

Araştırma Makalesi

**EXAMINING CLIMATE MIGRATION RISKS THROUGH THE
LENS OF SOCIAL EQUALITY: AN EVALUATION OF
GERMANY, FRANCE AND TURKIYE**

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Abstract

In recent years, the issue of climate migration, which the world has witnessed its undeniable effects on the environment and society, has also gained unprecedented attention. This situation brings up the discussions on social equality, another dimension of climate migration. Within the scope of the article aims to discuss the integration programmes, social assistance programmes and policy practices/programmes for climate migrants in the context of social equality practices of these three countries, namely Germany, France and Türkiye, and to review the literature on climate migration and social equality studies. For this purpose, the subject has been handled with a mixed method, such as literature review, examination of relevant policy documents and evaluation of secondary data to shed light on the current situation in climate migration. This study is expected to contribute to the literature by discussing climate migration in the context of social equity and increasing the issue's visibility. The study's main findings are that there needs to be more empirical studies on these countries and that they need to make a distinction specific to climate migration in the context of social equality policies. In this regard, it is suggested that regional studies should be carried out in the countries, awareness of the society about climate change and its impacts should be raised to encourage proactive measures, and local communities should be included in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation and migration.

Keywords: Climate Migration, Social Equality, Social Policy

JEL Classification: Q54, I39, I38

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İklim Göçü Risklerini Sosyal Eşitlik Merceğinden İncelemek: Almanya, Fransa ve Türkiye Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme

Öz:

Son yıllarda, dünyanın çevre ve toplum üzerindeki yadsınamaz etkilerine tanık olduğu iklim göçü konusu da, benzeri görülmemiş bir ilgi kazandı. Bu durum iklim göçünün bir diğer boyutu olan sosyal eşitlik tartışmalarını karşımıza çıkarmaktadır. Makale kapsamında Almanya, Fransa ve Türkiye olmak üzere bu üç ülkenin sosyal eşitlik uygulamaları bağlamında göçmenlere yönelik entegrasyon programları, sosyal yardım programları ve iklim göçmenlerine yönelik politika uygulamaları/programları ele alınması ve iklim göçü ile sosyal eşitlik çalışmalarına ilişkin alan yazım taraması amaçlanmaktadır. Buna yönelik olarak konu, literatür taraması, ilgili politika belgelerinin incelenmesi ve iklim göçünde mevcut duruma ışık tutmak amacıyla ikincil verilerin değerlendirilmesi şeklinde karma bir yöntemle ele alınmıştır. Bu çalışmanın iklim göçünün sosyal eşitlik bağlamında tartışılması ve konunun alan yazındaki görünürlüğünün artması şeklinde literatüre katkı sunması beklenmektedir. Bu ülkelere ilişkin yeterli düzeyde ampirik çalışma bulunmadığı ve sosyal eşitlik politikaları bağlamında iklim göçü özelinde bir ayrıma gitmedikleri çalışmanın temel bulgularıdır. Buna yönelik olarak ülkelere bölgesel çalışmaların yapılması, proaktif önlemleri teşvik etmek için toplumun iklim değişikliği ve etkileri hakkında farkındalığının artırılması ve iklim uyumu ve göçle ilgili karar alma süreçlerine yerel toplulukların dahil edilmesi önerileri getirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: İklim Göçü, Sosyal Eşitlik, Sosyal Politika

JEL Sınıflandırması: Q54, I39, I38

Introduction

Environmental migration is "the movement of persons or groups of persons who are forced to leave their habitual residence, or who choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, due to sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions." Climate migration is the movement of a person or groups of persons who are forced to leave their habitual residence, either temporarily or permanently, or who choose to do so, mainly due to sudden or progressive changes in the environment caused by climate change (IOM, 2020). Climate migration is, therefore, a subcategory of environmental migration; it defines a singular type of environmental migration where the difference in the environment is caused by climate change.

As the effects of climate change are felt more intensely globally, climate migration discussions have increased, and the social problems it will bring with it have started to be discussed. The effects of global climate change have visibly increased in the last 20 years, and it is a fact that all countries will be affected by this change (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2021: 42). Marchiori and Schumacher (2011) concluded that small climate changes significantly affect the number of migrants. Thus, climate change negatively affects human communities and ecosystems, including increased food insecurity, increased exposure to disease, loss of livelihoods and worsening poverty (Detraz & Windsor, 2014).

