

## About SCF

SEI Asia, with support from the Swedish government (SIDA), launched the Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 (SCF2) programme in 2018 to enhance the current 2030 Agenda efforts in Asia and the Pacific. SCF2 aims to foster regional cooperation and policy dialogue for sustainable development and environmental sustainability, through capacity building, knowledge sharing and increased collaboration.

Human rights and gender equality are central to SCF2, as it champions regional and inter-regional collaboration for transboundary environmental policy development. Learn more about the programme [here](#).

## Theme

Gender and Migration in a Changing Climate

## Specific focus/priority

This call focuses on the interconnections between climate change, migration and gender relations in Asia. We welcome events that highlight how intersecting social inequities shape the causes and impacts of human mobility in the context of climate change and that showcase not only the vulnerabilities that marginalized groups face, but also the transformative potential of migration as an adaptation strategy.

## Rationale

Even if it is impossible to isolate climatic factors from the overlapping and complex socio-political, economic, and demographic motives that together shape migration, climate change is having both direct and indirect impacts on human mobility. When associated with climate change, framings of migration often fluctuate from a “problem to be solved” to a “solution to be managed” (Vigil 2020). Although migration is often seen as a failure to adapt *in situ*, migration and other types of human mobility have long constituted a key livelihood diversification and adaptation strategy to climate change (McLeman and Smit 2006; Melde, Laczko, and Gemenne 2017). When migration is undertaken in a safe, regular and orderly manner, it can bring multiple social and environmental benefits not only for migrants but also for left-behind communities and receiving societies. However, the poorest and powerless often enter migration routes in very vulnerable positions that do not improve the well-being of those who leave or of those who are left behind (Vigil 2019). Despite increasing calls for the integration of gender and social equity considerations, research examining the climate change-migration nexus has often sidestepped gender and/or has underestimated the gendered and social inequity causes, processes, and impacts of migration.

However, gender and social relations are key in shaping the pre-existing vulnerabilities which determine whether migration becomes adaptive or maladaptive.

In this context, we welcome events that highlight not only gender-based vulnerabilities in relation to migration (whether these relate to men, women or other sexual and gender identity groups), but also events that highlight how migration in the context of climate change can redefine power relations and offer opportunities for transformative change. The call also welcomes proposals that address the proposed themes through related SDGs, especially goals 1 (no poverty), 5 (gender equality), 10 (reduced inequalities) and 13 (climate action).

## Regional Strategic Collaboration

The thematic call aims to support a regional event and related process that strengthen efforts towards safe and transformative migration by fostering regional partnerships around the interlinked themes of gender and social equality and climate change adaptation in the Asian context. The event must include a variety of stakeholders, allowing affected communities to share their experiences, concerns and ideas to inform evidence-based programmes and policies addressing the identified issues. A specific and cross-cutting focus should be on the protection and promotion of all human rights across the entire migration cycle. A Human rights focus can complement other perspectives in strengthening efforts towards safe and transformative change. Human rights principles not only emphasize the fundamental importance of equality and non-discrimination, but also requires states to take positive steps to correct inequalities and patterns of discrimination which render women and other groups vulnerable in climate change contexts (CEDAW art 3). The event should aim to influence policies and institutionalised practices; and to enable cross-sector and cross-country collaboration in the fields of migration, climate adaptation and gender equality at the regional or sub-regional scale.

Within this broader theme, areas of specific focus can include, but are not limited to, the following sub-topics:

- **The role of migration in reshaping gender and other social inequalities**
- **Gender Based Violence across the migration cycle**
- **Mobility of people with diverse SOGIESC (Sexual orientation, gender identity expressions and sex characteristics)**
- **Initiatives, practices and tools that contribute to diminish precarity and abuses for women and marginalized groups in the context of climate change and migration**
- **Linkages between climate change, migration, gender and modern slavery**
- **The impacts of COVID-19 on mobility patterns and gender relations within migrant communities**

The event can build on new or ongoing projects and initiatives. While the focus can lie at multiple geographic scales (local, national, regional), the outcomes of the event should aim to inform and feed into frameworks, processes and institutional practices at the regional and international scales (i.e., engaging with regional organizations and processes (i.e., ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labor,

IOM's Regional Consultative Process on Migration) and informing international negotiations such as the COP26 and the Global Compact on Migration).

