



Climate change and migration

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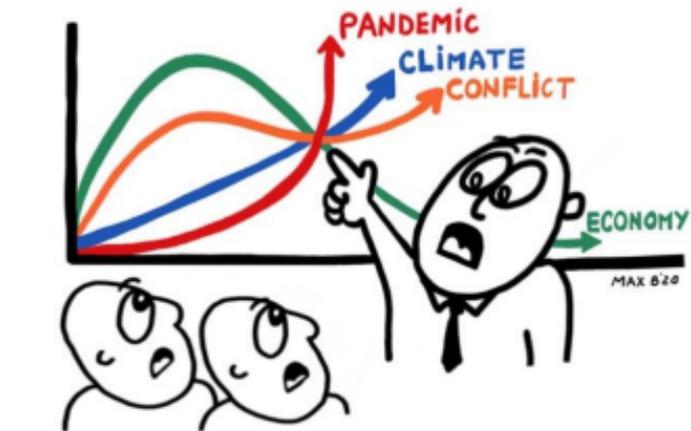


Climate impacts increasingly going beyond people's ability to cope

Unprecedented extremes

Impacts that cannot be prevented by adaptation and mitigation

Climate impacts are increasingly falling into the category of 'loss and damage (L&D)'



- The disasters are collaborating better than we are!

Paul M Bisca / CartoonStock.com



Larger magnitude



Increased frequency



New locations



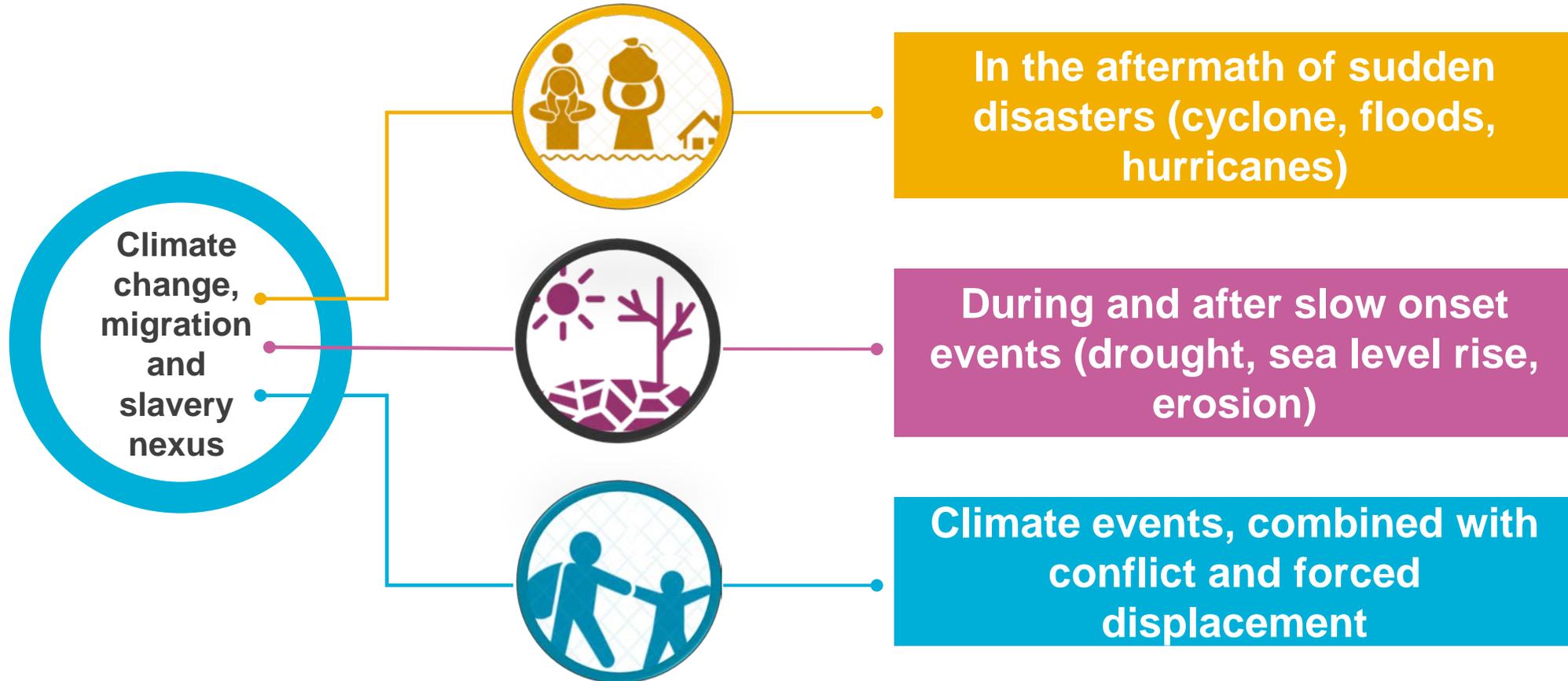
Different timing

‘Forced Displacement’ and ‘Distress Migration’ common consequence across different types of climate impacts and geographies

