



# PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

FOLLOW-UP TO THE NANSEN INITIATIVE



## POLICY BRIEF

“DISASTER DISPLACEMENT AND  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION”

to inform the Global Platform for DRR,  
Cancún, Mexico, 22-26 May 2017

### THE CHALLENGE

#### ONE PERSON IS DISPLACED BY DISASTER EVERY SECOND .....

On average since 2008, 25.4 million people are displaced each year in the context of sudden-onset disasters, according to IDMC estimates. Most **disaster displacement** is linked to extreme weather events, in particular floods and tropical storms, but also earthquakes and other geophysical hazards. There is evidence that **climate change** is already increasing the frequency and intensity of such hazards. Disaster displacement risks have doubled since 1970 and are likely to continue to grow. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects changes in human mobility patterns as a response to extreme weather events and climate variability, including slow-onset events such as drought and sea level rise.

Besides the economic losses they cause, disasters have devastating impacts on individuals, their families and livelihoods. Accentuating pre-existing vulnerabilities, children, women, older people and people with special needs are often among the most seriously affected by disasters. **Displacement in the context of disasters raises multiple protection concerns.** Besides its impact on individuals and communities, displacement also undermines development, in particular of least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

.....**WITH DEVASTATING IMPACTS ON  
INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES AND  
UNDERMINING DEVELOPMENT**



## THE OPPORTUNITY

### DISASTER DISPLACEMENT IS RECOGNIZED IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK .....

The Sendai Framework recognizes disaster displacement as an important concern for people-centred disaster risk reduction and provides many opportunities for DRR policy and practice to reduce and address displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.

People displaced in the context of disasters are recognized as “directly affected” people under **Target B**, including those “evacuated” in emergencies and “relocated” to settle in new locations, as well as people who “have suffered direct damage to their livelihoods, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets”.

Displacement in the form of evacuations is also included under **Target G**, where the number of evacuated people is measured as an indicator of improved preparedness and the effectiveness of early warning systems.

**DRR strategies and practice** have a key role to play to prevent and reduce disaster displacement risks, to strengthen resilience and to address protection needs of people already displaced. The inclusion and participation of displaced persons in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes is essential to ensure durable solutions to their displacement.

The Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group (OIEWG) on Terminology and Indicators Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016 did not establish a global target and indicator on displacement, but governments may choose to **include displacement among their national DRR targets and indicators** as a useful and important people-centred marker of progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

While displacement has received little recognition within national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies and plans to date, many initiatives and **effective practices at the national and regional level** exist, for actors to share experiences and learn from each other. The *Nansen Initiative Agenda for the protection of cross-border displaced persons in the context of disasters and climate change* has compiled several recommendations on how to strengthen the management of disaster displacement risk.

### ..... AND BEYOND

Disaster displacement is also recognised as a key humanitarian and development challenge by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Agenda for Humanity, and the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants.

In line with the UN Secretary-General’s focus on prevention, all these processes put a strong emphasis on **disaster risk management** as opposed to disaster management. They promote **increased investment in preparedness and risk reduction** in order to prevent and address displacement and its devastating impacts.

“ From floods in Colombia to droughts in the Horn of Africa, and coastal erosions in Fiji, environmental change is a key driver of displacement. Countries and the global community must be better prepared to address population movements and take human mobility into consideration in national and regional DRR strategies.”

**Achim Steiner**, Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR THE 2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM IN CANCÚN

Member States are encouraged to use their official statements, statements at ministerial roundtables as well as interventions in relevant plenaries, working group sessions or special sessions to promote these key messages.

**1** In the implementation of the Sendai Framework, **integrate disaster displacement and human mobility in national and regional DRR strategies** through provisions to:

### 1.1 Prevent displacement and reduce displacement risk,

- Scale up efforts to **reduce disaster and climate risk** and **strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of people at risk of displacement**, by investing in infrastructure, safe housing and livelihood diversification.
- Facilitate adaptive measures such as **voluntary migration** in areas facing high levels of disaster and climate risk and include **participatory planned relocation** as a protective measure of last resort in DRR policy and practice.

### 1.2 address the protection needs of displaced people,

- Establish capacity for **preparedness and community-based early warning systems** in order to prepare for **safe and timely evacuations** if displacement becomes unavoidable, and ensure the protection of all displaced persons.
- Prepare for cross-border disaster-displacement through **regional and transboundary cooperation and joint contingency-planning**, and provide humanitarian protection as per the *Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda*.

### 1.3 and promote durable solutions to displacement.

- a) As part of post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation, “build back better” and ensure that those who can **return or settle elsewhere** have access to adequate housing, basic services and the restoration of livelihoods.

**2** To successfully **formulate and implement provisions on disaster displacement** in DRR strategies and practice, strengthen **all-of-society engagement and seek coordinated partnership** of actors, through:

### 2.1 Coordinating within and across ministries and sectors,

including DRR, humanitarian, human rights, climate change, environment, migration and development actors.

**2.2 Consulting relevant stakeholders** such as representatives of civil society, communities and affected people at the international, regional, national and local levels.

