



# The Platform on Disaster Displacement

First Meeting of the Group of Friends in New York  
21 January 2020



PLATFORM  
ON DISASTER  
DISPLACEMENT

FOLLOW-UP TO THE NANSEN INITIATIVE



## Hurricane Dorian, Bahamas, 2019



Damage in the Abaco Islands





Nepal earthquake, 2015



Somalia drought, 2017



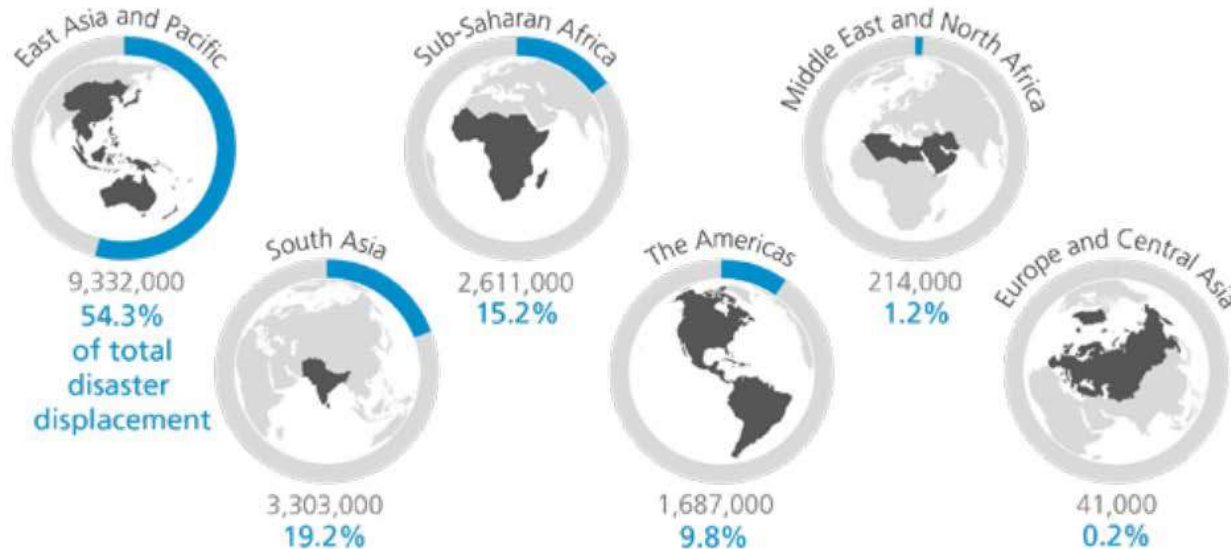


Dec. 2011, Kiribati, Tebikenikoora, also known as Golden Beach, on South Tarawa: Over 150,000 people living on the **low-lying atolls** of Kiribati and the Marshall Islands are threatened by **rising sea levels** and more frequent flooding

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# 1. THE CHALLENGE

# Globally: 17.2 Million People Displaced by Disasters in 2018



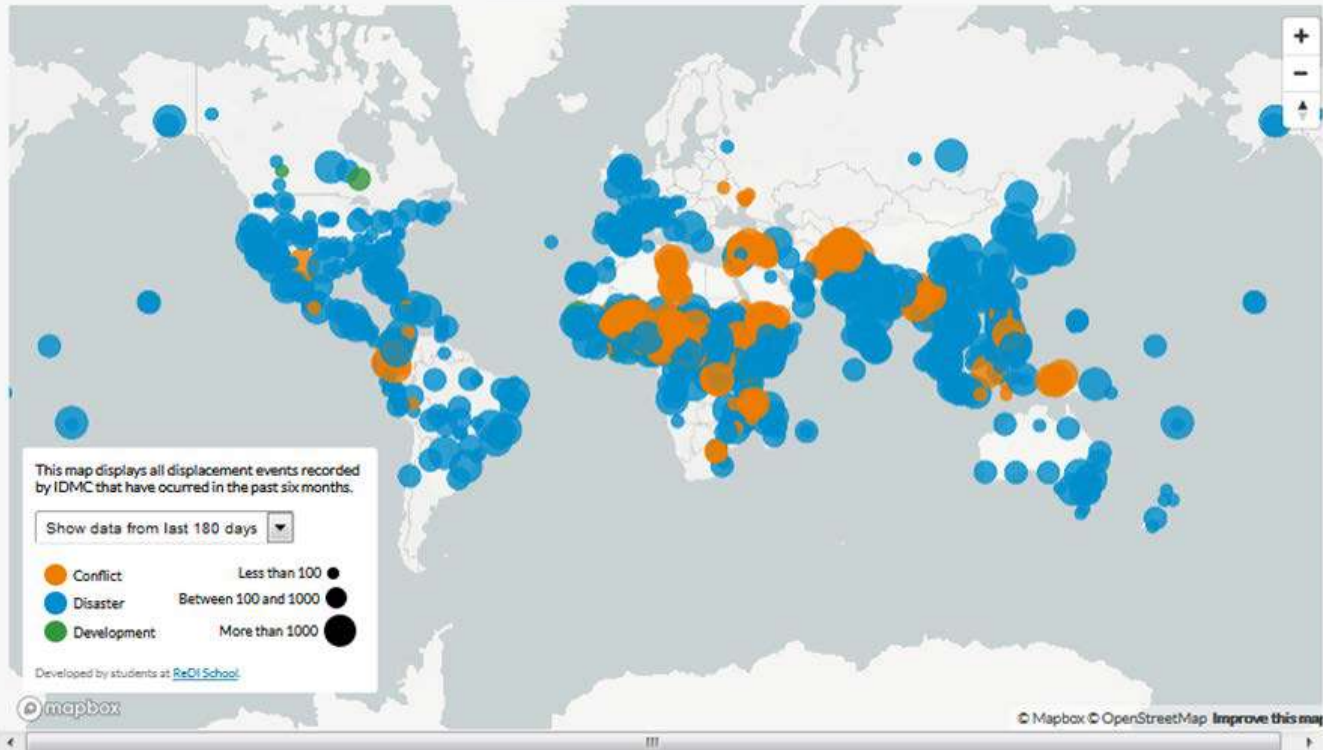
- ✓ Most are IDPs
- ✓ Those displaced across borders remain mostly in their region
- ✓ Knowledge and legal gaps on cross-border displacement