There are two types of environmental migration: First, sudden environmental degradation and displacement, which can cause gradual and significant movement of people; and second, the impact of migration on the environmental communities of origin and destination of migrants, especially developing countries, where migration with existing environmental problems is often recognised as the most vulnerable to environmental degradation (Mulligan et al., 2014: 53). In this context, the increasing pace of climate change in recent years has revealed a new dimension of global challenges beyond environmental concerns. In this context, examining climate migration with a focus on social equity is crucial for building a more just, equitable and sustainable future for all and ensuring that the impacts of climate change do not disproportionately harm those already marginalised. Germany, Turkey and France have a long-standing relationship regarding receiving and giving immigration. In addition, while Germany stands out with its environmentalist policies, Turkey is on the agenda with the effects of climate change. On the other hand, France has an important place in discussing the issue as

a country that recognises the legal status of a migrant for climate reasons for the first time. The purpose of this study is to raise awareness of issues such as fair treatment, resource allocation, and social integration of climate migrants in the literature, as well as to discuss the risks that selected countries may face by examining the strategies and mechanisms used to overcome the multifaceted challenges arising from climate-induced migration in the context of social equity. This article aims to answer the following issues to provide insight into the societal challenges and risks that climate migration may bring:

- What are the existing studies on climate migration, and to what extent do these studies include social equality in climate migration?
- What are the current and future scenarios of climate migration due to different climate events?
- What risks will selected countries face regarding climate migration in the context of social equity, and how prepared are they for them?

To this end, the issue has been addressed through a mixed methodology of literature review, analysis of relevant policy documents and evaluation of secondary data to shed light on the current situation. In this context, the study is expected to contribute to the literature by identifying the main similarities and differences between countries' policy frameworks, legal measures and implementation strategies from a comparative perspective and shedding light on the factors shaping the design and effectiveness of social equality policies.

A Conceptual Review of Studies on Climate Migration

Analysing the studies on climate migration is essential to identify how the issue is addressed in the context of social equality and understand the dimensions of the current debates. In particular, some studies examine the concept of climate migration in the context of its popularisation (Martin, 2010; Felli, 2013). Therefore, in today's world, where the effects of climate change are expected to increase, studies in this field are also likely to increase.

Looking at the literature, it is seen that many field studies have been conducted on climate migration (Öncü & Somuncu, 2022; Ekinci & Ökde, 2021; Thomas & Benjamin, 2018; Kelman et al., 2019; Black et al., 2008) As it is understood from the field studies, the capacity of local people to tolerate and cope with climate change is relatively low. In addition, local

governments do not have adequate policies.

On the other hand, some studies are studies on the legal status and security of climate migrants (Balcılar, 2022; Arı & Gökpınar, 2021; Arslan, 2023; Yücel, 2020; Yılmaz & Navruz, 2019; Huber et al., 2023). In parallel with these studies, some studies have addressed the issue of climate migration in the dimension of human rights (Yörük, 2023; Öz, 2020). However, due to the lack of legal status, some studies address the problems and invisibility of climate migrants in political terms (Erayman, 2022; Kuluslu, 2020).

Some studies have focused on the literature on climate migration due to climate change (Ökten Sipahioğlu, 2022), discussing climate migration as a finding of climate change rather than examining it directly. Thus, it was aimed to raise national and international awareness of climate migration (Cao & Chen, 2012; Kanlı & Başköy, 2018; Satır Reyhan & Reyhan, 2016). Another study addressed the concept of climate migration as a risk factor with a similar approach (Erayman & Çağlar, 2022). In addition to a legal status and security issue, studies address climate migration as a political and humanitarian crisis (Efşan & Yılmaz, 2023).

In the context of the subject of this study, it is seen that the studies addressing climate migration in the context of social equality generally consist of empirical studies and findings obtained at the regional level. There are also a few empirical studies in the climate migration literature where review studies are predominant. Some of these studies have focused on climate-induced internal migration (Poston et al., 2009; Nawrotzki et al., 2017; Perumal, 2018). One of these studies, recently conducted in Bangladesh, shows that the direct association of migration with climate in every region struggling with harsh climatic conditions leads to ignoring migration in the context of gender inequality and socioeconomic inequalities (Dewan, 2023). Another study addressing climate migration in the context of gender equality was conducted by Detraz and Windsor (2014), who argued that climate policies should be formulated to reveal and draw attention to the effects of gender on human security of climate migration.

Using a two-stage econometric framework, a study in a few Shanghai and Nanjing metropolitan areas in China's Yangtze River Delta demonstrates the complexity of deciding on migration in the context of climate change. The paradigm enables us to investigate how social inequality affects the level of climate impact that households experience and how this experience interacts with social inequality to affect migration choices. According to research findings, people's perceptions of the effects of climate change and subsequent migration

decisions are strongly correlated with all dimensions of social inequality (Tan et al., 2016).

Faist (2018) argues that the debate on climate change and forced migration is based on the idea that nature and society/culture can be separated. He argues that this is a false dichotomy and that a new generation of science is needed to pay more attention to how responses to climate change (including migration as adaptation) play a role in reproducing existing social inequalities.