Case Study Location	
Mwaja village, Singida Municipal (Tanzania)	Pekalongan (Java, Indonesia)
Turkana County (Kenya)	Western Santo Island, Vanuatu
Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria and Niger)	The Cook Islands
Kasese District (Uganda)	Tuvalu (Pacific Ocean)
Chitrakoot (India)	Anuradhapura and Trincomalee (Sri Lanka)
Punakha (Bhutan)	Urir Char (Bangladesh)

Among those who get displaced or undertake distress migration, ones most poor and vulnerable become victim to slavery and human trafficking and get subjected to sexual exploitation or forced labour.

Where climate change, distress migration and slavery meet: three emerging pathways



For more details: Climate-induced migration and modern slavery: a toolkit for policymakers <https://pubs.iied.org/20441g>

Understanding Nexus

Urir Char, Bangladesh

Cyclones, flooding and coastal erosion

- Recurrent: households face displacement 3 to 7 times
- Climate stressor enhances marginalisation and vulnerability
- Families rush to marry off daughters before being displaced, resulting in child marriage
- Women lose support networks and are exposed to gender-based violence (sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, child/early marriage, trafficking)
- Many children, particularly girls, leave school due to displacement



Flooding in Bangladesh, 2019, in which women, children and less mobile people suffer most. Credit: UN Women Asia and the Pacific via [Flickr](#), [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

Kendrapara, India

Sea-level rise, cyclones, flooding & salination

- Extreme events result in loss and damage (L&D) to crops (50%), livestock (42%) and infrastructure (46%).
- One of India's first victims of sea level rise from Satabhaya villages (last of 7 villages disappeared by 2011)
- Families moved 12 kilometres to the Bagapatia resettlement colony – in 2021 farmlands either sand cast or salinated – forced to move again
- 67% households in Kendrapara study area migrate-weekly bus service to Kerala
- Many migrants including women and girls work in exploitative and forced labour conditions



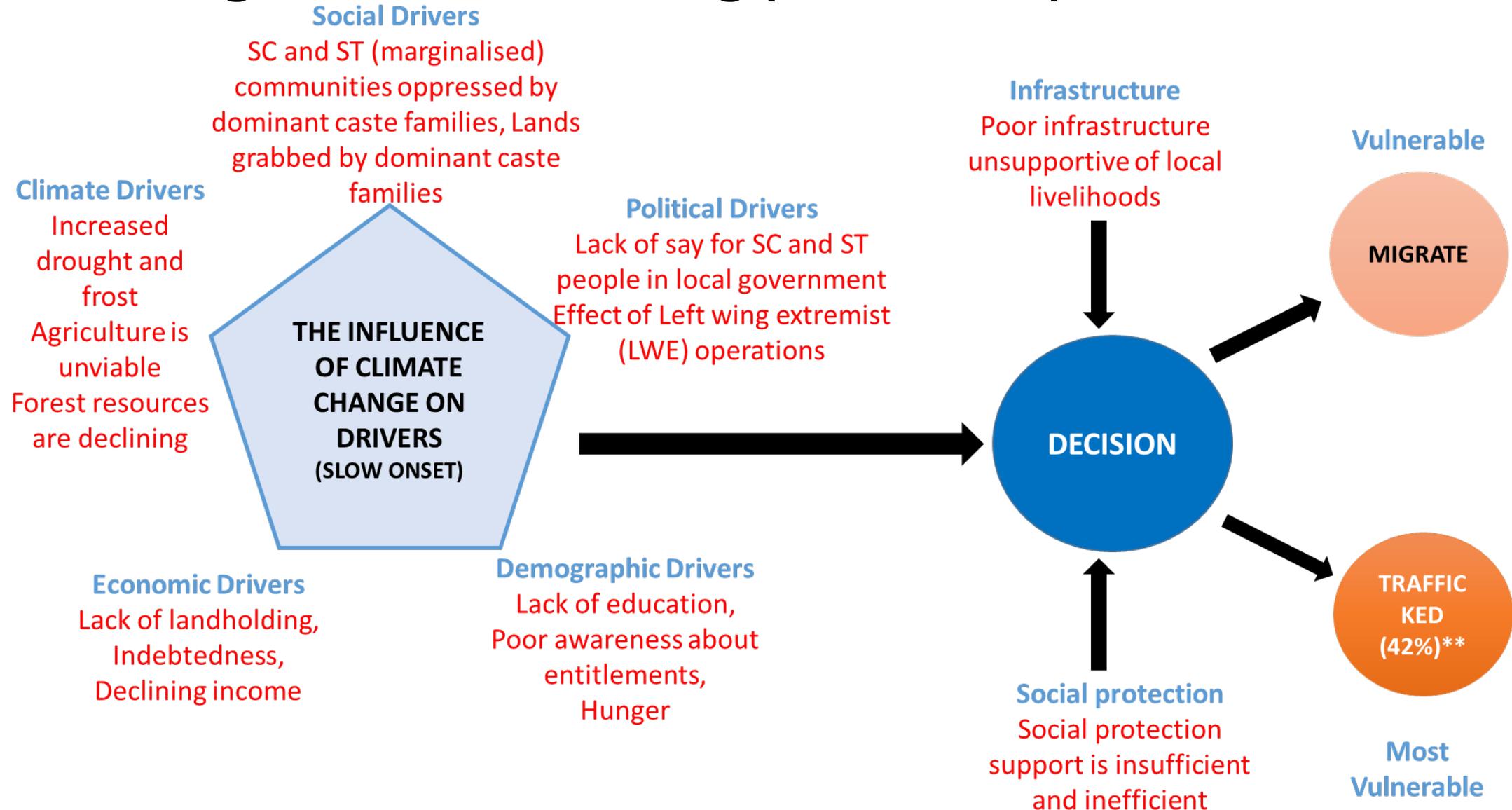
**Extent of migration and vulnerability
to slavery due to climate change and
their underlying drivers**

