

One Sheet

Climate Migration

September 2021 Prepared by Rev. Richenda Fairhurst
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Key Facts:

Climate migration causes include: sea level rise, salinification of coastal farmland, rising temperatures, melting permafrost, access to water, precipitation changes resulting in either drought or flooding, erosion, and lack of meltwater from snowpack, storms, crop failure, fishery failures, fires and other factors including civil unrest caused by stressed resources and migration.

- **24 million people are displaced in 2019** due to weather and climate related impacts.
- IEP estimated up to **1.2 billion people could be displaced** due to impacts from climate change by 2050.
- **In 2020 in the US, 1.7 million people were displaced** due to floods, wildfire, storms, severe winter conditions, and/or extreme temperature. ([IDMC](#))

Effects to Children and Families: Climate related events have forced 50 million children from their homes and across borders. ([Unicef](#)) Read Unicef's Report [Climate Mobility and Children](#). From the report: *"Displaced children and their families lose much more than shelter.... They lose access to health care, education, livelihoods, social services and networks, religious community, political autonomy, and the security and identity associated with a sense of home."*

Effects for People of Color: [Unequal Impact: The Deep Links Between Racism and Climate Change](#). Yale 360.

Faith related programs, webinars, articles and more

A January 2021 poll by PRRI covered [Immigration Policy and Public Opinion](#), poll results include a breakdowns by party and religious affiliation.

[What the Bible Teaches us on Climate Migration](#), from Sojourners. Another article centering scripture is an open access article [Jewish Law, Roman Law, and the Accordance of Hospitality to Refugees and Climate-Change Migrants](#), from Migration and Society 2021.

A few resources from the ECLA Lutheran Church, including this [one-sheet](#), and the [AMMPARO](#) program, a response to the child refugee crisis. See also [God, Migration, and the Climate Crisis](#). A Webinar from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

From the Catholic tradition, the story of [Sister Norma Pimentel](#) and her work on the southern US border, from Desert News. See also [Pastoral Guidelines on Climate Displaced People](#), a statement issued by Pope Francis, and an article spotlighting the statement, ['Many are being devoured in conditions that make it impossible to survive,'](#) on CNBC.

From the Episcopal Church, a webinar [Impacts of Climate Induced Migration An Anglican Perspective](#) and a statement on [Refugee Resettlement and Protection](#). More advocacy resources can be found also on their webpage addressing [Migration, Refugees, & Immigration](#).

Information from CWS (Church World Service) about [climate refugees](#). “Every two seconds someone in the world is forced to leave their home and everything they know.”

From the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) for their [We Choose Welcome](#) campaign, which includes a comprehensive [We Choose Welcome Action Guide 2020](#). The Action Guide doesn't address climate refugees specifically, but has information and links to help congregations better understand US laws and policies in terms of legal status for those seeking asylum, links to better understand existing immigration policies, and actions congregations can take.

From the humanitarian perspective, looking at the right of people to migrate, or to be able to farm and make a life at home addressing climate impacts specifically to places like Burkina Faso. In Italian with subtitles, [The right to migrate](#) by Grammenos Mastrojeni at TEDxMilano.

Articles, Maps, Data and Information:

Within the US: The Great Climate Migration series includes an overview, [Climate Change Will Force A New Climate Migration](#), and interactive article with key facts and visuals, [New Climate Maps Show a Transformed United States](#) both from ProPublica. See stories of impact with visuals from NYT Magazine, [The Great Climate Migration](#).

For a look at sea level rise alone in the US, [Where Will Climate Migrants Flock](#), in Harvard News. Also, look at NOAA's interactive map, link to the [Sea Level Rise Viewer](#) and click 'LAUNCH'.

Internationally: From the UN network is the International Organization for Migration (IOM) their website has articles and links to the concerns of [Human Mobility at the UNFCCC COPs](#), including [interactive maps](#) of different global regions. Look also at the [Global Internal Displacement Database](#) which is searchable by weather event and country.

Internal Displacement: The World Bank, Groundswell Report [Acting on internal Climate Migration](#), focused on migration *within* countries (IDP Internally Displaced People), lots of visuals. See also [OCHA Internal Displacement](#) there were “55 million IDPs worldwide as of 31 December 2020, the highest number ever recorded.”

Plants & Animals: A Visual Map looked at the potential for 3,000 land, air and ocean species, [Migrations in Motion](#) from The Nature Conservancy. For plants [As Climate Warms, a Rearrangement of World's Plant Life Looms](#), Yale 360. This last article is from 2017, & in many places, climate impacts are accelerating.