasters lead to a breakdown of social institutions", JNU Prof. Mondira Dutta writes, exposing vulnerable communities — whose livelihood is strained — to exploitation
- Trafficking thrives in the absence of a watchdog mechanism, which emerges after a disaster: Save The Children, India
- IOM: Vulnerability to trafficking increases by 20-30% when climate-related disaster occurs
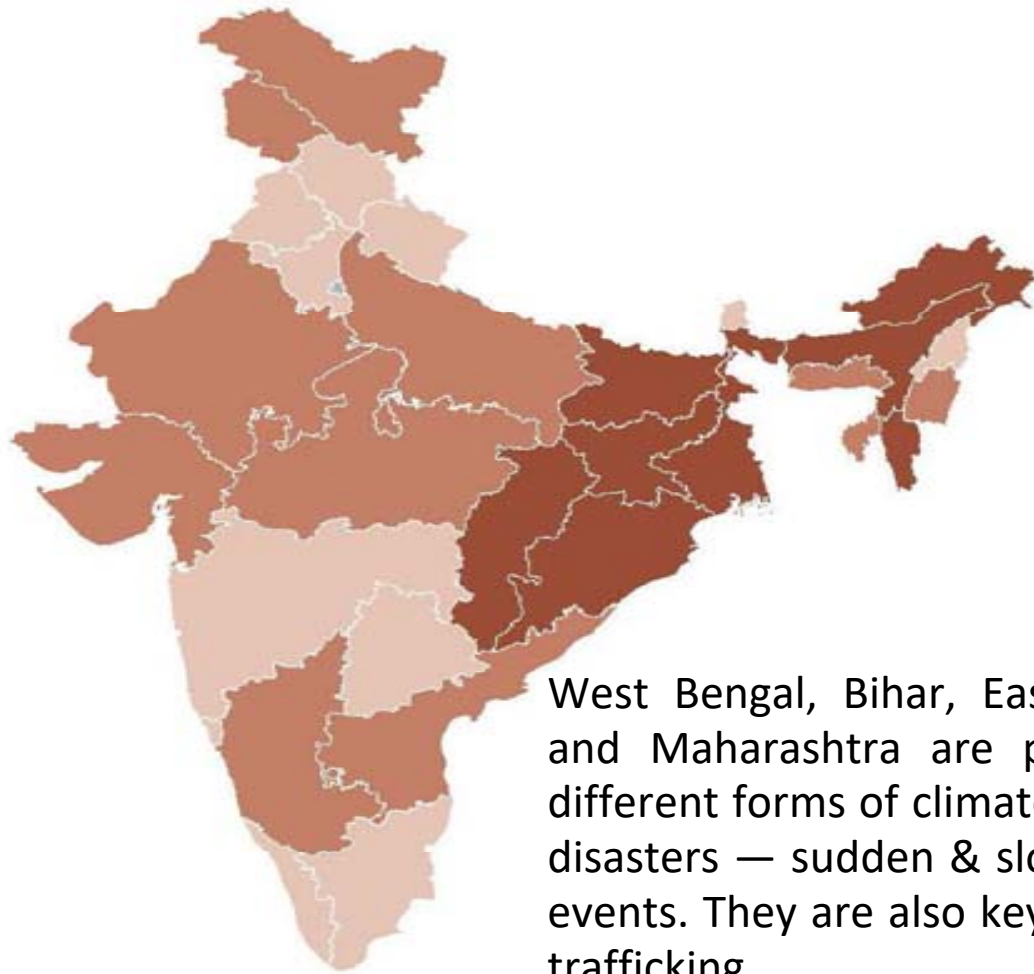
ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE 2022

INDIA'S CLIMATE VULNERABILITY

Even Maharashtra, the best performing state, has a high score in the Climate Vulnerability Index, suggesting that all the 29 states are significantly vulnerable to climate change

Climate Vulnerability Index (out of 1)

- Highly vulnerable states (0.58-0.67)
- Moderately vulnerable states (0.50-0.58)
- Low vulnerable states (0.42- 0.50)

