Are displaced persons and migrants refugees?

- Not according to the UN Refugee Convention of 1951:

What is the definition of a refugee?

Article 1 of the 1951 Convention defines a refugee as someone who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themself] of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of [their] former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

Regional refugee instruments complement the 1951 Convention and have built upon its definition, by referencing a number of 'objective' circumstances compelling refugees to flee their countries of origin. For example, the definition outlined in the 1969 OAU (Organization of African Unity) Refugee Convention includes 'external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order' (Article 1 (2)). The 1984 Cartagena Declaration includes 'generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order' (paragraph III (3)).