

Climate change, disasters and displacement

Factsheet

Last update: November 2023

Many more people are displaced by disasters each year than by conflict or violence. For those who cross an international border, only some will be eligible for protection under refugee law or human rights law.

What's the context?

Each year, many millions of people are displaced by the impacts of climate change and disasters – about one person per second. Most of these people move within their own countries, but some are forced across international borders.

Who is in need of protection ?

Legally, there is no such thing as a 'climate refugee' or an 'environmental refugee'. But there are refugees whose predicament is made worse because of the impacts of disasters or climate change. Climate change and disasters provide a context in which existing persecution may be amplified, or

- (1) reducing disaster risk and helping affected communities adapt to the impacts of climate change;
- (2) developing temporary forms of protection, such as humanitarian visas or extended- stay arrangements, that give short-term relief to people who are displaced by a disaster;

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