West Bengal, Bihar, Eastern UP and Maharashtra are prone to different forms of climate change disasters — sudden & slow-onset events. They are also key hubs of trafficking
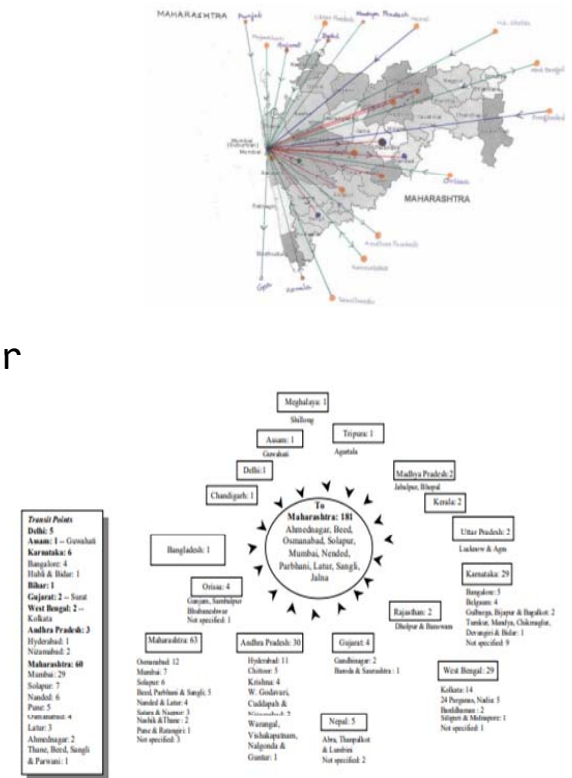
Maharashtra

Districts of Marathwada- Beed, Osmanabad, Latur, Parbhani etc are major source points from where girls are trafficked to different parts of the country- especially Rajasthan, Delhi and Kolkata- where there is a language barrier for them.

The region is drought prone with a severe drought occurring every 3 years. And with climate change, variability in rainfall is increasing and so droughts are becoming prolonged and severe. This is increasing migration and also trafficking.

Parents who migrate as sugarcane cutters wish to get their daughters married and settled as soon as they hit puberty, leading to rise in trafficking cases on pretext of false/ proxy marriages.

Destitute and desperate for work to support their families, many young girls fall prey to dreams of a big-city life shown by traffickers.

Source: NHRC 2002

"Every year after monsoons, the traffickers assess which village has been affected the most due and target the families in those areas after thorough research,"- Ramesh Joshi, an activist formerly working with Vipla Foundation in Osmanabad and Latur.

"My grandparents used to be washermen, and earned their living by washing the clothes of the neighbours in the local stream 'hoel'. After the stream dried up we had to move to another village in search of livelihood, and I when I took up work as a maid, I never thought I would be sold for Rs 10,000" - 17- year old trafficking victim, Latur.

"Earlier only landless, or people with small land holdings used to migrate, but now even people with 10 acres of land have started migrating too," - Ashok Tangde, activist Beed.

Intensification of tropical cyclones adding to human stress

- West Bengal's South 24 Parganas, majority of which consists of the Sundarbans, is the district most frequently affected by cyclones: IMD
- Between 1961 & 2020, 13 cyclones have ravaged the region, 70 percent of which were severe
- Main source of income is agriculture & fishery, both of which are severely affected by repeated cyclones
- Those who don't own land, either work as daily wage labourers in the district or migrate
- As per latest NCRB data, thousands of girls from WB go missing. A third of them are from the Sundarbans

SUNDARBANS

"Every single family member was in search of work. So when a woman who claimed to be from our village offered us work in Delhi at a government servant's house, we were so happy": 15 year-old trafficking survivor

"We have always survived on government ration. After Amphan and Yaas, we had to live at a nearby ashram because we had no home left. So when we got a chance to work in Delhi, we jumped at it. We never thought we would be sold for sex work. We just wanted to bring in some money": Two sisters, both are trafficking survivors

"Traffickers go from house to house, tempting the girl and her family with dubious offers of work. I have seen and stopped several such cases after Aamphan and Yaas": 23 year old trafficking survivor & NGO volunteer

Trafficking network India

This is the map of Indian showing the trafficking network with source areas and destination points. This trafficking network was mapped by NHRC in 2002.

If we overlay this map with the climate affected area map, we will see that many of the source areas are climate prone zones like West Bengal and Maharashtra where we travelled to.