On the other hand, the literature provides evidence that climate change can worsen this situation by harming people's socioeconomic status. This increases the pressure to adapt or migrate in place and increases existing social inequalities (Schmidt, 2016).

In a case study conducted in Kurigram District in northern Bangladesh, a survey of the rural population investigated the reasons for migration. In this context, it sought answers to the questions of whether people migrate to cope with the problem of rainfall variability or due to social inequalities. The authors found that although rainfall variability plays an important role in people's migration decisions, they also migrate due to persistent local patterns of social inequality and food insecurity and structural economic inequalities (Etzold et al., 2016).

A study conducted in three provinces of China aimed to examine climate migration in the context of social equity for older people. Faced with severe and widening social inequality among older people, there is a need for better coverage of the link between climate change and inequality. Wang et al. (2020) attempt to explain the relationship between seasonal migration of older people and climate change from a multidimensional perspective. The study findings show that climate change significantly impacts the ageing of regional populations and that significant internal differences exist between the distribution and scale of migrating elderly resulting from unequal environmental conditions.

Studies on climate migration have evolved towards increasingly systematic investigations of how migration emerges from the complex interactions of cultural, economic, social and environmental processes. In this light, climate migration has frequently been conceptualised in recent years as human susceptibility to environmental change, more broadly (particularly climate change), and human security. The next stage in creating this science occurs in the study by McLeman, Faist, and Schade (2016), when climate migration analyzes the relationship between socioeconomic disparity and people's ability to continue their chosen livelihood pathways in greater depth. The paper examines the evolution of climate migration science through these periods. It gives a broad model of how social and economic inequality

can serve as both an inducement and a deterrent to environmental migration. A brief case study of the migration consequences of Hurricane Katrina is presented to illustrate the workings of the model.

When the literature on climate migration is analysed, it is seen that the concept is still very new, and the discussions on the subject have increased in recent years. Therefore, it is rare that the issue is addressed in the context of social equality. In addition, field studies show that both the focus is on underdeveloped countries rather than developed and developing countries and that countries still need adequate policy measures regarding climate migration. This study is expected to contribute to the literature in terms of both discussing climate migration in the context of social equality and evaluating policies towards migration with examples from developed and developing countries.

Data on the Current Status of Climate Migration

In this section, data on climate-related displacement and future scenarios related to these data will be discussed. Depending on the frequency and scale of major natural disasters

While there are significant fluctuations in the total number of displaced people from one year to the next, climate migration is increasing nationally and internationally.

At the UN Climate Change Conference (COP24), the climate change-induced displacement of people was addressed. However, although the issue of climate migration is now a recurring topic worldwide, no official authorisation has yet been given to those directly involved in international forums. Therefore, they still need international status or legal protection (EPRS, 2021). Climate change is expected to affect human mobility in at least four ways (IOM, 2019):

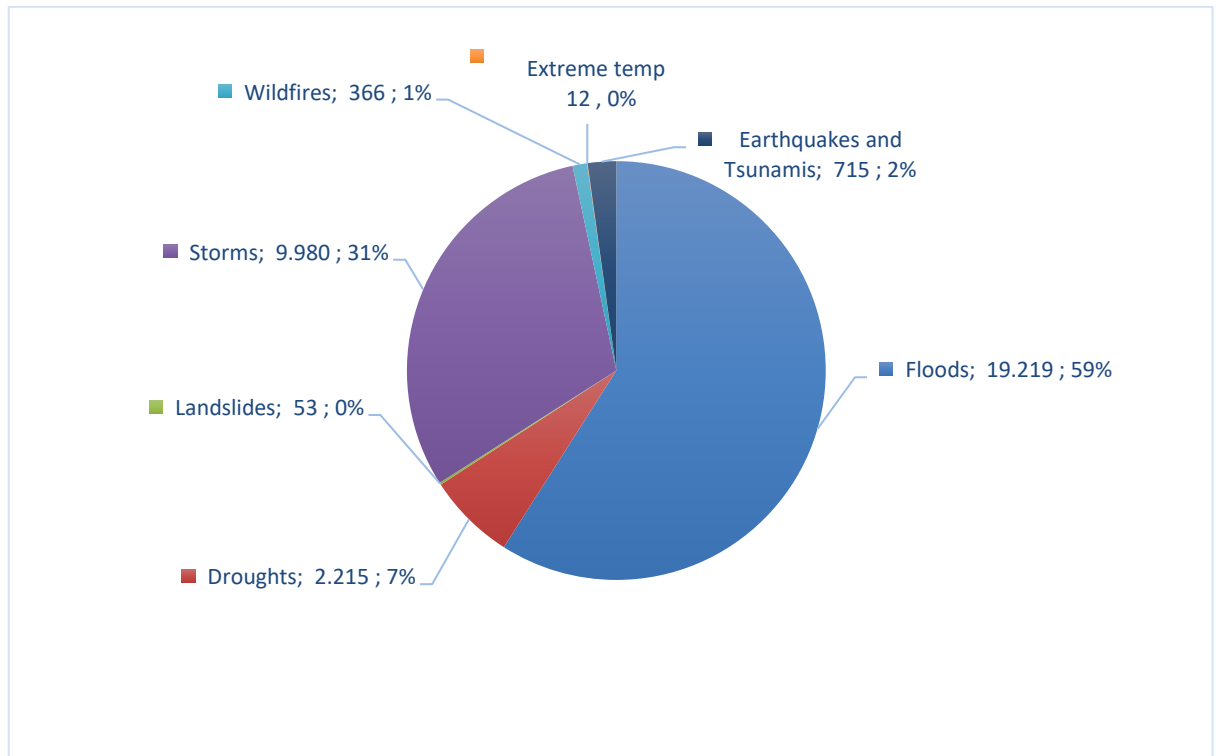
- i. Larger, more frequent, and possibly more intense weather-related natural disasters, both rapid and slow-onset, could increase the likelihood of humanitarian crises and population movements.
- ii. Climate change's detrimental effects on food, water, health, and livelihoods are anticipated to worsen already-existing vulnerabilities. Low levels of outmigration may occur in some places as a result of livelihood restrictions brought on by climate change when household incomes in rural areas decline. People that wish to migrate but need additional resources will become trapped populations because mobility costs resources.
- iii. Coastal regions and low-lying islands may become uninhabitable as a result of

