Human mobility, Urbanization, and Environmental Sustainability

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Argument

- Population growth, geo-politics and economic growth are drivers for environmental degradation

- Environmental degradation, uch as drought and desertification, drives people to move to cities seeking opportunities

- They overload the city's strained physical infrastructures and social services, thus contributing to environmental degradation

- Global geo-politics and trade of arms are drivers of migration resulting in IDP

Outline

- Messages
- Drivers for Migration
- Trends
- State
- Migration, Urbanization and Environment: Linkages
- Impacts
- Responses
- Bibliogrphy

Messages

▶ **Resources** are limited, scarce and not distributed uniformly.

▶ **There is a need to re-visit classical economic concepts** that seek to maximize utility when consuming, when producing, minimize cost and maximize profits when producing

▶ Alternative economic thought has to focus on **satisfying needs leading to happiness and spiritual fulfillment**

Messages

- The alternative economic thought has to pay attention to **social inclusion**

- **Migrants are not a problem, rather an opportunity**

- While protecting natural resources from wastes and irrational use, National Governments and Donors must **avail people with opportunities.**

Aim

- The presentation attempts to provide an overview of the current state, driving forces and pressures, impacts, and then recommended response

Drivers for Migration

- Natural population growth = Births – Deaths

- Migration

  - Permanent: to take residence in other place forever

  - Temporary: To take residence in other place for a period of time

- Migration can be

  - Voluntary: such as looking for work

  - Non-voluntary: such as refugees and IDPs

Past Trend

▶ Here is a map predicting the movement of European refugees during WWII

▶ Many Europeans fled to the Middle East.

Source: Taparata , Evan and Ser, Keng Kuek (2016) "During WWII, European refugees fled to Syria. Here's what the camps were like." PRI. https://www.pri.org/stories/2016-04-26/what-it-s-inside-refugee-camp-europeans-who-fled-syria-egypt-and-palestine-during

Today's Trend

- The EU encourages North African countries, such as Tunisia, to curb the number of illegal migrants.

- The EU praised the Egyptian government for virtually sealing its shores to refugees and migrants (https://euobserver.com/migration/142878)

الهجرة غير الشرعية.. مواقف وأوضاع شركاء أوروبا بشمال أفريقيا

مصر: بلد عبور يثير القلق

في السنوات الأخيرة تحولت مصر إلى أحد بلدان العبور إلى أوروبا المثيرة للقلق. ولا توجد أرقام دقيقة من جانب السلطات المصرية عن أعداد اللاجئين والمهاجرين السريين، الذين انطلقوا من السواحل المصرية على متن قوارب الصيد. لكن بحسب الوكالة الأوروبية لمراقبة الحدود "فرونتكس"، فقد انطلقت عام 2016 نحو ألف سفينة تهريب بشر من مصر. كما شكلت مصر

Migration: The search for an opportunity

- On Sept. 25th, 2018, Hayat Belkacem, a Moroccan, 20 years old was cut of her study of law. She cleaned houses to support her family

- Hayat, which means "**Life**" in Arabic was shot dead while trying to migrate illegally to Spain for a better future.

- Before boarding the boat, she wrote: "*The ink of hope is dry, so let fate write as much as it pleases*."

Oumaima Latrach
@LatrachOumaima

بين حياة بلقاسم
و نجاة بلقاسم
مسافة بين الحق و الظلم ،نجاة نجت بجلدها هاجرت و تعلمت و أصبحت وزيرة بفرنسا .
و الشهيدة حياة كابدت و تعلمت في وطن سجين فأرادت الحياة لكن رصاصة من يد قاتل
اغتالت الحلم و العمر و الشباب ...#كلنا_حياة

3:31 PM - Sep 27, 2018

♡ 13   See Oumaima Latrach's other Tweets

Migration: The search for an opportunity

- Najat Belkacem was a Moroccan herder who migrated to France, got educated.

- Najat, which means "**Survive**" in Arabic, was the French Minister of Women's Affairs, and then in 2014 Minister of Education.

- The difference between Hayat and Najat was the opportunity

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State

- In 2018, UN ESCWA reported:

    - Trends in international migration in the Arab region

    - Changes in migration governance in 2016 and 2017

    - Linkages between international migration and the SDGs

- The report identified links between migration and the SDGs.

