

# Global drought & climate migration: Impacts for Minnesota

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Midwest Drought and Human Health Workshop

November 20-21, 2019

PROTECTING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS

#### **Thank You!**

- Bruce Snyder, Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
- Blain Mamo, MDH Refugee and International Health Program
- Vishnu Laalitha Surapaneni, UMN Assistant Professor of Medicine
- Patricia Fenrick, DHS Refugee Programs Office
- Megan Dayton, MN State Demographic Center





#### **CLIMATE MIGRATION**

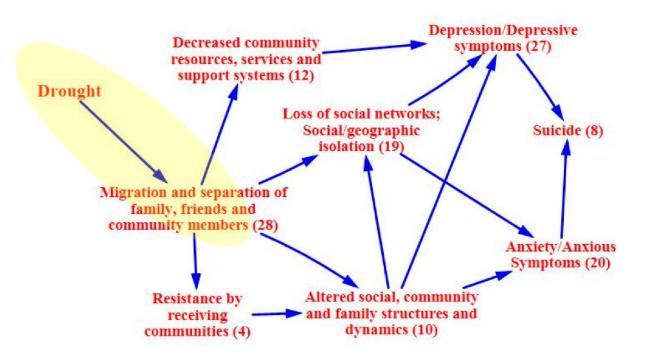
Refers to population displacement due to impacts on the environment from climate change, particularly from sea level rise, extreme weather events, and drought.



#### Climate Migration, Drought & Health

### The Mental Health Outcomes of Drought: A Systematic Review and Causal Process Diagram

by ( Holly Vins <sup>1</sup>, ( Jesse Bell <sup>1,2</sup>, ( Shubhayu Saha <sup>1</sup> and ( Jeremy J. Hess <sup>1,3,\*</sup> ⊠

