

I. DIFFERENT CAUSES FOR MIGRATION

PRE-READING TASKS

- 1) *If you were rich, which country would you migrate to? Why? Explain your choice.*
- 2) *Do you know of any ongoing conflicts that are currently causing forced migration?*
- 3) *To what extent has the topic of immigration changed the political landscape in Europe?*

Forced migration: 6 Causes and examples

Written by Olivia Giovetti for Concern Worldwide, US

Source: <https://www.concernusa.org/story/forced-migration-causes/>

Forced migration (also known as forced displacement) has caused millions of people around the world to be uprooted, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants. 1 person is uprooted every 2 seconds, and the global total of forcibly displaced people currently stands at over 68.5 million.

There are technical differences between refugees, migrants, and internally-displaced persons. By definition, all fall under the category of forced migration (and of course all of them are people!) Forced migration refers to the movements that refugees, migrants, and IDPs make. These can be either within their country or between countries after being displaced from their homeland.

As of 2019, 1 person is uprooted every 2 seconds (often with nothing but the clothes on their backs). Currently, the global total of forcibly-displaced people is over 68.5 million. There are a number of different factors that lead hundreds of millions of people around the world to leave their homes. All of these factors, however, lead to one common goal: To have a better, safer, life. Read on for 6 of the most common causes — and examples — of forced migration.

1. Drought

A single drought can spell disaster for communities whose lives and livelihoods rely on regular, successful harvests. In a number of African countries where Concern works — including Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia — droughts have become increasingly severe, leaving millions of citizens without the ability to grow food. They rely on this food to feed themselves, their livestock, and their livelihoods.

Drought also leaves families without access to clean water, often leading to them turning to dirty water as their only alternative for bathing, drinking, and growing crops. For families, this can mean going for days without food. They may also resort to using contaminated water.

2. Hunger

Hunger's connection to drought and other causes on this list is significant: What people in farming regions don't consume from their own harvests is sold to make a living. War and conflict can also mean a lack of access to markets and fields, or that crops and food supplies are destroyed or stolen. Other causes of hunger around the world add up to the same result: Without any other alternatives, families affected by food shortages are often separated by forced migration, with one parent (usually the father) seeking work in a city to cover costs. Other families leave as a unit to begin their life in a new country.

3. Flooding

In Malawi, one of Concern's focuses has been on resilience. But sometimes nature is just too strong, as we saw in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Idai earlier this year. During Concern's assessments of the areas devastated by rains and heavy flooding in one village, our team only saw a few people who had ventured back to check on what was left of their homes. They didn't want to bring their families back with them, in case the floods returned.

After Hurricane Matthew made landfall in Haiti in 2016, the storm's lethal winds and rain left 200,000 homes in its wake of destruction. An estimated 1.5 million citizens — or more than 10% of the country — were left in need of humanitarian aid and damages clocked in at \$1.9 billion.

According to a report published in 2017 by Cornell University, events prompted by climate change such as drought and flooding could account for up to 1.4 billion forced migrations by the year 2060. By 2100, they estimate that number would surpass 2 billion.

4. Earthquakes

Almost 60,000 Haitians currently live and work in the United States. Many were driven from their homes due to the devastating effects of two major hurricanes and one earthquake in recent years. In 2010, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit the capital city of Port-au-Prince, leaving 1.5 million Haitians homeless. No natural disaster had ever affected a capital city in such a way. The earthquake created a ripple effect that even paralyzed areas well outside the disaster zone.

In 2015, a devastating series of earthquakes hit Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (7.5-magnitude) and Nepal (7.8-magnitude and 7.3-magnitude, respectively). These drove hundreds of thousands of residents from their homes.

5. War & conflict

The most common factor for forced migration around the world is conflict. Most recently, the world's focus has been on the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, with nearly 75% of the country's Muslim population fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh in the wake of violence and ethnic cleansing. In 2017, amid the escalation of ongoing tension and violence, the United Nations deemed the plight of the Rohingya the "fastest-growing refugee emergency" in the world.

