

## **Climate Induced Migrations in Times of COVID-19: A Case of South Asian Countries**

Climate-induced migration is not a new phenomenon. The communities, who are displaced due to extreme climatic events (such as storms, cyclones, floods, earthquakes, rising sea level, glacial lake outbursts, etc.) for their survival within or outside their borders are called climate-induced migrants. Owing to climatic change events, a huge number of people are forced to migrate or are displaced each year within the boundaries of climate-hit countries or cross-border (Shabbir and Naeem 2020).

Climate change projections are a global threat, but its damage is perceived to be higher for ecologically and economically fragile countries, which are paying a huge cost in the form of unprecedented events leading to internal or cross-border migration or displacements. Climate-induced migration is itself a big challenge, but particularly after the Coronavirus outbreak, its redressal has become a top priority in regions like South Asia, which is at higher threat to climate extremes (Ibid.).

The panel aims to explore the climate challenge faced by migrants, the role of existing climate change policies in increasing resilience against ongoing climate events, and enhancing adaptation plans for migrants or displaced persons.

### **References**

Shabbir, M. and Naeem K. 2020, 'Apathy towards Climate-Induced Migrants amid COVID-19 Insights from Bangladesh, India & Pakistan', Policy Brief, Islamabad: Sustainable Development Policy Institute, <<https://sdpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/climate-migration-policy-review.pdf>>.

### **Panel Organisers**

Ms Maryam Shabbir, Project Coordinator, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Email: [maryam@sdpi.org](mailto:maryam@sdpi.org)

Ms Khansa Naeem, Project Assistant, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan

Email: [khansa@sdpi.org](mailto:khansa@sdpi.org)