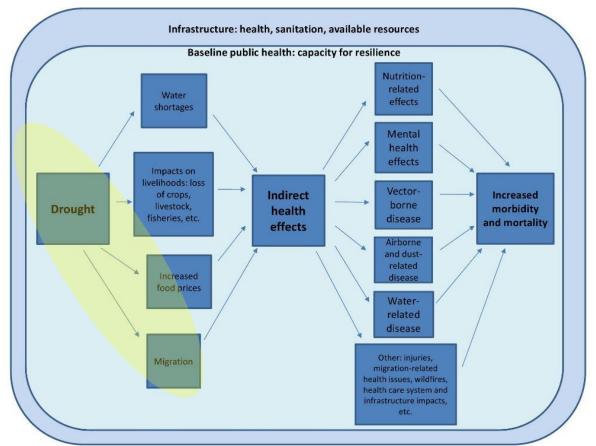


#### Health Effects of Drought: a Systematic Review of the Evidence

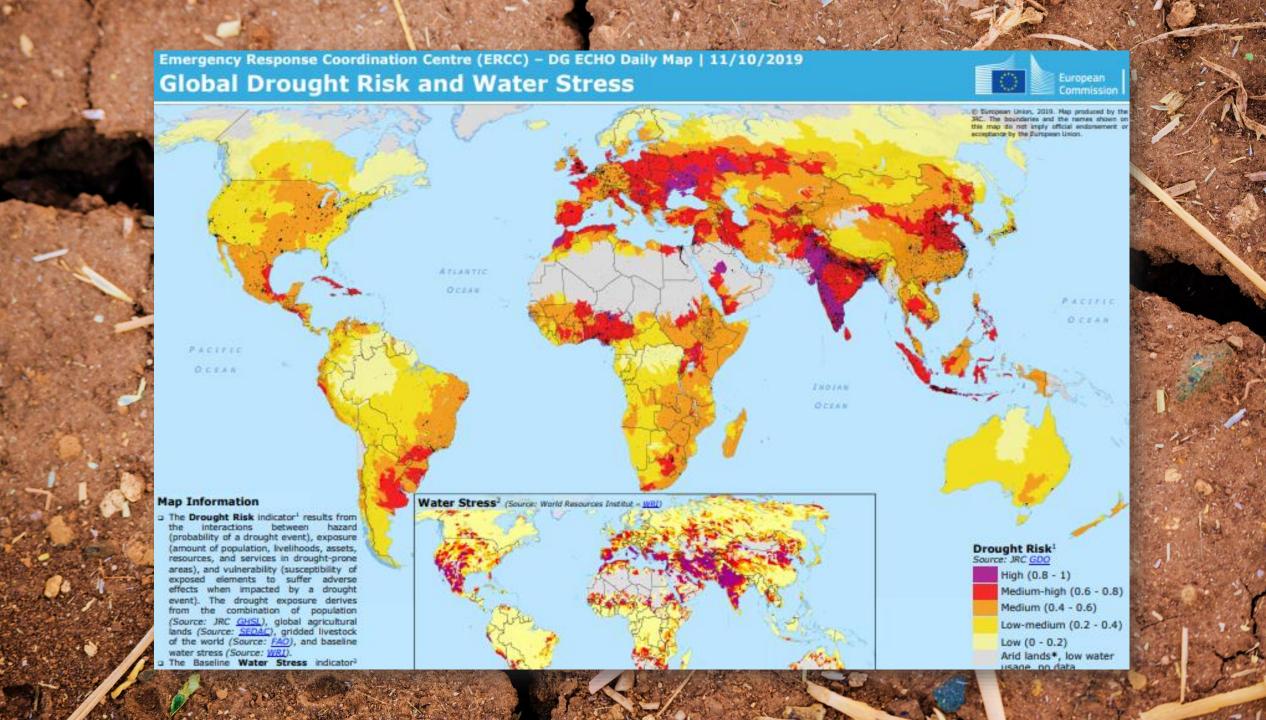
JUNE 5. 2013 · RESEARCH ARTICLE

AUTHORS

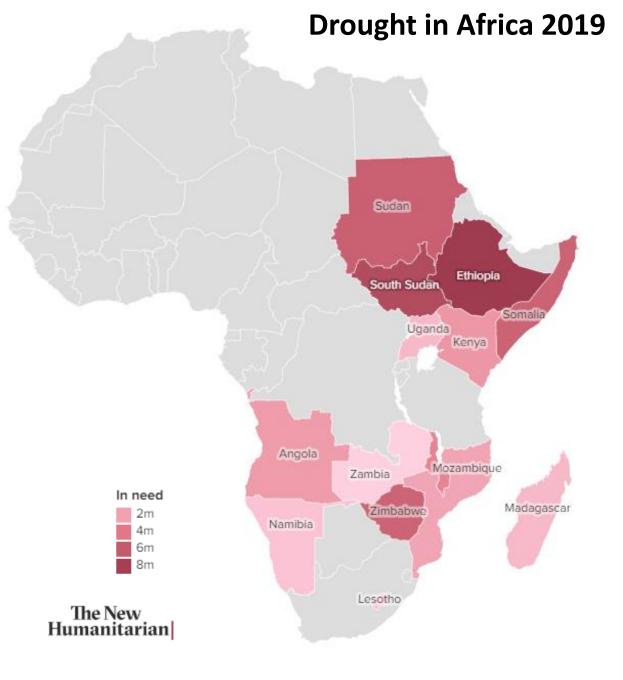
Carla Stanke Marko Kerac Christel Prudhomme Jolyon Medlock Virginia Murray













A mass grave for children in Dadaab during the 2011 East Africa drought.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia



Business Markets World Politics TV More

BIG STORY 10 AUGUST 28, 2019 / 3:15 PM / 3 MONTHS AGO

## From Yemen to South Sudan, climate and water stress seen worsening conflict

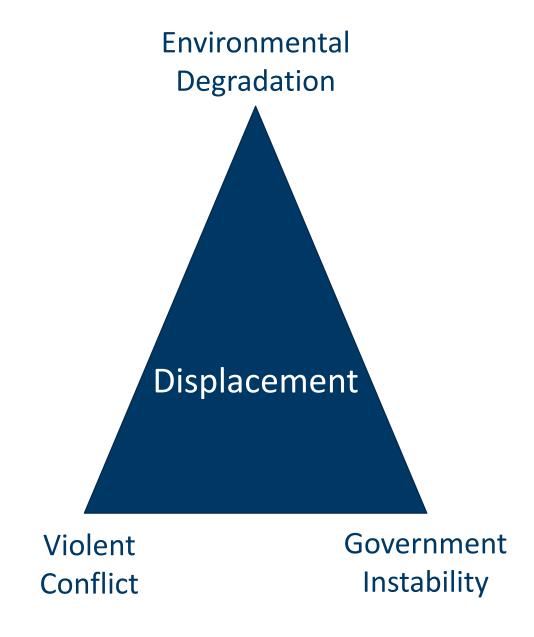
Adela Suliman

4 MIN READ



STOCKHOLM (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Social and political tensions fueled by climate change have yet to translate into international military confrontations, but local conflicts are heating up due to pressures such as drought and water scarcity, officials and researchers said on Wednesday.

STOCKHOLM (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Social and political tension fueled by climate change have yet to translate into international military confrontations, but local conflicts are heating up due to pressures such as drought and water scarcity, officials and researchers said on Wednesday.



