

Editor's Note



Climate disasters and conflict continue to reshape migration across the continent in urgent ways. Heavy rainfall and recurring floods have triggered mass internal displacement in parts of West Africa, including Nigeria, where recent floods have destroyed homes and disrupted livelihoods. Across East Africa, prolonged drought has pushed many

people out of rural economies and into urban areas, where limited opportunities for survival continue to deepen vulnerability.

What this means is that conflict remains a major driver of displacement. The civil war in Sudan has entered its fourth year, forcing millions to flee targeted violence, both within the country and across its borders, while worsening an already severe humanitarian crisis. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the struggle for control of resources continues to uproot communities, with armed conflict driving large-scale displacement.

These realities remind us to ask difficult questions about protection, responsibility, and how conversations on displacement can be reshaped in global policy debates. In our last issue, we featured Isa Madachi's reporting on the missing asylum category for African climate migrants. In this issue, we continue that conversation by highlighting the trends and lived realities shaping displacement today, while asking what it means to respond to migration with more clarity and urgency.

Cover Illustration

The cover art depicts the interconnected lives of people across Africa, with each country represented through symbols of movement, resources, and everyday activity.

Migration Monitor

Ghana

Migrants in Ghana are being exploited for trafficking under the guise of street begging. The Ghana Immigration Service recently carried out an operation that rescued 305 individuals, women, and children, making up more than half, targeting five major hotspots across Accra known for its embedded trafficking activities. Investigations revealed victims being sent out to the streets to meet daily monetary quotas. The rescued migrants have been placed in protective facilities for profiling and necessary immigration procedures.



Morocco

Unsuccessful migration attempts through Morocco to Europe have led many migrants to remain in the North African country, where agriculture offers growing opportunities. As nationals move toward urban employment, Morocco has increasingly relied on migrant labour, now estimated to make up 20% of the agricultural workforce.



Although integration policies exist to protect migrants and asylum seekers, many still face discrimination, unstable employment, and limited access to adequate housing.

Somali

At least 17 Somali migrants have died after a boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea, with Somalia's ambassador to Algeria confirming details of the incident on April 23, while full information is still emerging. The vessel reportedly sank in waters about 100 kilometres west of Algiers,



suggesting an attempted journey toward Spain. Victims are believed to include 12 men and five women, with deaths attributed to drowning. Authorities have not yet released full details on the total number of passengers aboard.

DR Congo

Fifteen migrants reportedly from South America have arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo after being deported from the United States, marking the first group under a wider, undisclosed agreement. Kinshasa says their stay is temporary, with financial support provided for their



reception and care. The arrangement is part of a broader pattern of deportations to third countries as part of a wider immigration enforcement policy focused on removing non-nationals.

From our Writers

How Infrastructural Neglect and Climate Change Shaped the Displacement Matrix in Northeastern Nigeria



Yahuza Bawage



*The collapsed bridge in Shuwa River.
Photo: Ahmed Abubakar Bature*

It was late at night, and the rain was falling heavily. Isa Umaru was sound asleep until the loud shouts of his neighbours woke him up. He quickly got up and woke his wife and children, worried that Boko Haram terrorists might be attacking their village, Shuwa, located in Madagali local government area of Adamawa State. Such sounds at night, according to Umaru, signalled an impending attack by the terrorists and people often ran away in fear when they heard that.

But this time, when Umaru went outside, he heard people running through the flooded streets. Many houses in their neighbourhood were already underwater, and his house was in danger of being flooded, too. He rushed inside and told his mother, two wives, and children to run away to safety.

As they ran away, Umaru saw many houses flooded and some even collapsing. Goats, sheep, chickens, and other valuable things were being

washed away by the strong current. That night, 61-year-old Umaru and his family followed a solar-powered street light to find their way to safety. They eventually reached a church where they spent the night. “We slept inside the church that night. The people there opened it for us to enter, and we all sat there. They honoured us and didn’t discriminate against us because we are Muslims,” Umaru said.

The next morning, Umaru and his family returned to find their house collapsed. With nowhere else to go, they had to seek shelter at Shuwa Central Primary School, which had now become a camp for people displaced by the flood. “It’s due to the collapse of the bridge that helped the water flow away the next morning. If not, Shuwa by now would have completely turned to ruins,” Umaru stressed.



