



14th National Convention on Statistics

Migration Statistics



CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND INTERNAL MIGRATION IN THE PHILIPPINES: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE FOR POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

By

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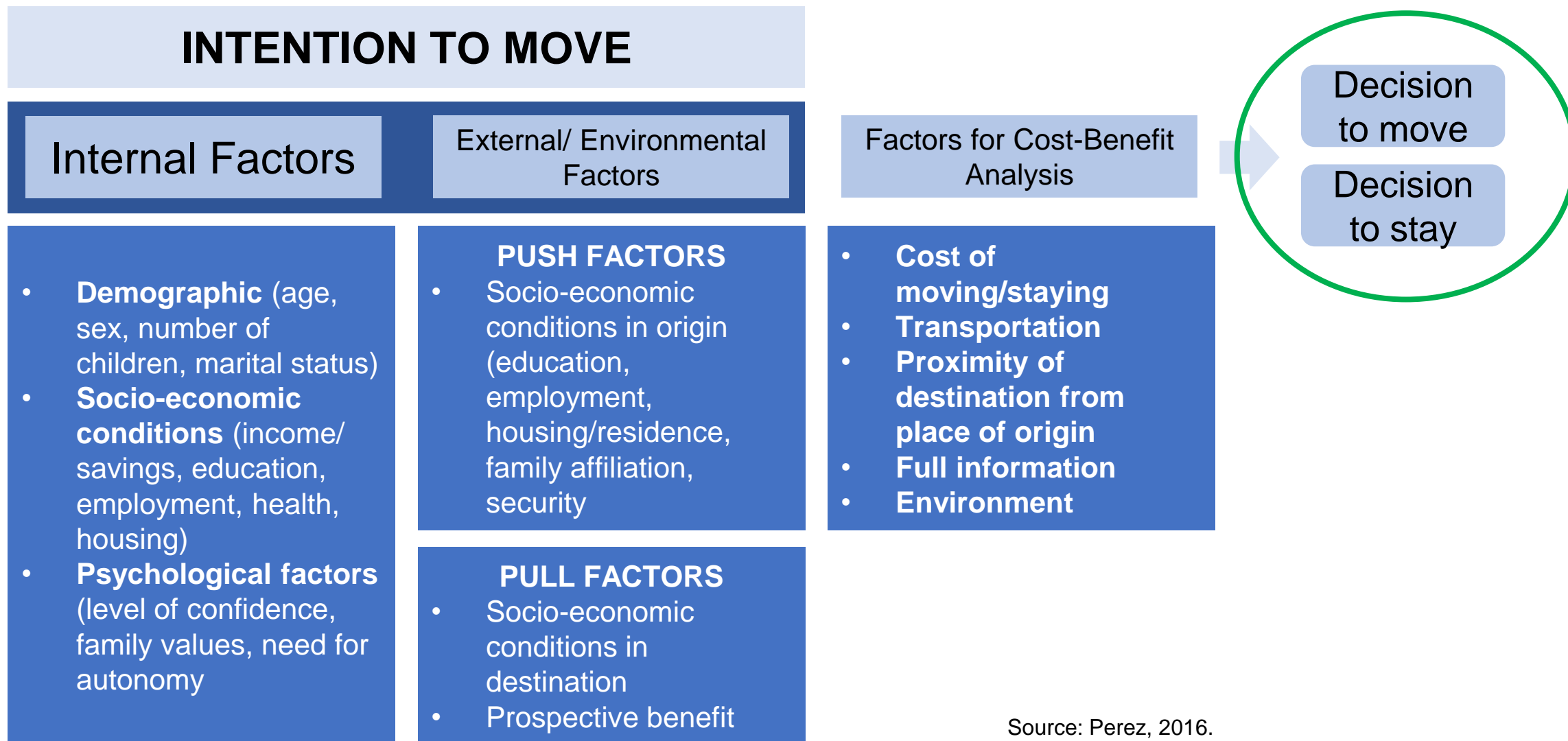
OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Why do Filipinos migrate?
- Framework for understanding migration in the Philippines
- Is climate variability a driver of migration?
- Environmental causes of migration
- Climate triggers, forms of mobility and choice
- Evidences from the ground
- Proposed framework for understanding climate migration
- Relevant policies and actors
- Support actions needed

Why do Filipinos migrate?