#### **Drought, Conflict & Climate Migration**



#### Global Environmental Change

Volume 54, January 2019, Pages 239-249



#### Climate, conflict and forced migration

Guy J. Abel <sup>a</sup> ⊠, Michael Brottrager <sup>b</sup> ⊠, Jesus Crespo Cuaresma <sup>c</sup> ⊠, Raya Muttarak <sup>d</sup>  $\otimes$  <sup>1</sup> ⊠

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2018.12.003

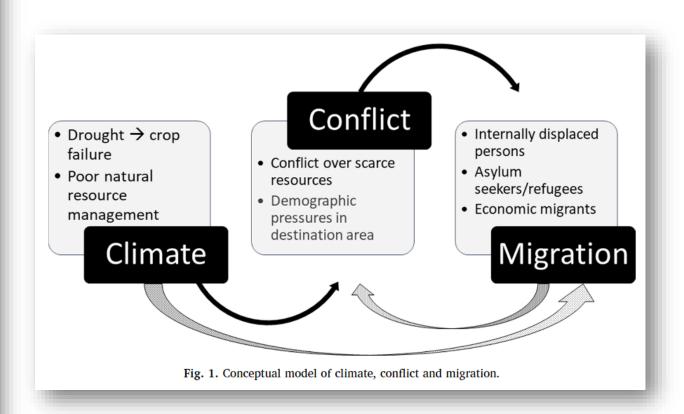
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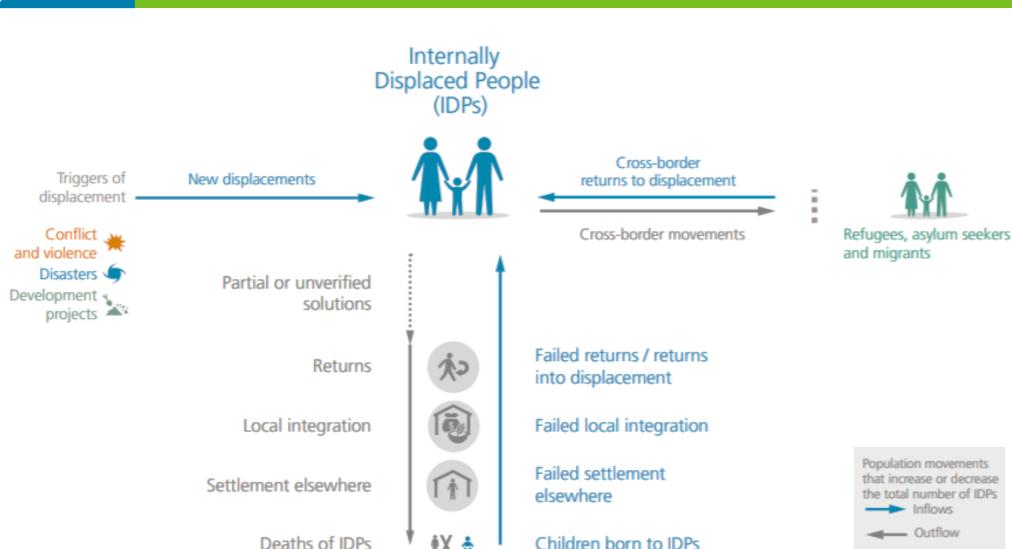
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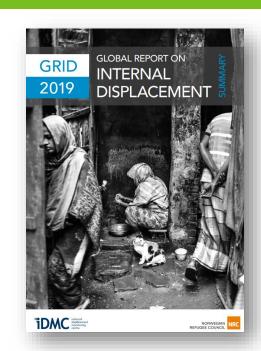
#### Highlights

- Growing public interest on climate driver of conflict and migration but evidence is scarce.
- Climate change is responsible for increase in asylum seeking through conflict.
- Reduced rainfall increases conflict which in turn drive outflow of asylum seekers.
- Established causal relationship between climate, conflict and asylum seeking only in the recent period.