**3** Strengthen the **systematic collection and monitoring of displacement data** at local, national and regional levels and make it accessible as critical evidence for DRR policy and planning.

### 3.1 Monitor and collect disaster displacement data

and include it in national **reporting** as well as reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor, in line with the SDGs.

- Establish national targets and indicators on disaster displacement.
- Strengthen capacity, including of national statistics offices, to collect, monitor and analyse disaster displacement data, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and location.

# ABOUT THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

Established in 2016, the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) aims at following up on the work started by the Nansen Initiative and supporting States to implement the recommendations of the Protection Agenda, endorsed by more than 100 governmental delegations during a Global Consultation in October 2015.

The **PDD 2016 - 2019 Strategic Framework 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 include to (i) address knowledge and data gaps, (ii) enhance the use of identified effective practices (iii) promote policy coherence and mainstreaming of human mobility challenges in and across relevant policy and action areas and (iv) promote policy and normative development in gap areas.

The **PDD Steering Group** is comprised of the following States: Australia, Bangladesh (Vice-Chair), Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Fiji, France, Germany (Chair), Kenya, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal, Switzerland, and the European Union.

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 include IOM, UNHCR, UNISDR as well as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and its Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the South American Network for Environmental Migrations (RESAMA).



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## DOCUMENTS TO CONSULT

- [Nansen Initiative Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change 2015](#)
- Taking Sendai Forward: IOM Strategic Workplan on Disaster Risk Reduction 2017-2018 (Draft)
- IOM “Human Mobility” - [Shaping vulnerability and resilience to disasters](#). Migration, Displacement and Disaster Risk Reduction 2014
- UNHCR Policy Brief: Displacement and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017 Update
- UNHCR DRR Strategy: Administrative Instruction on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), 2017
- IDMC Briefing Paper - [Positioned for Action: Displacement in the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction](#), 16 February 2017
- IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement 2017, (launch on 22 May 2017)
- [A Guide to Effective Practices for RCM Member Countries: protection for persons moving across borders in the context of disasters](#)

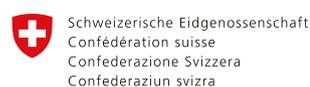
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# PDD MESSAGES

Member States are encouraged to promote these messages in their **interventions in relevant plenaries, working sessions or special sessions.**

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**PLENARY 1: NATIONAL AND LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES PAVE THE WAY FOR ACTION BY ALL**

Sendai Framework **Target E** calls for states to “substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”. Those strategies and plans that already exist at local, national and regional levels often **lack specific provisions to reduce displacement risk, address protection concerns, and support durable solutions to displacement.** This includes the workplans of Regional Platforms for DRR, with the notable exception of the Pacific region.

## MESSAGE

Governments, local authorities and other DRR actors need to seek all-of-society engagement and coordinated partnership to ensure that **DRR strategies and plans at local, national and regional levels include provisions on disaster displacement** to:

- Prevent displacement and reduce displacement risk;
- Address the protection needs of displaced people;
- Promote durable solutions to displacement.

## COMMITMENTS

- a) to **update or develop national and local DRR strategies that include provisions on disaster displacement and human mobility**, by 2020.
- b) to contribute to the development of **Words into Action guidance** on disaster displacement for implementation of the Sendai Framework.

2

**PLENARY 2: A RISK INFORMED APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE FOR COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

**Countries in special situations** such as least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) **and their populations are particularly exposed and vulnerable to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change**, from the increasing intensity, frequency, and variability of extreme weather events, to drought and other slow-onset events. The human rights, environmental, social, and economic consequences, including significant impacts on health, water supply, food security, and population displacement, are already being observed.

## MESSAGE

Least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, **need special attention and support to increase domestic resources and capabilities** through bilateral and multilateral channels in order to ensure adequate, timely and sustainable means to reduce disaster displacement risks through capacity-building, financial and technical assistance, and technology transfer, in accordance with international commitments.

## COMMITMENTS

- a) to **mobilize financial, technological and technical assistance** to implement measures to prevent and reduce disaster displacement with priority given to meeting the needs of countries, communities and people in special situations.



### 3

#### PLENARY 3: SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITORING

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Monitoring the global targets of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs, is subject to **national data capacity and availability**, as well as data quality and accessibility. Disaster displacement is recognized as a significant issue for most States that have adopted the Sendai Framework, but it is not included among the global targets and indicators.

##### ➔ MESSAGE

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A solid data and evidence basis is needed for effective DRR strategies and practice to reduce new or existing disaster displacement. This may be achieved by:

- **establishing national targets and indicators on displacement** for national reporting and reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor, and
- **strengthening capacities to collect data** disaggregated by age, sex, disability, and location within and across borders, at local, national and regional levels.

##### ✔ COMMITMENTS

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- a) to **improve disaster displacement data collection and report on it** at the national level (national target/s and indicator/s) and to the Sendai Framework Monitor.
- b) to ensure disaster displacement is included in the work of the **Global Partnership for disaster-related data for sustainable development**.