- Human mobility is a global phenomenon driven by unequal opportunities between and among countries (UNDP, 2009)
- Attributable to the geographic and archipelagic characteristics of the Philippines, i.e., riverine communities (Agoncillo, 1990; Scott, 1994)
- Historical triggers of migration in the Philippines: trade, intermarriages, war, forced labor, Galleon trade, settlement of new frontiers, overseas work, modernization and urbanization, poverty (Constantino, 1975; Alegre and Morada, 2004; McCoy, 1998; Francia, 2010; Perez, 2016)
- Internal migration is considered as one of the three major population processes, along with fertility and mortality (POPCOM, 2016)

Framework for understanding migration in the Philippines



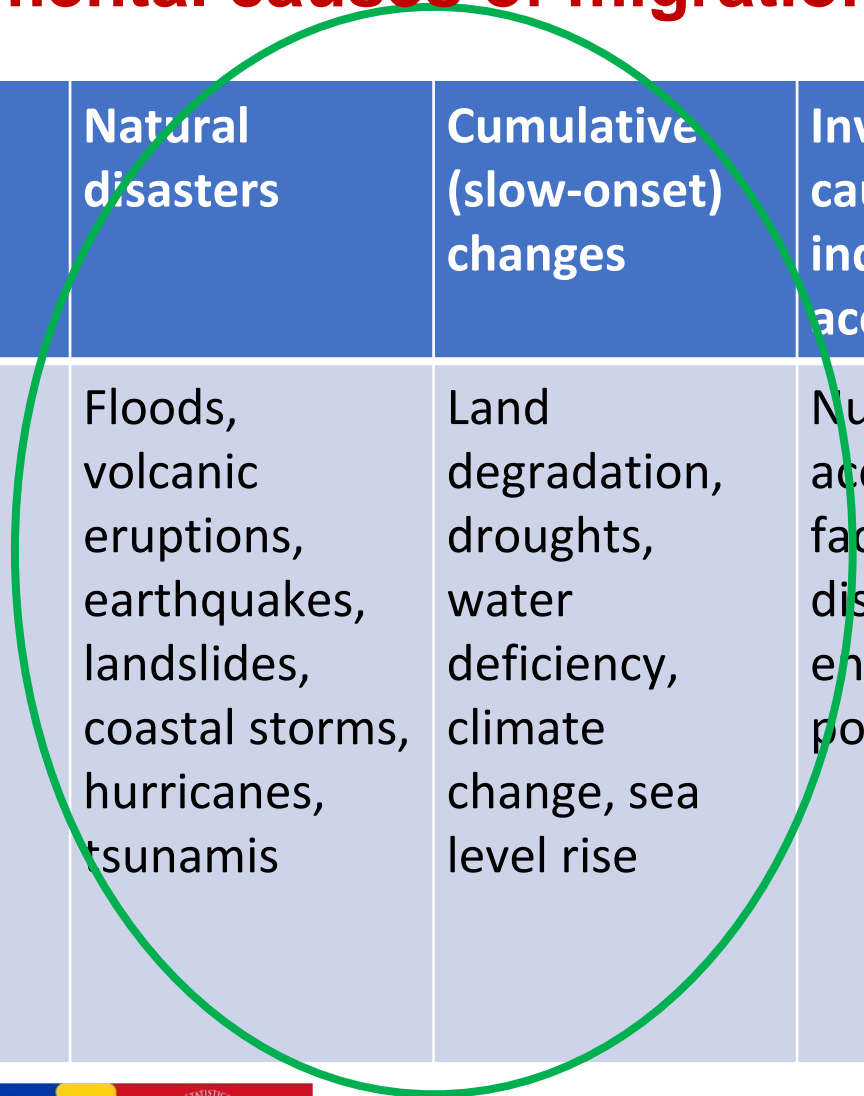
Source: Perez, 2016.

Is climate variability a driver of migration?

- Interactions between humans and the natural environment make migration a key demographic response to environmental changes
- The Philippines expects greater climate variability that could trigger erratic temperature and rainfall patterns and more extreme events
- The fast changing character of disaster and climate risks in the Philippines creates new imperatives for human security

Environmental causes of migration

Category	Natural disasters	Cumulative (slow-onset) changes	Involuntarily-caused and industrial accidents	Development Projects	Conflicts and Workforce
Particular causes	Floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, coastal storms, hurricanes, tsunamis	Land degradation, droughts, water deficiency, climate change, sea level rise	Nuclear accidents, factory disasters, environmental pollution	Construction of rivers, dams and irrigation canals, mining natural resources, urbanization	Biological workforce, intentional destruction of the environment, conflicts due to natural resources



Climate related triggers of human mobility

INTENSIVE RISKS

Associated with sudden onset, high severity events such as typhoons and floods (Typhoon Yolanda, Ormoc Floods, Lahar Flows)

EXTENSIVE RISKS

Associated with low severity, high frequency or persistent weather and climate events (droughts, recurring floods, sea level rise)

Source: Wilkinson, et al., 2016.