Extent of slavery/trafficking

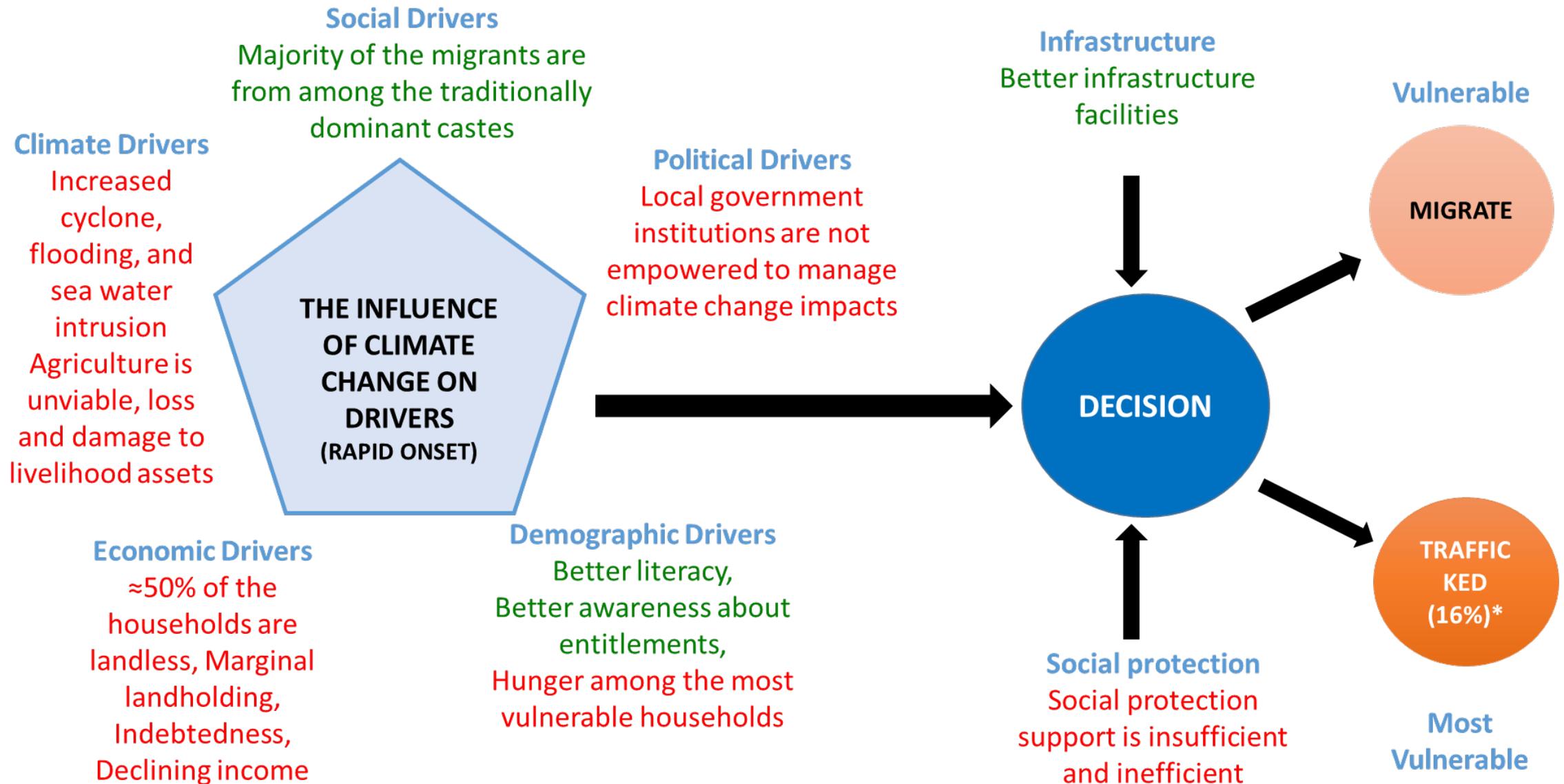
- Type: debt migrants, bonded labour forced labour, debt bondage, wage withholding, exploitative working conditions, child trafficking, sex trafficking
- Girls are mostly taken for domestic help, forced labour, bearing children, begging, prostitution
- Children aged 11–16 work as domestic help, sold for marriage or prostitution
- **Extent of trafficking differed in slow and sudden onset event area:**
 - **Trafficked migrants in Palamu (drought) was 42% compared to 16% in Kendrapara (floods and cyclones)**