Forced migration has been a norm in the Middle East for most of the 21st Century, according to Oxford University's Refugee Studies Centre. Syria's deadly civil war has caused over 11 million instances of forced migration. To-date nearly 6.2 million Syrians are internally displaced, and over 5.6 million Syrians are counted as refugees. The Democratic Republic of Congo has the highest number of displaced people on the continent of Africa, with nearly 6 million people forced from their homes by various conflicts. South Sudan has been continuously plagued by war-induced migration during its short existence.

6. Economic circumstances

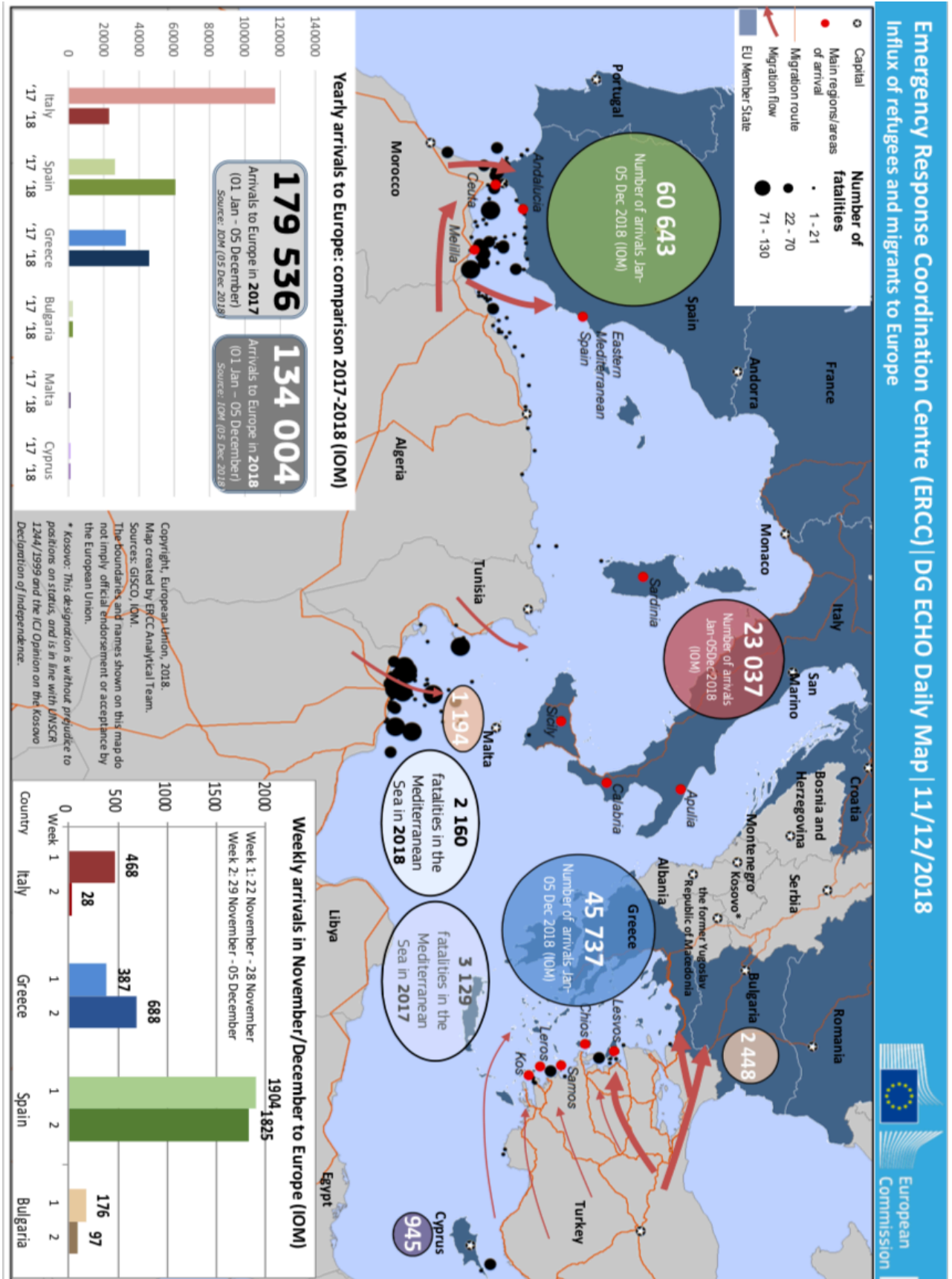
One of the biggest factors for migration are the economic challenges that may affect individuals in their countries of origin. The UN's 2018 World Migration Report notes that this is a major driver in West Africa, where temporary and permanent migrant workers commonly relocate from countries like Niger and Mali to Ghana and the Côte d'Ivoire for more opportunities to work and support their families. Niger, for example, has one of the fastest-growing populations in the world (by 2050 it is expected to triple compared to 2017 figures). However, the country is unable to keep up with the demand for jobs as more and more Nigerians become old enough to enter the workforce.