Forms of human mobility

DISPLACEMENT

Situations where people are forced to leave their homes or place of habitual residence due to an intensive risk where the occurrence of a disaster event is a primary driver of movement

MIGRATION

Movements which are to some degree voluntary and usually associated with extensive risk; the decision to move is complex and often linked to multiple drivers, including but not limited to climate risks

PLANNED RELOCATION

An organized effort typically instigated, supervised and carried out by the state with the aim of reducing weather and climate risks, ideally undertaken transparently, and with the informed consent of, or upon the request of the community

Source: Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility, 2014.

Differentiating migration and displacement

Voluntary
Movement

Forced
Movement

Forced migrants:

- do not make preparations;
- maintain greater commitment to origin;
- are likely to be in a state of stress;
- are less likely to bring assets;
- are less likely to have connections at origin.

Source: Hugo, 2016.

Environmental changes affecting choice

- Migration can be motivated by the environment when environmental factors play a role in the decision to move.
- Environmental factors can force migration when sources of livelihood or livelihood assets are destroyed leaving affected individuals no option but to move, although they may exercise some choice in the timing of the move.
- Climate migration refers to movement of individuals, determined by choice and to some degree voluntary, covering short or long distances, permanently or seasonally, in response to specific climate triggers that affect their means of livelihood or survival

