UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

ecologistas
en acción

FAS
Fundació
Autònoma
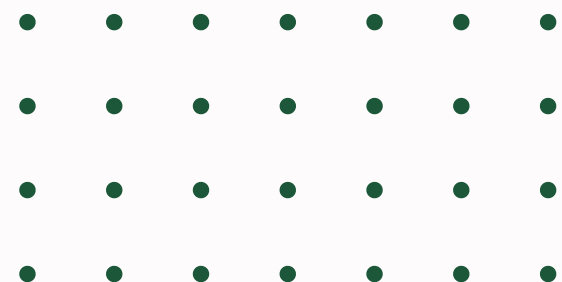Solidària UAB

ECIU Challenge - Climate Change and Migratory Movements

TEAM 3 PROPOSAL

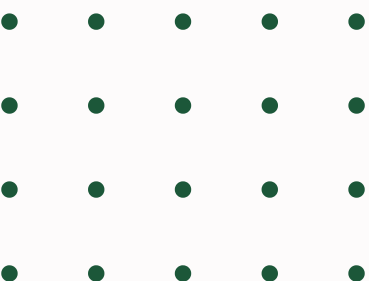Francesca, Anastasia, Isa, Felicia, Tommaso

Outline

Our Challenge

How can we improve the current underrecognition and low understanding of climate/environmental migration?

⬇

Advocacy campaign to: create a standardized and easily understandable dataset that links long-term environmental/climate factors with migration flows
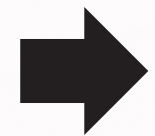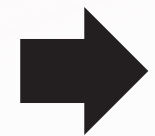
Sub-challenges

➡️ **Inconsistent and Fragmented Data**
The data on climate migration is often fragmented, inconsistent, and not standardized across regions, which complicates meaningful analysis and comparison.

➡️ **Identification of Key Variables**
There is a challenge in identifying the most relevant climate variables (e.g., water stress, soil degradation, food insecurity) that directly influence migration, as well as how these variables interact over time.

➡️ **Scarcity of Mixed Methodology Research**
Existing studies typically rely on either qualitative or quantitative methods, with few integrating both approaches. This limits the ability to fully understand the human experiences of migration in relation to climate data and long-term trends.

How our Challenge aligns with the SDGs

1 NO POVERTY

Target 1.5 - Build resilience for vulnerable populations against climate-related and socio-economic shocks.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Target 10.7 - Facilitate safe, orderly, and well-managed migration policies through standardized data and analysis.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Target 11.5 - Protect vulnerable populations by mapping climate-stress hotspots and migration routes.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Target 13.1 - Enhance adaptive capacities to climate hazards using key risk indicators like water stress and vulnerability indices.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Target 16.3 - Promote justice and inclusion for migrants by integrating testimonies into governance frameworks.

Target 16.6 - Develop effective, accountable institutions to address climate and migration challenges.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Target 17.16 - Strengthen multi-stakeholder collaborations to implement sustainable migration and climate strategies

Literature Review

1. Linking Climate Change and Migration

- Challenges:
  - Complex, indirect links between climate change and migration.
  - Rapid-onset disasters are easier to associate with displacement (Gemenne, 2011).
- Insights:
  - Structural issues and immobility complicate patterns.
  - Indicators like ecological threat levels (ETR), vulnerability index (ND-GAIN), and peace index provide comprehensive understanding (IEP, 2021).

2. Long-Term Effects of Climate Change

- Key Impacts:
  - Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and water scarcity (World Meteorological Organization, 2022).
  - Reduced biodiversity and ecosystem stress (Tiamgne et al., 2022).

Literature Review

3. Case Study – Morocco
- Impacts:
  - Decreasing rainfall and water scarcity challenge agriculture (Schilling et al., 2012).
  - Economic hardships lead to migration and reduced innovation in the agricultural sector.
- Adaptations:
  - Limited efforts like dam construction are overshadowed by political and social conflicts (Van Praag et al., 2021).

