



# 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](#)

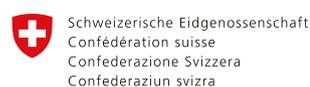
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