#### **Drought, Conflict & Climate Migration**

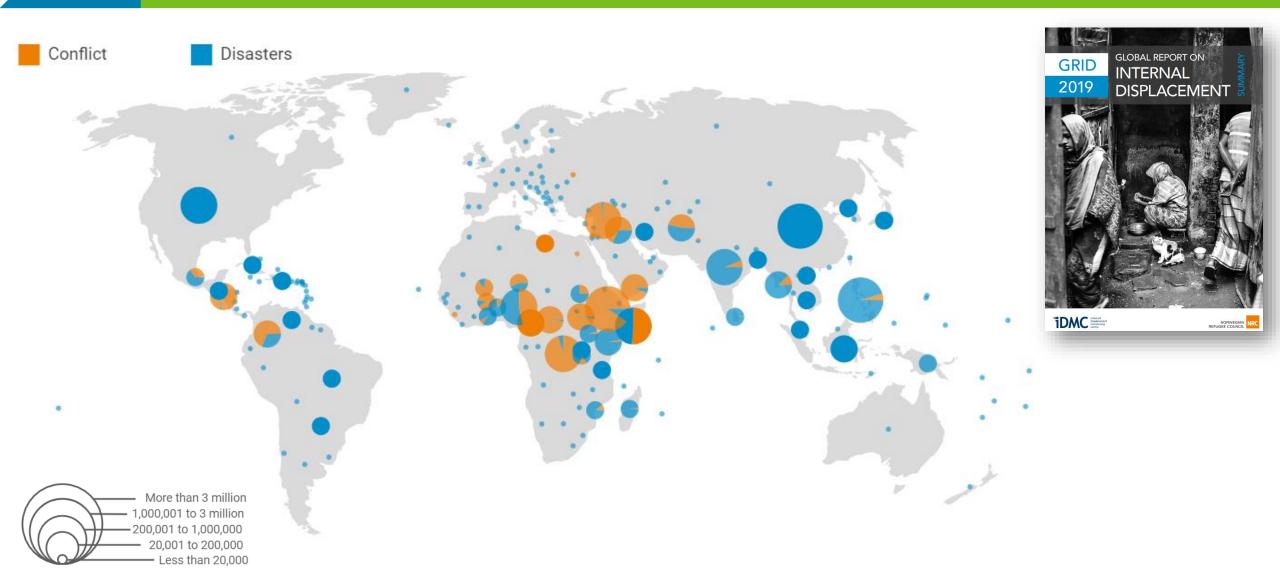




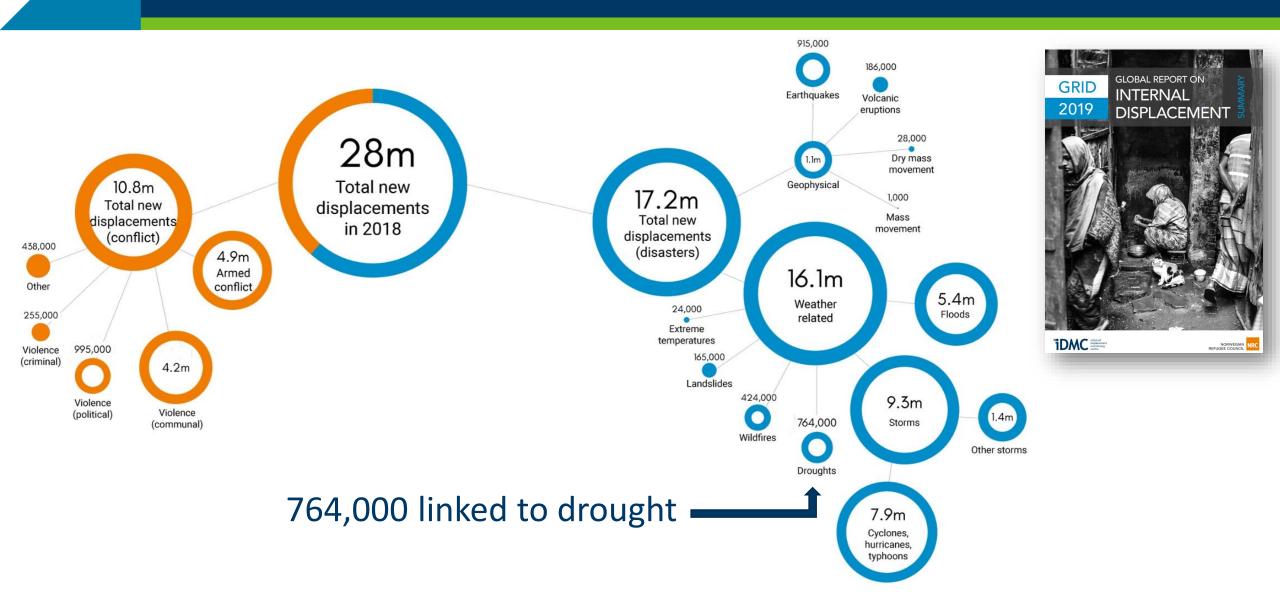
Population movements that increase or decrease the total number of IDPs Inflows

