

Forum: Environment Commission (EVC)

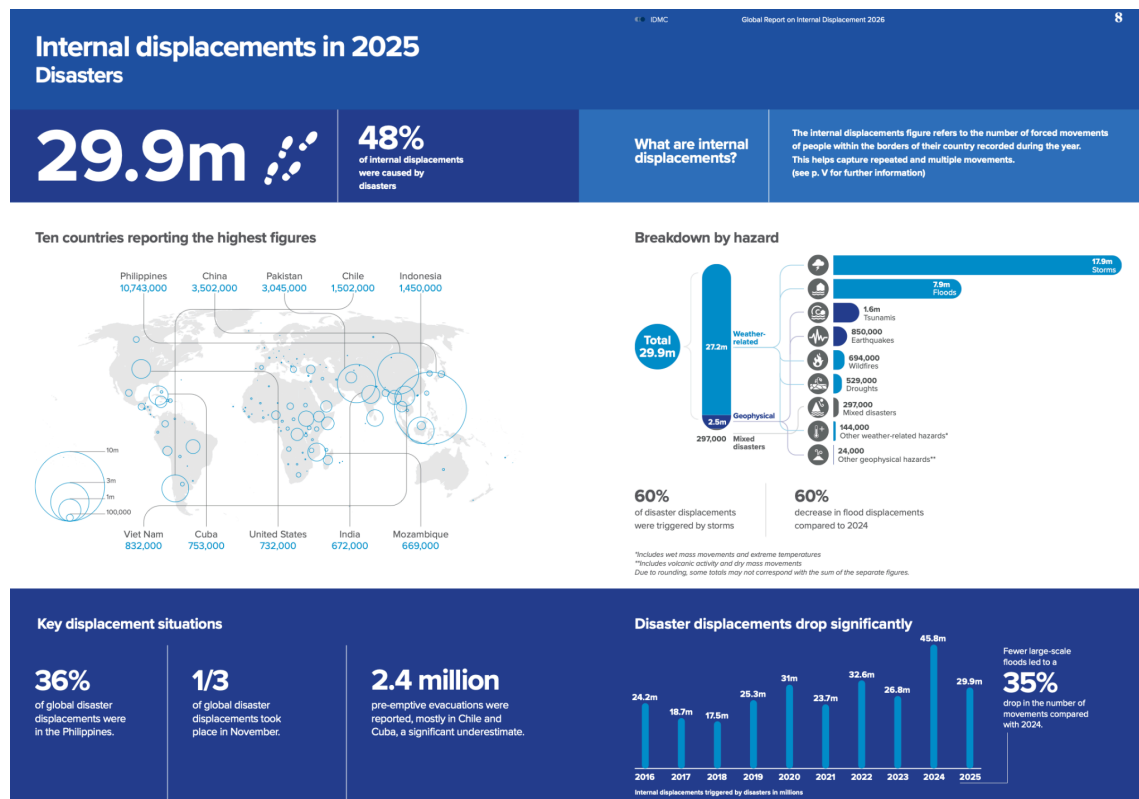
Issue: Developing Climate Change Mitigating Activities to Alleviate Climate Refugees

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Introduction

Climate Change is a long term shift in planet earth's overall weather patterns, progressively impacting the safety of individuals even within their homes. Sea-Level rise, flash floods, droughts, wildfires and cyclones lead to massive amounts of livelihood destruction, such as the unprecedented damage to housing and defilement to infrastructure. As a result, emergency short-term evacuation and migration are measures taken. In 2025, nearly 29.9 million displacements were documented by the IDMC (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre). This depicts the saddening reality of climate hazards and their immense impact on mankind. (IDMC, 2026)



Internal Displacement map - The map represents the number of people internally displaced in 2025 Source - IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2026 .

Most individuals displaced as a result of climate circumstances reside within their

nations' border, and so, cannot be treated as refugees, as per the Refugee Convention, 1951. The phrase "Climate Refugee" itself holds no distinct place in international law forums. Persecution, hostility and violations of international law however, may trigger refugee protection policies. (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2023)

This issue transcends the mere picture of climate change and intersects more importantly with human rights, climate justice and disaster preparations. The alleviation of greenhouse gas emissions along with protection, development and adaptation measures are imperative to combat significant climate-related tragedies. Delegates must focus on constructing policies that ensure safe mobility, long-term residence and minimal involuntary displacement are prioritised.

