



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency



**MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND RISK REDUCTION**

# CLIMATE MIGRATION

The movement of a person or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of **sudden or progressive change in the environment due to climate change**, are obliged to leave their habitual place of residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, within a State or across an international border. This is a working definition of IOM with an analytic and advocacy purpose which does not have any specific legal value. Migration in this context can be associated with greater vulnerability of affected people, particularly if it is forced. Yet, migration can also be a form of adaptation to environmental stressors, helping to build resilience of affected individuals and communities.

Source: Warsaw International Mechanism, Executive Committee, Action Area 6: Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility - Submission from the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2016)

# FACTS AND FIGURES

## PROJECTIONS

- Disasters led to **23.7 million internal displacements** in 2021 (IDMC, 2022).
- The global ocean and inland waters together provide livelihoods for 60 million people (IPCC, 2022).
- 800 million people are expected to be living in urban areas that will be affected by sea-level rise by 2050 (C40, 2018).

For more information on migration, environment, climate change and risk reduction, visit the **IOM Environmental Migration Portal** [www.environmentalmigration.iom.int](http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int) and subscribe to our monthly **Newsletter**.

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