

Module 1 Animation

Climate change is impacting communities worldwide.

This results in different forms of human mobility.

Let's follow the stories of four communities to find out more.

In northern Ghana, the Nurudong family earn their livelihood from running a small scale farm.

In drought years, they often don't harvest enough food for themselves.

When this happens, they need money to buy food until the next harvest.

As there are few possibilities to earn money locally, the eldest son and daughter migrate to the south of Ghana during the dry season to find employment there.

With the money they earn, the family can buy food.

In this case, migration is an effective coping strategy to deal with drought.

Let's consider the case of Hurricane Maria hitting the Caribbean island of Dominica in 2017.

It was devastating what the island's population had to go through.

Juana and her family were woken up in the middle of the night as their home was getting battered by the storm.

They escaped to a shelter in the interior of the island.

Later on, the full implications of the disaster became evident.

With most buildings damaged or destroyed and livelihoods and essential services disrupted.

This made recovery slow and Juana's family had to live in the shelter without access to services such as education for a long time.

When climate change makes life unsustainable in the longer term, relocating an entire community is sometimes the only real option.

In Fiji, sea level rise is increasingly a problem.

40 years ago, in a village along the coast, the community members built a seawall to protect themselves.

This helped for some time, but a few years ago, the water started to flood the homes of villagers again.

Instead of building a bigger seawall, the government decided to relocate the village to higher ground.

While most villagers agree that relocation is the safest option, they are also worried about the effects this has on the community.

Their livelihood, culture and identity are strongly connected to the land they grew up on.

Dalbanga South is a village located along a river in Bangladesh.

Due to slowly rising water levels and wave impacts from ships, the riverbank gradually erodes and sometimes larger chunks break off.

For now, there are no plans to relocate the village, so people have to find a solution themselves.

The families living closest to the riverbank are the most vulnerable.

Many decide to move inland as they see no way to protect their houses against riverbank erosion.

However, some families are not able to move because they don't have money to build a house in a safer place.

They become trapped in an extremely dangerous situation.

These four examples show the four most common mobility outcomes in the context of climate change:

Migration, displacement, planned relocation, and trapped populations.