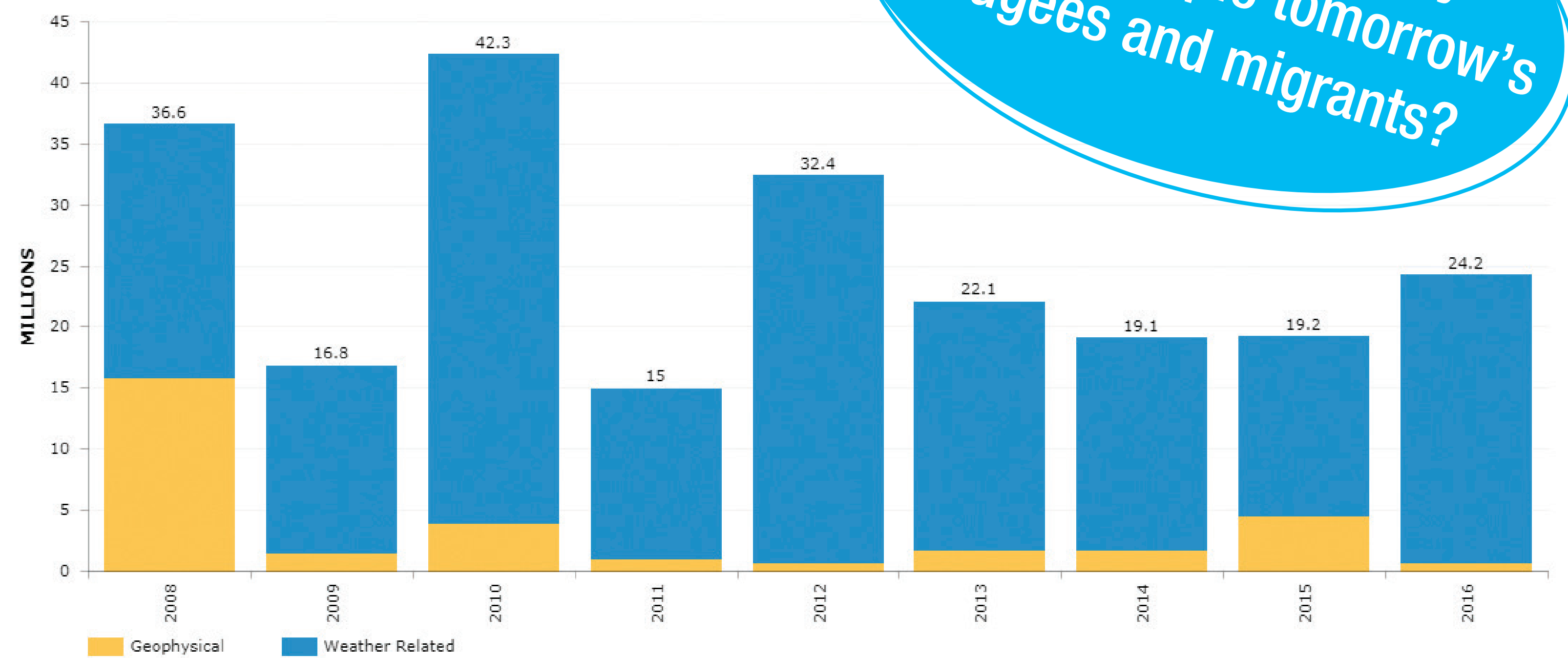


# Climate change impact on human migration: mapping the complex and heterogeneous evidence

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Anthropogenic climate change has and will continue to have an increasing impact on human welfare whilst possibly inducing movement of people from environmentally stressed areas within or across national borders<sup>1,2,3</sup>. The topic of climate-related migration is becoming a growing concern as effective policy responses, plans for adaptation and investments are yet to be developed<sup>4</sup>. Nevertheless, causal links between climate change and human migrations are often unclear or complex and the notion of a “climate migrant” is argued to be a social construction<sup>5</sup>.



Are today's internally displaced people tomorrow's refugees and migrants?

Displacements by disasters (2008 to 2016): weather-related in blue, geophysical in yellow. Source: IDMC<sup>6</sup>

## OBJECTIVES

We aim to 1) systematically identify and catalogue all available qualitative and quantitative empirical evidence on the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on people's movements; 2) determine if the current perceptions of climate change impacts on migration are built on evidence.



## METHODS

To describe the state of knowledge on the topic and to identify knowledge gaps in this field, we will use a relatively novel method in the field of environmental management - systematic mapping<sup>7</sup>. Systematic mapping is based on the core principles of transparency, objectivity and repeatability and it is used for collating and cataloguing evidence on a broad and heterogeneous subject. The main output of this exercise will be a database of available evidence climate-related human movements. We will identify knowledge gaps (areas of the evidence base without evidence or with underrepresented evidence) and knowledge clusters (areas of the evidence base with the sufficient evidence to attempt a full synthesis).

## THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF LITERATURE

Apart from peer-reviewed literature, a significant amount of relevant evidence may be available from the grey literature sources as climate change and migration is an area of work of many international agencies, including the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects.

<sup>2</sup> McMichael C, Barnett J, McMichael AJ (2012) An Ill Wind? Climate Change, Migration, and Health. Environmental Health Perspectives 120:646-654

<sup>3</sup> Raleigh C, Jordan L, Salehyan I (2008) Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Migration and Conflict. Social Dimensions of Climate Change, Social Development Department, The World Bank

<sup>4</sup> Wilkinson E, Kirbyshire A, Mayhew L, Batra P, Milan A (2016) Climate-induced migration and displacement: closing the policy gap. ODI Briefing

<sup>5</sup> Baldwin A (2017) Climate change, migration, and the crisis of humanism. WIREs Clim Change 2017, e460

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.internal-displacement.org/database/>

<sup>7</sup> James, K. L., Randall, N. P., & Haddaway, N. R. (2016). A methodology for systematic mapping in environmental sciences. Env. Evidence, 5(1)