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### **Global Trend: Mounting Refugee and Displacement Crises**

As of October 2022, 103 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes, 36.5 million of which are children under the age of 18.<sup>1</sup> The United Nations first defined the term “refugee” in 1951 as a person fleeing their country in fear of persecution.<sup>2</sup> There has been a longstanding push to expand the definition to include anyone forced to migrate, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), but to no avail.<sup>2</sup> With extreme weather events becoming more frequent, the World Bank estimates 216 million people will be internally displaced by 2050 due to climate change.<sup>3</sup>

Regardless of whether a person is displaced by conflict, violence, or natural disaster, their forced migration is an extreme circumstance. These populations have specialized needs, such as trauma-informed medical and mental health care. The primary action step long overdue is amending the legal definition of “refugee” so all forced migrants are granted the same rights and protections.<sup>2</sup> This consensus is hopefully the first step in international cooperation on how to address the multiple ongoing crises.

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#### References

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