



# PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

FOLLOW-UP TO THE NANSEN INITIATIVE

## POLICY BRIEF & KEY MESSAGES

### DISASTER DISPLACEMENT & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

to inform the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP22)  
Bali, Indonesia, 23-28 May 2022

#### DISASTERS AFFECT PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS. ONE OF THEM IS DISPLACEMENT

Millions of people are displaced in the context of disasters around the world, every year. In 2020 alone, 30.7 million new displacements were related to disasters, according to estimates by the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre](#) (IDMC).

**Disaster displacement** is multi-causal and driven by political, social, demographic, and environmental factors, including land degradation and unsustainable urbanization, among others. It occurs in the context of earthquakes and other geophysical hazards or is linked to extreme weather events, such as floods, storms and drought. Weather-related events were responsible for 98 per cent of all disaster displacement recorded in 2020 (IDMC).

The adverse effects of **climate change** are already increasing the frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards and undermining resilience. [Climate change has contributed to almost a doubling of disaster events over the past two decades.](#) As more people become exposed and are vulnerable to the impacts of such hazards, disaster displacement risk is likely to continue to increase. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects human mobility patterns will change in response to extreme weather events and climate variability, including slow-onset events and processes such as drought and sea level rise.

[The 2022 IPCC Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report](#) has “high confidence” that, “in the mid- to long-term, displacement will increase with intensification of heavy precipitation and associated flooding, tropical cyclones, drought and, increasingly, sea level rise”.



# NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DRR STRATEGIES AND PRACTICE

**DRR strategies and practice** play an important role in preventing and reducing risks associated with disaster displacement, strengthening resilience, and addressing the protection needs of people already displaced or at risk of being displaced. They should promote human-rights based approaches to disaster displacement and build coherence and partnerships across related policy areas, contributing to an effective use of knowledge and resources across silos. Furthermore, the inclusion and meaningful participation of people at risk of displacement and those already displaced, in planning, response and recovery, is essential to better plan for potential displacement, ensure the effective achievement of solutions and to avoid the creation of further risk. Inclusion and participation is essential at all times, before, during and after displacement, with due attention to age, gender and diversity considerations.

**There exist many initiatives and effective practices at the national and regional levels, including the following:**

**Bangladesh:** [National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management](#) (2021)

**Fiji:** [Displacement Guidelines – In the Context of Climate Change and Disasters](#) (2020)

**Fiji:** [Planned Relocation Guidelines – A framework to undertake climate change related relocation](#) (2018)

**Vanuatu:** [National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster-Induced Displacement](#) (2018)

The [Nansen Initiative Agenda for the protection of cross-border displaced persons in the context of disasters and climate change](#) compiled several recommendations on how to strengthen the management of disaster displacement risk. Building on this work and through close partnerships, PDD, UNDRR, IOM, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and other partners, have

- a) [Mapped national and regional DRR strategies](#), analyzing the extent to which they include disaster displacement and human mobility provisions (Yonetani, M. 2018), [including with a specific focus on the IGAD region](#) (Nyandiko, N. & Freeman, R. 2020).
- b) Developed [Words into Action Guidelines](#) that support States to include disaster displacement provisions in their DRR policies and strategies (UNDRR, 2019), as well as a supporting [Checklist](#) (NRC, 2020) and [eLearning](#).
- c) [Taken stock of available disaster displacement data gaps, challenges and opportunities](#) (IDMC, 2019); and are developing a set of recommendations for recording the scale of displacement at national level and assessing impacts and future risk which will incorporate the use of both scientific research techniques and community risk assessment methods.
- d) [Mapped the use of planned relocation](#) to establish an evidence base on planned relocation cases and offer insights for policy and practice on characteristics, approaches to implementation and associated challenges of planned relocation as a risk reduction measure (Bower, E. & Weerasinghe, S. 2021; IOM 2022).

In 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) are working together in partnership with key governmental and non-governmental counterparts to [develop a tested set of standard displacement-related metrics and indicators](#) which will strengthen the ability of DRR actors to integrate displacement in their work.



# ADDRESSING DISASTER DISPLACEMENT IN A COHERENT MANNER ACROSS RELEVANT POLICY AREAS

Effective approaches to addressing disaster displacement through the Sendai Framework will require coherence with and partnerships across related policy areas, including

## THE UNFCCC AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Communities and societies are already suffering losses and damages, including displacement. The need to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change is recognized as a priority by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2015 Paris Agreement. It is addressed in particular through the work of the [Task Force on Displacement under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage](#).

## THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM) acknowledges the importance of DRR in minimizing the drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin in the context of disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation.

**Objective 2** of the GCM recommends to, *inter alia*, “integrate displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies and promote cooperation with neighbouring and other relevant countries to prepare for early warning, contingency planning, stockpiling, coordination mechanisms, evacuation planning, reception and assistance arrangements, and public information.”

## AND MANY OTHERS!

Disaster displacement is also recognized as a key human rights, humanitarian and development challenge by the Human Rights Council, Human Rights Treaty Bodies, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Agenda for Humanity, the New Urban Agenda and the Global Compact on Refugees. The [UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#) has affirmed the need to work across development, peace, climate change adaptation and DRR communities to address internal displacement.

To reduce and minimize risks related to displacement and to achieve better outcomes for disaster displaced persons worldwide, **it is important for these global agendas and frameworks to guide regional and national policies in a coherent manner, and give support to action at the local level.**

# KEY MESSAGES AND PROPOSED COMMITMENTS FOR GP22

Member States and other stakeholders are encouraged to use their official statements as well as interventions in relevant plenary sessions such as high-level dialogues and thematic sessions or side events to promote these key messages for inclusion in the outcome documents.

