

Why leave home?

The refugee and migrant crises track the stress lines of today's world. Societies and countries face fractures caused by conflict and violence, poverty, climate change and demographic change, not to mention technology which downloads images of affluence into just about every home.

Children in conflicts: Fifteen new conflicts have broken out or reignited in the past five years, and the numbers of protracted emergencies – conflicts that have lasted for over five years – are also growing.

Today 1.5 billion people are living in a state of near permanent conflict or in zones of economic and social breakdown – the tide of refugees pouring into Europe from the Middle East is but one manifestation of this crisis. They flee the brutalities of civil war and gang-related violence, assault, rape, recruitment, disappearance and murder.



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A young girl walks along a drainage channel in the Protection of Civilians camp in Bentiu, South Sudan, in October 2016, during a period when intensified fighting between rebel and government soldiers spurred thousands of people to flee from Leer to Bentiu.

Not every child is born equal: Nearly half of the 700 million people living in extreme poverty are children and most live in rural areas. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for half of the global poor. Poverty is declining in all regions but it is becoming deeper and more entrenched in countries that are either conflict ridden or overly dependent on commodity exports. The number of young children from poor households is particularly pronounced in the lowest-income countries, where more than half of children under age 12 live in extreme poverty.

Children and demographic change: The demographic bulge in the developing world is another major driver of migration, both legal and illegal. A billion children will be living in Africa by 2050.

UNICEF research from West and Central Africa and the Horn of Africa identifies poverty and a lack of employment opportunities as the main reason that young people move. More than 75 percent of the migration is within Africa. Less than 20% of migrants journey outside the regions.

The forecast for children: The current El Niño demonstrates how climate change will create new migration dynamics. To date, it has put at risk 11 million children in East and Southern Africa, 3.5 million in Central and South America and 2.4 million in the Pacific. Added to this is a body of evidence which forecasts that climate change will increase the intensity and frequency of natural disasters and create even more imperatives to move.

In the coming decade, climate-change related events are projected to impact on 200 million children — a tripling of current numbers. More children will be denied their most basic rights and made even more vulnerable.

Most are concentrated in those countries that can least handle these challenges — and faced by those citizens and communities least able to survive them: the poorest, the most marginalized, and, everywhere, the children. Potentially each and every one of them could then be forced to move.

Put these outlines together and it means that up to half a billion children will bear an even heavier burden and become even more vulnerable as the clearest indicator of the interwoven, cross-border and multi-dimensional crises confronting us - creating the stress lines of today's world.

Women and children in the **West and Central Africa region** remain vulnerable to a range of humanitarian crises, including lack of access to basic social services, forced displacement, drought, flooding, epidemics and acute malnutrition. Conflicts in the **Central African Republic**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and the **Lake Chad Basin** have led to mass displacement, both internally and across borders. More than 8 million people across the region—more than half of whom are children—are displaced. The nutrition crisis in the Sahel continues to place the most marginalized children at risk. More than 5.4 million children under 5 are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) across the region. In 2017, grave violations of children's rights were documented in the **Central African Republic**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Mali** and the **Lake Chad Basin**. Conflicts across the region are further impacting education systems and depriving more than 8 million children of schooling. Cholera outbreaks continue to affect the Congo River, Lake Chad, Mano River and Niger River basins, with more than 48,700 cholera cases reported in 2017. In several countries, the elections planned for 2018 may lead to civil unrest.

I am from....

- Central African Republic Chad
- Mali Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Lake Chad Basin Nigeria Niger
- Cameroon Burkina Faso Mauritania



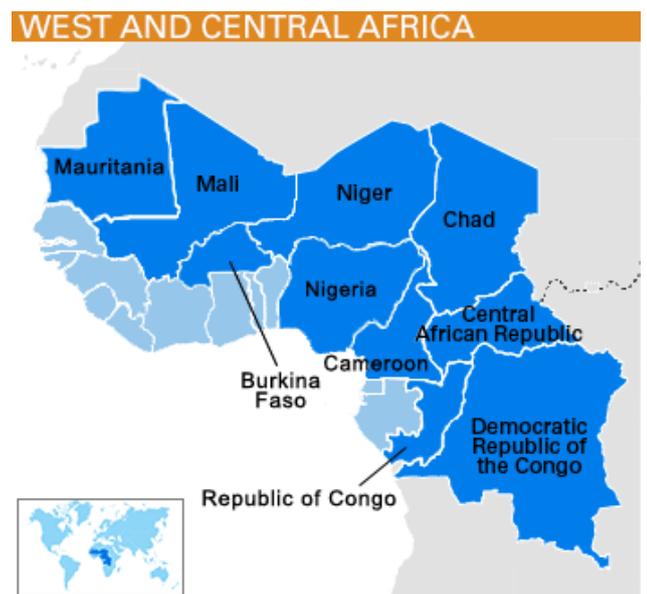
Figure 1 © UNICEF/2017/Dubourthoumieu Children carrying water from a source built by UNICEF in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We are leaving our home because of....

- Typhoons Lack of employment
- Crop failure Drought Ethnic strife
- Floods Violence Food Shortages
- Climate Change / extreme weather
- War Malnutrition Disease – Polio, Cholera
- Political Instability Persecution Earthquake

We are trying to get to...

- A city A safe place in our country
- Refugee camp Internally displaced camp
- Cameroon Niger
- Nigeria Europe Cha



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Scenario

1. Describe your family in a short paragraph. Think of the following: How many people are in your family? What are their ages? What is the level of wealth or education?

2. Describe in a short paragraph, what you imagine the situation is like for your family. Think of the following: Is there violence around you? Are you in fear of your life? Is food or water easily available? Are people sick, injured, disabled or missing? Do you have money saved?

3. Describe what happened that lead you to decide it was time to go?