rising sea levels.

- iv. The competitiveness and tension over diminishing natural resources may be exacerbated by climate change, which could result in violence and eviction.

Looking at the data, the importance of the scale of the climate migration crisis is better understood. 2022, the Earth experienced its warmest period in years recorded since 2014. This is particularly felt in Europe, where temperatures have risen twice as fast as the global average over the last 30 years. The dry conditions triggered an intense response to the wildfire season and the frequency and size of fires that burned areas. Nearly 6,900 fires burned more than 1.4 million hectares of land in 2022. More than 32 million people around the world experienced climate-related displacement in 2022. The highest rate of displacement was due to floods. Floods were followed by storms, droughts and earthquakes (Figure 1).

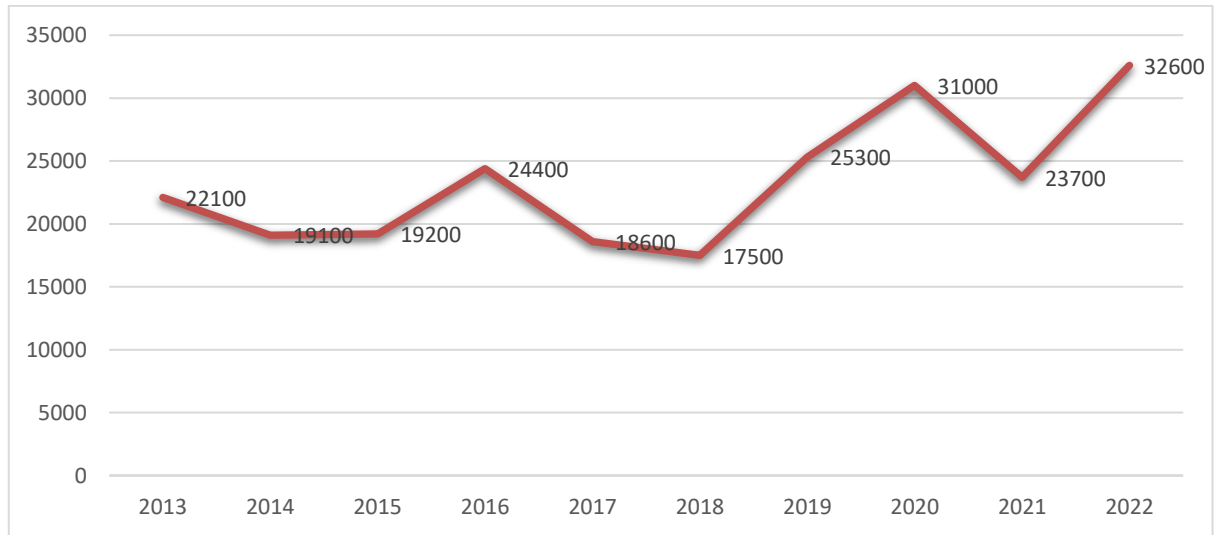
Figure 1. Number of climate-related displaced persons due to climate events in 2022 (thousand people)



Source: IDMC (2023)

