

Module 4 Animation

“Let's go! The hurricane is coming!

“We have to leave now!”

“Imagine you are forced to leave your home with little more than your wet clothes on your back, seeing your home getting destroyed.

“How would you feel if you were in this situation?

“That happened to my family when Hurricane Maria hit Dominica in September 2017.”

Climate change contributes to more frequent and devastating weather events such as floods, storms, and droughts.

In the case of slow onset processes such as droughts, migration can be a suitable coping strategy for affected populations.

However, when sudden onset events hit, people may have to move quickly out of harm's way.

Under projected climate change, the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones could increase.

It has also caused the ‘hurricane belt’ to widen.

As a result, more communities outside of the current band are exposed and might be displaced.

“I was in bed when it all happened.

“My mother woke me up, screaming to my little brother and me to follow her.

“There had been a power outage, so it was dark.

“Phone lines and the internet were also down.

“I was confused and terrified at the same time.

“Because a fallen tree blocked the front door, we had to escape from a window at the back of the house.

“It was awful to see the level of devastation in my city from the wind, rain, and storm surge.

“Many of the roofs of the buildings had been blown off.

“Houses had been washed away by landslides and the main street was full of debris and floating cars.

“When we first arrived at the shelter, we thought it would be for a few days.

“But we are still here after three months.

“I'm wondering when I can go to school again.

“I haven't seen my grandparents since the hurricane hit.

“I know they are okay, but the roads are blocked, so visiting is impossible.

“We sometimes go to the dock to try to get passage to St Lucia “or another neighbouring island, but the boats are full, so we are still here.”

Of course it is the poorest people who are most likely to be displaced as they are the most vulnerable to climate hazards.

But Hurricane Maria affected everyone in Dominica –

even the president's roof was blown off.

But people in vulnerable conditions like Juana are less likely to be able to return to their homes or rebuild.