

Module 3 Expert Video

PART 1:

The IOM definition of climate migration speaks of “sudden and progressive change in the environment due to climate change”.

This can give people a reason or even a need to migrate, but many people do not actually migrate in these circumstances.

Can you think of two reasons why this might be the case?

Climate impacts can give people a reason to migrate, but to actually move, they also need to have the resources and capabilities to do so.

When people want to move because of high climate risks, but are not able to, we call them ‘involuntary immobile’ or ‘trapped’.

We'll talk about this more in module 6.

The second reason why many people do not move when they are confronted with climate change, is that they may have other – and more preferred – options to adapt or to protect themselves locally.

If drought threatens their agricultural livelihoods, for example, they may be able to grow more drought resistant crops or rely on non-farm income.

Or when increasing flood risks threaten their lives and properties, they may be able to protect themselves by building dykes or making changes to their houses.

To summarize: in situations of increasing climate risk, some people move and other people stay.

Some stay because they are not able to move and others stay because they prefer to adapt locally.

PART 2:

In this module, you've seen that migration in the context of climate change can take many forms.

One thing I would like you to remember is that migration is not a bad thing.

It can help to make people less vulnerable to climate change.

Therefore, migration policy should not be about restricting or controlling migration.

Rather, it should focus on providing potential migrants with more options, including the possibility to stay.

The more they have a choice, the more positive the outcomes for migrants themselves, their relatives at home, and also their destination areas.

In the next module, we look at a type of human mobility in the context of climate change that is less positive.

We'll talk about climate induced displacements, which happens in situations when people have virtually no other choice than to flee from climate hazards.