Definition of Key Terms

Climate-related displacement

The involuntary transfer of an individual's residence as a result of hostile weather hazards, particularly extreme weather conditions causing significant destruction of homes and humanitarian systems. (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC], 2022)

Internally Displaced Person

An individual obliged to evacuate their home as a result of human-rights violations, armed-hostility and disasters. They differentiate from refugees, as they have not crossed internationally recognized state borders yet and remain within their country. These individuals have been supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since the 1970s (UNHCR)

Adaptation

Changes in natural systems as a result of climate issues. These include precautions such as flood-resilient housing and drought related crops.

Loss and Damage

The adverse effects of climate change that cannot be prevented using any measures of adaptation or mitigation, leading further to the destruction and loss of property, cultural connections and heritage as well as an impact on livelihoods.

Planned Relocation

A process that refers to the movement of communities from hostile areas associated with environmental risk to safer regions. This is a measure of last resort and must be based on compliance with all formalities (both legal and procedural)

Climate-related mitigation

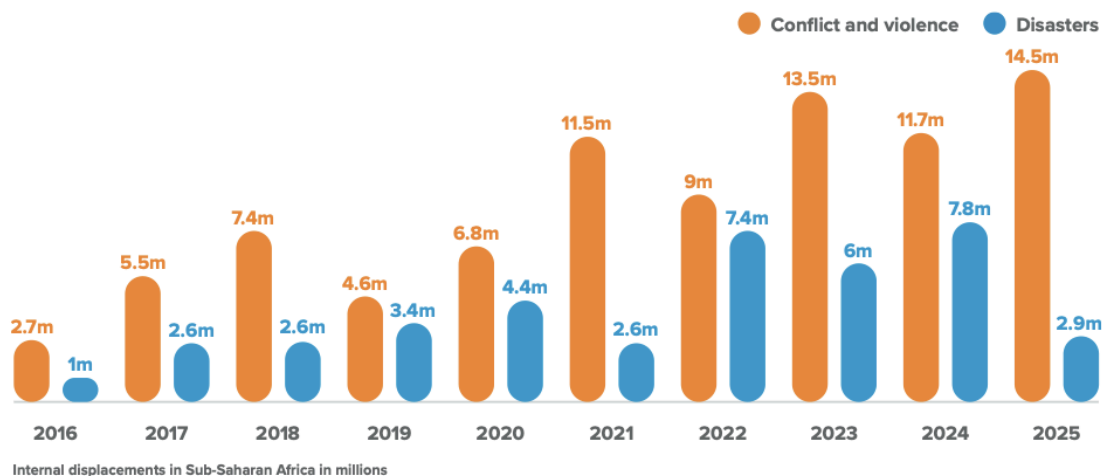
Implementing precautions that prioritise energy efficiency such as renewable energy, sustainable use of resources, greenhouse gas emissions reduction (especially methane) , and low carbon transport.

Background Information

Displacement and Climate Change

Each region, as well as the people in that region are differently impacted by the hazards of climate change. Food insecurity, poverty as well as floods or droughts will result in climate-related displacement. Agrarian (Rural, focused on agriculture and cultivation) groups that are incredibly reliant on fishing and farming, as well as rain-fed sources of cultivation may be subject to economic issues in the case of a change in weather patterns (such as rainfall pattern), fish stock and water security. Cities hosting refugees may undergo significant loss or possible depletion of resources, as they may lack adequate sanitation, education and shelter. This shortage of resources provided increases the pressure on the host communities.

