

# ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PERSONS DISPLACED IN THE CONTEXT OF DISASTERS & CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GCM

Prof. Walter Kaelin  
Envoy of the Chairmanship of the  
Platform on Disaster Displacement  
[envoy@disasterdisplacement.org](mailto:envoy@disasterdisplacement.org)



PLATFORM  
ON DISASTER  
DISPLACEMENT  
FOLLOW-UP TO THE NANSEN INITIATIVE



# CONTENT

1. The Challenge
2. Who We Are
3. Our Response: a Toolbox
4. The New York Declaration 2016
5. The Needs of Persons Displaced in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in the GCM



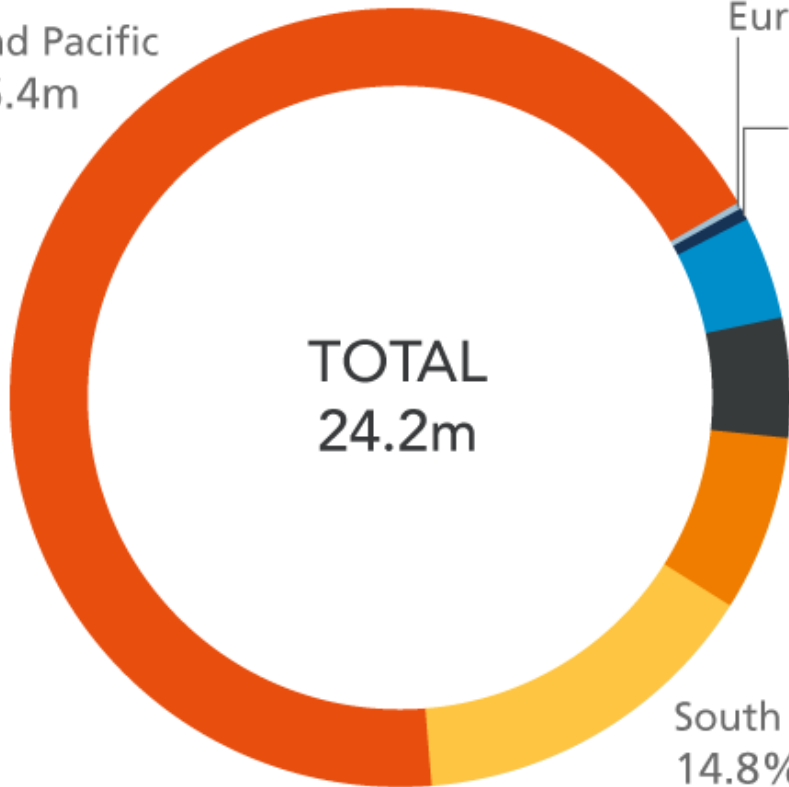
# 1. THE CHALLENGE



# 24.2 mio people displaced by disasters in 2016



East Asia and Pacific  
68.0% - 16.4m



Europe and Central Asia 0.2% - 0.1m

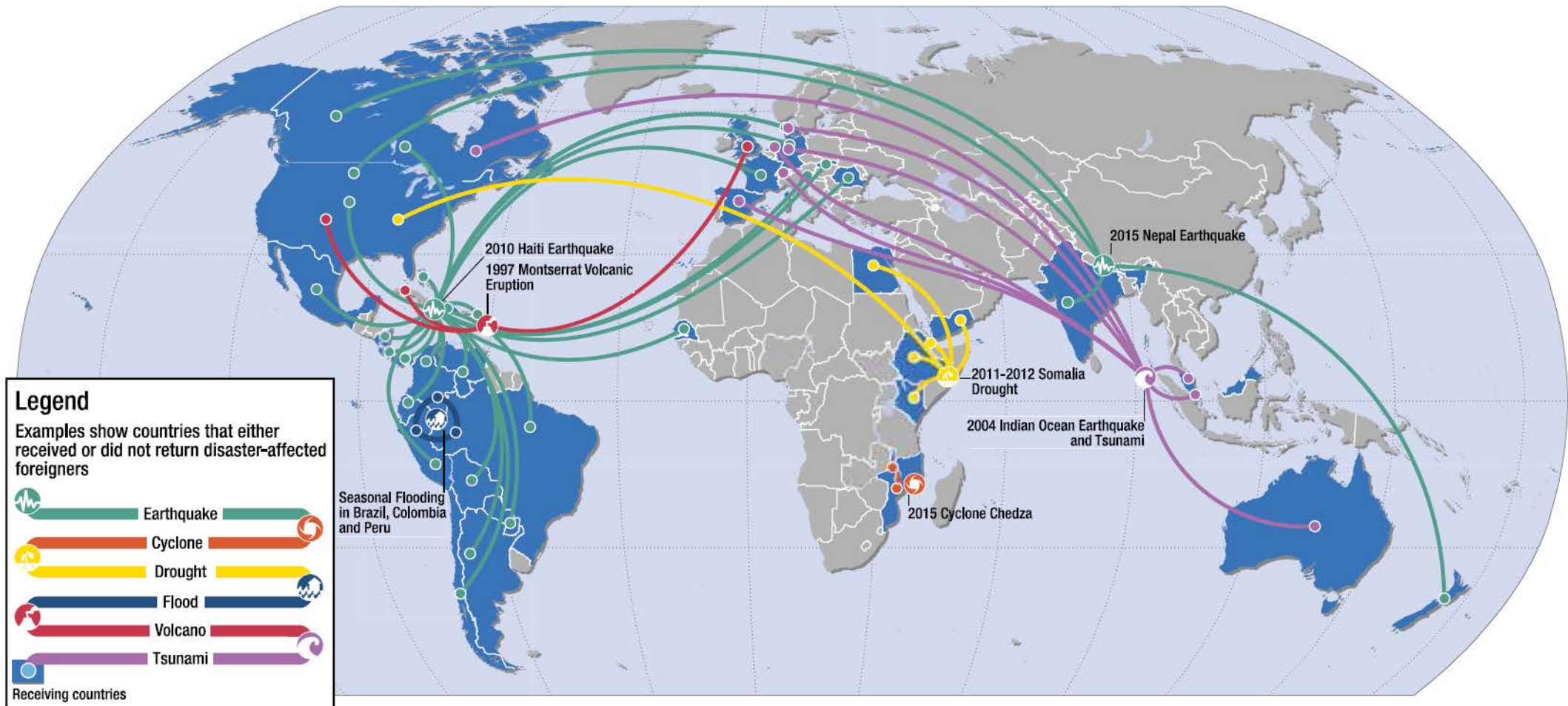
Middle East and North Africa  
0.5% - 0.1m