Isa Umaru. Photo: Ahmed Abubakar Bature

The Severity Of The Climate Crisis

The recent floods that ravaged northeastern Nigeria have left a trail of destruction with many lives and livelihoods lost. Bauchi State experienced severe flooding, with over 1,000 homes destroyed. Gombe and Yobe States also suffered substantial damage, affecting thousands of residents. In a separate incident this week, Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, was struck by a sudden flood that displaced over a quarter million people. The disaster was reported to have unfolded when the Alau Dam broke its banks after heavy rains, leading to widespread flooding,

d a m a g i n g h o m e s ,
businesses, and infrastructure
like bridges, hospitals, and a
zoo park.

The News Agency of Nigeria
(NAN) reports that the dam
overflowed in 1994 and that
caused major flooding in
Maiduguri. At that time,
almost half of the city was
underwater.

Now, the situation in
Maiduguri is dire, with
hundreds of thousands of
people displaced, many
injured or missing, and access
to basic necessities such as
food, water, and healthcare is
limited. Rescue teams,
including the Nigerian
military, National Emergency
Management Agency
(NEMA), and civilian
volunteers, are working
tirelessly to evacuate people
from flooded areas to safer
ground.

The Borno State government
has reopened the Bakassi and
Dalori internally displaced
(IDP) camps to provide



*Muhammed Isa lived in a one-room apartment.
And now he lost it and everything to the flood.
Photo: Ahmed Abubakar Bature.*

temporary shelter for
displaced people and has
promised to help those
affected by the flooding.
Experts, however, lamented
that the flooding in Maiduguri
was caused by the Borno
state government's neglect in
maintaining the Alau Dam. In
Adamawa, flooding was
caused by several factors,
including water releases from
the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon
and the Kiri Dam in Shelleng
local government area of the
state.

Also, urbanization is another
problem causing flooding
because people often build
houses, roads and other
infrastructure on waterways,
which can block the flow of

water and lead to flooding, as highlighted by Dr Ikur Edmund Hellaendendu, a climate reality leader based in Yola, Adamawa State.

Hellaendendu explained that as climate change factors like heavy rainfall and uncontrollable rainfall lead to major flooding, it comes with long-term environmental impacts that are so severe and cause disruptions in the climate conditions and ecosystem structures, "water pollution as a result of accumulation of dirt and toxins in the water, soil erosion and sedimentation leading to loss of fertility and other negative impacts on human health due to disease outbreaks like malaria, cholera and typhoid fever and worm infections," he told *Diaspora Africa*.

The Flood's Tragedy Hit Many

Like Umaru, Muhammed Isa was asleep that night with his wife and two children. He



A photo showing houses submerged in the flood waters in Maiduguri.

Photo: mainefilms_ng_IG

knew it was raining but didn't realize how bad the flooding had become near the Shuwa River, which connected their community to other parts of Adamawa State in northeastern Nigeria. It was his neighbour who came knocking on his door. Before he could open the door, he noticed that water had already flooded his room. "I first saved my children as my wife also ran. When I returned to pick up some of our items, I saw the building collapsing. I ran back to join my wife and the children," he recounted.

The length of this story has been reduced for the purpose of this magazine. You can read the full report on the [Diaspora Africa website](#).

African Migration News
Biweekly

Compiled By Migrants
For Migrants



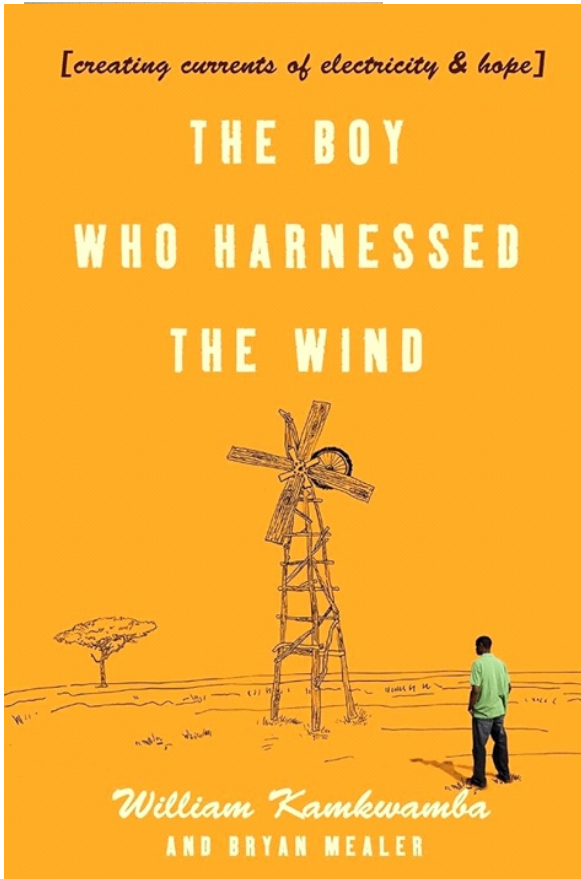
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What to Watch Now



