

16-20 OCTOBER 2023

2023 UN Model Programme: Agrifood System Transformation accelerates Climate Action



“Great Climate Migration”

Background note

El Nino, food security and Migration

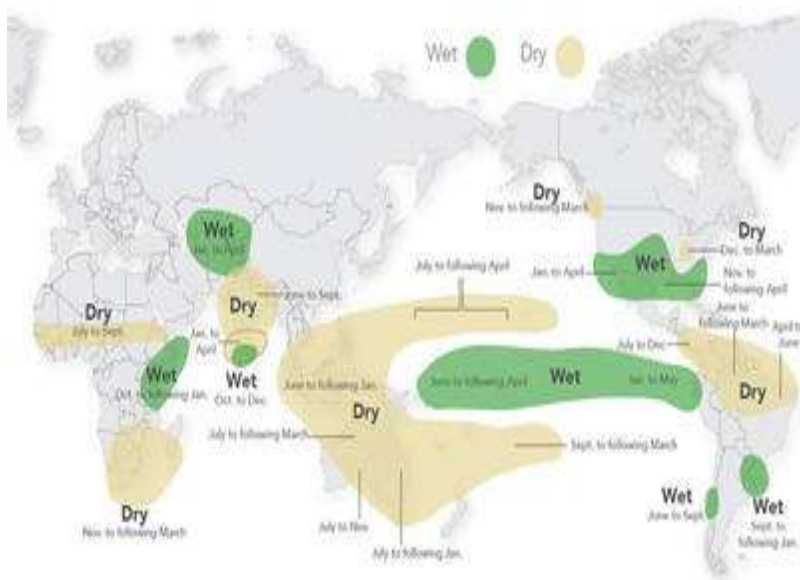
Migration is an **adaptation strategy** where climate change, depleted resources or lack of access to food sources drives individuals and households to more stable access to food resources or income generation.

An imbalance of outmigration can result in a **loss in agricultural** and seasonal laborers which may affect food production.

As a result of the impacts of climate change exacerbated by El Nino, in the African Sahel, **millions of rural people have been streaming toward the coasts and the cities** amid drought and widespread crop failures.

Should the flight away from hot climates reach the scale that current research suggests is likely, it will amount to a vast **remapping** of the world's populations.

Elements of the Case



On July 4, the World Meteorological Organization officially declared the start of the first El Niño climate pattern in seven years, setting the stage for higher global temperatures and disruptive weather - a situation only worsened by climate change.

El Niño “will have far-reaching repercussions for health, food security, water management and the environment.

The phenomena are causing unusual extreme dry weather in parts of Africa and Latin America leading to massive crop failure, and pushing food prices up in a time when the food price stability is already under pressure.

Droughts are also causing livestock deaths, erasing the livelihoods of millions of people whose lives depend on livestock, both for income as well as for food and nutrition.

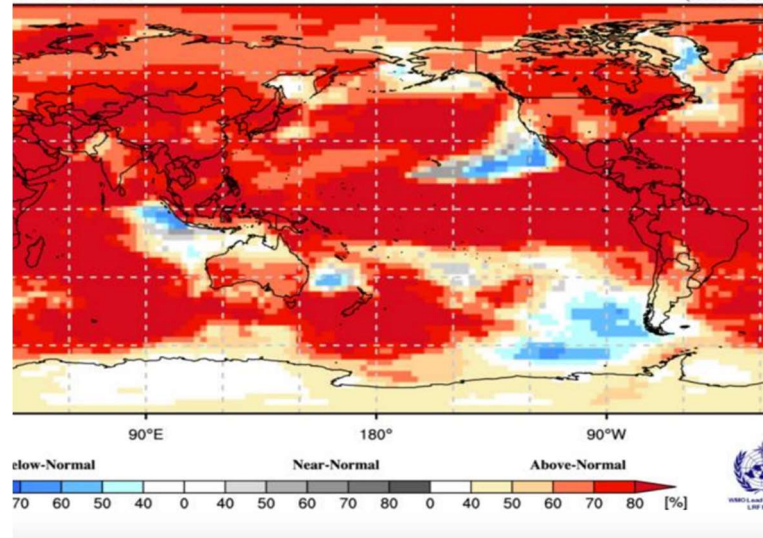
Surface Air Temperature, JAS 2023

: Multi-Model Ensemble Forecast

CPTEC,ECMWF,Exeter,Melbourne,Montreal,Moscow,Offenbach,Seoul,Tokyo,Toulouse,Washington

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Unlike decades past, El Niño's impact will be felt in a world that's already hotter than ever — as [global average temperatures keep smashing records](#).

A **combination** of climate change, caused by human-driven carbon emissions and El Niño, [is expected](#) to make at least one of the next five years, and the five-year period as a whole, the warmest on record.

As a result, **thousands of people in Africa and Latin America started migrating** towards the north causing a sharp increase of immigration and putting pressures on receiving countries.

The Simulation

In accordance with Rule XXV of the rules of procedures, fifteen Member Nations requested to hold a special session for the FAO Council.

In this request, countries referred to the significant impacts of climate change exacerbated by El Niño on food security.

Members also referred to the influx of migration and its impact on recipient countries.

In response, the session will be held at the FAO premises on the 19th of October 2023.

Members are expected to debate on and agree on conclusions and recommendations to address these challenges focusing on food security, migration and climate change.