**Disasters affect people in many ways. Disaster displacement is one of them. States and other stakeholders should invest in disaster risk reduction, assess potential disaster displacement and prepare for movement in a way that minimizes associated risk.**

**These efforts should be coherent with wider climate action, human mobility, human rights, humanitarian and development efforts to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of people at risk of displacement, address the protection needs of displaced people and achieve durable solutions to displacement.**

## STATES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ARE CALLED UPON TO:

- 1 Include provisions to address disaster displacement and other forms of human mobility in a coherent way in local, national and regional DRR policies and strategies.
- 2 Work across silos and strengthen governance to foster the effective and coherent implementation of these policies and strategies in line with relevant global, regional and national policy frameworks and strategies on climate change action, development, humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management and refugee protection, among others.
- 3 Strengthen efforts to understand risks related to disaster displacement, collect disaggregated displacement data, and use such information when reporting on and monitoring implementation of progress on DRR, and when developing contingency, preparedness, response and recovery plans.
- 4 Build the capacity of local, national and regional stakeholders to address disaster displacement through the application of effective practices and existing learning, and ensure the allocation of funding, including at the local level.
- 5 Ensure the inclusion and meaningful participation of people and groups displaced or at risk of displacement as well as host communities in DRR planning and response, with due attention to age, gender and diversity considerations.

# COMMITMENTS FOR STATES AND OTHER ACTORS FOR GP2022

Member States are encouraged to express the following commitments in their official statements and interventions in relevant sessions:

## A Strengthen governance i.a. through the following actions:

- 1) **Update or develop local, national and regional DRR strategies and policies** with provisions on disaster displacement and human mobility, building on efforts made to achieve Target E.
- 2) Ensure that **national DRR policies and strategies are coherent** with policies and strategies on climate change action, development, humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, etc.
- 3) **Implement the Words into Action Guidelines on Disaster Displacement**, use the accompanying Checklist, and build capacity through the eLearning course and other training.
- 4) **Designate a governmental focal point** on disaster displacement to facilitate information-sharing and, as relevant, coordination within and across ministries, between the local and national level, and with civil society, affected communities and other partners.
- 5) **Allocate funding** and ensure appropriate human resources, for the implementation of these measures into disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery as well as capacity building and training, including at the local level.
- 6) Scale up the **application and sharing of effective practices and learning, including the use of risk assessments, early warning systems and other preparedness measures**, to ensure that disaster displacement is addressed and related risk is reduced, in line with the Sendai Framework.

## B Improve the evidence base on disaster displacement and associated risk by:

- 1) improving **disaster displacement data collection, including through disaggregating data and by monitoring all stages of displacement** in line with data protection standards; and
- 2) developing **national targets and indicators** on new and existing disaster displacement, for national reporting and to the Sendai Framework Monitor, in line with the SDGs; and
- 3) **enhancing access to data and evidence** on risks related to disaster displacement and other forms of human mobility, including through the development of disaster displacement risk models and the inclusion of the views and experiences of affected communities.

# DOCUMENTS TO CONSULT

**Bower, E., Weerasinghe, S. 2021.** [Leaving Place, Restoring Home:](#) Enhancing the evidence base on planned relocation cases in the context of hazards, disasters and climate change.

**IDMC, 2021.** [Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021.](#)

**IFRC, 2021.** [Displacement in a Changing Climate.](#)

**IPCC, 2022.** [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.](#)

**IOM, 2022.** [Leaving Place, Restoring Home II: A Review of French, Spanish and Portuguese Literature on Planned Relocation in the Context of Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change.](#)

**UNFCCC, 2018.** [Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.](#)

**UNSG, 2021.** Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement: [Shining a Light on Internal Displacement.](#)

**Yonetani, M. 2018.** [Mapping the Baseline](#) – To what extent are displacement and other forms of human mobility integrated in national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies?



**Further resources on disaster displacement here:**  
<https://bit.ly/3MeseTg>



## ABOUT THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) is a State-led initiative. Its objective is to support States and other stakeholders to strengthen the protection of persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and to prevent or reduce disaster displacement risks in countries of origin. After Germany, Bangladesh and France, Fiji currently chairs the PDD and will hand over the Chairmanship to the European Union in July 2022. The PDD works across human mobility, DRR, climate change, humanitarian, development, human rights and other policy areas to support States and other stakeholders in implementing the **Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda**, which was endorsed by more than 100 governmental delegations during a Global Consultation in October 2015.

The **PDD 2019 - 2022 Strategy and Workplan** include a whole set of activities focusing on DRR and the reduction of displacement risks at the international and regional levels. Its Strategic Priorities are to (i) support integrated implementation of global policy frameworks on human mobility, climate change action and disaster risk reduction that are relevant for disaster displaced persons; (ii) promote policy and normative development to address gaps in the protection of persons at risk of displacement or displaced across borders; (iii) facilitate exchange of knowledge and strengthen capacity at the national and regional levels to implement effective practices and instruments that can prevent, reduce and address disaster displacement; (iv) strengthen evidence and data on disaster displacement and its impacts.

The **PDD Steering Group** is comprised of the following members: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Fiji (Chair), France, Germany, Kenya, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal, Switzerland, and the European Union (Vice-Chair). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are standing invitees. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is a member ex officio, hosting the PDD Secretariat.

The **PDD Advisory Committee** gathers experts of international and regional organizations, research institutions, academia, private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders from the fields of humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change action and development. **Advisory Committee Members that have provided input to this policy brief** include IOM, UNHCR, UNDRR, OHCHR as well as the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and its Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Oxfam South Africa, American Red Cross, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, the South American Network for Environmental Migrations (RESAMA), the Stockholm Environment Institute, the Global Network of CSOs for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), and a number of independent experts.

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