

Panel: Impact of Climate Change on Human Capital and Security

Climate change impedes human development through death, dislocation, food insecurity, setbacks in access to and utilisation of socioeconomic capabilities like health and education. It has serious implications for demographic shifts in population growth, migration and displacement. In case of a climate-related disaster livelihood opportunities are washed away, leading to further deprivation, unemployment, spread of disease and crumbling infrastructure which could all eventually lead to conflicts. Natural disasters, especially, cause havoc for countries with low endowments in human development.

Of alarming concern is the fact that the impacts of climate change are unequally distributed among regions, countries and even within countries. Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) are more vulnerable to climate change impacts due to the heavy reliance of their inhabitants on natural resources like agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods (IISDnet n.d.). Majority of Africa, Central and South Asia lie in this region. For example, more than 67% of Pakistan lies amid the arid and semi-arid zone (Chaudhry and Rasul 2004). The impact of climate change on the population residing in these fragile ecological regions is, therefore, inevitable.

This panel will reflect how to develop a population which is sufficiently resilient to stand strong in times of climatic hazards. Some of the questions this panel aims to explore are:

- In what ways does climate change impact the dynamics of human capital, especially productive capabilities?
- How does climate change exacerbate changing demography through livelihood alterations, migration and urbanisation?
- What is the rationale behind devoting financial resources for adaptation to climate change?
- What is the impact of climate change on marginalised groups and how these groups can be made resilient?
- What kind of threats does climate-induced migration pose for peace and security at the global, national and sub-national levels? How can migration be used as an adaptive strategy to cope with climate change?

References

Chaudhry, Q.Z. and Rasul, G. 2004, 'Agro-Climatic Classification of Pakistan', *Science Vision*, vol. 9, no. 1-2, pp.59-66.

IISDnet n.d. 'Community Adaptation and Sustainable Livelihoods (CASAL): Arid and Semi-arid Lands: Characteristics and Importance', International Institute for Sustainable Development, <<http://www.iisd.org/casl/asalprojectdetails/asal.htm>>, accessed 18 November 2014.

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