## GLOBAL PICTURE

This map displays all displacement events recorded by IDMC that have occurred in the past six months.

### Internal Displacement Updates



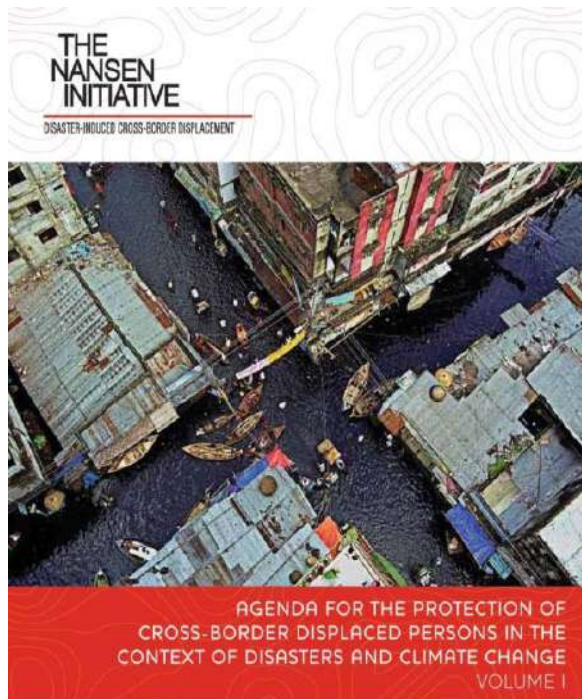


## 2. THE RESPONSE



# The Nansen Initiative 2012 - 2015

- State-led
- 7 regional inter-governmental consultations
- 5 regional civil society meetings
- **109 governments endorsed the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda in 2015**



# 3. THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT



# A Group of States Leading and Working Together Towards Better Protection for People Displaced in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change

Members of the Platform on Disaster Displacement:



- Launched in May 2016
- Chair: France, Vice-Chair: Fiji
- Steering Group with + 17 States and the EU
- Advisory Committee: +100 organizations and experts
- Group of Friends of PDD



# Objective

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.



