

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

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This issue highlights the potential connections of natural disasters with the subsequent exploitation of vulnerable populations by human traffickers.

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## Links Between a Damaged Environment and Modern Day Slavery

*"Without a doubt, each time our country battles through an environmental disaster, we see a subsequent rise in cases of slavery and human trafficking. When we talk about the link between climate change and modern slavery, what we're really talking about is poverty. Disconnected families, hungry children, and displaced peoples ... we know these factors make people more vulnerable to trafficking and we're seeing with our own eyes and through the scope of history how climate change gives rise to these factors."* Arifur Rahman, CEO of a non-profit social development organization in Bangladesh.

*"Peer-reviewed research continues to show that climate change underlies poverty and that poverty drives human trafficking. If we want to get at the root of slavery, it seems we're neglecting one of its deepest layers."* Dr. Guy McPherson, professor emeritus of natural resources, ecology and evolutionary biology at the Univ. of AZ.

## Vulnerability of Women During Natural Disasters

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) put out a report on climate change and its effect on women and children. According to Achim Steiner, the executive director of UNEP, *"Women play a much stronger role than men in the management of ecosystem services and food security."* Hence, sustainable adaptation must focus on gender and the role of women if it is to become successful. Women represent a primary resource for adaptation through their experience, responsibilities, and strength. Women are often in the frontline in respect to the impacts of a changing climate.



Women cont. on pg. 3



## Awareness

### Migration Patterns Predict Human Trafficking Patterns

Migrant networks play an important role in the migration decisions of low-skilled individuals because these networks reduce informational costs on migration. Therefore, the existing migrant networks of a specific source country may induce further migration from that country, particularly by individuals with low skills who may not be able to pursue costly forms of migration. Migrant networks have positive effects on reducing inequality in source countries by providing employment opportunities for the low-skilled. However, the network effects on the migration of the low-skilled may also have an undesirable effect of pulling human trafficking into destination countries by inducing low-skilled migration, to which most victims of human trafficking belong.

Generally speaking, migrant networks induce further migration because existing migrants can provide information and assistance for new comers, helping them to find a job and settle into the destination country, and therefore the networks may reduce human smuggling or other illegal migration. However, at the same time, low-skilled migrants are susceptible to several problems associated with human trafficking.

Firstly, they are more likely to be deceived regarding migration options and working conditions in the destination country. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), most victims of human trafficking are initially migrants who end up being trafficked on the way to the destination by coercion, fraud, deception or other similar means. Furthermore, established migrant networks may not always function as an information and assistance provider. Instead some existing migrants may use inflows of low-skilled migration as an opportunity to make profits by exploiting the newcomers. In fact, traffickers are known to target their own nationals. Further, some victims are trafficked by their own relatives and acquaintances, who have already migrated to a destination country.

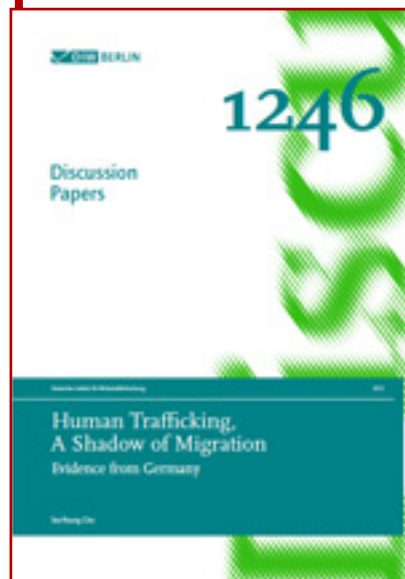
Secondly, low-skilled migrants are more likely to have difficulties in finding a job with decent payment and conditions in the destination country. Consequently, in order to ensure their livelihoods, migrants may take risky employment options that increase the probability of them being trafficked. Such situations are particularly likely to occur, if low-skilled migrants are motivated to migrate by the presence of migrant networks in the destination country but the networks do not actually provide specific and persistent help for individual migrants.

