

FLYTE Konferansen

5-6 February 2025

# ***CLIMATE CHANGE***

***A global environmental risk factor for drowning***



A close-up photograph of Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General. He is an older man with white hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a serious expression. His right hand is raised, with fingers spread, as if he is speaking or gesturing. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

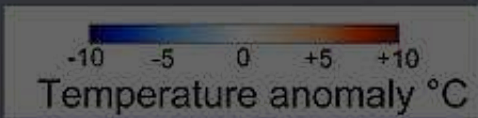
*Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General*

*“Climate change is the defining issue of our time... every day we fail to act is a day that we step a little closer towards a fate that none of us wants – a fate that will resonate through generations in the damage done to humankind and life on earth”*

# Climate change effects

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Extended heatwaves  
More severe storms  
Increased drought  
Warming rising ocean  
Biodiversity collapse  
Not enough food  
Poverty  
More health risks  
Displacement





**Interaction with water  
increases in hotter weather**



**Droughts can lead to riskier  
behaviour around water**



**Drowning is a leading  
cause of death in floods  
and cyclones**



**Aquatic ecosystem  
collapse results in risky  
occupational practices**



**Rising poverty will  
exacerbate inequalities in  
drowning risk**



**Displacement is associated with transport-related drowning**

## Displacement, disasters and climate change



# Internally displaced people (IDPs) at the end of 2023

# 75.9m

### What is the total number of IDPs?

The total number of IDPs is a snapshot of all the people living in internal displacement at the end of the year. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures. (see p. 127 for further information)

### Displaced by conflict and violence



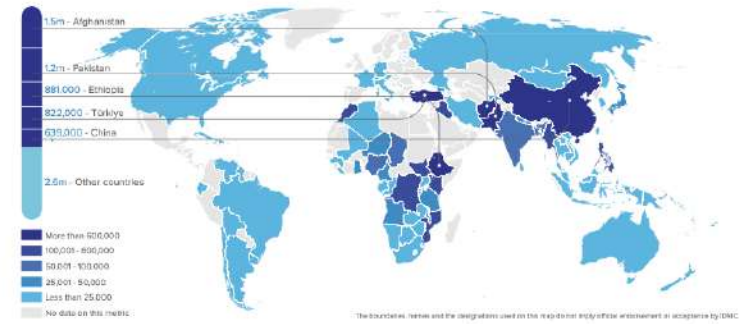
**68.3 million**

Internally displaced people as a result of conflict and violence in 66 countries and territories as of 31 December 2023

**9%**

Increase in the number of people internally displaced by conflict and violence since 2022

### Displaced by disasters



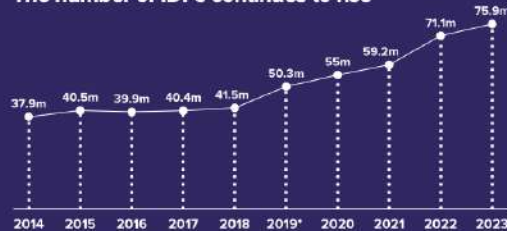
**7.7 million**

Internally displaced people as a result of disasters in 82 countries and territories as of 31 December 2023

**-11%**

Decrease in the number of people internally displaced by disasters since 2022

### The number of IDPs continues to rise



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

The total number of people living in internal displacement increased by 51% over the past five years, reaching a record high of 75.9 million people across 116 countries at the end of 2023

### Why does the number of IDPs keep increasing?

New escalations of conflict such as in Sudan and Palestine forced millions of people to flee in 2023, adding to the tens of millions already living in displacement from ongoing or previous conflicts. Earthquakes, storms, floods and wildfires destroyed large numbers of homes, forcing even more people to remain displaced at the end of the year. In the absence of durable solutions to displacement, the number will likely continue to rise.

### What is needed to reduce the number of IDPs?

Supporting return, local integration or resettlement, and addressing IDPs' vulnerabilities, is essential. To prevent new and repeated displacement and end ongoing crises, governments need to reinforce conflict resolution, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, poverty reduction and climate action. Better data to inform prevention and response, as well as monitoring progress towards solutions, will help maximise the impact of these interventions.

Timescale Jul 2024 - Jan 2025



Type of Displacement

Conflict (orange circle)