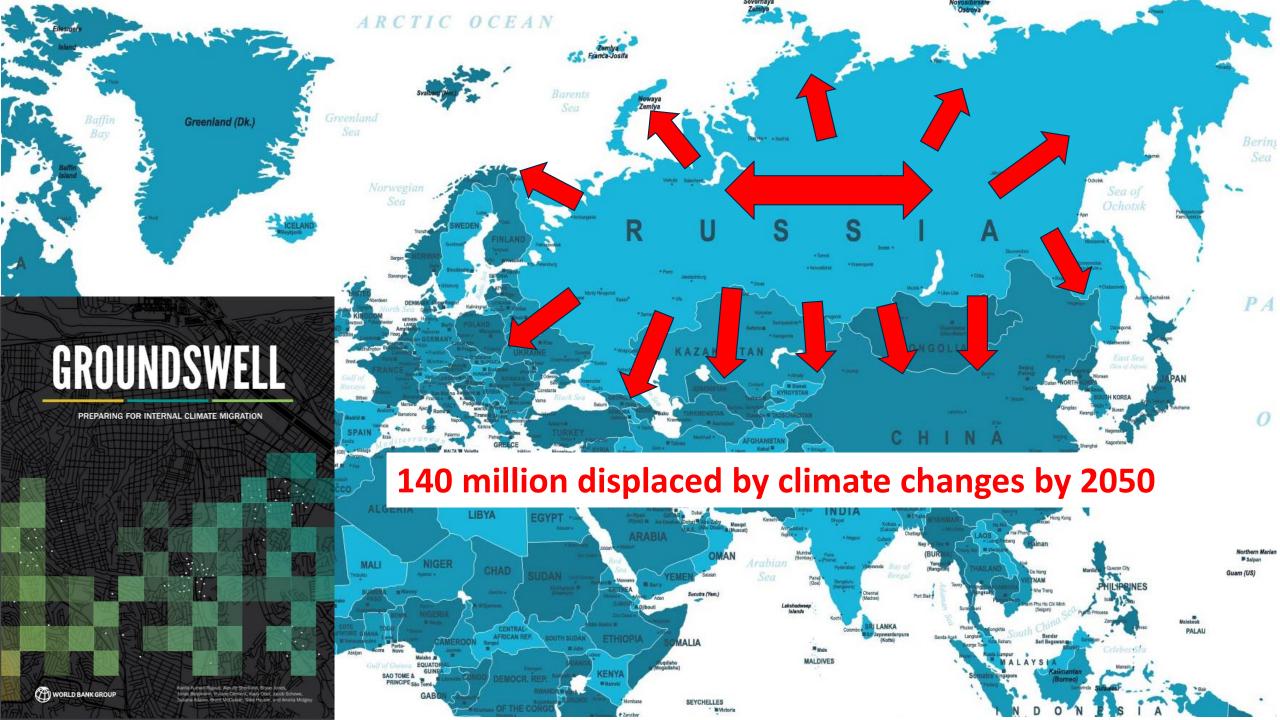
Outflow

## There were **28 million new displacements** associated with conflict and disasters across 148 countries and territories in 2018.



## New displacements in 2018: Breakdown for conflict, violence and disasters





#### Climate Migration, Drought & Health

- Climate-related disasters, like drought, are contributing to major shifts in migration patterns.
- Most data focused on IDPs but still give some indication of crossborder migration potential.
- U.S. needs to plan for increasing immigration and internal displacement from impacted populations.



# No clear legal definition for people displaced by climate hazards

**Climate migrant?** 

Climate refugee?

Climate-displaced person?

**Environmental emergency migrant?** 

**Environmental forced migrants?** 

**Environmental motivated migrants?** 



#### Federal and State policy efforts



Home » Media Center » Press Releases

#### Velázquez Introduces Historic Bill to Protect Environmental Migrants

October 23, 2019 | Press Release

Washington, DC – Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) has introduced H.R. 4732, the Climate Displaced Person's Act of 20' kind legislation aimed at addressing the growing effect of climate change on human migration.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**BOSTON STATEHOUSE** 

### Is Massachusetts ready for more climate refugees?





Yusufi Vali of Boston's Office for Immigrant Advancement joined Rep. Liz Miranda to speak in support of a bill he said would help the state develop a "proactive plan" for supporting evacuees from future climate disasters, like the hurricane that devastated Puerto Rico in 2017. (Photo: Katie Lannan/SHNS)

by: Katie Lannan

Posted: Oct 30, 2019 / 10:06 AM EDT / Updated: Oct 30, 2019 / 10:06 AM EDT

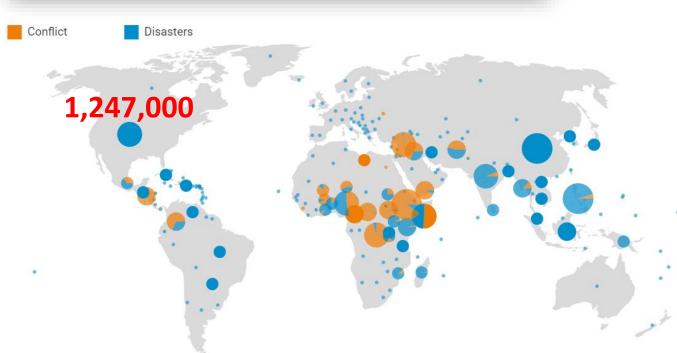
BOSTON (SHNS) - After the deadly Category 5 Hurricane Maria forced Puerto Rican evacuees to settle



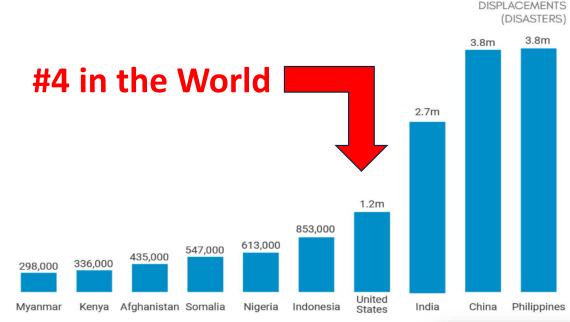
#### U.S. Cities Need to Plan for an **Influx of Internal Climate Migrants**