This argument leads to a prediction that established migrant networks – consisting of mostly legal migrants – can be a pull factor of illegal and exploitative migration leading to human trafficking.

In her 2012 study, *“Human Trafficking, A Shadow of Migration: Evidence from Germany”*, Seo-Young Cho tests the above hypothesis focusing on Germany – one of the major destinations countries of trafficking victims. There was a methodological advantage in using Germany for the analysis: data availability. Germany has published detailed data on human trafficking inflows from vari-

ous source countries worldwide every year since 1999. Because the data was collected by a single government, selection biases were reduced and the identical definition of human trafficking was applied, increasing the cross-time comparability of the data. On the other hand, the findings may be Germany-specific and thus not always applicable to other countries. However, the main findings of the study can provide implications for countries sharing economic, institutional, cultural and geographical similarities with Germany – particularly western European and developed countries.

In Germany, the patterns of migration and human trafficking shared similar features. The majority of victims of human trafficking came from middle-income countries rather than low-income countries. Given that poverty and low income is an important push factor of human trafficking the dominant presence of middle-income countries among victims appeared puzzling. The main findings showed: i) migrant networks, proxied with migrant stocks of a specific source country, increase human trafficking inflows, measured by the numbers of victims and perpetrators, from that respective country; and ii) the positive network effect on human trafficking decreases as income level increases. The first finding suggests two possible





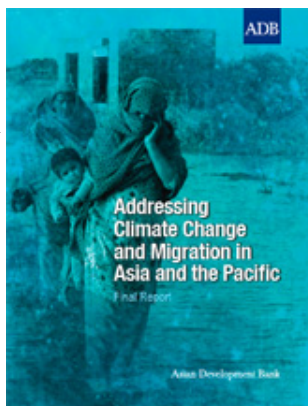
## Awareness

### Mass Migrations in the Asian Pacific

Over 42 million people in the Asia-Pacific region were displaced by environmental disasters between 2010-2012 and a report warned that these nations are set to be hit with a surge of climate change-caused mass migrations and must act quickly to avoid future humanitarian crises.

The report, “*Addressing Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific*” by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), highlights “environmental hot spots” in the region at particular risk of disasters such as flooding and typhoons. While some migrations will occur within countries, the report expects many migrations to cross national lines and recommends greater international cooperation for dealing with the crises.

The ADB report concludes uncertainties, such as the number of potential migrants, should not be an excuse for inaction. Extreme environmental events already displace millions of people each year in Asia and the Pacific. Many of these become migrants. Their numbers will grow, and the patterns of their migration will evolve over time, particularly as slow-onset environmental change, such as drought and sea-level rise, registers its impact on human settlements. Unfortunately, international cooperation to address the cross-border aspects of such migration remains inadequate to the task at hand and the challenges yet to emerge. Thus, it is urgent to address this issue proactively through policy, projects and financing at all levels of government. Failure to give serious, timely attention to the issues involved will result in otherwise avoidable humanitarian crises. (<http://www.adb.org/publications/addressing-climate-change-and-migration-asia-and-pacific>)



### Women *cont. from pg. 1*

Globally the world is seeing increasingly frequent droughts and floods, which are having economic but also profound social consequences. The women and people of Asia are currently at greatest risk with over 100 million people affected in this region annually.

Patterns of development and settlements put the poor and the vulnerable at increased risk with many forced to settle on the only land available at the time — land that all too often is prone to flooding and mudslides. Thus women are disproportionately likely to lose their lives in such events.

During disasters, such as drought or floods, women are also more vulnerable to organized criminal traffickers as a result of communities being scattered and protective patterns in families and society disrupted: a point underlined by INTERPOL and non-governmental organizations in this report and a pattern of exploitation known from armed conflicts and other disasters.

More than 1.3 billion people live in the watersheds of Asia’s mountain ranges.

With more than half of South Asia’s cereal production taking place downstream from the Hindu Kush Himalaya, the impacts on food security will become ever more important with increasing climate change. Here, adaptation will become crucial.