Sub-Saharan Africa 4.3% - 1.0m

North America 5.0% - 1.2m

Latin America and the Caribbean  
7.3% - 1.8m

South Asia  
14.8% - 3.6m



# Examples of countries admitting/not returning disaster-displaced persons 2004 – 2015



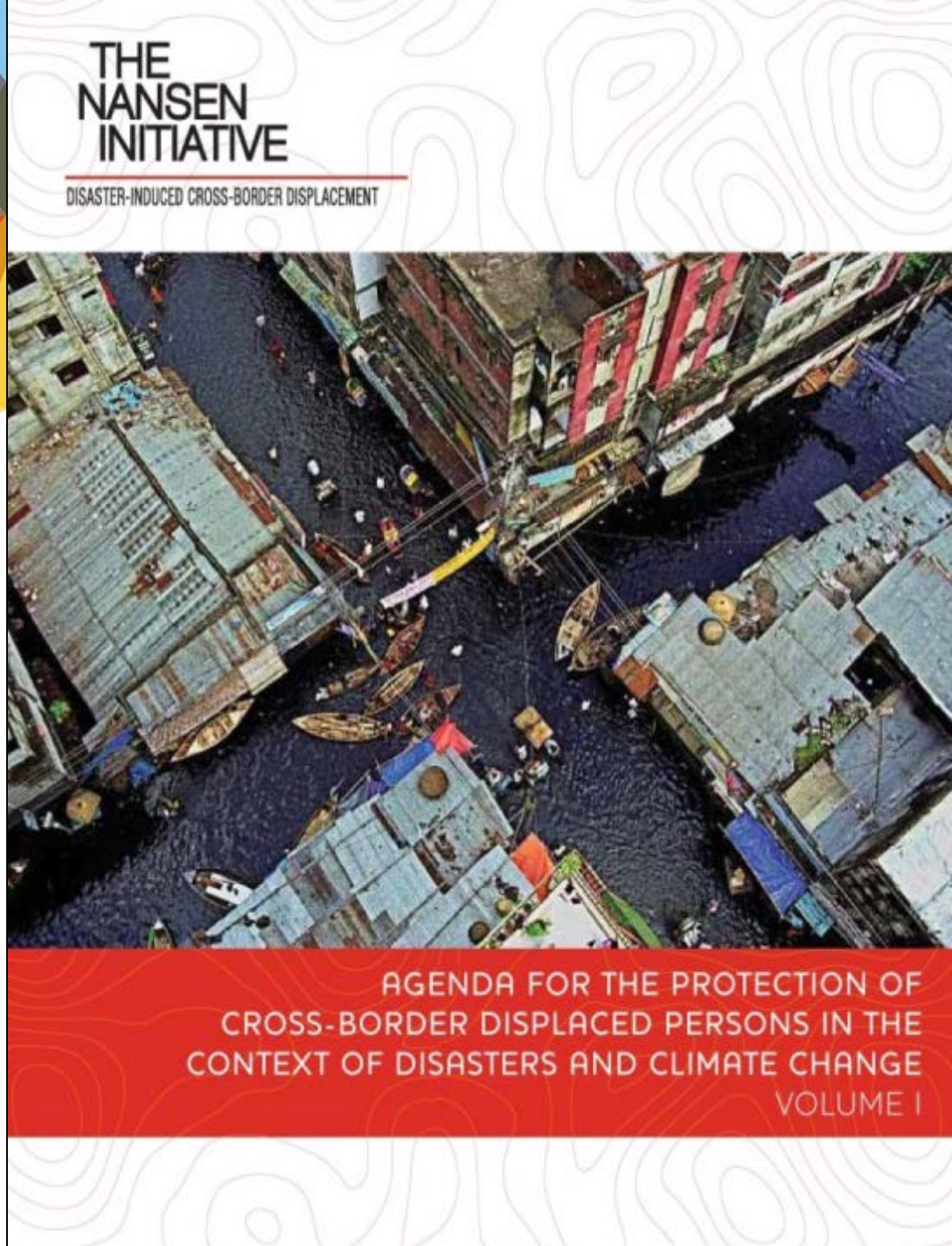
# Hurricane Irma

## Sep. 2017

# **2. WHO WE ARE**

# Where we come from...

- 2012-2015 Nansen Initiative  
State-led consultations
- 2015 **The Nansen Initiative  
Protection Agenda  
endorsed by 109 States**
- 2016 Platform on Disaster  
Displacement





# PDD today...

- Steering Group with 18 members
- Chair: Bangladesh  
Vice-Chair: France
- Helping States implement the Protection Agenda

## Members of the Platform on Disaster Displacement:



Australia



Fiji



Mexico



Bangladesh  
(Chair)



France  
(Vice-Chair)



Morocco



Brazil



Germany



Norway



Canada



Kenya



Philippines



Costa Rica



Madagascar



Senegal



European  
Union



Maldives



Switzerland



**A STATE-LED PROCESS  
ADDRESSING THE PROTECTION NEEDS  
OF PEOPLE DISPLACED  
IN THE CONTEXT OF  
DISASTERS  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

# **3. OUR RESPONSE, A TOOLBOX**



**4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT  
THE NANSEN  
INITIATIVE  
PROTECTION AGENDA**

**THE  
NANSEN  
INITIATIVE**

DISASTER-INDUCED CROSS-BORDER DISPLACEMENT



AGENDA FOR THE PROTECTION OF  
CROSS-BORDER DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE  
CONTEXT OF DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
VOLUME I



1.

