



STAGE	ANNEX
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communities. And as in the case of all three, it is difficult to separate environmental change from other factors driving displacement – such as conflict. Although there are common themes in environmentally-driven displacement which have been present throughout history, the future will not match the past. Today, we see a crucial change. As we cross the tipping point for environmental crisis, climate-driven displacement is becoming more severe, more frequent, and more widespread. While the environmental changes in Muiris' community lasted roughly a decade, and nature recovered, forecasts indicate that environmental degradation is set to get worse in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere.



While environmental changes affected a few thousand people in Ireland in the 1920s, drought is affecting tens of millions in the Horn of Africa today. And most importantly, while the environmental change which affected Muiris' community was local, affecting a small area, the phenomenon we see today is global. Climate and environmental change does not affect everybody – in the 'Global North' or 'Global South' – equally. However, a huge number of areas, largely in the 'Global South', are suffering from the effects of environmental crisis; from drought in the Horn of Africa to desertification in the Sahel, to flooding in Bangladesh and the Pacific. These effects – and environment-driven displacement – will continue to worsen, unless we take action.'

