Climate refugees and youth influence

With the wide discourse on climate refugees – the notion that climate change drives people to flee their homes – this research looks into the deep causes of youth migration. Lack of hope, political representation and local democratic means to influence policies turn out to be some of the root drivers of young farmers leaving Senegal to take the dangerous way to Europe. While climate change exacerbates the difficulties, improved local democracy can restore resilience and ensure livelihoods.

As a help for municipal officials and politicans to discuss and develop your thoughts and actions for your own community, ICLD has developed educational materials including a video policy brief with discussion questions.
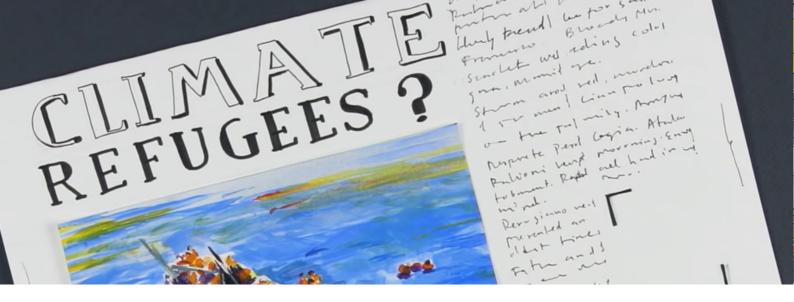
The video policy brief: Climate refugees?

Publications:
- Climate change is not the cause, migration is not the problem: Local representation and precarious young farmers leaving Senegal - policy brief
- Reducing the negative effects of climate change: Lessons from the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change in Budapest - policy brief
- Child Participation in the City of Vienna - Learning Case

The research project: Climate or Economic Migration? Local Democracy and Vulnerability Reduction in Africa: Political Representation under a Changing Sky

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Discussion questions:

▶ **Why do youth in many developing areas feel so precarious that they are willing to depart on a risky migration?**
What is the cause of their precarity or vulnerability?
Are their livelihoods secure?
What kind of vision of a future do they have?
What does staying home feel like?
What does travel or migration mean to them?

▶ **Would better representation of local needs and aspirations help them feel more secure? How? How would it make them less vulnerable?**

▶ **What role do local governments play now in preventing dangerous labour migration or emigration?**

▶ **What role can local governments play in making life at home more desirable or making migration safer?**