



New Delhi Office

Cluster Office for Bangladesh,
Bhutan, India, Maldives,
Nepal and Sri Lanka

PRESS RELEASE 005/2015 EARTH DAY IS PEOPLE`S DAY

New Delhi, 22 April 2015: In observance of Earth Day 2015, today UNESCO releases its new film *Changing Climate, Moving People* made by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI). ***Changing Climate, Moving People* is a 35-minute film, which looks at disaster and climate stress related migration** from three different regions in the country – Uttarakhand, Bundelkhand and Odisha. These three states are already amongst the leading sources for internal migration and have been hit by extreme weather events like floods (Uttarakhand), drought (Bundelkhand region) and cyclones (Odisha), which are likely to become more recurrent and stronger as a result of climate change. The film is divided in three parts: each part is looking at a specific region and is investigating the nature of migration from this region.

The film`s objective is to increase awareness, engagement and advocacy on the intertwined and complex linkages between moving people and changing climate, and to support the mainstreaming of migration into climate change policies. This has been built on from the policy recommendations of the *National Workshop on Migration and Global Environmental Change in India* jointly organized by UNESCO and the Government Office for Science, Foresight (GOS), United Kingdom, in Delhi last year (the Summary Report can be downloaded here: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002285/228502e.pdf>).

“People do migrate and will continue to do so in the future. It is primarily the Government`s responsibility to plan for current and future migration and to take into account the impact of climate change on population mobility in India” stresses Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, UNESCO Director and Representative for Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The approach of *Changing Climate, Moving People* is not limited to understanding migration as a demographic process which may be induced by climate change: **the film seeks to show how climate change is and will contribute to the multi-causal nature of migration**, and establish the triggers behind migrants` choice to migrate or not to migrate while living in areas affected by environmental change. How do households, communities and individuals decide to migrate? What is the threshold or the build-up of push and pull factors that lead to the decision of migrating? To answer these questions, *Changing Climate, Moving People* follows the stories of the migrants and their families, to establish the triggers behind their choice to migrate. Avinash Rout, one of the migrants interviewed in the film explains how weather patterns have an impact on his life. “We grow rice and vegetables. Sometimes the crops get damaged by cyclones and floods, at other times by drought. All we grow is just about enough for us. My wife stays with me at home while my children go outside to study and now they are working too. My son sends me

5000 rupees a month.” But not everyone is able to migrate, just like Satti Devi who says “Where can I go? My children are young and there is no one else to look after them”.

The film is under embargo until Earth Day, 22 April 2015, **but is available for viewing for the media through the link:** <http://bit.ly/1PeBuUx>

On Earth Day, the film will be accessible through:

UNESCO New Delhi website (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/newdelhi>),

UNESCO Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/unesconewdelhi>)

UNESCO Gender Youth Migration (GYM) portal (<http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net/>)

FILM SYNOPSIS

Title: *Changing Climate, Moving People* (UNESCO)

Film maker: Mr. Saransh Sugandh, TV and Film Unit, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Duration: 36 minutes

India is highly vulnerable to climate change. And so every crop failure, drought and flood - among many other triggers - pushes many across India to leave their homes, sometimes permanently, and relocate to an entirely different state or region.

As the country sees the monsoon changing its pattern, there are regions that get hit by drought while others reel under floods. There are coastlines which are prone to cyclones. *Changing Climate, Moving People* looks at disaster or climate stress related migration from three different regions in the country – Uttarakhand, Bundelkhand and Odisha – which have been hit by floods, drought and cyclones.

The first part of the film – *A River Comes Down* – focuses on the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand where the monsoons have been creating havoc year after year; the second part of the film – *The Dry Heat* – tells the woe of Bundelkhand, a semi-arid dry land that has seen a continuous drought period from 2003-2009; the final part of the film – *When a Storm Surges in* – looks at Odisha’s coasts where forests, crops and infrastructure were swallowed by a monster cyclone in 2013, Phailin.

The following experts are available for interviews with the media:

- Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Professor, Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi
- Mr. Rajiv Khandelwal, Director, Ajeevika Bureau
- Mr. Soumyadeep Banerjee, Migration and Population Specialist, Livelihoods, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- Dr. Indrani Mazumdar, Senior Fellow, Centre for Women's Development Studies
- Mr. Krishna Murari, Project-in-charge, Development Alternatives, Datia
- Ms. Bhagyalaxmi Rao, Senior Manager, Mobile Crèches

- Mr. Sresth Tayal, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- Mr. Saransh Sugandh, TV and Film Unit, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

To fix up a time and venue kindly contact the following:

Marina Faetanini
Section Chief and Programme Specialist
Social and Human Sciences (SHS)
m.faetanini@unesco.org
011 – 267 13000

Ms Rekha Beri
Documentalist and Public Information
r.beri@unesco.org
011 – 267 13000