State

- GCC hosts a larger concentration of migrants than anywhere else in the world

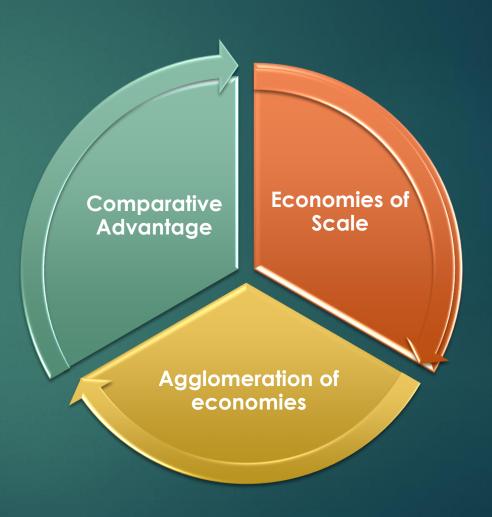- The Mashreq region is a source of labor migration and displacement due, in part, to conflict and environmental stresses

State

▶ 41% of the global population of internally displaced people live in the Arab region

▶ Number of women migrating have increased, due, in part, to recent conflicts and violence

▶ Most cities of the Arab region lack adequate physical infrastructures and social services, thus suffer environmental problems, such as degraded air quality.

State

- Internal migration, mainly from rural areas to cities, is one important component of urban growth in spatial and population terms

- The resultant is informal urban sprawl over limited agricultural land.
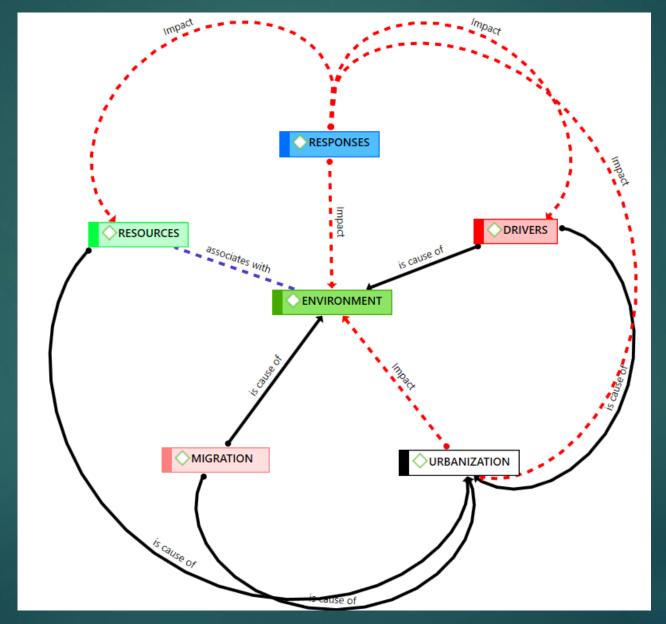
Why migrants move to Cities?

Cities have:

- **Economies of scale** is the proportionate saving in costs gained by an increased level of production.

- **Agglomeration of economies** are the benefits that come when firms and people locate near one another

- **Comparative advantage** is the ability of a city to carry out a particular economic activity (such as making a specific product) more efficiently than another activity.

Comparative Advantage

Economies of Scale

Agglomeration of economies

State

- Today, almost 3 500 million (about half of Humanity) live in cities

- By 2030, almost 60 percent of the World's population will live in urban Areas.

- Approximately, 95 percent of urban expansion in the coming decades is expected to occur in the developing world

- Today, about 828 million people live in slums.

- Cities are responsible for about 70% of the GDP of the World

State

- Cities of the World occupy almost 3 percent of the Planet's land.

- Cities consume 60-80 percent of energy consumption and cause 75 percent of carbon emissions

- Due, in part, to rapid urbanization rates, fresh water supplies, sewage collection and treatment services, the urban environment and public health are under pressure

