A provocative new study says climate change will make Europe’s migrant crisis even worse

Two researchers at Columbia University, examined potential links between swings in temperature in 103 countries and the volume of asylum applications to the E.U. between 2000 and 2014.

The E.U. could see an increase of 28 percent of applications under “moderate” global warming condition, and as much as a 188 percent spike — or 660,000 more applications annually — under more severe warming. Although climate change is often seen as affecting only developing countries, all countries worldwide can be affected.

The research found that weather fluctuations accounted for only a small part of the roughly 352,000 asylum applications on average each year for the period between 2000 through 2014 — but that a statistical relationship did exist. Specifically, the data suggested a possible link between reduced agricultural productivity and the desire to migrate to another country.

There were several flaws in the study, including the inherent uncertainty of trying to predict relatively precise numbers of future asylum seekers decades in the future.


UN is experiencing difficulty aiding Rohingya people, may need to invoke special measures to make changes

The UN is the only legitimate agency currently trying to address the Rohingya refugee crisis; however, the Myanmarese government is making the increasingly difficult with the blocking of UN humanitarian efforts such as vital deliveries of food, water, and medicine to trapped refugees. Despite this “ethnic cleansing” occurring, further responses from the UN Security Council has been limited due to the hesitation from China and Russia, two of the five permanent members of the UN.

Further diplomatic efforts in Rohingya territory must be done through the UN General Assembly. Reducing the dependency on the Security Council, offsetting the politics between the five permanent members, and possibly invoking the Uniting for Peace principle (as used in the Korean War) could possibly be the answer into the aid of the refugee crisis.

The Uniting for Peace principle comes from Res 377, and states that should a matter of international peace and security meet an impasse in the Security Council, because of the General Assembly can take up the matter and issue immediate recommendations as they see fit.