It is seen that the number of climate-related displaced people has increased by more than 10 million in the last decade. Climate migration, which has been increasing rapidly since 2018, has increased and reached more than 32 million people in 2022, although it decreased slightly due to COVID-19. Looking at the situation of climate-related displacement in the last ten years, it is seen that there has been an increase of more than 10 million. These data are expected to increase even more (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of climate-displaced persons by year (thousand people)



Source: IDMC (2023)

Currently, climate-related migration events are mainly at the local level, while they are expected to increase internationally with the increase in greenhouse gas emissions (McLeman, 2018: 319). Looking at the distribution of climate-related migration by continents, it is seen that East Asia - the Pacific and South Asia regions witness high levels of migration almost every year. Europe & Central Asia and Middle East-North Africa regions witness relatively low climate migration (Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of climate-displaced persons by continent over the years (in thousands)

	Europe & Central Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa	Middle East-North Africa	East Asia - The Pacific	South Asia	The Americas
2013	150	1600	43	15600	4100	700
2014	190	700	23	11700	5000	1600
2015	66	1100	100	8300	8000	1600
2016	57	1100	100	16400	3600	3200
2017	66	2600	200	8600	2800	4300
2018	39	2600	200	960	3300	1700
2019	107	3400	600	10000	9500	1600
2020	237	4400	300	12100	9200	4700
2021	276	2600	200	13700	5300	1700
2022	107	7400	300	10100	12500	2100

Source: IDMC (2023)

While this is the current state of climate-related migration, future scenarios also reveal the potential risks of climate migration. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), as of 2021, approximately 23 million people are displaced annually due to natural disasters related to climate change. Unless effective mitigation and adaptation measures are implemented, this number could be estimated to increase to 200 million by 2050. The World Bank's report titled "Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration" emphasises that if no significant action is taken on climate change, the impacts of climate change could force millions of people in these regions to move within their own countries by 2050.

At the same time, Germany and France are projected to face increasing internal migration due to the fragility of their agricultural systems, urban centres and coastal areas. It is also estimated that the decline in water resources could displace 700 million people by 2030. In 2020, the average global sea level (GMSL) reached its highest point. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the sea level will rise by 15 to 25 centimeters by 2050. Flooding will raise the danger of loss of life, poverty, and economic disruption in the long run. Coastal groups are most vulnerable, including densely populated

places in China, Bangladesh, India, and Vietnam. A sea-level increase of 90cm will bury much of Egypt's 5 million-person Alexandria area (EPRS, 2022).

Climate Migration and Risks in the Context of Social Equity: Selected Countries

Climate migration, often called environmental migration or climate-induced displacement, involves the movement of people from one geographical area to another due to the adverse impacts of climate change. These impacts include sea level rise, extreme weather events, desertification, and changes in agricultural patterns. As these environmental stressors intensify, the likelihood of displacement increases, raising critical questions of adaptation, human rights, and fair treatment.

Climate migration is a complex interaction of environmental, social and economic factors. As regions become increasingly uninhabitable, vulnerable communities face the difficult decision to stay and cope with adverse conditions or to migrate in search of more viable livelihoods. This migration, within countries or across borders, risks straining resources and infrastructure in origin and destination areas. Moreover, it often exacerbates existing inequalities, potentially leading to social tensions and conflicts. The main drivers of climate migration include water scarcity, extreme weather events and sea level rise. Still, it is a threat multiplier of poverty, governance failures and lack of human security. In turn, each of these factors undermines a society's ability to build resilience (UN, 2021).

Countries with significant levels of migration tend to have diverse populations made up of individuals from various cultural, social and economic backgrounds. This diversity brings opportunities and challenges in promoting social equity and ensuring access to resources, rights and opportunities for all residents, including migrants. Analysing the social equity policies of these countries will provide insights into how they address integration and promote equal treatment between different communities. Investment in greener technology leads to fewer long-term migrants and a better environment but again carries an ambiguous sign for the measure of inequality (Marchiori and Schumacher, 2009:509). However, countries experiencing high migration rates often have to develop comprehensive policies that meet the needs and rights of indigenous populations and incoming migrants. This requires analysing how these policies have evolved and how they have adapted to changing migration patterns and demographics. In this context, understanding social equity policies' development, implementation, and impact is vital for effective governance. The countries that will be

analysed in this section are Germany, which has been selected among the countries with the highest number of migrants in the last ten years (IOM, 2022) and is a strong welfare state; France, which recognised the legal status of a climate refugee for the first time, and Türkiye, which has the potential to both receive and give migration due to its location and current climate events.

As seen from the data (Table 1), these countries are not immune to the challenges posed by climate-related internal migration. As climate change intensifies, these countries may face various problems and complexities arising from the displacement of people within their borders. Climate-related international migration, often called cross-border climate migration or climate refugees, presents a unique set of challenges for these countries. As people in climate-sensitive regions seek refuge and opportunities in more stable countries, their countries may face complex challenges. Some of the problems these countries may face due to climate-induced international migration include:

Urban Overcrowding: Climate-induced migration can lead to an influx of people into urban areas that must be adequately prepared to accommodate growing populations. This can lead to overcrowding, strained infrastructure and inadequate access to shelter, water, sanitation and health care services.