### 4

#### PLENARY 4: COHERENCE BETWEEN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK, THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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Developing countries and their populations often face higher displacement risk, and are less likely to benefit from disaster resilient infrastructure, urban planning and recovery and rehabilitation efforts, etc. **Strong, sustainable and inclusive development will reduce disaster displacement risks** and make countries better prepared to manage risks. Displacement in the context of disasters and climate change cuts across policy and practice of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian, migration, human rights and climate change action as well as sustainable development.

##### ➔ MESSAGE

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- **Prevent displacement** and ensure, through risk-sensitive, people-centred and inclusive DRR and development strategies and practice, that people displaced or at risk of being displaced are not “left behind”, in line with SDGs 10.7, 11 and 13.
- **Ensure coherence** across DRR strategies, Nationally Determined Contributions and adaptation plans on climate change, National IDP Policies, as well as national development plans in line with SDGs 1.5 and 17, by including provisions to prevent and reduce disaster displacement and enable durable solutions.

##### ✔ COMMITMENTS

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- a) to establish, in line with SDGs 1.5, 10.7, 11, 13 and 17, **national targets and indicators** on new and existing disaster displacement for national reporting and to the Sendai Framework Monitor.
- b) to designate a **governmental focal point on disaster displacement** to facilitate information sharing and, as relevant, coordination through existing or new mechanisms.



### **SPECIAL SESSION: AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND DISASTER RISK INFORMATION**

- ➔ Ensure that **people and communities at high risk of disaster displacement** are provided with timely, understandable and actionable information from multi-hazard early warning systems.
- ➔ Ensure that **multi-hazard early warning systems are linked to concrete plans** identifying evacuation corridors, sites, shelter and emergency assistance, recognizing specific protection needs of vulnerable groups, and are activated in case of need.
- ➔ **Share effective practices and lessons learned** that have allowed communities to **act on information from multi-hazard early warning systems**, minimize disasters risks, prepare for disaster and remain safe.
- ➔ Ensure **community participation in the development of evacuation and response plans**.
- ➔ Ensure **comprehensive and participatory risk assessment** before deciding, in consultation with affected communities, on planned relocation, as a protective measure of last resort.



### **SPECIAL SESSION: ENHANCING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR EFFECTIVE RESPONSE AND TO “BUILD BACK BETTER” IN RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION**

- ➔ Ensure a comprehensive approach to the **specific protection needs of disaster displaced persons** taking into account their needs for durable solutions, housing, access to basic services, re-establishment of livelihood and infrastructure etc.
- ➔ Cater to the specific protection needs of disaster displaced persons in the phases of post-disaster **recovery and rehabilitation** and ensure that local integration, return or settlement elsewhere occur in a safe and dignified manner.
- ➔ Ensure **recovery and reconstruction** are undertaken with a view to **reducing risks of future displacement**.
- ➔ Ensure greater **collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in recovery and reconstruction** by investing in prevention and strengthening resilience, in line with the Grand Bargain.
- ➔ Ensure that *Preparedness for Effective Response and ‘Build Back Better’ Words into Action* consider preparedness measures and durable solutions to internal and cross-border disaster-displacement.



## WORKING SESSION: ACCELERATING EFFORTS IN BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS

- Support local communities, with the involvement of local and national authorities, to **develop community-based disaster risk mapping tools, early-warning systems and response plans**.
- Through **awareness-raising, education and consultation**, prepare communities at high risk of displacement for the possibility that they may have to move.
- Ensure that communities at risk of displacement have **access to funding and technical assistance** from local and national authorities for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation so that they can move safely in case of need.
- **Include communities in DRR, climate change action and sustainable development planning**.



## WORKING SESSION: INCLUSIVE AND PEOPLE-CENTRED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- Ensure that disaster risk reduction, disaster response and recovery programs incorporate **human rights standards and principles, including non-discrimination**, with the active participation of affected communities, civil society organizations and local authorities.
- In the case of disaster displacement, evacuation and planned relocation, ensure that the **specific protection and assistance needs of children, women, older persons, persons with specific needs, impoverished communities, indigenous people, and marginalized groups** are identified and addressed in preparedness and response planning.



## WORKING SESSION: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

- **Improve coordination between actors at different levels** (international, regional, subregional, national, local) as well as dialogue between actors from different related agendas (climate change, DRR, environment, migration, human rights, development).
- **Promote partnerships, collaborative action and knowledge sharing** on the prevention and management of disaster displacement, migration with dignity, participatory planned relocation and durable solutions to disaster displacement.
- Mainstream disaster displacement challenges in regional, national and local DRR strategies and practices through **international cooperation on capacity development** and technology transfer.
- Facilitate access to funding for human mobility related measures within local, national, regional and international climate change adaptation, DRR, and development plans and activities.
- Explore **opportunities for resources mobilization within the framework of international financial mechanisms at the regional and international levels** to respond to disaster displacement and find durable solutions to displacement.



## WORKING SESSION: RISK INFORMATION AND LOSS DATABASES FOR EFFECTIVE DRR

- **Include disaggregated data on displacement in the context of slow- and sudden-onset disasters** in National Loss Databases.
- Consider disaster displacement in the *Global Disaster Statistics Partnership*.

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