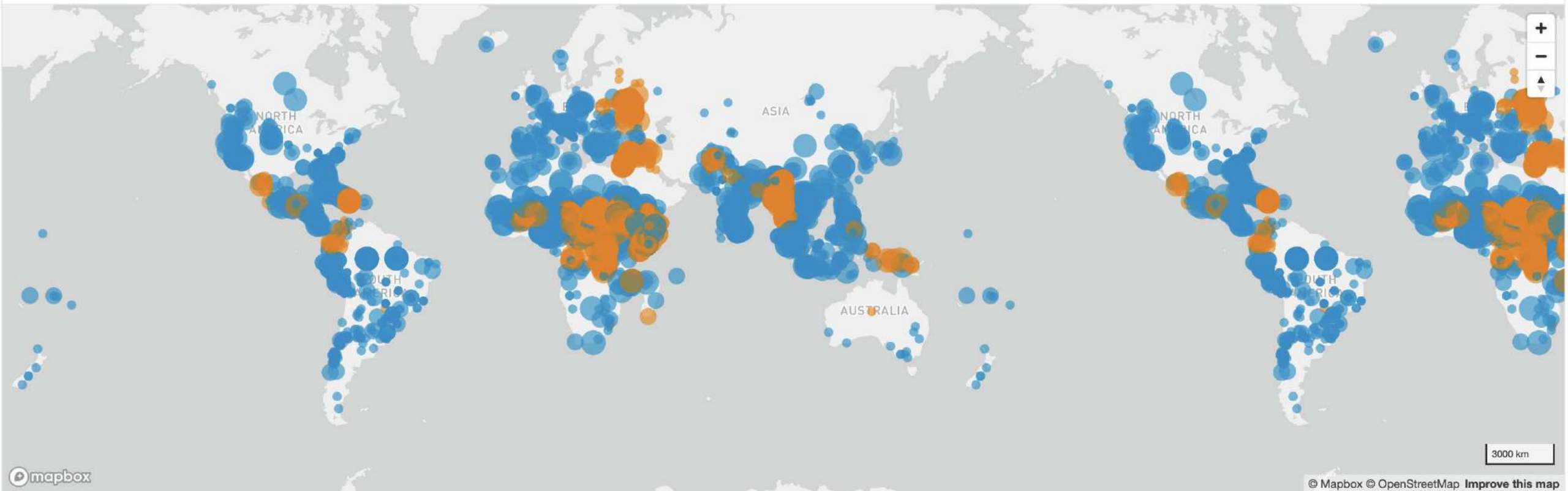
Disaster (blue circle)

No. of Displacement

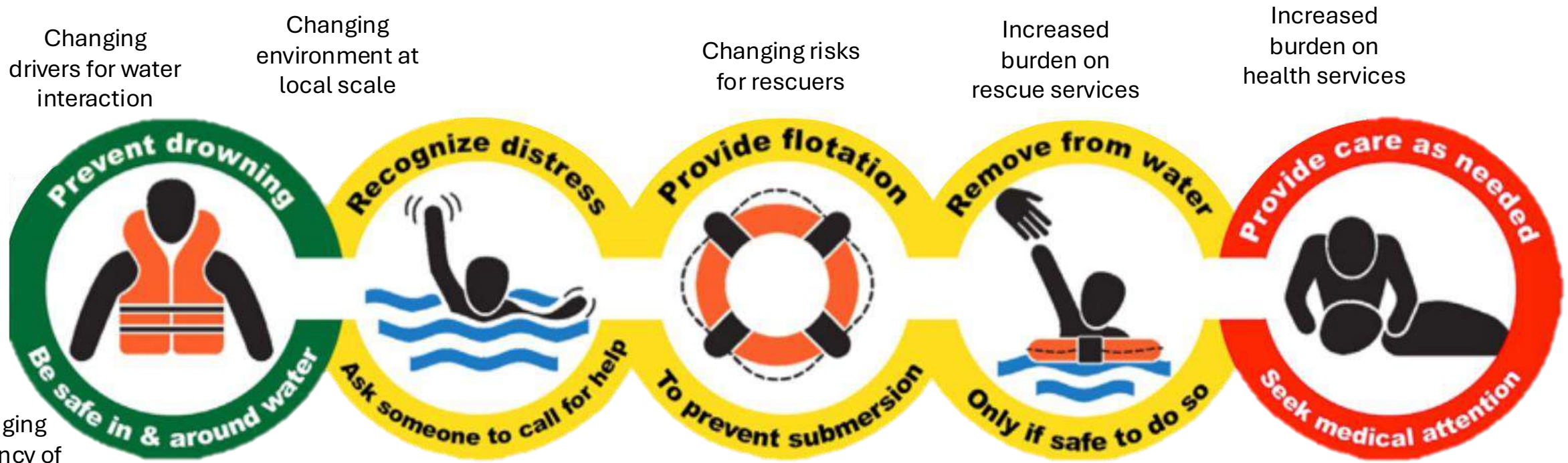
< 100 (small grey circle)

100 - 1000 (medium grey circle)

> 1000 (large grey circle)



# How will this impact drowning prevention, rescue and treatment activities?



Changing frequency of unsafe interactions





# Climate change hazards affecting lifesaving activities

- Higher summer temperatures may increase lifesaving demand (lifeguards and lifeboats)
- Increasingly frequent floods may have impact on operation of lifeboat stations
- Changing weather conditions may have health and safety impact on personnel, and durability of equipment
- Warming oceans may introduce new risks e.g. jellyfish, toxic algal blooms
- Working to reduce carbon footprint
- Millions affected by river and coastal flooding