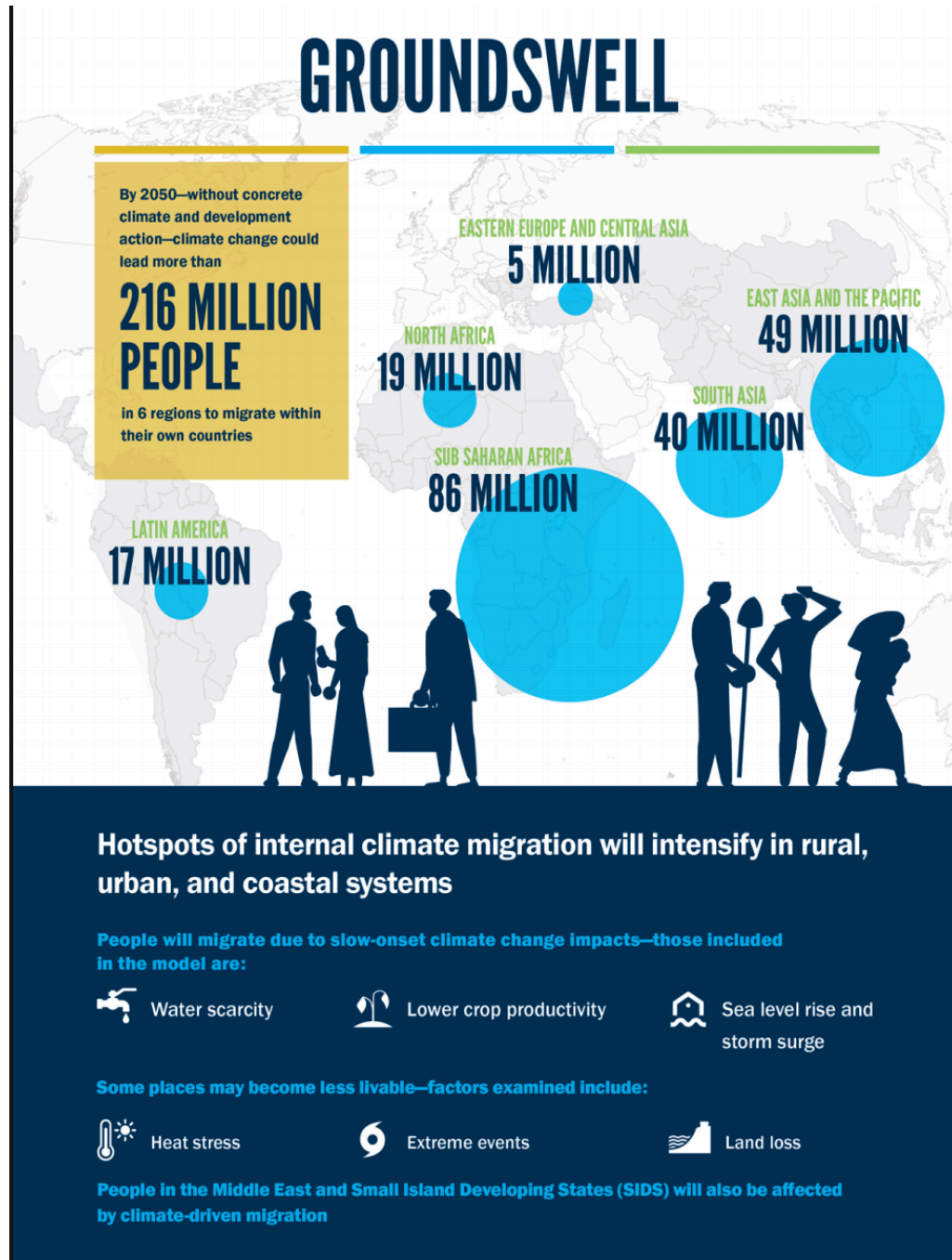
Record conflict displacement while number of disaster movements falls



Global Internal Displacement Map - This shows the distribution of internal displacement as a result of disasters, hostility and conflict in 2025. Source: IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement 2026

According to the world bank, by 2050 , the absence of early and coordinated climate development action could result in a potential movement of nearly 216 million individuals to diversified regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, North

Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Clement et al., 2021). This , however, cannot be confirmed or predicted. The report illustrates that pragmatic climate action can minimise movement and displacement.



World Bank Projection Chart - This represents almost 3 percent of these regions' total projected population.¹
Source: Clement et al. (2021) , Groundswell Part 2.

Disaster risk-reduction, adaptation and Mitigation

Adaption improves resilience to climate impacts. Mitigation combats the deeper issue beneath the wider branch of “climate change”, which is, reducing the intensity of effects of climate change through the use of more renewable forms of energy, higher efficiency in buildings and public transport as well as the prevention of any excessive amounts of methane within the atmosphere. Additionally, forest restoration, sustainable agriculture practices along with the increased plantation of mangroves and wetlands can enhance natural storage and improve resilience to climate-related hazards.

The Paris agreement is a well known policy, referenced several times in environmental discussions. The policy seeks to improve adaptive capacity while maintaining climate resilience, and further, the framework recognises the significance of addressing the loss and damage caused by climate conflict. (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC], 2015) The agreement also acknowledges the significance of minimizing loss and damage considering legal influences (UNFCCC) .

International Protection and Finance

The UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) dismisses the notion that refugee status is granted to all individuals impacted by climate change. Regardless, states still bear the duty to preserve the basic human rights of their people, such as food and water security, access to healthcare, education, housing documentation and protection from discrimination. Temporary protection, family reunification and humanitarian admission as well as other arrangements to foster regional mobility can prevent unsafe transit through borders in regions where the lack of evacuation is a threat to the individuals.

The UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement suggests improved data collection, risk analysis, early warning, contingency planning, community participation and the implementation of climate-related mobility into national planning (UNFCCC, 2018). Finance continues to be a geopolitical concern. The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage established its Barbados Implementation Modalities, a first group of grant-funded interventions worth USD 250 million for 2025–26 (UNFCCC, 2025). Delegates can evaluate whether the accessibility, scale and grant-based nature of international finance are adequate for vulnerable states and communities.

Organisations and Major Countries Involved

UNFCCC (United United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

The UNFCCC offers the main multilateral platform for discussions on climate change

mitigation, adaptation, financing and loss and damage. It also hosts the Warsaw International Mechanism and Task Force on Displacement, which establishes a link between climate change issues and displacement.

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

UNHCR offers guidance on protection in relation to climate change and refugee law. UNHCR also encourages displaced populations and host communities to participate in climate change responses and has highlighted that the term 'climate refugee' does not automatically confer legal status.

IOM (International Organization for Migration)

IOM promotes policy and research related to environmental migration, planned migration, and displacement resulting from disasters. IOM also plays a role in promoting orderly, safe and rights-based migration.

IDMC (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)

IDMC generates comparable global data on internal displacement due to both conflict and disasters. This data can be used by national governments and UN agencies to direct durable solutions, recovery and early response funding.

SIDS (Small Island Developing States)

Small island developing states are highly vulnerable to sea level rise, coastal erosion, salinisation of freshwater resources, land degradation, increased vulnerability to storm surges and loss of cultural heritage and state integrity. SIDS tend to advocate for strong emissions reductions, adaptation finance that is available to all, loss and damage financing and maintenance of cultural identity and state integrity.

LDCs (Least Developed Countries)

LDCs are often vulnerable to climate change due to food insecurity, flooding, drought, and weak economic capacity. LDCs often prioritize locally driven adaptation, climate resilient livelihoods, technology transfer, accessible adaptation finance and predictable grants over loans that further increase debt burdens.

Major emitting economies

Developed and rapidly developing high emitting economies possess the capabilities to deliver emissions reductions and financing for climate change adaptation. Within discussions, there may be divergent views on current emissions, historical emissions, contributions to loss

and damage, the relationship between development in the domestic context and climate change, and historical responsibility.

Possible Solutions

1. Expand renewable and resilient energy.

Support energy efficiency hospitals and schools, through renewable-powered irrigation in climate vulnerable regions, clean energy for cooking, and solar mini-grids. New energy systems must provide local jobs and incorporate environmental and social protection to prevent displacement of people by new development.

2. Develop inclusive early warnings and anticipatory action systems.

Governments, humanitarian actors and UNDRR (United Nations office for Disaster Risk Reduction) should integrate multi-hazard risk information and early warnings into accessible formats in local languages using trusted local actors, radio, mobile phones and other appropriate communication methods. Early warnings should be connected to evacuation plans, shelters, supply pre-positioning, cash transfers based on forecasts, transportation and protection needs. The UN has launched the Early Warnings for All programme with the aim of ensuring that all people are protected from the risks posed by climate, water and weather disasters by the end of 2027 (United Nations, 2022).

3. Safeguard ecosystems and livelihoods.

Adaptation finance should target salinity and drought tolerant crops, sustainable fisheries, wetlands and mangrove restoration, improved irrigation and water harvesting practices, crop insurance, agroforestry and climate smart agriculture. These actions will help safeguard livelihoods and can also assist in emissions reductions.

4. Ensure locally driven and accessible finance.

Multilateral development institutions and high-income countries should increase locally driven and accessible finance to communities, cities, LDCs, SIDS and local governments. Finance should be provided for both host and displaced populations, include transparency in monitoring and should not impose excessive governance or debt.

5. Develop rights based displacement planning.

National adaptation plans should include analysis of the risk of displacement, evacuation mechanisms, access to land, health care, education, livelihood rehabilitation, housing and civil identity documents. Planned displacement should only be a final option

and require informed community consent, compensation, cultural integrity, secure land rights and the ability to file independent complaints.

6. Enhance regional cooperation.

Regional partners should cooperate on family reunification, disaster response, visa facilitation, document recognition, temporary admission and evacuation. This must result in support, not replacement, such as imperative, quick investments and emissions reductions that enable people to stay in their homes.

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