

What Individuals Can Do:

- ◆ **Urge their national government** to take the actions listed on the reverse side of this page
- ◆ **Urge their local government** to improve waste management to include collection of non-meat food scraps for composting *and* of all paper, plastics, glass, and metals for recycling
- ◆ **Educate** themselves and their families, friends, and communities (especially young people) about climate-induced displacement
- ◆ **Join a local group** of activists that resists environmentally harmful policies
- ◆ **Divest** from fossil fuel companies
- ◆ **Reduce** meat and cheese consumption
- ◆ **Eat locally-sourced** foods
- ◆ **Walk, bike, or take public transportation** instead of driving
- ◆ **Drink tap water** whenever possible and from a reusable, non-plastic container
- ◆ **Use reusable** bags, dishes, utensils, napkins, straws and food containers
- ◆ **Avoid buying** items that come in excessive packaging material
- ◆ **Conserve water** by taking shorter showers and washing dishes in a basin
- ◆ **Turn off** all lights and unplug electronics when not in use
- ◆ **Avoid buying** new electronics and other goods until those they own are unusable
- ◆ **Buy secondhand** goods whenever possible
- ◆ **Hang dry** clothing



Where To Learn More:

- ◆ **NGO Committee on Migration**
(see box below)
- ◆ **Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC):**
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/>
- ◆ **UNHCR-Climate Change and Disasters:**
<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/climate-change-and-disasters.html>
- ◆ **Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice:**
<http://www.mrfcj.org/>
- ◆ **Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda:**
<http://bit.ly/2n8JoXP>
- ◆ **Paris Climate Agreement NDCs:**
<http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/indc>
- ◆ **Platform on Disaster Displacement:**
<http://disasterdisplacement.org/>

NGO Committee on Migration

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Sources:

1. IDMC Global Estimates 2016
2. IPCC-2014: <http://bit.ly/1jhWmPq>
3. IDMC Global Estimates 2015
4. OECD: Poverty and Climate Change: <http://bit.ly/2nicymj>
5. *Scientific Reports* 6, Article number: 20281 (2016):
<http://go.nature.com/2mpa5cp>

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NGO Committee on Migration

Climate-Induced Displacement

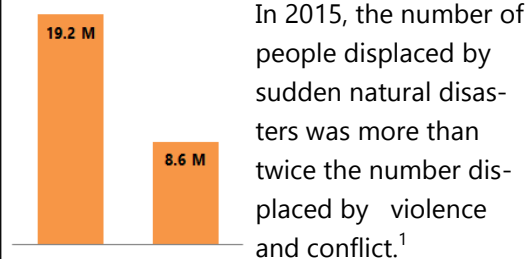


How our changing climate is forcibly displacing millions from their homes *and* what we can do about it

Climate change and forced displacement in our world today:

Climate change is already a problem

From 2008-2017, rapid-onset natural disasters such as typhoons and earthquakes displaced 203.4 million people (a number comparable to the population of Brazil) from their homes.¹



In 2015, the number of people displaced by sudden natural disasters was more than twice the number displaced by violence and conflict.¹

Slow-onset disasters, such as drought and sea level rise also threaten communities around the world. Islands from the South Pacific Ocean to the coasts of the United States have already begun responding to the threat of submersion by making plans for mass relocation of their residents. Studies predict 72-187 million people will be displaced by sea level rise by 2100.²

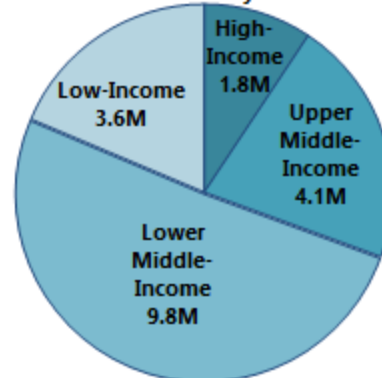


The trend of displacement due to climate change and disaster is accelerating. Historical models suggest that a person has a 60% greater chance of being displaced by a disaster today than that person did 40 years ago.³

Those living in poverty are the most affected population

Lower income nations continue to be the most vulnerable to displacement by climate disaster due to a number of factors, including lack of financial resources for adaptation and mitigation of climate change impact and more direct dependence on ecosystem stability for food, water, shelter, and fuel.⁴

Millions Displaced by Disaster in 2015 by World Bank-defined Country Income¹



One of the greatest injustices of climate change is that 20 of the 36 countries who contribute to it the most through high rates of carbon emissions are also among the least vulnerable to its negative impacts.⁵

When people are forcibly displaced, they are stripped of their human rights to food, safe drinking water, sanitation, and shelter. Their vulnerability to violence increases, and their access to education, healthcare, and personal freedoms is obstructed. These injustices are particularly difficult to overcome for those who do not have significant savings or access to credit in a strong currency.

How governments can help:



- ◆ Fulfill Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) agreed to in the Paris Agreement as quickly as possible and collaborate with other governments to support their doing the same
- ◆ Converse with leaders and citizens of Small Island States and coastal regions to better understand implications of sea level rise for human rights, culture, and identity
- ◆ Promote discussions at the national and international levels regarding the possibility of a protected status and aid systems for persons being displaced by climate change and disaster
- ◆ Implement an urgent transition from fossil fuel dependence to sustainable energy subsistence
- ◆ Undertake national education campaigns to promote awareness of the causes and effects of climate change
- ◆ Champion use of Human Development Index & GINI coefficient, not GDP, as measures of development
- ◆ Implement national data collection examining the relationship between environmental degradation, displacement, and loss of access to human rights