



PLATFORM
ON DISASTER
DISPLACEMENT
FOLLOW-UP TO THE NANSSEN INITIATIVE



© Ab Rashid/UNDRP Bangladesh

KEY MESSAGES FOR COP29

FROM THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

THE CONTEXT

Measures that address the challenges of human mobility (migration, displacement and planned relocation) in the context of the adverse effects of climate change are key to effective climate action. [Available scientific evidence](#) shows that climate and weather extremes are increasingly driving displacement in all regions, and that displacement will further increase with the expected intensification of floods, cyclones, droughts and sea level rise. Moreover, displacement increases people's vulnerability to climate change. Pursuing and advocating for integrated approaches to human mobility and climate change is a policy and operational priority at global, regional and national levels, and a priority for the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) under its new [Strategy 2024-2030](#).

Supporting the implementation of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) and the [Paris Agreement](#) has been a strategic priority for the PDD since 2016, in particular through its engagement with the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM) and its Task Force on Displacement (TFD).

COP29 comes after rapid developments of the policy, operational and funding mechanisms to avert, minimize and address loss and damage. The decisions at COP27 and 28, and the advances in the work to operationalize the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage (Santiago Network), the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and broader

funding arrangements provide new opportunities for action and support to vulnerable countries. Displacement and human mobility have been identified as one of the priorities for action on loss and damage. COP28 decisions explicitly recognize the specific vulnerability of people on the move in the context of climate change, the need to effectively assist and protect them in order to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, and the need to engage and represent them in decision-making and in the delivery of relevant action and support.

In this context, the PDD and partners will continue to engage with the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC process at COP29 with a particular focus on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, including displacement, related to the adverse effects of climate change.



“We need an exit ramp off the highway to climate hell, and the truth is we have control of the wheel.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres
in New York, June 2024

LOSS AND DAMAGE AND DISPLACEMENT



Displacement is an **indicator of economic and non-economic loss and damage** that individuals and communities are suffering. Displacement is generally an outcome of last resort for people facing intolerable levels of risk, who cannot cope with hazards while remaining where they are, or when their ecosystems are becoming uninhabitable.



Displacement is a **damage or loss in itself**, linked with people being forced to leave their homes and communities, thereby depriving them of their right to choose where and how to live.



Displacement is also a **driver of loss and damage**. As stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), displacement generates and perpetuates vulnerability in natural and human systems in the context of climate change.



26.4

**MILLION INTERNAL
DISPLACEMENTS IN 2023**

were triggered by disasters,
mostly floods and storms.

(Internal Displacement
Monitoring Centre - IDMC)

KEY MESSAGES FOR COP29 FROM THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

1

Consultation of representatives of migrants, refugees and displaced persons in climate policy and action at national and global levels can help promote more inclusive and effective responses by leveraging their experiences, capacities and leadership.

- Engagement of displaced persons and other people on the move should be pursued as part of inclusive approaches that enable the meaningful participation of highly vulnerable people on the climate frontlines, alongside national authorities, civil society organizations, private sector actors, and international organizations.
- This will be key to operationalizing COP28 decisions [1/CP.28](#) and [5/CMA.5](#) calling for the participation and engagement of migrants, displaced persons and refugees for inclusive decision-making and action on loss and damage.
- PDD and its partners can help identify and mobilize relevant networks of organizations and individuals to support the effective implementation of these decisions.

2

The continued integration of human mobility into the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism through its 2024 Review will help enhance coordination, coherence and complementarity on loss and damage work under and outside the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

- The Task Force on Displacement and the other expert groups under the WIM ExCom should continue to provide technical inputs for the operationalization of the Santiago Network and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.
- PDD and its partners, through the TFD and the WIM ExCom, can help promote more coherent approaches to avert, minimize, and address Loss and Damage work at country level, by identifying effective practices, setting standards for action, and support mutual learning among countries.
- Integrated approaches to human mobility can also promote complementarity with other development, adaptation, DRR, humanitarian and recovery efforts relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage.

3

Displacement needs to be integrated in the design and delivery of technical assistance that the Santiago Network will catalyze in support of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

- Loss and damage assessments that account for the risks and the occurrence of displacement, and its economic and non-economic impacts, on vulnerable people provide a more comprehensive foundation for better-informed responses.
- Capacity building and technical assistance efforts that aim to effectively avert, minimize and address loss and damage need to integrate preparedness for displacement, protection and assistance to displaced persons, and durable solutions.
- Technical assistance supporting the development of national legal, policy and operational frameworks on climate action should promote approaches that integrate displacement and the protection of displaced persons.
- Integrated approaches on displacement and averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage are particularly relevant in countries that present acute climate risks and limited capacities.
- Organizations, Bodies, Networks and Experts (OBNEs) focusing on displacement and other forms of human mobility need to actively engage in the identification of local and national needs, and in the design and delivery of technical assistance to avert, minimize, and address Loss and Damage.



“*Responding to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries is urgent and essential, and should inform all stages of effective climate action – from climate policy and financing to the implementation of technical assistance.*”

**Carolina Fuentes Castellanos,
Director of the Santiago Network, November 2024**



© Eric Sales/ADB

4

Climate finance supporting work on displacement and other forms of human mobility should be scaled up and made more comprehensive.

- The operationalization of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) should emphasize facilitating the disbursement of resources to vulnerable countries to enable “equitable, safe and dignified human mobility in the form of displacement, relocation and migration in cases of temporary and permanent loss and damage” ([1/CP.28](#) and [5/CMA.5](#)).
- The Fund and other funding arrangements should support responses that avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including displacement and other forms of human mobility and their economic and non-economic impacts, in an integrated manner.
- More funding through new and innovative sources is required to avert, minimize and address displacement and related impacts before, during and after climate impacts, as part of anticipatory actions, response and long-term recovery.
- Ensuring that a greater proportion of climate finance is made available to those living on the frontline of the climate crisis, including displaced persons and their host communities, is key to the effective allocation of limited resources.
- Specific technical assistance and institutional capacities will be needed to increase access to climate finance and provide action and support in displacement contexts.
- Addressing the specific administrative, logistical and legal obstacles displaced persons, migrants and refugees routinely face will be key to promoting their access to climate finance.

ABOUT THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

The [Platform on Disaster Displacement](#) is a State-led initiative working with partners towards better protection for people at risk of or being displaced in the context of disasters and climate change. It was established in 2016 as a State-led initiative to follow up on the work of the Nansen Initiative and to support States and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the [Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda](#), endorsed by 109 States in 2015. The Protection Agenda offers a toolbox to better prevent and prepare for displacement before a disaster strikes. When displacement cannot be avoided, it helps States improve their responses to situations when people are forced to find refuge, either within their own country or across an international border.

PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT
Secretariat

International Environment House
Chem. des Anémones 11
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva,
Switzerland

+41 22 917 5483
info@disasterdisplacement.org
www.disasterdisplacement.org



With the
Generous
Support of:



Federal Republic of Germany
Foreign Office