**The Protection Agenda**

=

**people in the center**



## 2.

### The Protection Agenda clarifies concepts:

- Multi-causality
- Disaster, not hazard, as trigger



**Disaster Displacement,  
NOT  
'climate refugees'**



# 3.

**The Protection Agenda promotes existing effective practices that**

- Help people to stay
- Help people to move out of harms way
- Help displaced people to find protection



**Calls for better predictability & harmonization**



# 4.

## The Protection Agenda

**identifies effective practices to protect disaster-affected persons crossing borders**

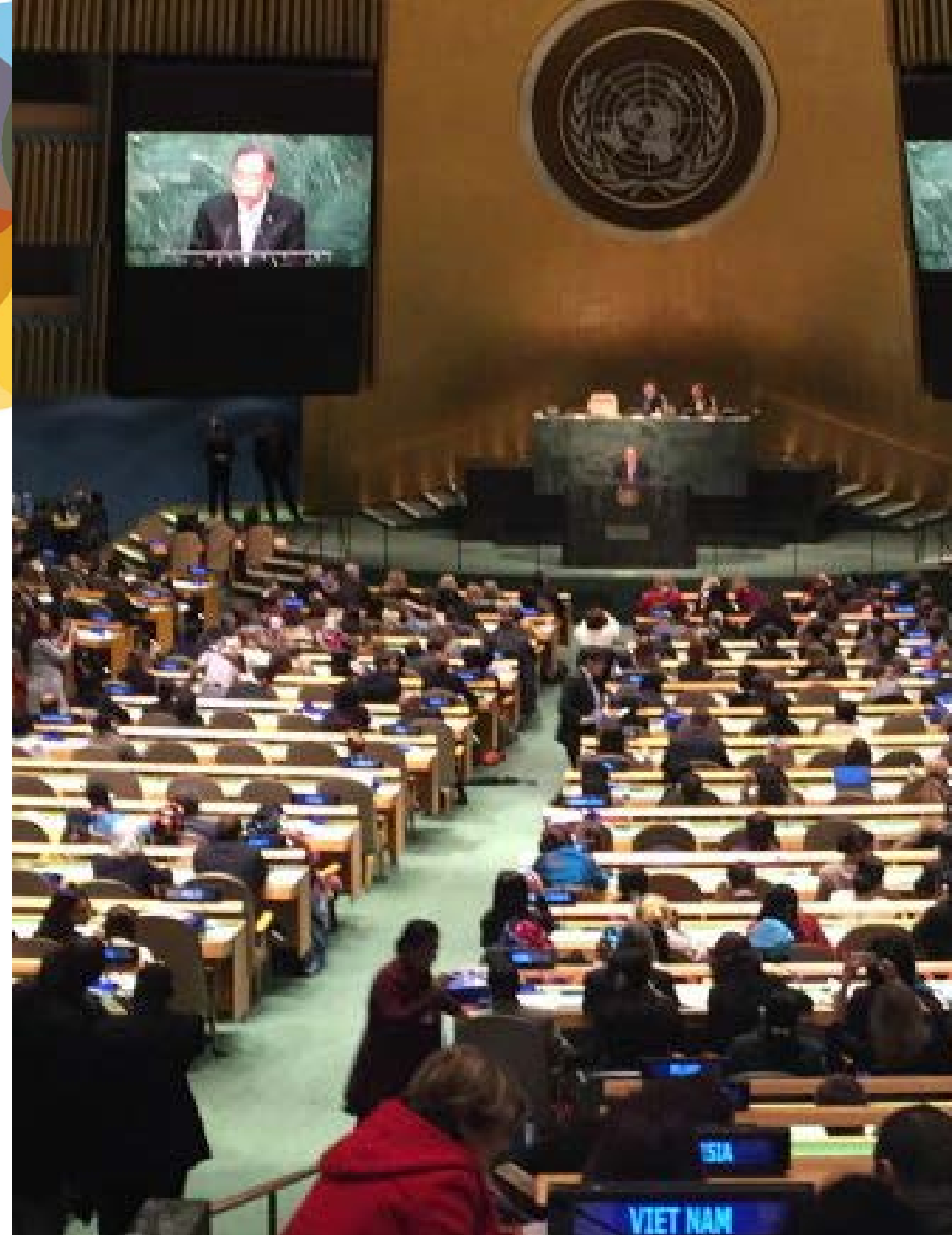
- Criteria to identify disaster-displaced persons
- Use of regular migration law
- Use of exceptional migration measures
- Exceptional use of regional refugee law