#### SUMMARY

Adaptation, vulnerability and resilience of people to climate change depend upon a range of conditions. These vary from their degree of exposure and dependency upon weather patterns for livelihoods and food security, to varying capacities in adaptation, which are influenced by gender, social status, economic poverty, power, access, and control and ownership over resources in the household, community and society. Mountain peoples are especially vulnerable since climate impacts and changes are predominantly acute in mountainous regions. This is particularly true in the Andes, Africa and Asia. A key challenge in responding to climate change is the increasing number of events of too much and too little water.

From 1999–2008, floods affected almost one billion people in Asia. The corresponding figures were about four million in Europe, 28 million in the Americas and 22 million in Africa. For instance, the 2010 flood in Pakistan affected more individuals than the combined impacts of the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), the Kashmir Earthquake (2005) and the Haiti Earthquake (2010). Flash floods in the Himalayas are estimated to cause the loss of at least 5,000 lives every year.

Women in the South are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of disasters due to skewed power relations and inequitable cultural and social norms. At the same time, women are essential for developing sustainable adaptation options due to their knowledge, multiple and simultaneous responsibilities and as well as roles in productive areas. These include all sectors from agriculture, rangelands, biodiversity and forests, to households, income-generation, livelihoods and other sociocultural and political-economic

Women *cont. pg. 4*



## Awareness

### Women *cont. from pg. 3*

institutions and relations.

Worldwide, women are an estimated 43% of the work force in agriculture. In Asia and Africa, this proportion is higher, often above 50%, especially in mountain regions. Hence, women play a key role in adaptation efforts, environmental sustainability and food security as the climate changes.

However, several dynamics make adaptation more difficult for some women due to a lack of access to formal education, economic poverty, discrimination in food distribution, food insecurity, limited access to resources, exclusion from policy and decision-making institutions and processes and other forms of social marginalization. These dynamics put women at a distinct disadvantage, and few programs include or focus on them for adaptation.

Women generally have far less access to and control over the resources they depend upon. Nor do they have opportunities for direct governance and effective influence in politics from the household to community, national, regional and international levels. In some contexts, women are often subject to gender-based violence, harassment and psychological violence within the household. Some studies suggest that 95% of women and girls surveyed reported first-hand knowledge of violence with 77% by family members. Such situations affect women in negative ways, and further impede women's ability to adapt to extreme events and changes in their environment.

During extreme events such as drought, floods and other climate-related disasters, women face ad-

ditional risks, due in large part to gender inequities that result in women bearing the disproportional brunt of disaster impacts. Moreover, women are often discouraged from learning coping strategies and lifesaving skills, such as how to climb trees or swim. Both factors put them at a disadvantage when floods hit. Often women are not permitted to evacuate their homes without consent from their husbands or elder men in their families or communities.

Gendered cultural codes of dress may inhibit their mobility during crises, resulting in higher disproportionate mortality during many disasters. During such events, women and girls are frequently subjected to intimidation, gender-based violence, sexual harassment and rape. Women and girls also face an even more serious risk with the onslaught of climate-induced disasters: organized trafficking.

Organized trafficking of women is emerging as a potentially serious risk associated with environmental problems. Climate-related disasters such as flood, drought or famine may disrupt local security safety nets, leaving women and children unaccompanied, separated or orphaned due to the erosion and breakdown of normal social controls and protections. This makes them especially vulnerable to the exploitation of human trafficking.

After a natural disaster, economic and security challenges may lead women who are in charge of households and livelihoods to seek temporary relief, shelter and amenable living conditions in acutely insecure contexts, making them potential targets for exploitation and human trafficking.

Disasters that lead to increased physical, social and economic insecurity, and affect women and children,

are among some of the push factors that give rise to trafficking. Therefore, insecure disaster regions must be considered as potential areas for such harmful activities.

In Nepal, an estimated 12,000–20,000 women and children – including some boys – are abducted or deceived into forced labor (ca. 30%) and brothel-based sex work (ca. 70%) every year.

