

Climate Change and Migration

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The **impacts** of climate change that lead to **human migration**:

- Rise of temperature beyond 2 degree Celsius will lead to some areas being under **constant drought** (dry conditions) – expected to increase from 2% to 10% in 2050
- **Rainfall patterns** will change and some areas will have more (South Asia) and some areas (Sub-Saharan Africa) will have very less rainfall
- Agriculture production in **rainfed areas** will fall by **30-50%** by the middle of the 21st century
- Reduction in **crop yields and fish** will lead to disruption of livelihoods

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Carrying capacity of large parts of the world – the ability of different **ecosystems** to provide food, water and shelter to its population will be severely affected by *climate change*

People are forced to move – *migrate*

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Climate Drivers – that lead to climate change (2 types)

- 1) **Climate Processes** – slow changes like sea level rise, salinization of agricultural land, desertification, water scarcity and food insecurity
- 2) **Climate Events** – sudden floods, cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons

Migration: movement of human population out of their habitats

Forced Migration: People are forced to move out of their habitats due to climate change due to shoreline erosion, coastal flooding and agriculture disruption. Also known as **distress migration**.

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Prof. N. Myers (Oxford University) estimates that there would be **200 million migrants by 2050** – which means that 1 in every 45 persons would have been displaced from their habitat due to climate change.

People who have been forced to leave their habitats due to climate change impacts are known as **“climate refugees”**

Climate refugees are those who **seek refuge** in places where they can live and make a livelihood without the impact of climate change

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The impact of climate change on **future forced migration** will depend on the following:

- 1) The quantity of future **greenhouse gas emissions**
- 2) The rate of future **population growth** and their **distribution**
- 3) **Government policies** especially in prediction of climate events and interventions
- 4) The effectiveness of **local and national adaptation** strategies