## Conceptual Approach

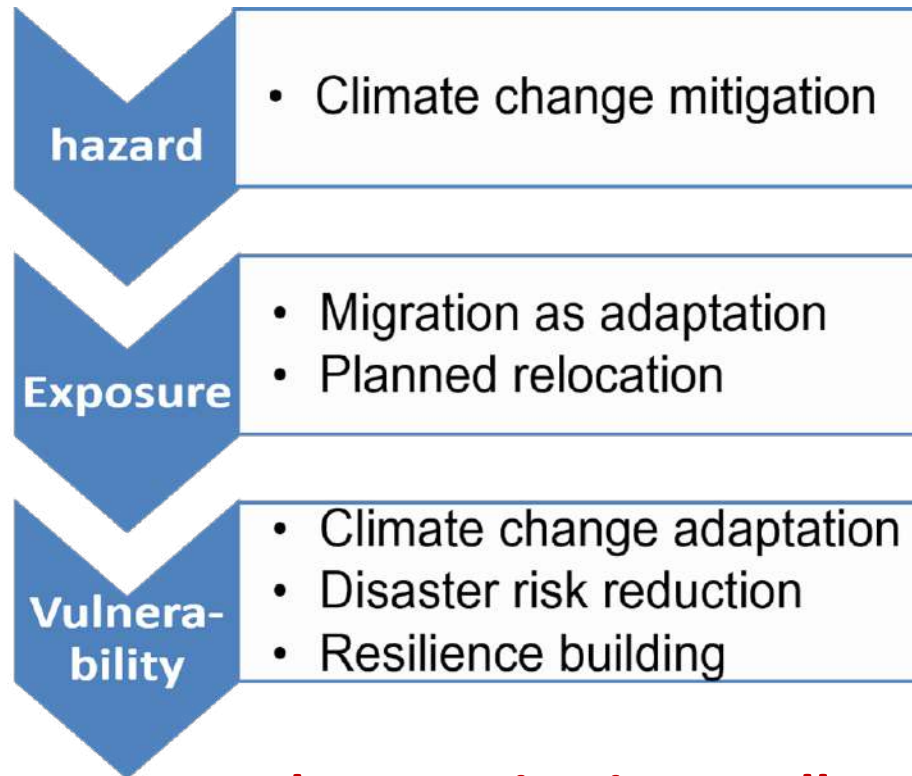
### ➔ Point of departure:

- Multi-causality
- Risk of displacement =  
hazard + exposure + vulnerability
- Disaster, not hazard, as trigger

➔ Disaster displacement, not “climate refugees”