## Primary Hazards

## Secondary Hazards

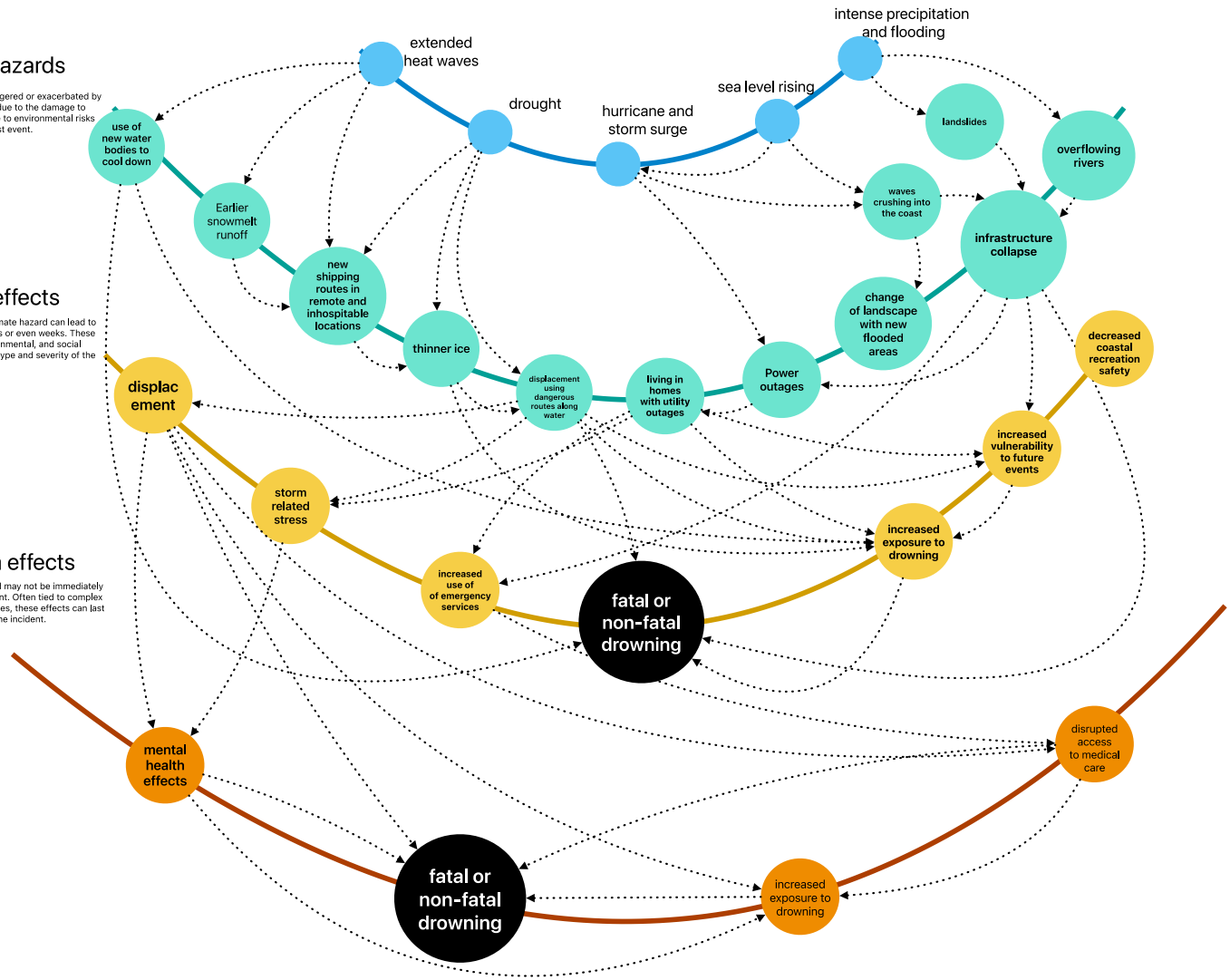
These subsequent events are often triggered or exacerbated by the initial climate hazard, primarily due to the damage to infrastructure and increased exposure to environmental risks stemming from that first event.

## Short-term effects

The immediate consequences of a climate hazard can lead to secondary effects that persist for days or even weeks. These impacts may include health, environmental, and social consequences, varying based on the type and severity of the climate event.

## Long-term effects

The lingering effects of a climate hazard may not be immediately apparent as connected to the initial event. Often tied to complex social issues or extensive health outcomes, these effects can last for many years following the incident.





What is the 'uncounted' burden of occupational, transport, and disaster drowning?

How will climate change affect the 'uncounted' burden of drowning?

How can drowning prevention support climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience?

Are existing interventions fit for purpose in a changing climate?

How can we best collaborate with other sectors to reduce disaster risk?

How do we reduce our own carbon footprint?

**Relaunch and redirect our  
climate action**