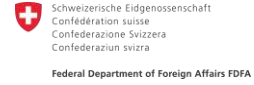




Permanent Mission of Norway
Geneva



Putting Words into Action - Addressing disaster displacement in DRR strategies and practice

Official side event of the [European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction \(EFDRR\)](#)

Thursday 25 November 2021, 14:00 – 15:00 CET

Virtual event

Lead organizers: Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)

Co-organizers: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC); International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD); Resilience Development Initiative (RDI); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Co-sponsors: EU; France; Germany; Norway; Switzerland

1. Background and Concept

This side event will focus on an increasingly important challenge for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) actors around the world: how to more effectively prevent, reduce and address displacement occurring in the context of disasters, including the adverse effects of climate change. Each year, on average, more than 24 million people are newly displaced around the world. And while DRR/DRM practitioners have a clear responsibility to deal with disaster risk and have been dealing with disaster displacement for decades (such as conducting life-saving evacuations, etc.), there is still only limited systematic inclusion of disaster displacement and human mobility in DRR strategies, preparedness and contingency plans.

This side event seeks to raise awareness of the need to integrate disaster displacement in local and national DRR strategies, through the presentation and promotion of an innovative set of tools developed around the 'Words into Action' series, an initiative launched by UNDRR to support governments to implement the Sendai Framework on specific cross-cutting themes. Project partners, governments and civil society organizations have completed the eLearning module, and are applying the guidance and checklist, which all form part of the toolkit. They will present their experiences, lessons learned and make recommendations on how to effectively integrate disaster displacement into DRR.

The side event will also raise awareness of the importance of multi-stakeholder coordination and local leadership to design lasting solutions to build resilience in the context of disaster displacement. It will share lessons learned and experiences from the implementation of these tools to demonstrate how they can contribute to reducing displacement risk, addressing needs and supporting solutions for those displaced.

2. Event Objectives

- Raise awareness among States and other stakeholders from Europe and Central Asia of the challenges of disaster displacement and the role DRR/DRM has to play.
- Share the latest knowledge and effective practices on how States and other stakeholders can prevent, reduce and address disaster displacement through integrated DRR, climate change adaptation and development planning in line with their efforts at implementing the Sendai Framework.
- Showcase best practice and the example of an innovative family of tools - the Words into Action on Disaster Displacement Guidelines, Checklist and eLearning - developed to guide States and other stakeholders in their efforts to address displacement in disaster contexts.
- Support efforts to integrate human mobility and displacement challenges into national DRR strategies, in line with Target E of the Sendai Framework.

3. Format, Target Audience and Structure

This interactive, multi-stakeholder side event will take the format of a one hour long facilitated dialogue with interested DRR stakeholders. It is in line with the thematic Pillar One of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Accelerating implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.

The target audience for this side event consists of government representatives (DRR/DRM focal points) and other stakeholders (e.g. civil society, private sector, academia/think tanks) with an interest in the human face of disaster impacts, who are interested in learning about effective practices and guidance available to address disaster displacement.

Opening remarks by the European Union and GNDR will be followed by two sets of short and interactive presentations. The first set will be from IDMC and the German Red Cross and will shine a light on the disaster displacement situation in Europe and Central Asia, showcasing available data and concrete case study examples. The second set will showcase the Words into Action guidelines [Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience](#), its accompanying [Checklist](#) and the innovative [eLearning tool](#) that has been developed and is freely available, in different languages, on the UNDRR website. Presenters will also share how the guidance is being applied to strengthen policy and practice, at both national and local levels, in Mozambique and Indonesia. The session will end with closing remarks by the Government of Germany and a representative from UNDRR.

4. Key messages informing the event

- Displacement is one of the main ways in which disasters affect people. Stepping up efforts for a **human-centered approach to reduce displacement risk** is essential for the accelerated implementation of **Target B** of the Sendai Framework.
- **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 displaced. They should be **integrated with climate change adaptation measures within the broader planning for resilience and development**, as appropriate.
- There is a **critical lack of data on the duration and conditions of disaster displacement** which currently prevents effective policy and action. Countries can build on existing tools and systems to fill this gap, thereby improving responses, mitigating the impacts of disaster displacement and contributing to effective risk reduction.
- States are encouraged to **integrate disaster displacement and human mobility in regional, national and, crucially, local-level development plans as well as specific DRR, land use and sectoral planning strategies** to prevent displacement and reduce displacement risk and address the protection needs of displaced people and promote durable solutions to displacement, in keeping with the Sendai Framework.
- Governments are encouraged to contextualize and implement key international and regional standards and guidelines relating to disaster displacement, including the Sendai Framework, the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda and the **Words into Action Guidelines on Disaster Displacement**.
- **Guidance is available**, in the form of a companion checklist to assess progress, an eLearning to build awareness and capacity, as well as UNDRR's report on [Scaling up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action](#). Many partners from civil society, the UN system and the Red Cross stand ready to guide and support governments at all levels in their efforts to better understand and address disaster displacement.
- **Local leadership is essential to build long-lasting resilience** strategies and policies. Strengthening community engagement, with the aim of building local leaders across all community groups (especially those most often left behind, such as displaced populations), needs to become a core element of any DRR strategy at national and local level.

5. Schedule and Speakers

The event is scheduled to take place at 14:00 – 15:00 CET.

14:00 – 14:10	Moderator: Atle Solberg (PDD) Welcome remarks by Joanna Darmanin, Head of Unit, Unit for Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies, DG ECHO, European Union; and Bijay Kumar, Executive Director of GNDR
14:10 – 14:20	Presentations on disaster displacement in Europe and Central Asia by: Bina Desai, Head of Programmes, IDMC; and Eva Adams, Project Coordinator, German Red Cross
14:20 – 14:55	From Words into Action (WiA) on disaster displacement by: Silvi Llosa, WiA Implementation Project, NRC; Nelson Tivane, NRC/Mozambique; and Medhiansyah Putra Prawira, RDI
14:55 – 15:00	Closing remarks by: Matthias Amling, Desk Office, Federal Foreign Office, Germany; and Representative of UNDRR

End./