

LIMEN

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Frontispiece:

The Ugandan army patrolling the refugee settlement in Rwamwanja, January
2020, photo: Sándor Jászberényi.

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Founders:



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Strategies of Resilience – Conference on Climate Change, Migration and Adaptation

Report by Kristóf György Veres

The Migration Research Institute (MRI) organised an international conference on the nexus between migration and climate change on May 13–14, 2021. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges in the history of mankind; it influences almost all aspects of our life. Therefore, it is not accidental that one of the oldest human activities, migration is also affected by this phenomenon. However, the exact nature of this influence is highly contested, as well as its consequences on different societies and nations. Instead of trying to provide definite answers, the aim of *Strategies of Resilience – Conference on Climate Change, Migration and Adaptation* was to provide space for decision makers, scholars and experts to exchange their views on the complex relations between climate change and migration, and to discuss their experiences and predictions.

Will climate change contribute to mass migration and fuel armed conflicts? Can adaptation and capacity building strategies solve the problem? How can we measure the scope and depth of the ecological transformation? Do we possess the technology, which can mitigate or even reverse the process, or are we still waiting for the silver bullet solution, which can save our civilization? To tackle these questions the organisers of the conference assembled a stellar cast from all around the globe.

In her keynote address, Vanessa Nakate, a climate activist from Uganda, and founder of the Rise up Climate Movement highlighted that in her country climate-change is still taught as vague and distant problem of future generations. This attitude persists despite of the fact that more and more erratic weather and severe droughts are already affecting Ugandans' every-day lives. Kanta Kumari Rigaud, a lead environmental specialist at the World Bank stressed that it is of paramount importance in Africa to increase resilience against the repercussions of climate-change. She pointed out that the World Bank has been financing a number of projects in Ethiopia to restore arable lands and improve the efficiency of water management while at the same time paying a close attention to the preservation of bio-diversity.

Calum T. M. Nicholson, former researcher of the British Parliament highlighted that it seems impossible to separate migrants who leave their homes because of climate change from those who do so as a result of other societal, economical or cultural reasons. Consequently 'climate migration' is a problematic term from an empirical standpoint. Anneliese Depoux, director of The Virchow-Villermé Center for Public Health mapped out how climate-change affects public health. There are direct health-hazards including severe heat waves and erratic weather. However there are a number of secondary effects that are frequently overlooked. First, climate-change alters the prevalence and geographical distribution of contagious diseases that spread through water. Second, the disturbances in water-supply may cause crop-yields to drop, entire harvests to fail and consequently increase poverty and food-shortages.