## Expected results

The event itself should enable collaboration across a wide array of stakeholders in the fields of climate change and migration and gender and social equality understood in a wide sense. Organizers will have to pay particular attention to facilitating the meaningful participation of all groups, especially the most marginalized. Meaningful participation entails that individuals have adequate access to information and are empowered to contribute to decisions that affect them, including the design, implementation and monitoring of the initiative. The outcomes of the event should include new partnerships and efforts towards inclusive and evidence-based policies, aiming for long term positive impacts.

### Theory of change

Outputs	A regional-scale event with multiple stakeholders (can also include preliminary/side events).	A report outlining key messages of the event and next steps for policy influence.	Communication products about the events, in various formats to target diverse groups of stakeholders (i.e. translation in local languages, infographics, podcasts, briefs, blogs etc.)
Outcomes	A regional network of stakeholders bringing diverse expertise to work on the nexus between migration, gender and climate change	Better informed planning processes and decision-making, taking into account lived experiences of vulnerable migrants to achieve gender and social equality	Raised awareness and understanding among decision-makers on the centrality of including gender and human rights considerations into policies, strategies, plans, laws and processes of migration in the context of climate change
Impacts	Event outcomes feed into inclusive local and/or national processes and initiatives to enable safe, regular and orderly migration	Event outcomes inform regional and/or international policy processes related to migration, climate change and/or the achievement of gender and social equality.	Gender equality, social equity and human rights are integrated into new initiatives related to migration in the context of climate change

## Theme-specific criteria

The successful event proposal will meet several of the following criteria:

1. **Provide an inclusive, innovative and safe space for multi-stakeholder engagement:** the format should allow meaningful participation of a diverse array of stakeholders, for example migrants, NGOs and civil society groups, researchers, business sector and policymakers. This requires particular considerations for vulnerable groups (i.e., undocumented migrants and victims of abuse) such as consent forms detailing what their participation entails, who will be present at the event, and measures to mitigate the potential risks of their participation (e.g., possibility to not publicize their names or photos, channels to contact organizers in case of concern or abuse etc.). The event should also be designed in consultation with the target audience to ensure the content and format represents their needs and concerns.
2. **Integrated and context-specific approaches:** the event should address issues of climate change, gender and migration in an integrated manner underpinned by human rights, exploring opportunities to address different SDGs priorities in parallel, bearing in mind the particular and differentiated needs of Asian countries and their policy environment.
3. **Improve access to information and enable leadership capacities of marginalized communities:** the event should contribute to raise awareness about existing mechanisms and solutions to address issues related to migration and gender in the context of climate change. It should also aim to identify ways for affected communities to contribute their experience to inform these existing initiatives or support them in setting up new ones that will address their needs.
4. **Direction for policy influence:** the event should aim to target relevant policy processes and include a pathway towards policy influence (i.e., feeding into a larger regional or global platform for action).

## References

- McLeman, R., and B. Smit. 2006. 'Migration as an Adaptation to Climate Change'. *Climatic Change* 76 (1–2): 31–53. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-005-9000-7>.
- Melde, Susanne, Frank Laczko, and François Gemenne. 2017. 'Making Mobility Work for Adaptation to Environmental Changes: Results from the MECLEP Global Research'. *International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva, Switzerland*.
- Vigil, Sara. 2019. *Geopolitical Ecologies of Environmental Change, Land Grabbing and Migration: Comparative Perspectives from Senegal and Cambodia*. Center for Local Democracy. <https://repub.eur.nl/pub/120765>.
- . 2020. 'Rethinking Migration and (Mal)Adaptation to Climate Change'. 18 December 2020. <https://www.sei.org/perspectives/rethinking-migration-and-maladaptation-to-climate-change/>.