

# CLIMATE CHANGE HAUNTS SOUTH ASIAN LIVELIHOODS

## AT A GLANCE



In Afghanistan, eighty percent of the population relies on natural resources for livelihoods.



In Nepal, farmers are already reporting drying of mountain springs, dry spells and droughts.



In Bangladesh, three quarters of the population depends on the country's natural water bodies.



In Sri Lanka, the economy is vulnerable to sea level rise, and increased coastal erosion.



## HOTTER, DRIER, WETTER, SALTIER

In mountain areas, the risk of glacial lake outburst floods is likely to threaten downstream settlements.



Intrusion of salt water, increased cyclone intensity, and extreme heat and precipitation would pose new risks to communities.



Many of the impacts are transboundary in nature. Heat stress could increase mortality rates; glacial melts due to rising heat would affect water availability in downstream countries.



The impact on the nexus of water, food and energy security will be the strongest.



An ADB study suggests an annual loss of 2% to GDP growth, rising to 9% between 2050-2100.



## THREATENED LIVELIHOODS



Pakistan is projected to see a temperature increase from 1.5 to 3 degree celsius resulting in declining of upto 23% in wheat yields in some districts.



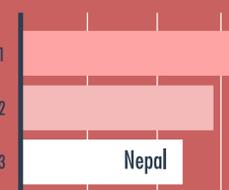
The delicate fresh/salt water balance that sustains rich breeding grounds for marine life-is also likely to be disturbed. Coastal ecosystems and livelihoods are to be effected.



In the Maldives, species diversity is important for the tourism sector of the country. Coral reef damage to a popular shark dive site, resulted in revenue loss of US\$500,000 a year.



Cities in South Asia are also vulnerable to water-and vector borne infectious diseases like cholera, dengue, diarrhoea and malaria.



Migration however has tangible benefits. In 2014, Nepal was ranked third, globally, in terms of remittances as a percentage of GDP.

## ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Outmigration of men for work is widespread in the extended Himalayan region. This has led to further feminization of labour.



Review of national-level climate policies for most South Asian countries, reveals a common goal of building people's adaptive capacity by providing livelihood security in the face of climate change risks.



Farm households adopt various resilient practices. A study conducted in three river basins showed changes in farming practices-introducing new crops and livestock, and water conservation.



## FROM RELIANCE TO RESILIENCE

Also along with national policies, adaptation programmes of South Asian countries clearly show that these countries have not lagged behind in terms of policy formulation and launching of action on the ground, but there is widespread concern regarding effective implementation of measures.

However, public-private partnerships can play a role in leveraging investment for job creation in sectors that are less exposed to climate change impacts. But, this requires the creation of appropriate human resources and regulatory systems.