Economically impoverished mountain families are particularly vulnerable to being deceived with false offers of remunerated work and education for girls, ensnaring them into a well-established system of abuse, forced labor and sex work. Some of this trafficking occurs within national and regional spheres, but foreign destinations also include India, China and the Middle East. The negative impacts from disasters may be exacerbated by the probability of contracting HIV/AIDS. For instance, approximately 12–54% of women, boys and children trafficked under normal circumstances contract HIV/AIDS. They are aged typically from 7 years of age to 22 years and averaging 16 years.

Trafficked children are at particular high risk and some surveys suggest that at least 15% of them experience other forms of violence on a weekly basis in addition to sexual abuse.

Great uncertainty exists regarding the possible elevated levels of exploitation during political conflicts or climate-related disasters. Estimates based on emerging data from anti-trafficking organizations such as Maiti Nepal suggest that trafficking may have increased from an estimated 3,000–5,000 in the 1990's to current levels of 12,000–20,000 per year.

The data also suggests that trafficking may have increased by 20-30% during disasters. Indeed, INTERPOL has also warned that disasters or conflict may increase the exposure of women to trafficking as families are disrupted and livelihoods are lost. Hence,

Women *cont. pg. 5*



## Advocacy

### 5 UNEP Recommendations for Climate Change Adaptation

1. Design adaptation programs in food security, agriculture, rangelands and managing natural resources in ways that are sensitive and responsive to the different and multiple roles women and men play in various spheres of natural resource management, as well as their households, communities, livelihoods, and customary and statutory institutions and relations (local, national, regional and international). The programs should have a strong focus on women and gender equity to ensure successful implementation with adequate resources allocated to translate this vision into tangible action.
2. Improve women's livelihoods and strengthen adaptation by ensuring women's access, control and ownership of resources (land, livestock, property and income opportunities), and access to development resources such as credit, information, training and outreach, and culturally appropriate and laborsaving technology.
3. Invest in gender sensitive and culturally appropriate laborsaving green technologies, water harvesting, storage, irrigation systems, and substitutes for fuel wood and use (including mechanisms for maintenance). Design and implement these investments in collaboration with women to reflect their needs and concerns. Ensure that physical, cultural, social, economic and practical elements are compatible with their livelihood practices within diverse ecosystems supporting agriculture, pastures, forests, watersheds,

- households and communities.
4. Conduct a systematic analysis of climate change from environmental, development and gender equity perspectives to fill urgent gaps in research, knowledge and data. Disaggregate data by gender and other domains of difference, such as class, age, marital status, lifecycle positioning, ethnicity, caste, profession, and ensure they are understood within the context of power relations emanating from these differences. Research should focus on the differentiated experiences of women and men in terms of adaptation, impacts, responses, vulnerabilities and opportunities provided by climate and other simultaneous drivers of change. However, there should be a distinct focus on women's needs, priorities, constraints, impacts, local strategies, knowledge and meaningful participation that defines their local responses in the context of often unequal gender relations.
  5. Ensure an enabling environment for the increased participation and substantive inputs of women in decision and policy-making in local, community, national, regional and international institutions, processes, negotiations and policies related to climate change issues. Adaptation programs should have long-term goals of increasing gender and social security needs, safety nets and active participation of women in governance at every level through participatory policies and targets, and capacity strengthening, development of leadership and technical skills, and clear recognition and support of their rights, agency and knowledge.
  6. Ensure that education, training, awareness raising and information programs address the vulnerability and risk of gender-based violence, sexual abuse and trafficking in the context of mountain regions, but

especially in high-risk flood, drought and disaster prone areas.

7. Collaborate among and between national police authorities, customs authorities, anti-trafficking NGO's, research institutions and INTERPOL to detect, intercept and combat national and trans-boundary trafficking of women and children.