# **4. NEW YORK**

# **DECLARATION 2016**

- Recognition of disasters and climate change as **drivers of migration**
- Taking note of the **Protection Agenda**
- Developing **non-binding guidelines** on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations
- Willingness to provide **temporary protection**



**5. THE NEEDS OF PERSONS  
MOVING ACROSS BORDERS IN  
THE CONTEXT OF DISASTERS AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE **IN THE GCM****

# GCM DRAFT REV. 1

- Reference to **Protection Agenda and PDD**
- Better data and knowledge on movements of persons affected by **sudden-onset** disasters and **slow-onset** environmental degradation
- Integrating displacement considerations into **disaster preparedness strategies**



# GCM DRAFT REV. 1



## Migration as coping/adaptation mechanism

Para. 17 (j) Practical migration measures of tailored duration, including planned relocation, to facilitate migration as an adaptation strategy to sudden-onset disasters and slow-onset environmental degradation



# GCM DRAFT REV. 1

## Protection for disaster-displaced persons 1

Para. 17 (l) Protection measures on humanitarian grounds for cross-border disaster displaced where return is not possible,  
and mechanisms for resilience and lasting solutions  
by harmonizing approaches at subregional and regional levels



# GCM DRAFT REV. 1

## Protection for disaster-displaced persons **2**

Para. 20 (f) Build on existing national practices

- of providing protection and reception of tailored duration
- on humanitarian grounds
- for migrants compelled to leave disaster /climate change affected countries of origin temporarily or permanently in cases when return is not possible,
- using humanitarian visas, private sponsorships, temporary work permits, etc.



# GCM DRAFT REV. 1

## Assessment

### Important elements:

- Addressing cross-border movements in contexts of sudden-onset disasters & slow-onset environmental degradation
- Addressing different forms of movement:
  - Voluntary / forced;
  - Preventive (anticipatory) / reactive





# GCM DRAFT REV. 1



## Assessment

- Driven by humanitarian considerations, not legal obligations (But: principle of non-refoulement!)
- Not creating a new legal status but using existing domestic or regional migration categories
- Linking such measures to solutions
- Key role of (sub-)regional levels

# GCM DRAFT REV. 1

## 5 Key Messages

1. **Address** disasters/climate change as drivers
2. **Expand** regular migration pathways for people at risk
3. **Exercise** State's discretion in migration matters in a humanitarian spirit to admit affected persons
4. **Recognize** the particularly important role of (sub)regional organizations and RCPs



# GCM DRAFT REV. 1

AND...

## 5. Realize that not addressing the issue...

→ ...jeopardizes the goal of safe, orderly and regular migration

→ ...perpetuates and solidifies the gap between refugees and economic migrants





# THANK YOU!

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