



ACTIVITY 2. Migration journey mapping

Objective: trace real or fictional migration journeys caused by environmental factors.

Theme: personalizing climate-related migration through storytelling and geography.

Duration: 45–60 minutes

Learning objectives:

- Understand causes and consequences of climate-related migration
- Use maps and spatial tools to visualize journeys
- Develop empathy through storytelling and reflection

Materials needed:

- Printed journey stories or case studies (real or fictional). *You can use the examples we present below.*
- Pens, small round stickers (three colors)
- Sticky notes (two different colors)
- String, scissors, tape
- Printed maps with the regional parts of the 5 cases. If possible in A3 size. *You can use the examples we present in the annex.*
- Large map with focus on this part:

Instructions:

1. Introduction (10 min)

- Briefly introduce climate-induced migration.
- Share real-world examples (e.g. Horn of Africa, but they could be other examples).
- Highlight how climate events (e.g. drought, floods, rising seas) force people to move.

2. Mapping activity (30 min)

- Divide participants into pairs or small groups.
- Hand out a migration story and the corresponding map to each group
- Ask them to:
 - Trace the route on a map
 - Mark origin, destination, and key points along the journey (round stickers)
 - Note challenges, decisions and emotional impacts (sticky notes)

3. Gallery Walk & sharing (10 min)

- Display the completed maps.
- Invite participants to walk around and review others' work.
- Ask them to write down questions or insights on sticky notes (different color)

4. Debrief

- Facilitate a short discussion:
 - What patterns emerged? (related to the four different types of routes in the Horn of Africa: inland, inside the horn of Africa, horn to Gulf States (eastern route), horn to Europe (northern route)
 - What types of risks and decisions shaped the journey?
 - How might geography (e.g. terrain, borders, climate zones) influence outcomes?
 - What problems could occur (unsuccessful routes, human trafficking, having to try multiple times to reach your destination) in reality? -> reflect if these routes are realistic
 - Are these stories written until the end? What happens after reaching the destination?

Introduction (Example)

Before we start today's activity, I'd like to briefly introduce the topic we'll be working with: climate-induced migration — the movement of people who are forced to leave their homes because of environmental and climate-related changes.

Climate migration doesn't always mean crossing international borders. In many cases, people move within their own country — from rural areas to cities, or from unsafe regions to more stable ones. It's a quiet but growing phenomenon that affects millions of people worldwide.

There are many different causes, but they are all linked to the changing climate.

For example:

Droughts can destroy crops and kill livestock, leaving families without food or income. Floods and storms can wash away homes, roads, and fields, forcing entire communities to relocate. Rising sea levels threaten people living in coastal areas and on islands — in some places, the land itself is disappearing beneath the water.

Let's look at a few cases:

In the Horn of Africa, years of drought have made farming almost impossible. Many families have had to move to cities or across borders in search of water, food, and work.

(In the Pacific Islands, like Kiribati or Tuvalu, rising seas are flooding villages and contaminating freshwater sources, pushing people to plan for relocation to other countries.

In Bangladesh, millions live in low-lying delta regions that flood regularly, while in Central America, repeated hurricanes and crop failures are driving people to leave their homes in search of safety and stability.)

These examples remind us that climate change is not only about the environment — it's about people. Each journey represents a personal story of loss, resilience, and adaptation.

In today's activity, we'll explore some of these stories more closely. You'll trace migration journeys on maps and think about the challenges, decisions, and emotions that shape them. The goal is to understand not only where people move, but also why they move — and what it feels like to face those choices.

Real-world case studies: Horn of Africa

Case 1: Amina – Drought in Somalia

Origin: Baidoa, Somalia

Destination: Dadaab Refugee Camp, Kenya

Amina is a mother of three from southern Somalia. Her village faced three failed rainy seasons. Their crops died and livestock perished. Facing starvation and no aid, her family walked over 200 km to the border. They crossed into Kenya, joining thousands at the Dadaab refugee camp. The journey took 12 days and they suffered dehydration and exhaustion. Amina worries about returning, as the drought continues.

Case 2: Yusuf – Flooding in Ethiopia

Origin: Afar region, Ethiopia

Destination: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Yusuf lived along the Awash River. Severe flash floods destroyed his family's home and farm. This was the third year of unpredictable rains. They decided to move to Addis Ababa, hoping to find work and housing. In the city, they face new challenges—overcrowded shelters, job insecurity, and lack of support networks. Yusuf misses his home and finds it hard to adjust.

Case 3: Fatuma – Conflict and drought in South Sudan

Origin: Jonglei State, South Sudan

Destination: Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

Fatuma's village faced both ethnic conflict and drought. The river they relied on dried up. Armed groups began fighting over water points. Her family fled on foot to Kenya. Along the way, they faced extortion at checkpoints and lost contact with other relatives. At Kakuma, they're safe but uncertain about the future. Fatuma wants to go to school but lacks documents.

Case 4: Hagos – Drought, conflict and conscription in Eritrea

Origin: Asmera, Eritrea

Destination: Calabria, Italy, Europe

Hagos is a young man in his early twenties. He has completed his secondary education. Raised in a rural area, Hagos family earns a meager income through farming.

However, repeated crop failures due to drought and the prevailing political instability, which has resulted in conflict and claimed many lives, and the forced conscription into the national service have instilled a sense of hopelessness in Hagos.

In this state of despair, his friends informed him that many young people migrate to other countries, and those who succeed enjoy a better life.

Consequently, Hagos first migrated to Sudan, he spent five months in the Um Rakuba refugee camp in Eastern Sudan.

Together with other refugees, Hagos embarked on a perilous journey to Libya, crossing the Sahara Desert, where he encountered extremely hazardous conditions, including deadly heat, dehydration,

and the risk of falling from the open trucks used for transportation.

Upon his arrival in Libya, Hagos found himself in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, becoming a target for traffickers and smugglers. He endured violence, torture, and kidnapping, with traffickers coercing his family into paying a ransom for his release.

After two months of enduring such harsh conditions, Hagos began his journey to Italy through smugglers. He crossed the Mediterranean Sea on an old and unsafe vessel, which was overloaded with more than twice its capacity, and finally reached Calabria, the southernmost region of mainland Italy.

Case 5: Eden – Drought and conflict in Ethiopia

Origin: Tigray, Ethiopia

Destination: Saudi Arabia

Eden is a young woman in her early twenties, hailing from the small town of Adigudem located in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia. After finishing high school, she was unable to pass the university entrance examination and consequently could not enroll in the local universities. Coming from a financially disadvantaged family, she struggled to make ends meet. Repeated droughts have devastated her parents; crops, leaving little food available at home. To compound her difficulties, the recent catastrophic conflict has claimed the life of her father, who was the family's primary provider.

The extreme poverty and ongoing conflict in the region have instilled a profound sense of hopelessness in Eden, prompting her to consider migration. During her upbringing, Eden learned that the daughter of a neighboring family had migrated to the Gulf, which inspired her to view migration as a potential escape from the dire living conditions faced by her family.

With the assistance of human traffickers, Eden embarked on her journey to the border town of Galafi in Djibouti. She then traversed a desert area on foot and arrived at the seaport town of Obock in northern Djibouti.

From Obock, along with other migrants, she crossed the Gulf of Aden in an old and overcrowded boat, which was carrying more than double its intended capacity, heading towards Yemen.

In Yemen, she encountered exploitation and gender-based violence. After a treacherous journey, Eden ultimately reached Saudi Arabia.

Annex: Printed maps with the regional parts of the 5 cases. (In A3)