4. Case Study – Senegal
- Climate Risks:
  - Drought, desertification, and overfishing destabilize agriculture and fisheries (Tacoli, 2011).
- Economic Challenges:
  - Overfishing by industrial vessels exacerbates food insecurity (Altraeconomia, 2022).
- Response:
  - Microcredit initiatives insufficient for sustainable livelihoods.

Literature Review

5. Testimonies and Qualitative Research

- Benefits of Qualitative Research:
  - Reveals personal migration decisions influenced by climate factors (HABITABLE, 2024).
  - Complements quantitative data with human narratives (Ghosh & Orchiston, 2022).
- Application:
  - Supports agent-based models and enhances migration policy.

PROPOSED SOLUTION: ADVOCACY COMPAIGN FOR BETTER DATA ON MIGRATION

Objective

- Advocate for clear and standardized collection methods to better understand climate migration

Approach

- Raising awareness
  - Highlight data gaps and their policy implications
- Testimonies Collection
  - Amplify personal stories of climate migrants to humanize the data
- Policy recommendations
  - Promote standardized frameworks linking environmental and migration data through combining existing indicators

Outputs

- Reports, testimony-based campaigns and recommendations to improve data collection and usability

Expected Impact

1. Enhanced Understanding of Climate Migration

- Provides data-driven evidence linking climate variables to migration trends.
- Standardized global data highlights disparities in climate risks and migration responses.

2. Humanizing Migration

- Personal testimonies bring human stories to the forefront, fostering empathy and challenging stereotypes.
- Informs social campaigns and inclusive policy dialogues on climate migration.

3. Policy Influence

- GIS mapping identifies migration routes and climate hotspots, guiding targeted policies and international agreements.
- Highlights priority areas for humanitarian aid and infrastructure investment.

4. Strengthened Collaboration and Support

- Standardized data and insights promote international cooperation and funding for resilience initiatives.
- Empowers NGOs and local organizations to design effective programs for affected communities.

5. Reduced Social Friction

- Showcases underlying climate drivers of migration, reframing it as a shared global challenge.
- Mitigates tensions in host communities through data and storytelling.

Stakeholders

1. Migrants and Refugees

- Provide personal testimonies to inform and humanize policy discussions, offering insights into the lived realities of climate migration.

2. NGOs

- Aid in collecting data and testimonies while leveraging findings for advocacy and policy development to support affected communities

3. EU Policymakers and International Organization

- Utilize improved data and insights to design effective policies addressing climate migration and its underlying causes

4. Local Governments

- Contribute to primary data collection, facilitate localized responses, and implement strategies informed by the campaign's findings.

5. Researchers

- Analyze the climate-migration nexus to offer evidence-based insights that support data-driven policymaking and advocacy efforts

References

Primary Sources

- HABITABLE. (2024). *Handbook for Qualitative Interviews on the Climate-Migration Nexus.* Retrieved from https://habitableproject.org
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. (2022). *Global Report on Internal Displacement.*

Secondary Sources

- Altraeconomia. (2022). In Senegal la pesca artigianale è minacciata dall'industria e dalla crisi climatica. *Altraeconomia*.
- Gemenne, F. (2011). Why the numbers don't add up: Estimates of people displaced by environmental changes. *Global Environmental Change*, 21(S1), S41–S49.
- Ghosh, R. C., & Orchiston, C. (2022). A systematic review of climate migration research: Gaps in existing literature. *SN Social Sciences*, 2(47).
- Schilling, J., et al. (2012). Climate change, vulnerability, and adaptation in Morocco. *Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment*, 156, 12–26.
- Tacoli, C. (2011). Not only climate change: Mobility, vulnerability, and socio-economic transformations in environmentally fragile areas. *IIED*.
- Tiamgne, A. N., et al. (2022). Impacts of climate and land-use changes on water availability in West Africa. *Journal of Climate Policy*.
- World Meteorological Organization. (2022). *State of the Climate in Africa 2022.*