- Cities are characterized by high population and building densities, which can bring many environmental gains through efficiency and technological innovation, coupled with a reduction in energy and resource consumption.
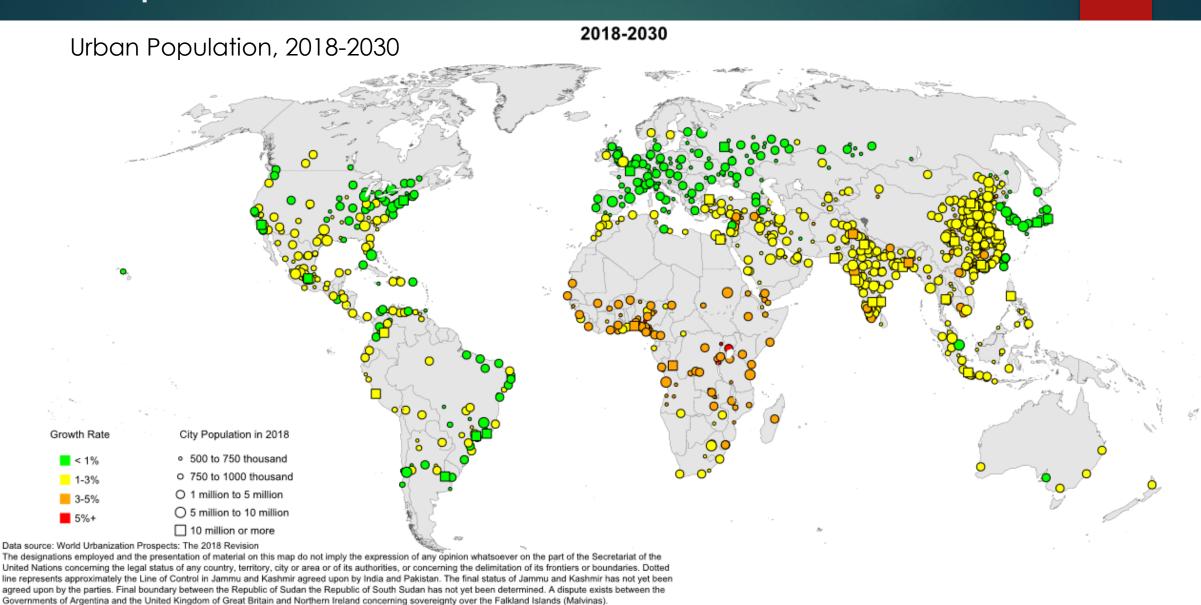
Migration-Urbanization-Environment
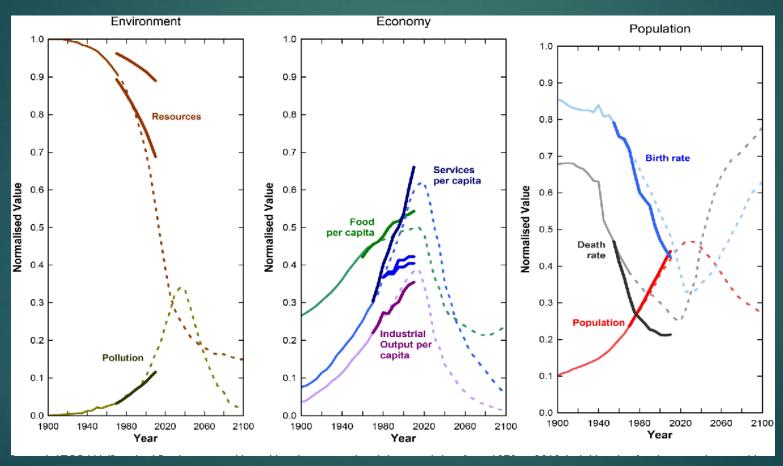
Migration-Urbanization-Environment

Co-occurrence table

	Drivers	Environment	Migration	Resources	Responses	Urbanization	Total
Drivers	0						0
Environment	14	0					14
Migration	2	0	0				2
Resources	21	23	0	0			44
Responses	165	166	145	373	0		849
Urbanization	45	19	13	40	582	0	699
Total	247	208	158	413	582	0	1,608

Impacts

Urban Population, 2018-2030

2018-2030

Growth Rate

■ < 1%
■ 1-3%
■ 3-5%
■ 5%+

City Population in 2018

∘ 500 to 750 thousand
○ 750 to 1000 thousand
○ 1 million to 5 million
○ 5 million to 10 million
□ 10 million or more

Impacts

Turner, G. (2014) 'Is Global Collapse Imminent?', MSSI Research Paper No. 4, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, The University of Melbourne

Responses

▶ There is need for controlling demographics, advance technologies and abandon old habits

▶ National Governments and donors must invest in

  ▶ **People-centered plans** that include education, capacity building, healthcare, etc. that enable people to cope with stresses and sustain their livelihoods

  ▶ **Place-oriented plans** that include schemes for availing safe drinking water, sanitation, solid waste management, and so forth

Responses

- National Governments and donors must
  - Avail opportunities to residents of rural areas to curb the influx of rural migrants to major cities
  - Assure peace and security to limit IDPs
  - Integrate immigrants to assimilate with the local community, and enrich the cultural diversity

Responses

- For sustainable urban development, National Governments and donors must encourage:

  - Innovative knowledge-based urban development

  - Transforming traditional metropolitan areas into smart cities,

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Thank You

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