COMPREHENSION

- 1) Explain how climate change and migration are directly linked to each other.*
- 2) Explain the most common causes behind the current conflicts that lead to forced migration.*
- 3) Explain the term "economic challenges".*

BEYOND THE TEXT

1) Discuss the map below.



II. CASE STUDY: CAROLA RACKETE - HEROINE OR CRIMINAL?

Captain defends her decision to force rescue boat into Italian port

by Agence France-Presse in Rome

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/30/italy-refugee-rescue-boat-captain-carola-rackete-defends-decision>

An NGO rescue boat captain who has risked jail time after forcing her way into Lampedusa port in Italy with 40 migrants onboard has defended her act of “disobedience”, saying it was necessary to avert a tragedy.

“It wasn’t an act of violence, but only one of disobedience,” the Sea-Watch 3 skipper, Carola Rackete, told the Italian daily Corriere della Sera in an interview published on Sunday, as donations poured in for her legal defence.

Rackete, 31, from Germany, is accused of putting a military speedboat and the safety of its occupants at risk in the incident on Saturday.

“The situation was desperate,” she said. “My goal was only to bring exhausted and desperate people to shore. My intention was not to put anyone in danger. I already apologised, and I reiterate my apology.”

The Sea-Watch 3 had rescued the migrants off the coast of Libya 17 days earlier. They were finally allowed to disembark at Lampedusa and taken to a reception centre as they prepared to travel to either France, whose interior ministry said it would take in 10 of them, or to Germany, Finland, Luxembourg or Portugal.

The Italian coastguard seized the rescue boat, anchoring it just off the coast.

Rackete, who was placed under house arrest, is expected to appear before a judge early this week in the Sicilian town of Agrigento to answer charges of abetting illegal immigration and forcing her way past a military vessel that tried to block the Sea-Watch 3. The latter crime is punishable by three to 10 years in jail.

Her arrest prompted a fundraising appeal launched by two prominent German TV stars, which had raised more than €350,000 (£314,000) by midday on Sunday.

The comedian Jan Böhmermann, who launched the campaign with the TV presenter Klaas Heufer-Umlauf, said in a video posted on YouTube: “We are convinced that someone who saves lives is not a criminal. Anyone who thinks otherwise is simply wrong.”

Rackete has become a leftwing hero in Italy for challenging the “closed-ports” policy of the far-right interior minister, Matteo Salvini.

“I didn’t have the right to obey,” Rackete said. “They were asking me to take them back to Libya. From a legal standpoint, these were people fleeing a country at war [and] the law bars you from taking them back there.”

The head of the NGO that operates the ship, Johannes Bayer, said Sea-Watch was “proud of our captain”. Böhmermann accused Salvini of “abusing rescuers at the Mediterranean Sea in order to turn the mood against refugees, against EU, and for an inhumane politics”. Salvini welcomed Rackete’s arrest. “Mission accomplished,” he tweeted. “Law-breaking captain arrested. Pirate ship seized, maximum fine for foreign NGO.”