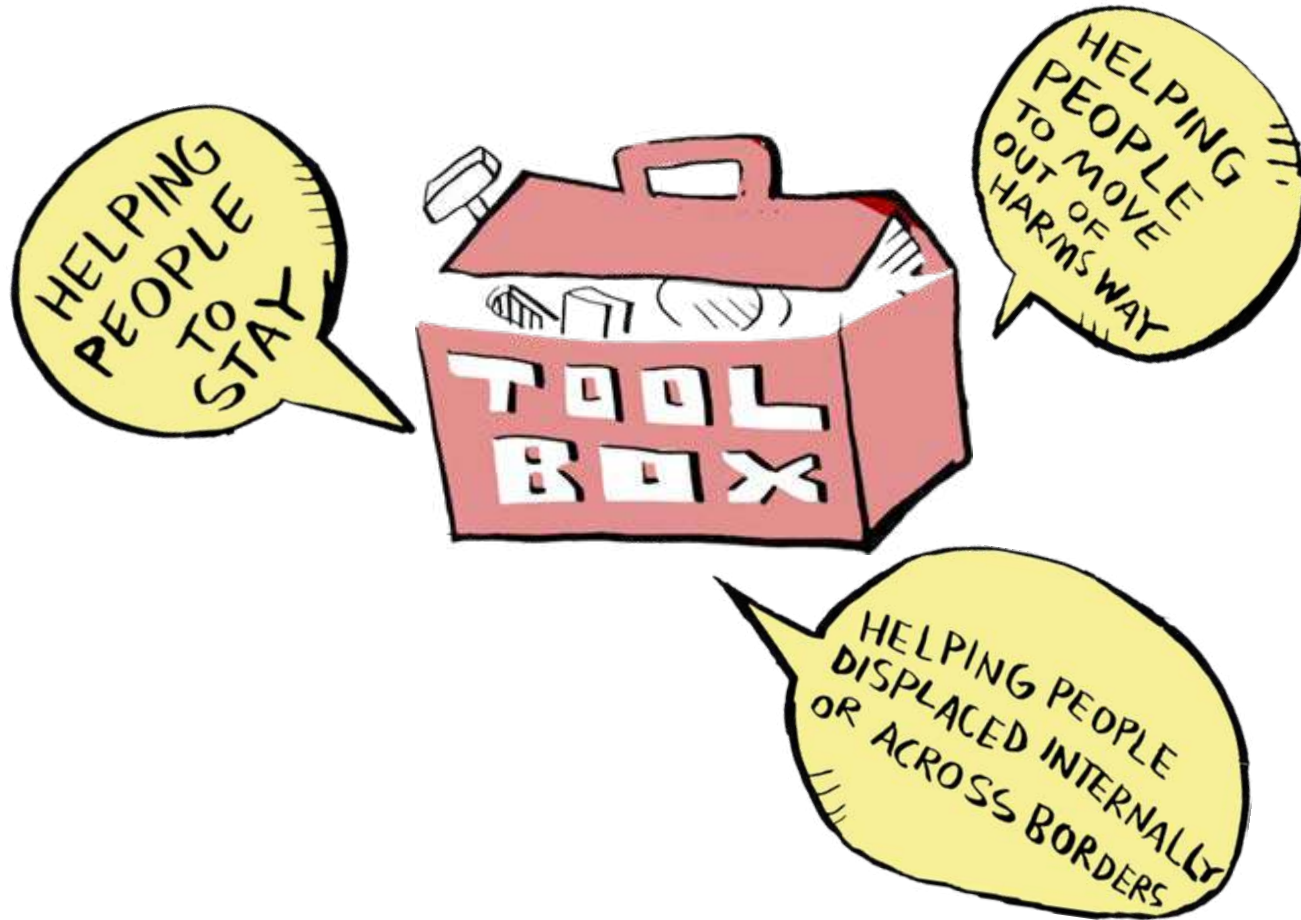


# What We Can (and Should) Do



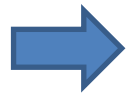
**And protecting internally or cross-border disaster displaced persons**

# What We Can (and Should) Do



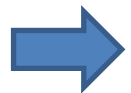


# Achievements and Opportunities



**Recognition of a *Toolbox Approach* by the international community:**

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- Two Global Compacts
- UNFCCC



**Regional Guidelines - application and sharing of effective practices.**





## Four Strategic Priorities

**#1. Support integrated implementation** of global policy frameworks on human mobility, climate change action and disaster risk reduction.

**#2. Promote policy and normative development** to address gaps in protection.

**#3. Facilitate exchange of knowledge** and strengthen capacity at the national and regional levels.

**#4. Strengthen evidence and data** on disaster displacement and its impacts.

# OUR WORK

## SEVEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO:

### 1 WE ARE A STATE-LED INITIATIVE

Working towards better protection for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.

### 2 WE PROMOTE MEASURES

- **To help people at risk of displacement stay in their homes.** Infrastructure improvement, urban planning, land reform, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation help reduce vulnerability and build the resilience of people at risk of disaster displacement. Over recent decades, the international community has shifted its focus from responding to the impacts of natural hazards to proactively reducing disaster risks. Likewise, the Platform advocates for risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development measures to include the risk of displacement.
- **To help people affected by disasters move out of harm's way.** People should have a choice whether to move or to stay but sometimes, displacement cannot be avoided, in order to save lives. Evacuations and planned relocation can ensure that human rights are protected, and that people are supported to return home or settle elsewhere. Efforts are more likely to be sustainable if undertaken in close consultation with affected people and host communities, taking into account cultural and psychological factors. Opening pathways for regular migration preventively can also help people move out of harm's way before a disaster strikes.
- **To better protect people forced to leave their homes** in the context of disasters and climate change, especially when they need to cross international borders. While present international law recognizes the rights of internally displaced persons, those displaced across borders remain without specific international protection. In recent decades, at least 50 countries have received or refrained from returning persons from disaster-affected countries. The Nansen Initiative identified a multitude of effective practices used by several States to admit and protect these individuals, including granting a humanitarian visa or temporary protection status. Such practices should be harmonized at regional levels, and replicated where needed.

### 3 WE BRING TOGETHER PARTNERS

Such as States, international and regional organizations, research institutions, academia, non-governmental organizations and other civil society stakeholders in a community of practice on disaster displacement. Effective responses to disaster displacement require coordination among different ministries, policy areas, and organizations.

### 4 WE FRAME AND FEED KEY MESSAGES

About disaster displacement into relevant global policy processes addressing issues such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, human rights, humanitarian action, refugee protection, and migration. The Platform has facilitated increased international recognition of the challenges of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change in global policy processes, including the process leading to the formal endorsement of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in December 2018. Ensuring that these global agreements are implemented at the regional, national and local level is essential.

### 5 WE FACILITATE REGIONAL EFFORTS

To share experiences and develop effective practices as well as normative frameworks that respond to local realities. So far, the Platform has supported such efforts in the Pacific, the Horn of Africa, South Asia, and the Americas, helping countries review and improve their national and regional responses to disaster displacement.

### 6 WE AIM TO FILL GAPS

On disaster displacement data and knowledge. More comprehensive and systematic data collection is needed about why, where, when, and how people move in the context of disasters, particularly when they cross international borders. Advisory Committee members are advancing practices to harmonize data collection, understand how people move in response to slow-onset hazards, and make the best use of big data such as cell phone records and social media.

### 7 WE GET THE WORD OUT

And engage our audience about disaster displacement challenges and solutions using traditional and creative tools from communication and the arts.



# 4. TO SUM UP





- 1. Disaster Displacement: One of the biggest humanitarian challenges.**
- 2. Available: A toolbox to better prevent and prepare for displacement and to respond to situations when people are forced to flee.**
- 3. PDD: Helps States implement this toolbox and focuses on implementing regionally, influencing global policy processes, and enhancing knowledge & understanding.**



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# THANK YOU!

[www.disasterdisplacement.org](http://www.disasterdisplacement.org)



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