Housing Shortages: The sudden arrival of climate migrants may exacerbate housing shortages in cities and towns. This could lead to increased competition for housing, higher rental prices and the emergence of informal settlements or slums.

Resource Competition: Climate migrants may compete with locals for limited resources such as water, food, and employment opportunities. This competition can lead to social tensions and conflicts within communities.

Social Tensions and Xenophobia: The arrival of climate migrants may trigger resentment, fear, or xenophobia among some segments of the local population. These tensions can negatively affect social cohesion and create a hostile environment for migrants.

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity: Climate migrants may come from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The challenge of integrating these different groups into local communities can lead to communication barriers, cultural misunderstandings, and difficulties in ensuring equal access to services.

The strain on Social Services: A sudden increase in population can strain social services such as education, health, and social welfare systems. Public institutions may struggle to support

existing residents and new migrants adequately.

Economic Inequalities: Climate migrants often face economic hardship when leaving their livelihoods behind. This can lead to increased poverty and unemployment rates, putting additional pressure on social safety nets.

Health and Public Health Issues: Climate migrants may bring health problems exacerbated by climate-related disasters. This can strain health systems and lead to public health problems.

Cycles of Displacement: If climate migrants are resettled in areas vulnerable to climate impacts, there is a risk of creating a cycle of displacement in which migrants will again be forced to relocate due to changing environmental conditions.

Environmental Degradation: The concentration of people in certain areas due to climate migration can increase resource consumption, waste production and pollution. This can further contribute to local environmental degradation and strain natural ecosystems.

To address these challenges, European countries need comprehensive strategies that encompass humanitarian responses, international cooperation, policy development and strengthening infrastructure and social services. Collaborative efforts between nations, international organisations and civil society are essential to effectively manage the complexities of climate-related international migration while protecting human rights and dignity. When they arrive in new places, they bring a range of needs that must be addressed for their successful integration and well-being. These needs can be diverse and multifaceted, ranging from basic needs to social and psychological support. Accommodation, livelihood opportunities, access to food, education and health services, social support, cultural and social integration, and language and communication adaptation are some of the basic needs that climate migrants may face in their new destinations. For this reason, in order to shed light on the current policies of the countries in these areas, the current integration policies of these three countries for migrants can be summarised as follows:

Germany

Towards the 2000s, two laws (the New Foreigners Act of 1991 and the Immigrant and Asylum Seeker Act of 1993) were adopted in Germany that granted citizenship rights to immigrants. According to the first of these laws, foreigners between the ages of 16-23, who have resided in Germany for more than eight years, have attended school for at least six years, and have not been convicted of serious offences are entitled to citizenship. According to the other law,

immigrants who have resided in Germany for at least 15 years and have a residence permit have the right to be admitted to citizenship (Kaya & Kentel, 2005: 20). As of 1 January 2000, a new law that came into force makes it possible to be born in Germany to be entitled to German citizenship (Kaya & Kentel, 2005: 21). According to more recent regulations, although the periods for foreigners and refugees have changed, the primary conditions for citizenship depending on the duration of legal residence have been common for both groups. Accordingly, the conditions for obtaining citizenship are to know German sufficiently, to have a suitable residence and sufficient income, not to receive social assistance, to pass the citizenship test and to receive the integration course certificate (Yıldız, 2017: 49).

Within the scope of social work, the Federal Republic of Germany is legally obliged to treat all people within the country's borders equally. For this reason, to be eligible for social assistance, "those who are not self-sufficient and have no one to help them are entitled to social assistance", whether they are residents or asylum seekers/refugees. Social welfare benefits do not consider whether the need was caused by oneself or someone else. However, 195 refugees and foreigners not residents of the Federal Republic of Germany also receive social assistance under the Federal Refugee Assistance Act (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2010).

European governments have established migrant integration programs during the previous decade. Because positive externalities result from migrant integration and market failures occur when integration is not achieved, compelling arguments can be made in favour of government involvement, which can benefit migrants and society. Germany has Europe's most comprehensive migrant integration program, with over one million participants since 2005. Its program focuses primarily on language acquisition, with cultural, historical, and political education elements thrown in for good measure. The program serves a variety of special needs groups and has evolved significantly since its start (Hübschmann, 2015). However, Germany has announced that it will not grant legal status to climate refugees (Tidey, 2020). And existing legal regulations do not cover climate migration.