Migrations have already started in the face of droughts and hurricanes, and the situation is likely to get worse

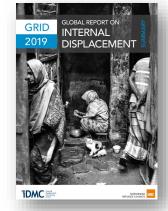
By Victoria Herrmann on June 6, 2018



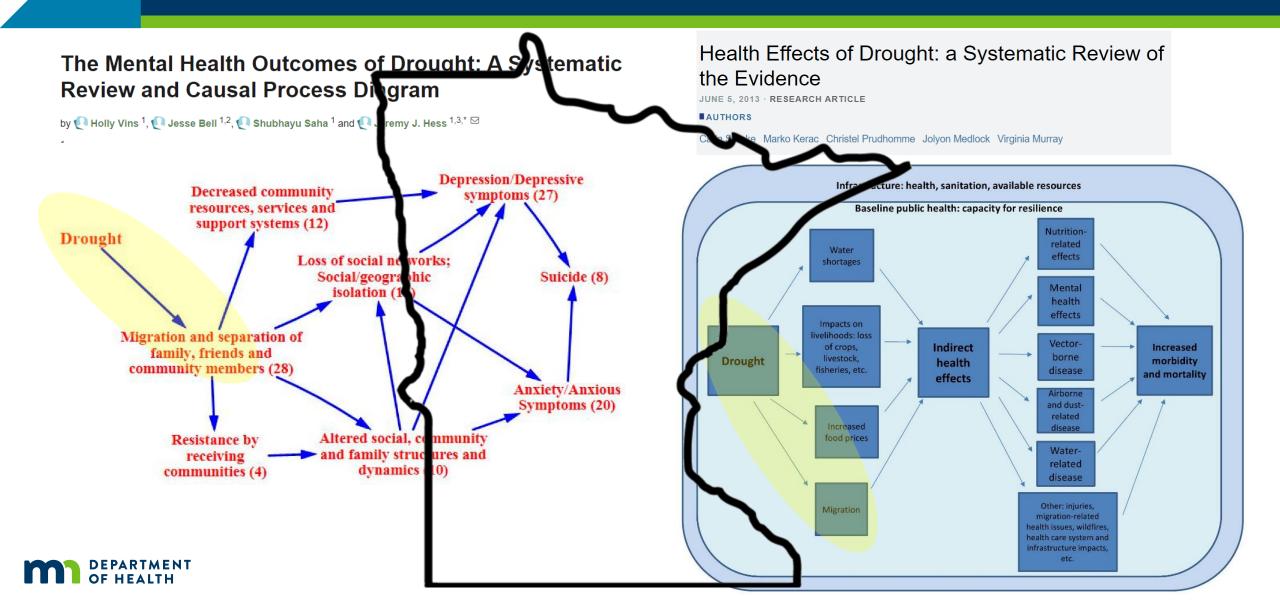
### Federal and State policy efforts



Disaster-related displacement



#### Climate Migration, Drought & Health





#### U.S.

# AMERICAN REFUGEES: HOW CLIMATE CHANGE MIGHT FORCE U.S. MIGRATION NORTH AND WHERE THEY COULD GO

BY M.L. NESTEL ON 3/22/19 AT 3:19 PM EDT



### Future cool: Minnesota city ponders new boom as a climate migrant destination

Sebastien Malo 10 MIN READ

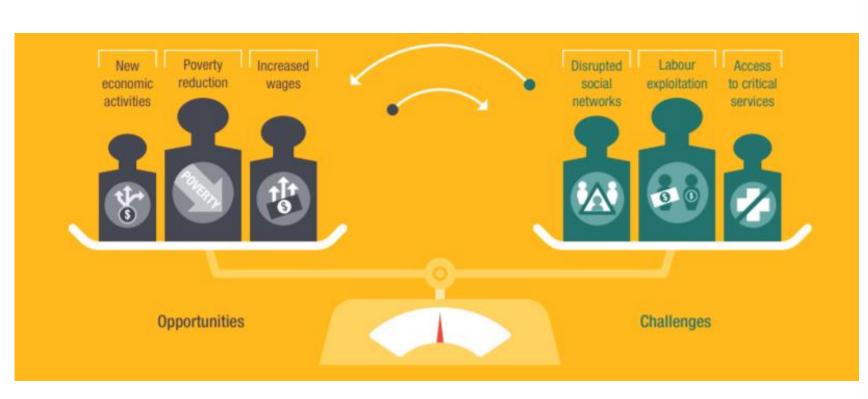


Through his research, Keenan believes two cities along the Great Lakes would be well-positioned sanctuaries for those fleeing warming or worsening climates: Buffalo, N.Y. and Duluth.

