

Thematic Brief 5: Building the capacity of institutions to manage disasters and displacement

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While displacement is often a consequence of disasters and conflicts, effective institutional preparedness can go a long way in protecting people at risk, mitigating the impacts they suffer from hazards and reducing the need for, and the duration and consequences of, forced migration.

As the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Global Cluster Lead in natural disasters, IOM is committed to building the capacities of national and international authorities to anticipate, and respond to, disruptive events, by preventing displacement and, when it occurs, by addressing the needs of the people living in temporary settlements and relocation sites.

Actions

- ▶ Tailor capacity-building interventions to make use of the human, technical and financial resources already existing in the country, by conducting explorative capacity assessments. *Example: Pakistan.*
- ▶ Build in-country capacity at all levels by strengthening national and subnational risk management agencies, to allow them to better fulfil their mandate and contribute to DRR goals. *Examples: Indonesia and Namibia.*
- ▶ Integrate relevant political and administrative institutions not directly involved in disasters into disaster management frameworks, by mainstreaming risk reduction and preparedness considerations. *Example: Indonesia.*
- ▶ Foster ownership of preparedness and CCCM programs by involving representatives of national institutions in active roles (e.g. through “Training of Trainers” programmes). *Example: Pakistan.*
- ▶ Establish systems to monitor the movements and needs of the displaced population following a disruptive event, in order to allow for a more effective response (e.g. the Displacement Tracking Matrix system). *Example: the Philippines* (see also thematic brief 7).
- ▶ Plan for evacuations to last only the minimum time required for life-saving assistance, in order to allow affected people to regain access to their houses, communities and livelihoods, and to avoid impoverishment, deprivation and secondary displacement. *Example: the Philippines.*

CASE STUDY 6: Capacity-building of national authorities to manage displacement

The capacity-building efforts of IOM in the area of camp coordination and camp management contribute to the expansion of information management, coordination and operative capacities of governments, OCHA, CCCM partners and other humanitarian actors.

Following targeted engagement by IOM, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Norwegian Refugee Council, a grant was issued by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission for 2012–2013 to enhance the capacity of the CCCM Cluster. Currently, IOM is implementing its project components, focusing primarily on building the capacity of national authorities and chairing the Steering Committee of civil protection members to develop guidance on displacement and evacuation during natural disasters. In 2012 alone, CCCM trainings were extended to over 3,400 humanitarian counterparts, community members, national authorities and IOM staff members in 10 countries (specifically, Pakistan, the Philippines, Haiti, Colombia, Namibia, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Thailand and the Dominican Republic). IOM works closely with national authorities and has adapted its modus operandi in situations where government institutions are taking a lead role. In **Colombia**, for example, the national Government has endorsed the CCCM methodology and tools and has allocated USD 9.8 million to expand the CCCM capacity-building programme of IOM countrywide.

In **the Philippines**, one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, training of national authorities, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), has been a key aspect of the Organization’s activities in the country. Following the 2011 north Mindanao floods, IOM hired and trained full-time camp managers to be deployed in all existing collective centres. In the aftermath of the Manila flooding in August 2012, IOM conducted temporary settlement management and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) trainings with DSWD camp managers in the areas most heavily affected. Around 300 local government officials from the municipal and *barangay* (community) levels were trained in camp coordination and camp management after Typhoon Bopha; they will conduct further trainings at the regional and provincial levels in affected areas. In January and February 2013, IOM held workshops for 43 DSWD senior management staff from the national headquarters and from the offices in the most disaster-prone regions.

In 2011, with the support of the Namibian Red Cross Society, IOM trained officials of the Government of the Republic of **Namibia**. Temporary settlement management is now an integral part of institutional DRM initiatives and has been identified as one key area in the new National Disaster Risk Management Plan.

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