# The Importance of Home: Preparing houses and communities for disaster and displacement

**Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**
October 17, 2024 | 13:30 - 15:00 | Meeting Room 6

*Hosted by: Build Change, Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)*

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**Annually, 14 million people are made homeless from disasters. In this Learning Lab, participants will explore tools that take resilient housing to scale and prepare cities for disaster displacement.**

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The Sendai Framework recognizes the varied and severe impacts that disasters can have on humans. A notable one is the destruction of housing. Annually, 14 million people are made homeless from disasters. Housing inadequacy experienced by over 2 billion people worldwide coupled with these disasters means a constant threat to lives and livelihoods, loss of assets, and the inability to build or generate wealth, keeping the most vulnerable populations stuck in a cycle of poverty and vulnerability.

This event will present and engage participants with two tools available to local governments in the Global South designed to help their communities prepare for disasters by increasing access to affordable, resilient housing and addressing the impacts of potential disaster displacement..

One of the most effective strategies to prevent extreme weather, chronic climate impacts, and other events such as earthquakes from becoming large-scale disasters is adequate preparation ahead of time: ensuring that policies, financing and technology exist to provide resilient housing at scale. One of the most effective means of doing this is retrofitting existing homes to be disaster resilient through affordable, accessible and locally-available means.

Build Change's technical assistance platform, BCtap, offers a customized, easy-to-use digital solution for governments and homeowners to provide and access the skills, materials and finances necessary to make their homes resilient–allowing communities to remain safe and to remain in their homes and communities when disasters come. During this Learning Lab, participants will be taken through a series of mock BCtap processes to understand the

possibilities the tool offers and how they can apply the technology to their own resilient housing programs.

Sometimes, displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change cannot be avoided. As an example, in Pakistan in 2022, close to 8 million people were displaced and at least 2 million homes destroyed, due to unprecedented floods. In Asia and the Pacific, in 2023 alone, there were about 4.1 million displacements due to disasters. This presents a significant humanitarian and development challenge for the Asia-Pacific region.

UNDRR with its partners has developed a series of tools that can help local governments prepare for disaster displacement, including the Words into Action guidelines on disaster displacement, a checklist, an e-learning, the *Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and* its *Addendum on Disaster Displacement*. The partners include the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The Scorecard Addendum on Disaster Displacement is part of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 Initiative's Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities. It is a self-assessment tool supporting local governments to design, formulate and implement policies to include displaced persons in DRR. It aims to promote the integration of disaster displacement within wider DRR policies, management and planning processes to: prevent displacement; prepare for displacement; when displacement is unavoidable, ensure displacement takes place in a dignified manner; limit how long people are displaced, and the extent of the challenges they face when living in displacement; strengthen the resilience of displaced persons and all those living in the city/municipality. By applying the Scorecard Addendum, local authorities can identify gaps and areas for improvement in addressing disaster displacement within their cities.

By introducing and familiarizing local authorities with these two tools, they will be better equipped to prepare their communities for disaster, prevent displacement, and address displacement effectively in the event that is unavoidable. In a world where the frequency and severity of disasters are increasing annually, such tools are essential in order to build resilient communities, and safeguard the health, well being, and physical and economic security of communities.

**Speakers:**

- Joel Herold, Director of Application Development, Build Change
- Liva Shrestha, Lead Structural Engineer for Asia Pacific, Build Change
- Girlie Lopez, Philippines Country Program Manager, Build Change
- Atty. Violeta Seva, Senior Adviser to the Mayor of Makati City, Philippines
- Nick Bishop, Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Officer, IOM
- Christelle Cazabat, Head of Programmes, IDMC
- Nacanieli Speight, Regional Adviser on Disaster Displacement, IDMC/PDD
- Sarah Koeltzow, Policy Officer, PDD
- Sunisa Ho, Associate Programme Management Officer, Making Cities Resilient, UNDRR

**Objectives of this session:**

- Familiarize local government actors in the Asia-Pacific region with the Words into Action guidelines on Disaster Displacement and the Scorecard Addendum on Disaster Displacement
- Familiarize local government actors in the Asia-Pacific region with Build Change's BCtap tool, demonstrating how technology can leverage and scale a systems change approach to resilient housing
- Encourage participants to share challenges and opportunities regarding resilient housing for local communities and preparing for disaster displacement at the local level

**Programme Outline:**

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| 0-10 min: | Welcome & opening remarks |
| 10-20 min: | Presentation of BCtap |
| 20-30 min: | Presentation of Scorecard |
| 30-55 and 55-80 min: | Breakout groups for deep dives into each tool |
| 80-90 min: | Closing remarks |

**Resources:**

- BCtap website: https://bctap.buildchange.org/
- Build Change resources / publications: https://buildchange.org/resources
- About the Disaster Resilience Scorecard: https://mcr2030.undrr.org/disaster-resilience-scorecard-cities
- The Addendum on Disaster Displacement: https://mcr2030.undrr.org/disaster-displacement-scorecard