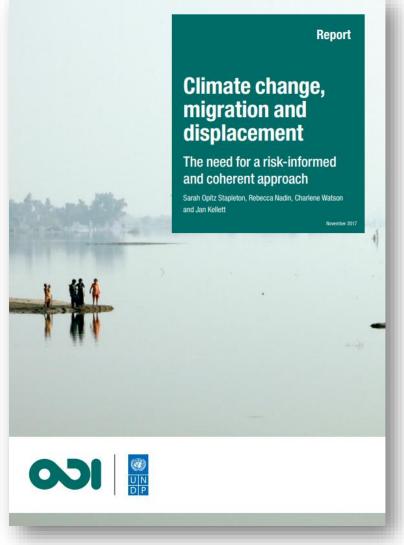
"Their sources of energy production are stable, they have cooler climates and they have access to plenty of fresh water," Keenan told the Guardian last year. "They also have less vulnerability to forest fires, as compared to somewhere like the Pacific north-west. They also have a legacy of excess infrastructural capacity that allows them to diversify their economy in the future. Land prices are cheap and they have a relatively well-educated and skilled labor force."

Source: News Tribune, Duluth as a destination for climate refugees? Mar 20 2019

### Climate Migration: Opportunities & Challenges



Source: UNDP, Climate change, migration and displacement, 2017.





### **Climate Adaptation Plans**

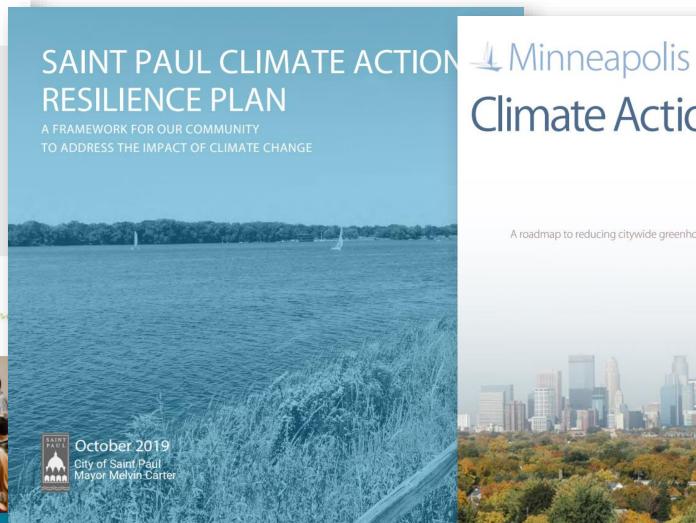
St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan

