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**7 mins reading 1157 words**

Intro and importance:

Good morning Mr Antonio Vitorino, distinguished Speakers, guests

Thank you for the invitation to speak at this much needed international dialogue on migration.

Forced migration is an overwhelming reality of today -

its impact and possible scale - a frightening thought for our coming tomorrow.

Ideas, policies, course of actions, are gaining momentum - but truth is, nothing is decreasing its volume or dangers or pain of each occurance.

“ all washed away infront of my eyes, my home my land”

“ salinity has taken over, no longer can I grow crops or drink the water of my land”

“I used to have a happy home, wife, children, food and hope. Today I pull a rickshaw, live in the slums, alone with no hope left in me.”

“ my child wrenched from my arms was thrown into the fire”

All quoted to me as a witness, by affected migrants.

Migration past present

Migration due to predictable climate issues has been happening historically. But what a difference when unpredictability of unimaginable magnitude happens along with overwhelming increase in demography! For then…. no longer does it allow migrants to plan and secure physical space for restarting their life elsewhere.

What happens when refugees do not migrate in 10s but in millions?

**TRYING** to take steps for prevention is no longer acceptable –

actions need to be spoken of, as already taken.

Condition of migrants

Climate migrants are a global phenomenon, environmental degradation has led to people being trapped in their vulnerability.

In 2019, 24.9 million new IDPs across 140 countries were linked to sudden-onset distasters. Conflict, violence led to an additional 8.5 million IDPs. Data for slow migration like sea level rise, or river erosion triggered displacement, are hard to come by.. With covid-19, more than ever before people are moving to different places in search of livelihood.

The world’s biggest challenges are accelerating –

climate crises and migration, poverty and migration, migration from fear of terrorism, political migrants, pollution of air, water, migration due to demography, lack of space and global health crisis!

All defying borders, yet raising new and still higher barriers - trapped!

So going through traditional modalilities of negotiations, and, for, about to be made policies, its already late, because by the time its decided and implemented, new challenges have already arisen.

How do you perceive to be able to manage the fact, that climate migrants are going to multiply atleast 3 to 4 times in coming years and will sooner or later break borders?

BD and Friendship

Internal displacement, unlike “inter-country migration”, is mostly silent and invisible.

Bd a country of 170m people on 148K sqkm land with 52% often under water, 7th on the Global Climate Risk Index,

with 1 m rise 1/5 country under water – thus becoming, foremost in number of people to be impacted.

**Friendship** over 20 years has been working successfully finding adaptation solutions to access **basic human** **needs** for migrant communities.

Health, through floating hospitals and services given by trained community medics; prevention, easing suffering to curing;

being by their sides, preparing them through our community initiated disaster risk programs, giving access to knowledge and funds through our climate resilience economic actions;

training, empowering microsocial entrepreneurs so they always carry their knowledge, training and crafts;

farmers, fishermen, para solar technicians, paravets, paralegals, medic aides, teachers weavers,

then strenthening them with linkages to government services and legal help, ensuring deep understanding of their own worth and their own ecosystem, to continue in enabling to give services, earn and restart their lives, within their moving communities.

**Ensuring** that we are nurturing Dignity and self respect is the **single most important factor for enabling this distressed pained community** to return back to the mainstream.

**FILM:**

Solutions

For 20 years I have been a witness and a problem solving actor in this changing environment - dealing with IDPs, and today the Rohingyas.

Serving more than 6.5 m people annually. **Realising** everything is not totally unsolvable.

“I have received my share of the rice my neighbours still need, pls give it to them”

“I have savings with Friendship, and the school has now shifted to this very island, I don’t need more”,

 “I know now that drinking saline water had caused me 3 miscarriages, but having a clinic at my door and fresh drinking water from the water plants, today I have a beautiful healty baby”

Hope happens. But actions are needed **for it to happen**.

Solutions in Policies SDGs

Each migration, each **reason** for migration, each migrating community in **each** country has unique issues and problems. It needs to be **micro and macro** managed! There is no panacea for everyone everywhere. We need to accept this. To prevent forced migration is **the** longterm solution, yet seeing the daily migrants we know **simultaneously** people. need. protection. Now!

With each migration, people fall below poverty line shifting the economy curve downwards, it has a **direct impact** on any country which wants to reach the SDG goals.

**Governments** needs to identify climate vulnerable migrant communities. Treat them as valueable members of their own society, country.

Ensuring that these policies address directly and practically the reality of the migrations, **and** is addressed with solidarity, compassion and empathy. Policies which are credible, possible and acceptable by the population and communities,.

**If IOM** extends their help for doing this, in the way acceptable by the governments, helping in providing dialogue for collaboration with policy makers and civil society, sharing experiences in finding internal solutions, forced migration or atleast impact of forced migration may lessen.

**Safety** in migration needs to be ensured so that people for whom this is happening donot see it as a failure, a fear or a tragedy but tool to restart their life.

**Preparedness is key – preparedness and foresight for all of us stakeholders involved.**

Most migratory population spiral economically downwards due to total lack of needed economic and life skills and lack of strength due to no access to basic services.

Good health, education, skill training, access to finance, understanding of legal processes and knowledge of where to go to get support, which very often the governments provide, **are key to a migrants ability** for restarting their lives sometimes even 2 or 3 times a year.

**Minimising scales of many natural disasters** by simply caring and improving management - repairing embankment leaks, shelters, forseeing and giving timely warnings for threatening famines, cyclones, floods, along with preparedness.

20 yrs old Molida a trained Friendship flood Volunteer from char Goynar Potol rescued 45 women and children by building a banana stalk raft.

With all the finances and good intentions, how is it **not possible** to address this issue more impactfully?

Its not only about assistance but about imbuing people in a way where massive assistance will not **be** needed. Helping them to become more resilient empowered, being able to restart their lives with opportunity and hope; to have the strength and dignity to make their own decisions.

For all of us here today - this is the Responsibility, acting on this Responsibility is our only option.