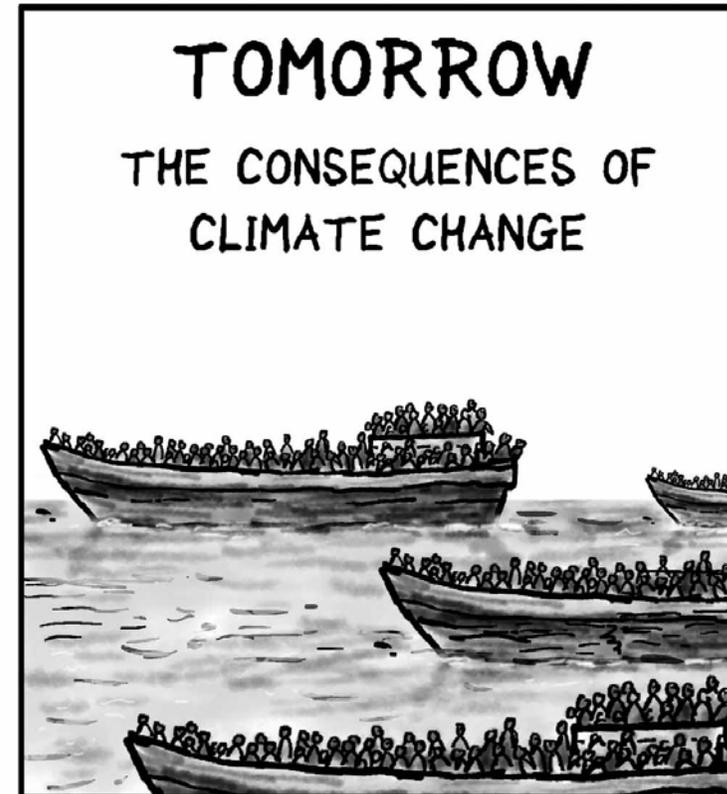
Drivers of migration and trafficking (Slow Onset) – Palamu, Jharkhand



Drivers of migration and trafficking (Rapid Onset) – Kendrapara, Odisha



Why is this issue urgent?



Credit: www.chrismadden.co.uk

What needs to be done?

- **International recognition**
- **Climate finance: rights-based social safety net and anticipatory action**
- **National recognition of issue as a priority in both development and climate policy**

Thank you

For more detailed findings and recommendation, please see our publication:

Climate change, migration and vulnerability to trafficking <https://pubs.iied.org/20936iied>

Climate-induced migration and modern slavery: a toolkit for policymakers
<https://pubs.iied.org/20441g>

Connecting the dots: climate change, migration and social protection
<https://pubs.iied.org/20591iied>

Loss and damage case studies from the frontline: a resource to support practice and policy
<https://pubs.iied.org/20551iied>

A helpline that is a lifeline for migrants <https://www.iied.org/helpline-lifeline-for-migrants>