

# An Equitable Response to Climate Change

In order to increase the visibility of climate-induced migration and displacement in the context of climate change and mobility, the Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP) in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organizes a trip of delegates from five regions around the world to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change SB 58 in Bonn](#) and to the [53rd Human Rights Council Session in Geneva](#). The objective is to include perspectives of directly impacted communities and vulnerable populations and identify approaches and resources necessary to address people's rights in just and sustainable ways when it comes to climate change, migration, and displacement. The delegates bring in the results from four previously held regional consultations in the Pacific, South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as well as the Republic of Georgia, conveying emerging advocacy messages and priorities from the regions to multilateral spaces. There are 11 delegates this year to the conference.

## Shakirul Islam



**Shakirul Islam** is a migrant activist and a researcher as well as the founding chairperson of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP), a grassroots migrants' organization in Bangladesh. He has conducted several research pieces on the issues of migration and migrants' rights with the aim of bringing migrants' voices and perspectives into the discourse and undertaking evidence-based advocacy. OKUP works throughout Bangladesh to raise migrants' voices and perspectives at all levels, formulate migrant-friendly laws, policies, need-based programs, and to ensure rights, justice, and dignity for all migrant workers, families, and communities.

### How is displacement and migration happening in your community?

The extreme climate calamities have largely increased in Bangladesh in the last two decades and put 40 million people in the coastal areas in Bangladesh at risk.

The frequent cyclones, floods, and tidal surges are more obvious, leading to the partial or complete loss of assets and homesteads while the abnormal rain patterns and the extreme salinization have become a more persistent threat—leaving the people in a continuous struggle for their lives, livelihoods and wellbeing.

The recurrence of climate calamities have limited the scope of local adaptation. Sometimes rebuilt houses are just destroyed even before paying back their loans, sometimes excessive costs for health treatment in a changing climate put many people into a debt cycle, sometimes families arrange marriages of their young girls just to reduce burdens.

This ever-stressing situation compels many people to leave their places to find livelihoods to survive. Our research shows that 70% of households of the coastal districts in Bangladesh have at least one member who migrates outside their villages to earn money, and 15% of them migrate abroad for employment. Unfortunately, the lack of legal recruitment paths and the need-based institutional services both at origin and destination make most of these people victims of forced labor, bonded labor, rights violations, exploitation etc. and lead them into precarious circumstances.

### What is the role of the UN in supporting your community in addressing climate-induced displacement and migration?

The UN must acknowledge temporary migration as an adaptation strategy for sustainable economic resilience by sustaining basic livelihood assets and incomes. Therefore, the UN must take necessary actions to promote legal pathways for safe temporary migration of climate-impacted youths in the developed countries, especially the countries historically responsible for climate change. The UN must ensure appropriate financial and technical resources for the communities to enhance transformative skills and capacities of climate-impacted youths and help them find sustainable livelihoods at home and abroad. The financial and technical resources are also important for better infrastructural development as well as mitigation measures to reduce the adverse impacts caused by climate change.



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