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Institute for the Advanced Study  
of Sustainability



## **Education in Climate Emergency: Ensuring Learning Continuity in Planned, Sudden and Massive Displacements**

### **Session Note**

UNESCO APREMC Side Event

Organised by United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

5 June 2022 (18:00–19:00 ICT)

### **Background**

The Asia-Pacific region is home to nearly 70% of the climate-induced displacement in the world in 2020 (IDMC, 2022), due to its geographical location, condensed populations, and rapid urbanisation. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 when governments prioritised containing the virus spread, the number of severely affected people by climate disasters in the region reached 57 million (IFRC, 2021).

Climate change generates multiple scenarios of displacement, i.e., sudden displacement, planned relocation, trapped populations, and cross-border refugees. Unlike war or conflict induced refugees, data show that most of the climate induced displacement occurs internally within borders, rendering responsibilities to the state. The education sector is not an exception and there is an urgent need to integrate measures to ensure the right to education of the climate displaced children, youth, and adults into national climate change mitigation plans.

Measures to mitigate potential learning disruption and approaches to recovery are immensely context specific. Therefore, it is of paramount importance for the governments to contextualise climate risks, predict different scenarios, and design national policy frameworks and measures to ensure learning continuity of the displaced children, youth, and adults. This includes not only school education but also lifelong learning opportunities for reskilling and upskilling to facilitate social integration of displaced persons in a new place and enable recovery.

This session introduces key findings from joint research by UNESCO and UNU on climate change displacement and the right to education conducted in 2021-2022 with a special focus on

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Tuvalu, and Viet Nam. Beyond the Asia-Pacific region, the session will also provide a global overview of climate displacement issues related to the right to education from UNESCO HQ. An open dialogue at the end of the session is expected to further develop the plan for the next phase of the project.

### Objectives

- To raise awareness on the increasing risks of climate displacement and the ensuing potential learning disruption.
- To share key findings from the recent joint research by UNU and UNESCO on climate displacement and the right to education.
- To establish a policy dialogue on the integration of climate displaced persons' right to education into national climate change mitigation plans and measures.

### Session flow

Time (ICT)	Topic	Speaker
18:00–18:05	<b>Introduction</b>	Faryal Khan (UNESCO Bangkok)
18:05–18:20	<b>Presentation 1: Regional Trends</b> Key findings from the Asia Pacific regional study on climate displacement and the right to education	Jonghwi Park (UNU-IAS)
18:20–18:30	<b>Presentation 2: SIDS perspective</b>	Philip Vaughter (UNU-IAS)
18:30–18:40	<b>Presentation 3: Global Overview</b> Insights and outcomes from the UNESCO Global Webinar on climate change displacement and the right to education	Gwang-Chol Chang (UNESCO HQ)
18:40–18:55	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
18:55–19:00	<b>Closing</b>	Yume Yamaguchi (Director, UNU-IAS)

### Target audience

- Government officials, international organisations

### Contact

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- Faryal Khan (Programme Specialist, UNESCO Bangkok, [f.khan@unesco.org](mailto:f.khan@unesco.org))

Sources:

<https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>

<https://www.ifrc.org/press-release/over-57-million-affected-climate-disasters-across-asia-pacific-2021>