(<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2661&ArticleID=8975>)

### Migration *cont. from pg. 2*

mechanisms of channeling network effects on human trafficking: pulling low-skilled migration in source countries by lowering informational costs on migration (supply side) and increasing demand for sex services provided by victims in migrant society in the destination country (demand side). The second finding indicates that the positive network effect is generated on the supply side in source countries, as people in lower income source countries are more susceptible to lower migration costs and therefore more likely to be moved by migrant networks in the destination country. ([http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2152479](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2152479))

### Women *cont. from pg. 4*

targeted efforts to reduce exposure of women and children to exploitation and abuse must be supported and implemented due to increasingly extreme climatic events and rising populations and intensifying land use change, pressures and grabbing.

Women experience acute and differential impacts given the accelerated pace of climate change. These impacts exacerbate existing inequities in socially-constructed gender roles, responsibilities, perceptions and skewed power relations that tend to disadvantage women. However, women also provide vital hope for successful adaptation through their critical knowledge, experience, agency and unique role in agriculture, food se-

Women *cont. pg. 7*

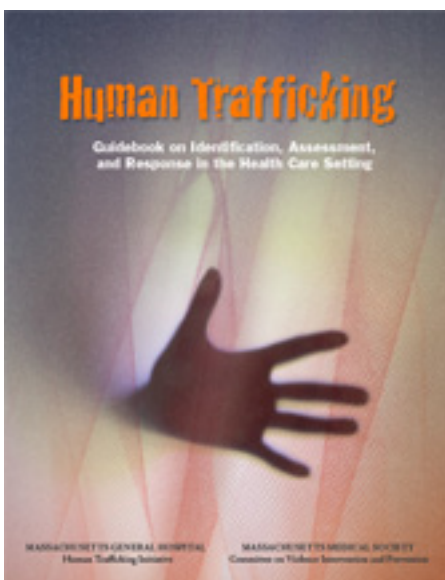


## Advocacy

### Human Trafficking: Healthcare Guidebook

The Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Human Trafficking Initiative and the Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Violence Intervention and Prevention worked in partnership to create the first edition of *“Human Trafficking: Guidebook on Identification, Assessment, and Response in the Health Care Setting.”*

Human trafficking is both a criminal act and a human rights violation that affects individuals and communities worldwide, including in urban, suburban, and rural areas of Massachusetts. As a health care issue, trafficking affects people of every age, gender, race, nationality, class, sexual orientation, religion, disability, and immigration status. The physical and psychological trauma caused by human trafficking is undeniably enormous; its impact on the health of our patients, communities, and society at-large is only just



beginning to be determined.

The Guidebook provides an overview of trafficking, describes its clinical manifestations, and offers guidance for health care professionals about identification, assessment, care, and follow-up. The 44-page publication also includes descriptions and discussions of labor, sex, and organ trafficking, including risk factors and epidemiology; characteristics of victims and perpetrators; health effects of trafficking; reporting to and communicating with law enforcement and child protection authorities; and legal and immigration issues. A list of resources, both Massachusetts-specific and national, is also included.

The objectives of this guidebook are to educate health care providers about human trafficking, and to provide resources for patient referral and ongoing professional education. Achieving these objectives supports the larger goals of advancing both health care scholarship in the field, as well as the health care system’s evolving contribution to global efforts directed at intervention, and ultimately, prevention of human trafficking.

The guidebook may be downloaded at:

<http://www.massmed.org/humantrafficking>

or <http://www.massgeneral.org/emergencymedicineglobalhealth/initiatives/Human-Trafficking-Initiative.aspx>

### Protocol to Help Trafficked Victims in Hospital Settings

A patient who struggles to provide a home address. One accompanied by someone else who seems hesitant to let the patient answer questions and interrupts to provide a medical history for the patient. A patient with a distinctive tattoo, or a severe injury he or she attempted to manage alone before seeking medical care. These are just some of the signs that could indicate a patient is a victim of human trafficking.

Wichita, Kan.-based Via Christi Health, an Ascension health care system in Kansas and Oklahoma, has developed a four-step protocol to help clinicians identify victims of human trafficking as well as ways to assist them. Via Christi’s protocol is tailored specifically for human trafficking victims in a health care setting.

