

Source 1

In 2019 there were many extreme climate events. Wildfires affected California and Australia, whilst typhoons hit east Asia. Cyclone Idai put much of Mozambique under flood water and France experienced its highest temperature on record. More people are being affected by climate change and environmental disasters and many are forced to move away from their homes to survive. In 2019, it was estimated that 5.1 million people migrated due to environmental reasons. It is estimated that this will grow to 123 million people by 2050.

Source 2

Many individuals choose to migrate to live in a better environment. Others must migrate to survive because of climate change and other environmental factors. This migration takes place within and between countries.

Environmental reasons for migration

- Escape from threat of injury and death.
- Improve access to food and water.
- Find a better place to grow and sell crops.
- Increase employment opportunities.
- Keep families together for support.
- Enjoy better health and safety.
- Create a more secure future.



Source 3

In the future, more people will migrate due to climate change. Listen to Aman; he has already been affected by climate change.

'My name is Aman. I have a wife and family to care for. I once grew many acres of wheat to feed my family and sell in the market. The crops are all gone. The climate has changed and there is not enough water now. The desert has taken over and we have to move to a new area to survive.'

Could you live like Aman? You would have to migrate too. His experience tells us about future world problems.

Migration is a way for communities to cope with climate change. There are now more environmental disasters than in the past. For example, in Africa there have been floods, droughts and the biggest locust outbreak in generations. The problem will get worse – think about rising sea levels and cities close to the coast in other parts of the world.

It is difficult to estimate the number of environmental migrants. However, research by international organisations suggests that in 2018, 17.2 million people were displaced by environmental disasters in 148 countries. Studies show this will get worse in the future.

Extract from a climate and migration blog in 2020

Source 4: How can we prevent environmental migration?

Uki

Environmental migration should be managed globally by countries working together. Climate change crosses borders and migrants cross borders.

The World Bank has proposed cutting global greenhouse gas emissions to reduce climate change and pressure on livelihoods. This will reduce the need for climate migration. With the help of the United Nations, governments should research climate change and migration trends to find places where migrants will be safe and welcome. Housing, schools, healthcare, and new jobs can be created before disasters happen.

Countries must cooperate to prevent human suffering. If not, there will be increased tensions and conflict from pressure on scarce resources.

Wealthy, industrialised countries produced the emissions that created climate change. However, less industrialised, poorer nations will pay the price in the form of climate disasters and resource scarcity. That seems unfair!

Pana

I disagree. These issues can only be solved by individuals.

International action is too slow. Many country leaders do not understand the complexity of the problem. They act out of short-term self-interest because they want votes. Too many politicians only care about their own country. They do not care when other people suffer and do not see the benefits of countries working together.

Individual citizens can show the way through kindness to strangers and by supporting local migrant organisations. People should help migrants to learn our language and find employment. Migrants work hard and contribute to the wealth of our country so they deserve our help.

What are you waiting for? Write to the government and ask them to cooperate with other countries and the United Nations in fighting climate change. Join an environmental action group. I am a member; they really do make a difference! Adopt a lifestyle that cuts greenhouse gases – walk, cycle and eat less meat.

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