February 2018

Setting a course toward carbon neutrality







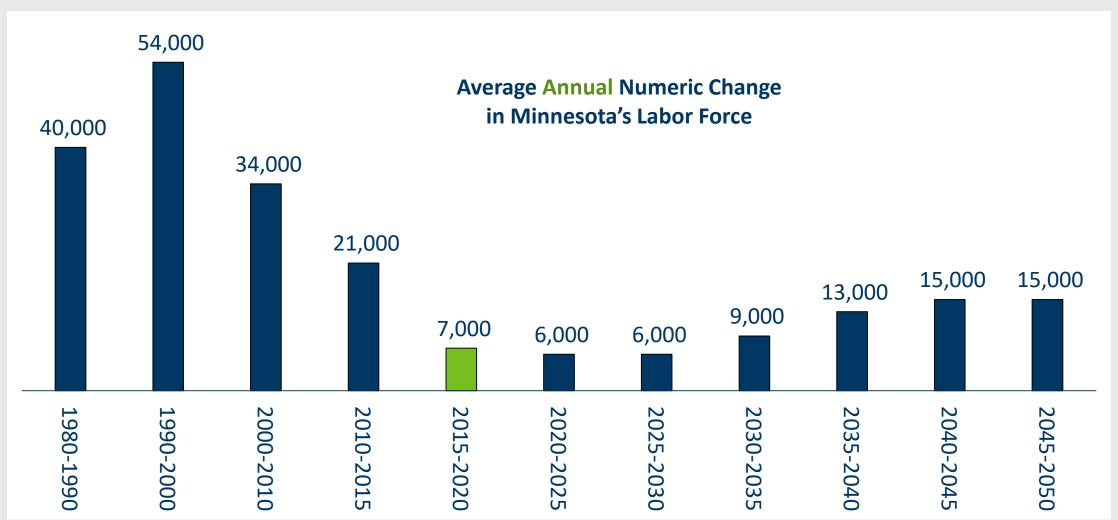
Climate Action Plan

A roadmap to reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions





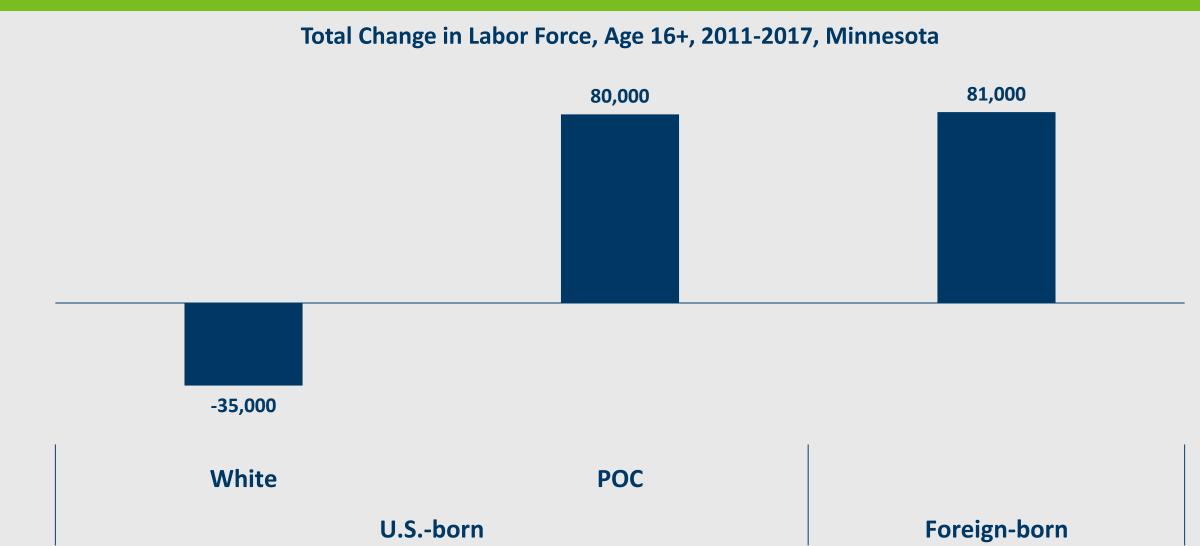
# Minnesota's labor force growth is projected to slow further over the next 10 years



Slide author: Megan Dayton, State Demographer

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau (1980—2015) & MN State Demographic Center Projections (2015-2045)

# If not for Populations of Color and the foreign-born, the size of Minnesota's workforce would be declining



Slide author: Megan Dayton, State Demographer

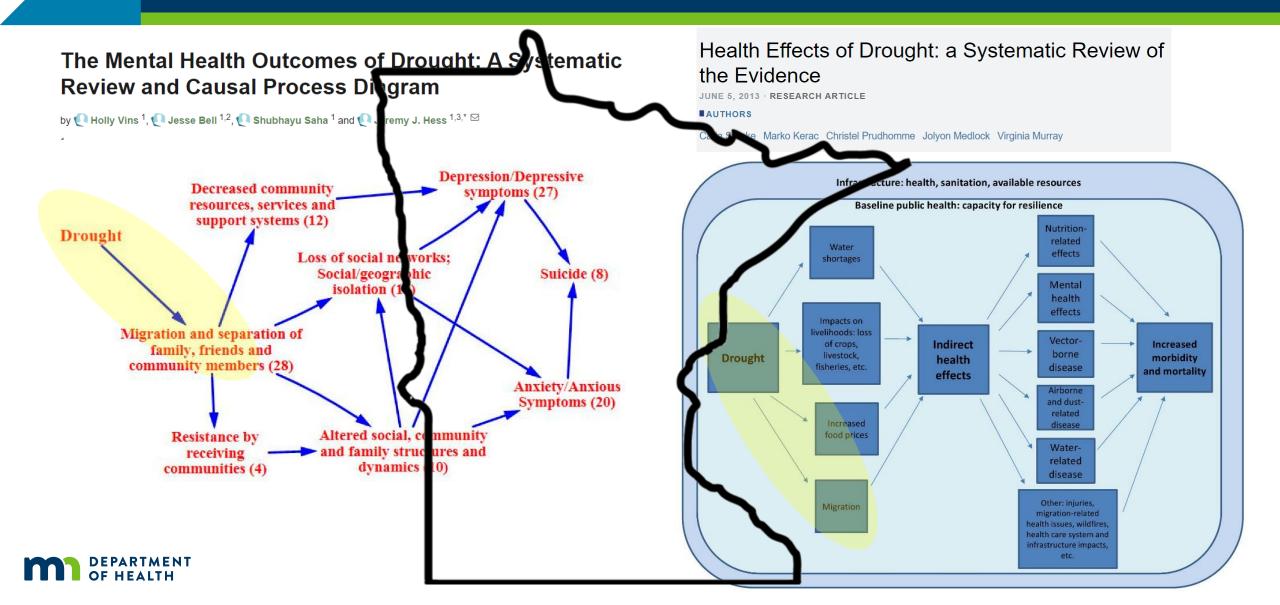
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

#### **Final Recap**

- Climate hazards, like drought, are contributing to increased migration.
- Research evolving to help advance policy-making.
- Some indication that MN may experience more climate-influenced migration.
- Climate adaptation plans, especially state level, are a tool for considering impacts and opportunities.
- Immigration broadly is leading short term solution to slowing labor force growth across MN.



#### Climate Migration, Drought & Health





### Thank you!

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