Table 2. Integration policies for immigrants in Germany

Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the scope of the social housing programme, people whose income is below a certain threshold and who are entitled to receive a 'housing entitlement certificate' are given the chance to rent at affordable prices.
Access to Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the list of health services can be increased depending on the individual's specific situation, medication is generally free of charge for children and young people under the age of 18, • Ability to receive health services in different languages by the Contracted Physicians Association, • Statutory health insurance • Care insurance schemes are available for the sick and elderly.
Livelihood Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The employees of the Employment Agency can help you find vocational training or a job, but it is up to the individual to find a job. • 24-month unemployment benefit
Access to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support programme "Adaptation through competence" offers vocational training opportunities. • Special education support for children with disabilities (Förderschule)
Cultural and Social Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After completing the language course, the trainees are familiarised with the German legal system, history, culture, • Rights and obligations in Germany, how to live together in society and • Orientation courses on values such as freedom and social equality. • Integration, cultural and sporting activities organised by migrant organisations.
Language and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory German classes are available as part of immigrant integration. These classes can last between 430 and 1000 hours, depending on the candidate's learning skills (BAMF, 2023).
Social Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidies for pregnancy, childbirth and child-related expenses • Postnatal social and childcare support (Frühe Hilfen) • Parental allowance for persons with a residence permit (Basiselterngel, ElterngeldPlus, Partnerschaftsbonus) • Child allowance for low-income families
Policy Documents Related to Climate Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), together with the Federal Foreign Office, supports the implementation of the United Nations Action Agenda for Internal Displacement: Action Agenda for Internal Displacement (UN, 2022)

Sources: BfMF (2021); UN (2022)

France

One of the reasons for choosing France in the article is granting immigrant status to a person from Bangladesh according to environmental criteria (EJF, 2022). With this decision, France differentiates itself from other European countries and has taken an international step for climate refugees in legal terms. In addition, in a study conducted with senior bureaucrats on climate migration in France, the participants stated that although climate migration is always seen as an international problem, accurate climate migration has started to take place in developing countries in the form of internal migration. This situation is quoted as follows: 'we know that 80% of migrations happen South-South, in neighbouring countries, and I think that's where migrations that are said to be "climatic" can be seen, more than what we can see in France. "215 If there is one thing stakeholder agreed on about climate migration, this is it.' (Durand-Delacre, 2022: 154).

France has long had an open immigration policy. Everyone born in France is considered French and has the right to French citizenship. Long-term residency permits, entry to citizenship, and family reunification policies are open and generous. Currently, the majority of new legal immigrants come to reunite with family. This helps to explain why it is so difficult to integrate new immigrants, many of whom have no skills, no education, and do not speak French. Integration processes must begin from scratch. Access to social assistance, payments, and social security benefits in France is contingent on possessing a resident permit in France. Foreigners who meet this requirement are entitled to the same social benefits as citizens.

Table 3. Integration policies for immigrants in France

Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing, called 'Habitations a loyer modere' (HLM), provides low rents for the disabled, unemployed, low-income and homeless.
Access to Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free access to primary and secondary health care for migrants • The "visite médicale" integration contract, which is compulsory for all foreigners residing in France for more than three months, enables immigrants to benefit from health services.
Livelihood Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unemployed receive compulsory unemployment social insurance financed by social contributions and tax-financed unemployment solidarity or benefits
Access to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children between 6 and 16 years of age can attend public schools free of charge. Children whose mother tongue is not French receive specialised language education. • Admission to education for 16-18 year-olds varies according to their language skills, but vocational training is not available.

Cultural and Social Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within the scope of the Republican Integration Contract, it was arranged to strengthen integration programmes and increase access to public services.
Language and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language courses provided by universities and European Union-supported non-governmental organisations
Social Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligibility conditions and amounts depend on many factors: number and age number of children, income, housing and activity status, family configuration, etc. Family benefits available• Foreigners who have a residence permit and have been residing in France for more than 5 years can benefit from the minimum income support scheme
Policy Documents Related to Climate Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although there is no official policy document, it is the first country to grant asylum to a Bangladeshi climate migrant.

Sources: UNHRC (2023)

Türkiye

In a study published in The Lancet, some predictions were made in the world and Türkiye due to climate change. According to the predictions, the world population will decrease significantly after 2050. On the other hand, while the fertility rate for Türkiye is calculated as 1.79, it is estimated that this rate will decrease to 1.34 after 80 years (Independent, 2021). In addition, the population of Türkiye, which was calculated as 80.4 million in 2017, was calculated as 101.6 in 2100. In addition, Canada, Sweden and Türkiye are among the countries that are predicted to receive the most migration as a result of climate change.

In contrast, El Salvador, Samoa and Jamaica are predicted to receive the most migration (Independent, 2021). On the other hand, while the rate of climate- or disaster-related migration in Türkiye is lower than in other regions, 275,313 people have migrated for this reason in the last decade (UNDP, 2019). Türkiye's migration regime is differentiated regarding migrants' access to rights. In this system, where a stratified structure emerges among migrants, not all migrants can benefit from all rights (Temel & Aca, 2022:474). There is no specific policy for climate migrants in Turkey.

