

Climate Change (CC), Migration and Gender

Reflections from Balochistan, Pakistan

Drought (1998 to 2002)

Maira Zahur, Bonn, Germany, June 2009



Droughts have always been part of life in some parts but have increased in the recent years (especially in arid and hyper arid zones)

Pakistan - Drought-risk hotspot

Source: PMD Anon, and OCHA and Care 2008





Drought-Prone Areas of Pakistan

(based on aridity index)



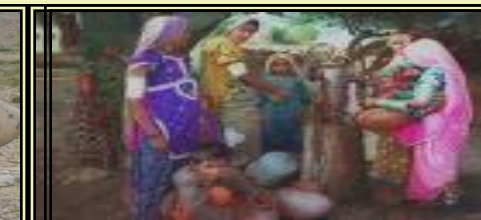
Balochistan: Affects of Drought 1998-2002

80% of area was under the affects of Drought

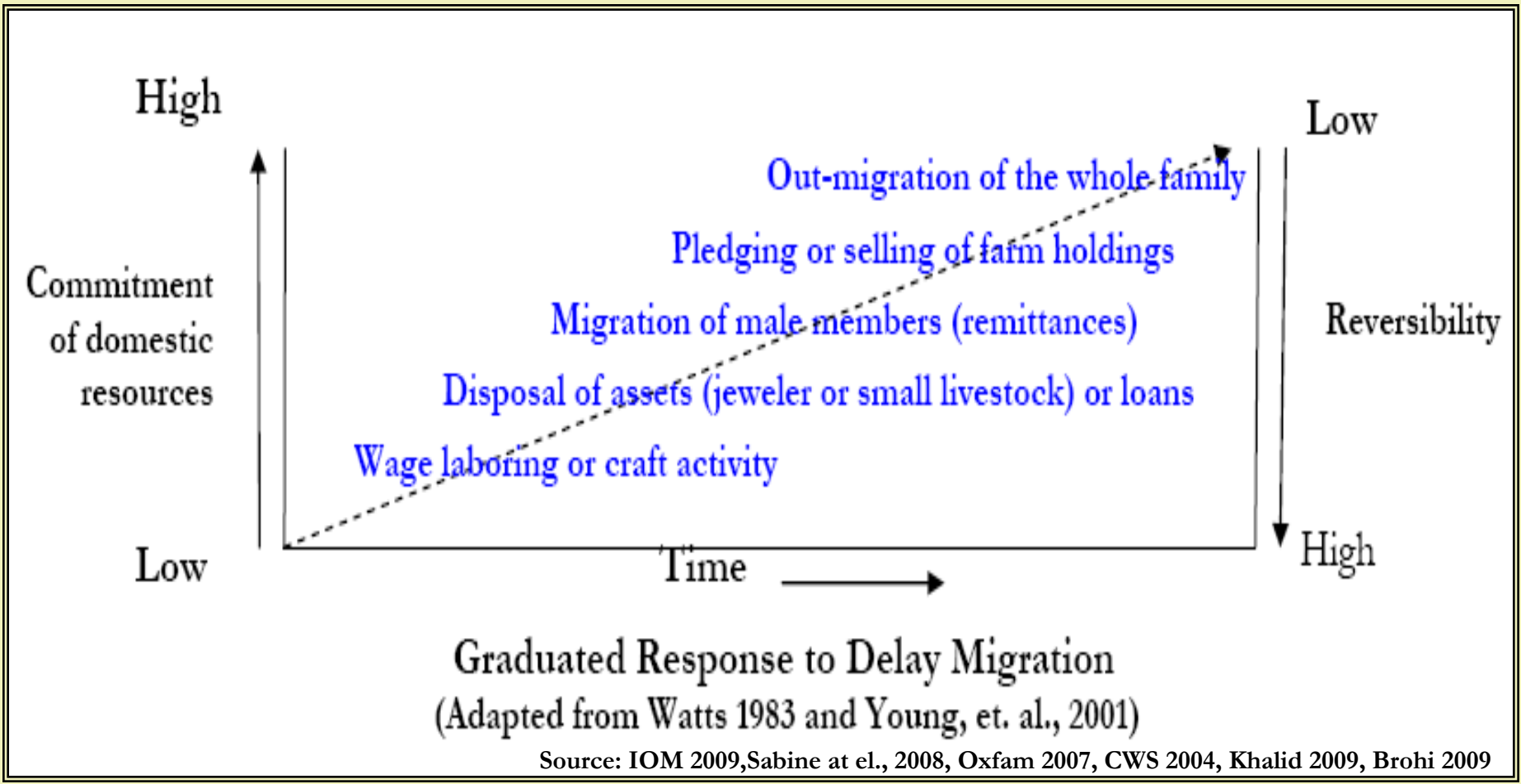
- **Population** • 84% of the population
- **Area** • 23 out of 26 were declared calamity hit
- **Livestock** • 7,917,000 livestock died (76%)
- **Migration** • 2,171,000 people migrated to other fertile parts of the country
- **Health** • Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), Malnutrition, T.B and Hepatitis

PKR 25 billion to the national exchequer (2000-2002)

Source: BDMA, Anon



Migration and Drought (1998-2002)



Migration – Drought 1998-2002

Situation 1- Opportunity-seeking migration;
Able bodied male migrated for work

Situation 2- Survival migration; Family Migration
(happened due to lack of drinking water and
water for livestock)(2,171,000 people
migrated at different times)

Source: CWS 2004, FAO and WFP, 2000, 2001,



Gender Implications of Situation 1

Females:

- Responsibility of woman
- Still no say in the decision making
- Health issues
- Absence of male members - barrier to access relief services

Males:

- Wages governed by supply and demand
- Poor living conditions/ exploitation

Source- CWS 2004, FAO/WFP 2000/2001, Khalid, 2009, Brohi 2009



Situation 2 – The Events

Make- shift camps (irrigated land and urban slums)
Families migrated for water
2,171,000 people moved
at different times

Time period
2000-2002

8 Relief Camps (short period)

a small %

closure

35 Relief Center (WFP, NGOs)
for distribution of food,
fodder, medicines and water

(Source FAO and WFP, 2000, 2001, Khalid 2009)



Gender Implications of Situation 2

Irrigated lands and urban slums

Females

- New Environment – psychological pressures.
- Harassment (water fetching/working)
- Livelihood Compensations
- Selling/employment of young girls
- In-human and gender insensitive conditions
- Health Issues

Males

- Wages governed by supply and demand

Source- CWS 2004, FAO/WFP 2000/2001, Khalid 2009, Brohi 2009



.....Gender Implications of Situation 2 (cont.)

Relief Camps/Centers

Females

- Gender insensitive conditions (8 camps)
- Females had to travel long distances—harassment (Relief centers)
- Relief dependant on Remittances

Source- CWS 2004, FAO/WFP 2000/2001, Khalid 2009, Brohi 2009



What we can infer

- CC – will enhance drought and in turn migration
- People most vulnerable to CC are not necessarily the ones most likely to migrate in the initial phases
- Migration affects men and women differently – driven by social, economic and cultural process
- Intelligent Humanitarian Response



Thank you