William Kamkwamba lives in rural Malawi, where a severe drought turns everyday life into a constant struggle for survival. What begins as a farming crisis quickly spreads throughout the community, causing widespread food shortages, hunger, and financial strain. Families are forced to make painful decisions, and many children must leave school because their parents can no longer afford the fees.

As conditions continue to worsen, some villagers consider leaving their homes in search of better opportunities, while others try to endure. Determined to find a solution, William turns to science and innovation. Despite doubt, limited resources, and many setbacks, he builds a windmill that brings hope and helps his community adapt.

Resources

The Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA) provides healthcare to vulnerable populations affected by crises and natural disasters in parts of Africa. The organization supports displaced communities by delivering nutritional care to children, maternal and perinatal care, mental health support, and vaccination programmes. Currently operating in 14 countries, mainly in Africa, and partnering with NGOs, international organizations, and local health authorities, ALIMA works closely with African communities and actively supports countries experiencing high levels of displacement.

Further inquiries: <https://alima.ngo/en/>



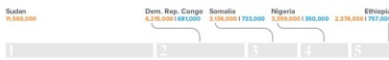
In Numbers



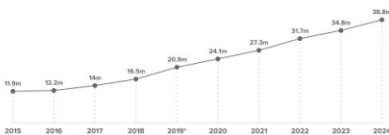
Internally displaced people (IDPs)

38.8m at the end of 2024
47% Share of the global total
33.1m IDPs by conflict and violence
5.7m IDPs by disasters

Countries with the most IDPs



Number of IDPs (2015-2024)

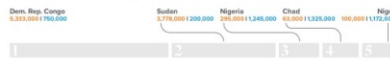


Total number of IDPs in millions.
 *First year available data is available.

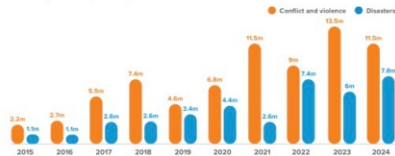
Internal displacements (movements)

19.3m during 2024
29% Share of the global total
11.5m Internal displacements by conflict and violence
7.8m Internal displacements by disasters

Countries with the most internal displacements



Internal displacements (2015-2024)



Internal displacements in millions.

Numbers of IDPs are based on the end of 2024. Internal displacements are the total number for all of 2024. All values are those reported for Sub-Saharan Africa.

This data highlights that 38.8 million people are internally displaced in sub Saharan Africa, representing 47% of the global total, with 33.1 million displaced by conflict and violence and 5.7 million by disasters. We also see about 19.3 million displacement movements during 2024. The data identifies countries most affected, including Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Nigeria, and Ethiopia.

IDMC (2025) Global Report on Internal Displacement 2025. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. <https://doi.org/10.55363/IDMC.XTGW2833>

The Mobility Gaze



The Mobility Gaze



Women at the centre of displacement - El-Miskin Camp, Borno State, Nigeria
Photos: Ahmed Abubakar Bature and Imran Ridwan - 2024/2025

We look back at the internal displacement crisis affecting millions of Africans living in Africa who have either been displaced by climate disasters or violence. In Borno State, Nigeria, residents face a long-term displacement crisis driven by the Boko Haram insurgency, coupled with flooding and neglect. Over 1.8 million people living in Borno are internally displaced. Women and children are at the centre of it all. Many displaced women in the IDP camps continuously report facing severe challenges, such as inadequate access to menstrual hygiene products and increased vulnerability to gender-based violence, and the high cost of living has also forced them and their children to resort to begging on the streets.

We are building a newsroom & community that counters misinformation and bias in global mainstream news about African migration. We are working with local and cross-border journalists to challenge biased global reporting frameworks that shape migration. We want to disrupt extractive storytelling practices & expand the range of perspectives represented in international media discourse surrounding migration.

The magazine is independently funded by the Diaspora Africa team. Many updates featured in this publication are sourced from our Migration Monitor database, which tracks migration trends affecting African migrants and diasporic communities globally.

monitor.diasporafrica.org

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