Table 4. Integration policies for migrants in Türkiye

Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of social housing under TOKİ Migrant Housing Coordination Office.
Access to Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to Article 27 of the Temporary Protection Regulation in Türkiye, Syrians have free access to basic and emergency health services, including treatment and medicines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary and tertiary health care services are provided by the Social Security Presidency on equal terms with the local population within the scope of General Health Insurance (GSS).
Livelihood Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work permits were issued to 22 thousand Syrian refugees under temporary protection.• Expansion of work permits and access to vocational training through Vocational Training Centres
Access to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU-funded Conditional Education Assistance (ŞEY)• Within the scope of the Circular on Education and Training Services for Foreigners, registration and recognition procedures of students have been facilitated
Cultural and Social Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information and guidance services provided by the Migration and Counselling Centre• Opening of 1-year orientation classes
Language and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turkish education within the scope of the Circular on Education and Training Services for Foreigners
Social Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Cohesion Assistance Programmes (SUY) financed by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) funding• Complementary Social Assistance Programme for the Disabled and Home Care Assistance• Within the scope of Social and Economic Support (SED), migrant families with children who are at risk of being taken into institutional care are provided with temporary and temporary social and economic support services to meet the needs of their children.
Policy Documents Related to Climate Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to the 2022 Climate Council decisions, implementing a series of protective and preventive policies for disadvantaged groups, increasing access to public services and supporting sectors that may be affected by the process

Sources: Yalman & Harmandaoğlu, (2023); AFAD, (2020); MEB (2019); TOKİ (2020)

When we examine the countries' migrant social equality programmes, it is seen that they need active policies for both internal and external climate migration. To address these issues, countries need to adopt proactive policies and strategies that consider the needs of both climate migrants and existing residents. These could include improving urban planning, expanding affordable housing, investing in infrastructure, providing targeted support to vulnerable populations and promoting social integration and cohesion. In addition, international cooperation and sharing of best practices can help countries effectively manage the challenges of climate-related internal migration. On the other hand, data in this field is minimal. In this context, it is impossible to predict precisely how prepared they are regarding climate migrants, especially local policies.

Conclusion and Suggestions

Countries with high levels of migration often face complex challenges related to employment, education, health and social cohesion. Climate migration adds complexity as it intersects with existing migration dynamics and requires adaptation to environmental changes. Therefore, analysing how these countries approach social equity policies in the context of climate migration can shed light on innovative solutions to multifaceted challenges. This study critically addresses the need for more policies on climate migration, which is already taking place and will be experienced more intensively in the future despite the countries' deep-rooted experience in migration.

Climate migration is a striking reminder of the profound changes experienced due to climate change. Marchiori and Schumacher (2009) found that small climate changes significantly impact the number of migrants. Its importance, therefore, extends beyond the environmental discourse to encompass humanitarian, social, economic and geopolitical spheres. Proactive policies emphasising equal treatment, cross-border cooperation and sustainable development are essential to mitigate the negative impacts of climate migration. As global temperatures continue to rise, tackling this complex challenge becomes an ethical, strategic and collective responsibility that requires urgent response and joint action.

Climate migration can potentially affect international stability, as displaced populations strain the resources of host countries and contribute to social unrest. By understanding and addressing these dynamics, the global community can work collaboratively to prevent conflicts resulting from mass migration. Sustainable development goals can only be achieved by considering the impacts of climate migration. Planning for orderly migration and integrating migrants into host societies is vital to minimise disruption and promote inclusive growth. To this end, the following recommendations can be listed:

- Support the development of alternative income-generating activities less dependent on climate, such as eco-tourism, handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing.
- Provide education and training on sustainable agricultural practices, climate adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction.

- It is crucial to raise public awareness of climate change and its impacts and involve local communities in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation and migration to promote proactive measures.
- Establish social safety net programmes to support vulnerable populations during climate-induced crises, including food aid and health care.
- If migration becomes necessary, well-planned and organised resettlement strategies must be developed to prioritise the safety and well-being of affected communities.

It is important to note that the specific needs of climate migrants may vary depending on factors such as their socioeconomic background, age, gender and the nature of the climate impacts they are experiencing. Addressing these needs requires collaboration between governments, civil society organisations, local communities and international organisations to ensure a holistic and compassionate response to the challenges posed by climate migration. As can be seen, although there are countries with high potential to attract climate migration, it is seen that they still need to develop a policy specific to climate refugees. On the other hand, more research on climate-related internal migration needs to be done. In this context, conducting research at the local level and investigating climate-related migration trends is essential.

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