Via Christi employees say the system already has been able to assist seven victims of human trafficking since early 2014 when it first began training clinicians on how to identify and help potential victims. Via Christi gives its employees the protocol on a pocket card, has it posted on its website and has created a training program available electronically related to the protocol. In 2014, more than 125 Via Christi employees, including senior leaders, nurses, emergency department physicians and physician assistants attended training to learn the protocol. Members of the human trafficking awareness group are organizing training for additional employees, refining the language of the protocol and preparing it to make it available to other systems.

Members of the Via Christi human trafficking awareness committee will describe the protocol during an Innovation Forum at the Catholic Health Assembly, June 7-9, in Washington, D.C.

Learn more: <https://www.viachristi.org/about-via-christi/mission/human-trafficking-initiative>



## Action

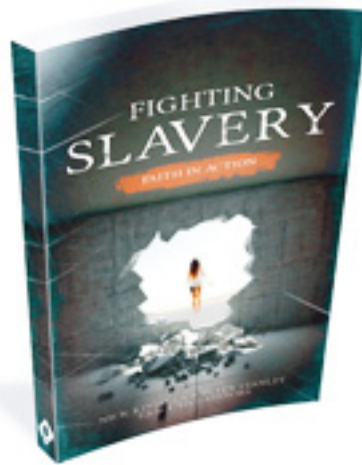
### Women *cont. from pg. 5*

curity, livelihoods, income generation, management of households and natural resources in diverse eco-systems, and participation in a variety of socio-cultural, political-economic and environmental institutions.

Strategically placed for both dealing with impacts and adaptation, mountain women are at the front line in sustaining their environments. Learning from them and investing in them will provide a crucial steppingstone and catalyst for future adaptation efforts far beyond mountain regions.

Imagine what is possible in terms of adaptation to climate change if women are given due recognition and are included in international development efforts and policy processes as strategically important actors in their own right in development. Although women are among the frontline managers of the environment, often lacking equitable access to resources and disproportionately bear the risk of climate change, they simultaneously offer the greatest hope for the future.

(<http://www.grida.no/files/publications/women-and-climate-change/genderraflyer.pdf>)



### 'Fighting Slavery'

A new book published in April 2015 highlights the role that faith is playing in combatting human trafficking.

Over two hundred years ago William Wilberforce felt compelled to fight the evil of slavery that blighted society. Today, people with the same passion and desire for justice are working to fight modern slavery with modern tools and methods.

With over thirty years combined experience in fighting Human Trafficking, Nick Kinsella and Peter Stanley, the executive editors of this book, find themselves inspired by many individuals who are seeking to combat this evil.

Twenty-two modern day slavery fighters tell their stories and explain how putting faith into action can bring about change and save lives. Many are unsung heroes, caring little for public acknowledgement, but are motivated by their Christian faith and compassion to respond with action. The battle continues, but this book shows how it is being won in so many ways.

### April 18th Conference:



### "Slavery No More: Breaking the Supply Chains of Human Slavery"

April 18, 2015 (8:45 am to 1:30 pm) Manhattan College, Great Room, Fifth Floor, Raymond W. Kelly '63 Student Commons, 4513 Manhattan College Pkwy, Riverdale, NY. RSVP at [www.manhattan.edu/antislavery](http://www.manhattan.edu/antislavery) by 8 April. Suggested donations: Students \$5, all others \$25.

Sponsored by NY Coalition of Religious Congregations (NY-CRC-STOP), LifeWay Network, Inc., and Manhattan College organizations.

### Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

#### **Human Trafficking Indicators, 2000-2011: A New Dataset**

<http://thedata.harvard.edu/dvn/dv/hti>

#### **Climate Change and Human Trafficking: A Deadly Combination**

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/02/climate-change-and-human-trafficking-a-deadly-combination/>

**Stop Trafficking!** is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*

[www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm](http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm)

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Editing and Layout: *Jean Schafer, SDS*