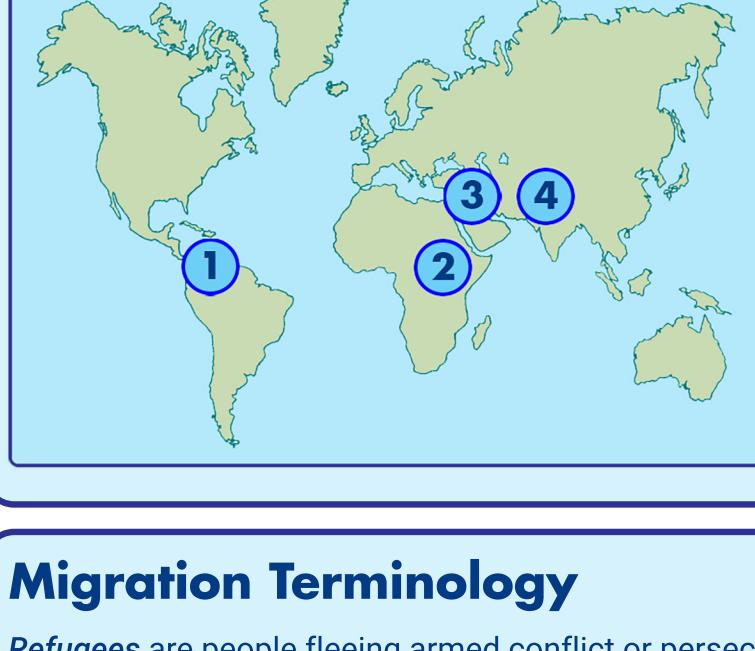


Migration and Sustainability

Current Major Human Migrations



1. **4.5 million** total displaced Venezuelans, with the majority residing in Colombia (**1.8 million**)
2. **2.2 million** refugees fleeing conflict in South Sudan, mostly settling in Uganda (**1.4 million**)
3. War in Syria has led to **6.6 million** refugees, with people settling mainly in Turkey (**3.6 million**), but also in Europe
4. **2.7 million** refugees and migrants leaving Afghanistan for Pakistan (**1.4 million**) and Europe

Migration Terminology

Refugees are people fleeing armed conflict or persecution. These are people whose lives are at risk due to violence and war, which leads them to cross international borders in search of safety and security for themselves and their families.

Migrants choose to move without a looming threat of conflict or persecution. They may be fleeing unlivable conditions, economic or environmental hardships, or may simply be searching for a better life and greater opportunities.

Environmental migrants are people forced to leave their homes due to a degradation of environmental conditions caused by climate change, unsustainable practices or overconsumption of resources.

How do unsustainable practices drive migration?

Unchecked burning of forests for slash and burn agriculture or commodity provision (i.e. pastures for beef farming) can **destroy ecosystems** and interrupt natural ecosystem functioning, **reducing ecosystem services** upon which communities rely.

Monoculture plantations (i.e. palm oil) **take land away** from indigenous and local communities, forcing people to move away from their homes to make room for resource-intensive, commercial plantations.

Intensive agriculture for commercial purposes leads to **groundwater depletion**, **soil degradation**, and **pollution** of local water bodies. By using up all the resources and polluting waterways, intensive agriculture makes it impossible for small, local communities to survive.

Increasing greenhouse gas emissions cause **climate change**, which reinforces natural disasters such as **droughts** and **floods**, as well as causing **rising sea levels**, which forces people to leave their homes in the most affected areas.

Is this already happening?

In **Bangladesh**, floods and storms regularly destroy homes and farms. In the decade leading up to 2019, over **700,000** people were **displaced due to natural disasters**, which are only increasing in frequency due to **climate change**.

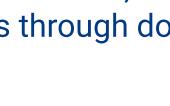
In **Syria**, a long drought, exasperated by **unsustainable management** of water resources, as well as **climate change**, has been directly linked to the political instability that caused the ongoing civil war that has generated **millions of refugees**.

In **Indonesia**, expanding **commercial plantations of palm oil** have forced indigenous peoples off their ancestral lands, polluted local water supplies, and violently suppressed protests. Especially affected have been **indigenous peoples** relying on the forest for survival, as they've been **driven away from their lands and lifestyles**.

What can we do?

Buy sustainable:

look for certifications of sustainable forest use



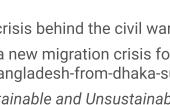
Donate:

to reputable aid organizations to support affected migrants



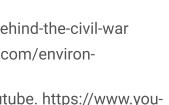
Advocate against climate change:

join a protest or write to politicians to push for emissions reductions



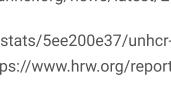
Help small producers:

buy food products from smaller, local producers that don't use intensive monocultures



Support indigenous rights:

if you live in a region with an indigenous movement, support their fight for rights through donations or advocacy



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