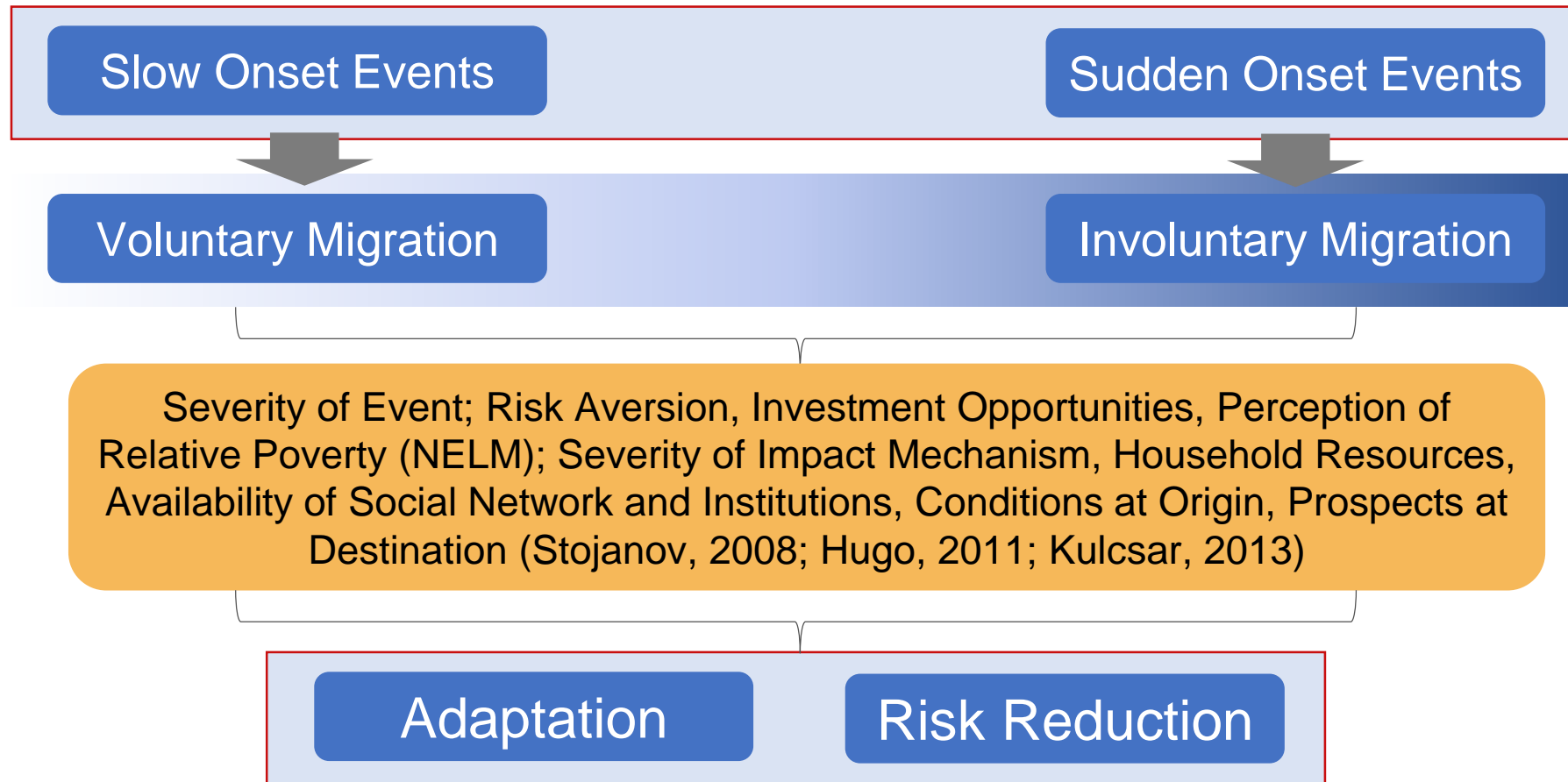
Evidences from the ground

- Bordey, et al. (2014), found that a 1°C increase in minimum temperature during summer months results to reduction in rice yields and increase in the number of female domestic worker overseas
- Bohra-Mishra, et al (2017), established that a one standard deviation increase in temperature corresponds to a 1.16 % increase in internal outmigration;
- Areas with higher concentration of rural population and dependent on agriculture tend to exhibit greater propensity for movement as their livelihood resources manifest greater sensitivity to temperature increases or more intense typhoon incidents

Evidences from the ground

- Intense temperature spikes in 2015-2016 in Mindanao resulted to extensive crop failures prompting farmers to migrate to other towns or nearby cities to find odd jobs (CDRC, 2016)
- There were many undocumented cases of women who also moved to nearby cities to support their families, reversing productive and reproductive roles with their husbands (Oxfam, 2017)
- In Sorsogon City, seasonal variability interacts with progressive environmental decline that exacerbated survival woes of fishing households leading to migration (Coastal Core, 2019)
- Seasonal migration is understood as a way of reducing risk from climate-related anomalies and dwindling fish catch

Proposed framework for understanding climate migration



*Climate-related
decision
triggers
Modality of
movement*

*Factors
affecting choice*

*Decision
outcomes*

Relevant policies and actors

- There are no existing policy instruments that directly address climate induced migration in the Philippines
- Two national frameworks for DRR and CCA - RA 10121 & RA 9729
- RA 10121 is an important policy measure to address climate related migration since it talks about the pre-emptive evacuation of people and assets in identified hazard areas
- The NCCAP looks at internal migration as a “system of interest” under the Human Security priority

Relevant policies and actors

- A Sub-Committee on Internal Migration (SCIM) was formed by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) to oversee concerns on internal migration with POPCOM as key member
- POPCOM initiated MICs in migration traffic areas (Rizal and Aklan)
- Databasing instruments like the CBMS and RBIM can be fitted with climate migration variables

Relevant policies and actors

- PSA developed a framework to measure internal migrants and to distinguish them from overseas Filipinos
- It carried out the National Migration Survey (NMS)
- Mechanisms for the participation of civil society organizations and private institutions are available
- Localization of efforts is encouraged across the board

Support actions needed

- Improve knowledge and data, considering gender and human rights variables
- Set a strategic direction considering existing policies and density of stakeholders to highlight the urgency of climate migration
- Develop and support inter-agency initiatives and expand portfolio to include human mobility due to climate change and table climate migration in inter-agency policy discussions and dialogues
- Prioritize and execute vulnerability reduction and climate change adaptation programs considering internal migration as a strategy
- Strengthen networks and partnerships for human mobility in the context of climate change
- Promote and support local actions

Thank you very much!

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The image features a honeycomb pattern of hexagons in various colors including light gray, tan, red, magenta, dark brown, orange, and dark blue. A central banner with a pink-to-orange gradient and a white arrow shape on the right contains the text "OPEN FORUM" in white, serif, all-caps font. Some hexagons have dashed borders in white or black.

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