

Case study: Climate-resilient entrepreneurship as a solution to non-economic losses related to human mobility

Category:	Engagement of those that are at the forefront of climate change, such as women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities and persons with disabilities
Submitted by:	SLYCAN Trust
Source/cause of L&D:	Slow-onset climate impacts (heat, water scarcity, drought, changing rainfall patterns, soil erosion, agricultural pests and diseases) causing or contributing to human mobility
Regional coverage:	Sri Lanka/Global
Hyperlink(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://www.slycantrust.org/ethicalx-global ▪ https://www.slycantrust.org/knowledge-resources/research-report-strengthening-sri-lankas-ecosystem-for-climate-and-disaster-risk-management-and-finance ▪ https://www.slycantrust.org/knowledge-resources/climate-change-and-human-mobility-in-sri-lanka-climate-impacts-on-labour-migration ▪ https://www.slycantrust.org/knowledge-resources/climate-displacement-and-internal-migration-in-sri-lanka
Reference(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SLYCAN Trust (2023). Research Report: Strengthening Sri Lanka's Ecosystem for Climate and Disaster Risk Management and Finance. Colombo, Sri Lanka: SLYCAN Trust. ▪ SLYCAN Trust (2022). Policy Brief: Climate Change and Human Mobility in Sri Lanka: Climate Impacts on Labour Migration. Colombo, Sri Lanka: SLYCAN Trust. ▪ SLYCAN Trust (2019). Case Study: Climate Displacement and Internal Migration in Sri Lanka. Colombo, Sri Lanka: SLYCAN Trust.

1. Overview

Climate change impacts and long-term environmental processes related to climate change play an increasing role for human mobility, including temporary and permanent migration or relocation. In Sri Lanka, for example, case studies have identified strong links between slow-onset impacts of climate change (such as heat, water scarcity, drought, changing rainfall patterns, soil erosion, or agricultural pests and diseases) and human mobility, including cyclical rural-urban migration out of farming communities, international labour migration, or planned relocation out of high-risk landslide areas. Human mobility often affects already vulnerable communities and groups, including women and youth, and can connect to a range of non-economic losses, including sense of place, social cohesion, physical and psychosocial health, cultural heritage, or loss of ecosystem services.

The EthicalX: Climate & Innovation Hubs established by SLYCAN Trust aim to support ethical, sustainable, climate-friendly, and resilient entrepreneurship on the local and national level, including in the context of human mobility. By providing capacity-building, technical support and expertise, mentoring, and support for raising seed funding, EthicalX works towards preventing losses and providing entrepreneurs (including outbound migrants, returning migrants, or relocated persons),

especially women and youth, with the opportunity to integrate into the social fabric of their communities, preserve their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, and engage in climate-resilient livelihoods that sustainably use natural resources and ecosystems, protecting them from future cycles of mobility and loss.

2. Arrangements and enabling factors

Entrepreneurship support for persons and communities affected by human mobility should be connected to local and national planning and policy environments, as it spans sectors such as health, education and training, risk management, or environment. Technical expertise and access to sufficient resources is required for setting up local-level Climate & Innovation Hubs, which are designed and created based on inputs received from climate-affected communities and migrants, who often named the need for skill development and building of literacies as a key prerequisite to diversify their livelihoods and become more resilient.

The EthicalX entrepreneurship programme is being implemented in multiple countries and is scalable based on in-depth mapping, stakeholder engagement, and adjustments to the local context, available resources, cultural heritage, and identified needs and priorities.

3. Lessons learned and future support

The establishment of Climate & Innovation Hubs to address and prevent both economic and non-economic losses related to climate change has seen steady growth and expansion. Based on different national and local contexts, the Hubs have adapted and adjusted, overcoming challenges related to macroeconomic circumstances, lack of available or aggregated data, and the need to build capacities of stakeholders on climate-induced loss and damage, risk management, and sustainable and resilient entrepreneurship.