



# March

## STAR: Students Together Assisting Refugees

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Climate Refugees
  - Why Now?
- March Updates

### CLIMATE "REFUGEES"

*"Climate change [is] now found to be the key factor accelerating all other drivers of forced displacement. Most of the people affected will remain in their own countries. They will be internally displaced. But if they cross a border, they will not be considered refugees. These persons are not truly migrants, in the sense that they did not move voluntarily.*

*As forcibly displaced not covered by the refugee protection regime, they find themselves in a legal void"*

*— António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees*



There could be 1.2 billion climate refugees by 2050. According to UNHCR, an annual average of 21.5 million people have been displaced by floods, storms, wildfires since 2008



Over the past 30 years, the number of people in coastal areas who are at high risk of rising sea levels has increased from 160 million to 260 million. 90% are from undeveloped countries.



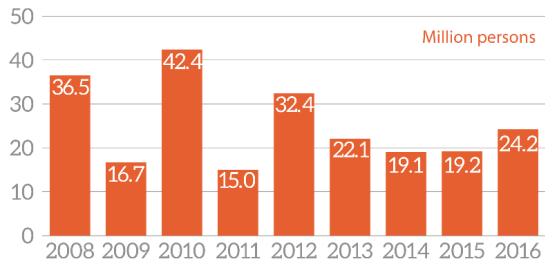
The term climate "refugees" has been used since 1985, but this is legally incorrect. According to the 1951 Geneva Convention, the legal protections of refugees do not extend to climate migrants



The worsening climate crisis has caused greater conflict. For example, in Syria, desertification meant that 800,000 people lost their income, 85% of country's livestock died. This contributed to a greater IDP's and 6.6 million Syrians.



### Internal displacement of persons due to natural disasters

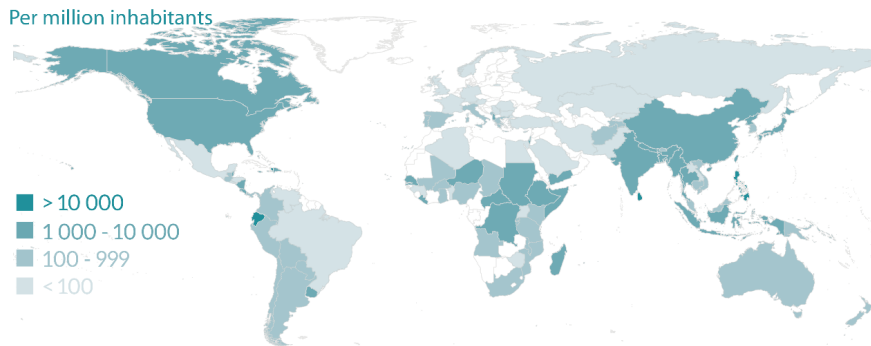
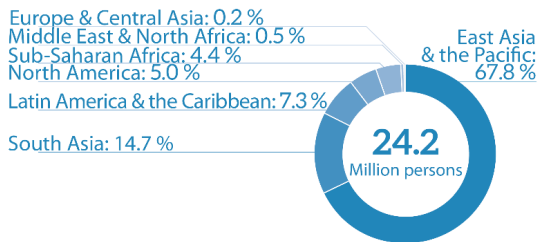


**24.2 MILLION**  
DISPLACEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH DISASTERS IN 2016

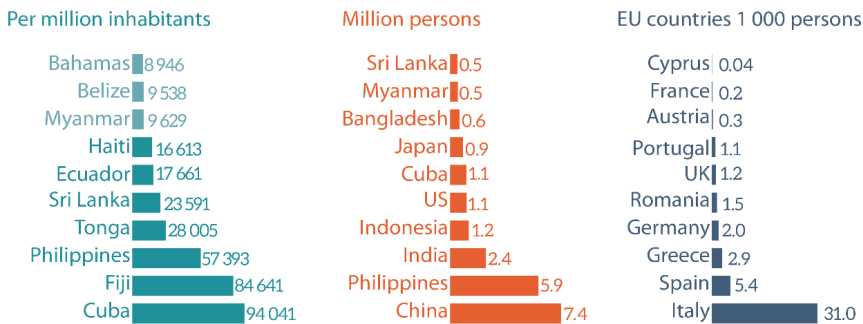
**117**  
COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WITH DISASTERS IN 2016

**3 254**  
DISPLACEMENTS IN 2016 PER MILLION INHABITANT

**46**  
DISPLACEMENTS EVERY HOUR IN 2016



#### Countries with the highest number of new displacements



**Internally displaced persons (IDPs):** persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of natural disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. Natural disasters refers for instance to earthquake, hurricane, typhoon, flood, volcanic eruption, tsunami, tornado, landslide, extreme temperature, etc.

## Why Now?

**Refugee:** "someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particularly social group or political opinion" (UN 1951 Geneva Convention)



**Horn of Africa has entered the 6th consecutive rainy season without rain. The drought has led to over 1.7 million IDP's and 180.000 South Sudanese and Somalian refugees are also impacted in Kenya and Ethiopia. The space in refugee camps is limited. (UNHCR)**

<https://epthinktank.eu/2018/06/19/climate-refugees-towards-a-possible-definition/>



## VIDEO & AUDIO



In other news, Ke Huy Quan won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor at the Oscars March 12 for his role in "Everything Everywhere All at Once". Quan was a Vietnam boat refugee who fled South Vietnam in 1979.

"This, this is the American Dream!"

## SOURCES

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