COMPREHENSION

- 1) *What exactly did Rackete do to get arrested?*
- 2) *Explain the leftwing position regarding this incident and compare it to Salvini's stance.*
- 3) *Can you understand Salvini's position and Italy's "closed-ports" policy?*
- 4) *What is Böhmermann blaming Salvini for?*
- 5) *Find out what happened to Rackete after the arrest. Is she a heroine or a criminal?*



III. THE ROLE OF THE EU

PRE-READING TASKS

- 1) *"Wir schaffen das." A message of hope turned sour? Discuss.*
- 2) *How do human traffickers profit from the refugee crisis?*
- 3) *Find out more about the conditions in the refugee camps in Libya.*

Opinion: EU chooses self-interest over compassion for refugees | DW | 18.07.2019 Deutsche Welle (www.dw.com)

Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/opinion-eu-chooses-self-interest-over-compassion-for-refugees/a-49639148>

In the EU's game of "refugee bingo," far-right Italian Interior Minister Minister Matteo Salvini can only win. He has little reason to give in to states looking for lasting migration policy, says DW's Bernd Riegert.

"Miserable" was the word German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer used to describe the current situation for migrants fleeing to Europe from Libya. It's a reference to "refugee bingo," cynical jargon for the game the European Union plays whenever a private rescue ship saves dozens of migrants on the Mediterranean Sea and brings them to Italian shores. The EU commissioner for migration gets on the phone with interior ministers from around the bloc, cajoling them to take a handful of people. Then the merciless haggling begins.

The process has become a rallying cry for Italy's far-right interior minister, Matteo Salvini, who has achieved domestic political success by stoking anti-refugee sentiment and presenting himself as the unyielding protector of Italian interests. Close the ports, deter the migrants, problem solved — that's Salvini's populist recipe.

A few EU member states, notably France and Germany, have had enough of this game. They want a lasting arrangement that determines which country takes in how many migrants. We can probably thank the courageous ship captain Carola Rackete for Seehofer's support in finding a solution. Her daring landing on the Italian island of Lampedusa made global headlines. Now, on the same day interior ministers meet in Helsinki, Rackete is facing prosecution in Italy. Salvini wants to see the German "pirate," as he falsely calls her, thrown in jail for saving exhausted migrants. The case has been cause for solidarity in Germany. It's even got Angela Merkel's feuding government coalition seeing eye to eye.

No one taking responsibility

Yet the Helsinki meeting has made clear that nothing will change in the near term. An agreement will have to wait at least until September. Until then, the miserable game continues, largely because Italy and those countries ready to do more cannot agree on one point: Other member states are only willing to accept migrants with a good case for asylum. The rest, accounting for at least 70 percent of all migrants, would have to stay in Italy.

Salvini wants to see all of the migrants sent elsewhere, immediately, and not be left with the hopeless cases. He knows that it can be difficult to deport them back to their countries of origin. Other receiving countries, such as Germany, know that deportation is now off the table for those who don't stand a chance at asylum. That would explain why they are sticking to the rules as they are: Migrants are registered in the arrival country, in this case Italy, which decides who deserves asylum protection and who doesn't. That can take months, then more months until other EU members agree to actually take those asylum-seekers.

Even if a time-limited redistribution of the relatively few people brought in by rescue ships is agreed to, the larger problem remains. The EU's asylum system needs reform that redefines responsibility and quotas — a huge step for a hopelessly divided bloc that has been negotiating for years and remains far from a solution. The EU's eastern states, along with Italy and Austria, have been the biggest obstacles of all.

A new president's new effort

Incoming European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen says she wants to untie this Gordian knot. But she'll enjoy little success so long as Salvini-like populists in Italy, Hungary and Poland are in charge. Migration is the ongoing crisis they can repeatedly pick up votes with, no matter that, in absolute figures, the number of people coming to European shores keeps dropping dramatically. So why change course? It is a matter of putting self-interest before compassion for refugees and migrants.

COMPREHENSION

- 1) *Explain what the author means when he refers to the current situation as "refugee bingo".*
- 2) *List the different positions that are on the table to tackle the refugee crisis.*
- 3) *Why is the author rather doubtful that a solution will be found in the near future.*
- 4) *Deterrence or encouragement? Explain the EU's dilemma.*

BEYOND THE TEXT

1) The cartoon below was printed in the Daily Mail on 17 November 2015. What are your thoughts?



2) Explain the connection between the Brexit campaign and the refugee crisis.

