



According to the 2024 Global Report on Internal Displacement ¹

In 2023,

56% of 47 million new internal displacements were triggered by disasters.

20.3 million displacements due to weather-related disasters like floods, storms, droughts, wildfires, etc.

6.1 million displacements due to Geophysical disasters like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, etc.

3.6 million internal displacements by disasters in South Asia.

110,000 new displacements due to disasters in Nepal in 2023.

With 2024 officially confirmed as the hottest year in history according to the World Meteorological Organization, extreme weather events exacerbated due to climate change have caused widespread destruction worldwide. The effects have been especially severe in regions already grappling with conflict or hosting large populations of forcibly displaced people. ²

216 million

people could become climate migrants within their own countries by 2050, without serious efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

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What is Climate migration?

The movement of a person or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad.

What triggers climate migration?

Sudden-onset events

Rapid, extreme weather events that occur suddenly (within days or even hours), causing immediate displacement.

- Examples:
- Floods
 - Cyclones/Hurricanes
 - Wildfires
 - Landslides
 - Storm surges

Potential impacts include sudden loss of homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure requiring urgent evacuation.

Slow-onset events

Gradual environmental changes develop over time (months, years, or even decades), leading to long-term migration pressures.

- Examples:
- Sea-level rise
 - Desertification
 - Drought
 - Coastal erosion
 - Glacier melt

Potential impacts include the gradual degradation of resources (water, food), which could lead to economic hardship and eventual relocation.

Addressing climate migration requires a multifaceted approach, including strengthening existing protection frameworks, adapting policies to accommodate climate-related displacement, and investing in climate resilience and adaptation measures in vulnerable regions.

Sources:
¹ Global Report on Internal Displacement. 2024. IDMC.
² WMO confirms 2024 as warmest year on record at about 1.55°C above pre-industrial level. 2025. World Meteorological Organization.
³ Groundswell: Acting on Internal Climate Migration. 2025. World Bank.
⁴ Glossary on Migration. 2019. International Organization for Migration.