

PDD Messages to inform the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland, 13-17 May 2019



The **sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019)** co-chaired by Switzerland and UNISDR, is an important opportunity for the international community to renew and accelerate its efforts to implement the Sendai Framework, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and to contribute to the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GP2019 builds on the outcomes of the Global Platform in Cancún, Mexico in 2017, as well as the Regional Platforms in 2018 held in Colombia, Armenia, Mongolia, Tunisia and Italy, which discussed and recognized disaster displacement as an important impact of disasters. 2020 constitutes the first deadline of the Sendai Framework, for achieving **Target E**, to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies. This Global Platform is the last global gathering for all stakeholders before 2020.

PDD's Objective to improve the protection of disaster displaced persons and to reduce displacement risk is directly relevant to the goals of GP2019. In particular during a Working Session and a Side Event on disaster displacement, the PDD will promote the use of identified effective practices and strengthened cooperation among relevant actors **to prevent**, when possible, **to reduce** and **to address cross-border disaster-displacement at the national, regional and international levels**. Examples of PDD's efforts to support States in implementing Targets B and E of the Sendai Framework include the *Mapping of DRR strategies and the extent to which they include human mobility considerations* and the *Words into Action Guidelines on disaster displacement*, facilitating exchange of effective practices and strengthening preparedness and response capacities for disaster displacement. Find out more at www.disasterdisplacement.org !

PDD Messages on disaster displacement at GP19

Displacement is an important way in which disasters affect people. States and other stakeholders, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, should step up their efforts to **reduce displacement risk** and prevent displacement, strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of persons at risk of displacement, **address the protection needs** of displaced people and find **durable solutions** to displacement. The following efforts of States and other stakeholder should be scaled up:

- ➔ **Reduce displacement risk and prevent displacement.**
 - (a) **Reduce disaster and climate risk by addressing the exposure of people** through better urban planning, regulating building construction in hazard-prone areas and investing in resilient infrastructure.
 - (b) **Reduce vulnerability and strengthen the resilience** and adaptive capacity of people at risk of displacement, including through livelihood diversification.
 - (c) Facilitate adaptive measures such as **voluntary migration** for people to move out of areas facing high levels of disaster and climate risk.
 - (d) Develop tools, policies and institutional frameworks for **participatory planned relocation** as a protective measure of last resort in DRR policy and practice.

→ **Address the protection needs of disaster displaced people.**

- (a) Develop and implement law, policies and practice to enhance the capacity to **protect displaced persons**, whether they stay with family, in shelters, evacuation centres or private accommodation, paying particular attention to those with specific vulnerabilities and protection needs during all stages of their displacement, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and people already marginalized.
- (b) Establish capacity for **preparedness and early warning and early action systems** in governments and communities in order to prepare for safe and timely **evacuations** when necessary, followed by safe, voluntary and dignified return, local integration, or settlement elsewhere.
- (c) **Prepare for cross-border disaster-displacement** through regional and transboundary cooperation, preparedness and joint contingency planning, and provide humanitarian protection as per the *Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda*.

→ **Promote durable solutions to displacement.**

- (a) “Build back better” and ensure that those who **return, integrate locally, or settle elsewhere** have access to adequate housing in safe areas, basic services and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- (b) Ensure **inclusion of displaced persons** in national and local recovery plans as well as development and reconstruction efforts undertaken in the mid- to long-term.
- (c) Take measures to mitigate against the **physical and mental health impacts** of prolonged and recurrent displacement.

States are encouraged to promote these messages in their **interventions in relevant high-level dialogues, working sessions, special sessions** or side events.

Going beyond those, the following section proposes more specific, targeted messages that may be delivered and promoted in technical sessions and conversations.

Policy coherence and integrated approaches with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement

Particularly relevant for sessions:

- Ministerial Roundtable – Accelerating the achievement of the Sendai Framework: Benefits of coherence and integrated approaches with Sustainable Development Goals and action on climate change
- High-Level Dialogue 5 – Pursuing Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement
- Working Session – Ensuring coordination in the development and implementation of National DRR Strategies and National Adaptation Plans

Displacement in the context of disasters and climate change cuts across policy and practice of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance, migration governance, refugee protection, human rights and climate change action as well as sustainable development. **Strong, sustainable and inclusive development will reduce disaster displacement risks** and make countries better prepared to manage risks. Robust and effective climate change mitigation can combat climate change and its adverse impact

and, together with effective adaptation measures, reduce the risk of disaster and displacement.

Disaster risk reduction and climate change policy and action should be integrated, and in particular when supporting mobility as a measure to adapt to climate change in the context of slow-onset events and processes and environmental degradation, including when addressing the challenge of relocating communities out of increasingly uninhabitable areas affected by extreme environmental degradation.

States are encouraged to:

- **Support the implementation of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change** as per the recommendations of the Task Force on Displacement and the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM), welcomed by the Conference of the Parties at its 24th Session in Katowice, Poland.
- **Ensure coherence** across national DRR strategies, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans on climate change, National IDP and migration policies, as well as national development plans in line with the SDGs, by including provisions to prevent and reduce disaster displacement and enable durable solutions.

Sendai Framework implementation and the need for better data

Particularly relevant for sessions:

- **High-Level Dialogue 1 – Progress in implementing the Sendai Framework – global and regional perspectives**
- **Working Session – Sendai Framework implementation**

Regional Platforms for DRR in 2018 have identified disaster displacement as a pressing issue to address in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. A concrete recommendation coming out of these regional processes is that **regional and national DRR strategies and frameworks should include provisions on disaster displacement and human mobility**. Disaster displacement is recognized as a significant issue for most States that have adopted the Sendai Framework, but it is not included among the global targets and indicators. A **solid data and evidence basis is needed** for effective DRR strategies and practice that put people at their centre.

States are encouraged to:

- Strengthen the **systematic collection and monitoring of displacement data** at local, national and regional levels and make it accessible as the basis for DRR policy and planning.
- **Establish national targets and indicators on displacement** for national reporting and reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor.
- **Strengthen capacities to collect, monitor and analyse data** over time and disaggregated by age, sex, disability, and location within and across borders, at local, national and regional levels. This data can be used to better understand risk and to develop forecasting tools and early warning.

Target E implementation

Particularly relevant for sessions:

- **High-Level Dialogue 2 - Advances in national and local DRR strategies – towards meeting the first of the Sendai Framework Targets**
- **Working Session – National and local DRR strategies – bringing together action at all levels**

Sendai Framework **Target E** calls for states to “substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”. Those strategies and plans that already exist at local, national and regional levels often **lack specific provisions to reduce displacement risk, address protection concerns, and support durable solutions to displacement.**

By including disaster displacement and human mobility provisions in DRR strategy, **Target E implementation can support Target B implementation** and contribute to the goal to “substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030”.

States are encouraged to:

- ensure that **DRR strategies and plans at local, national and regional levels include provisions on disaster displacement** to prevent displacement and reduce displacement risk; address the protection needs of displaced people; and to promote durable solutions to displacement.
- integrate these DRR strategies and plans **with relevant global, regional and national policy frameworks and strategies** on climate change action, development, human mobility and displacement etc.

In collaboration with UNISDR, the Platform on Disaster Displacement and other partners provide support to the implementation of displacement-related commitments in the Sendai Framework, such as, for example, support to implementing the Words into Action Guidelines on disaster displacement. For more information contact info@disasterdisplacement.org

The importance of local action and the roles of communities

Particularly relevant for sessions:

- **High-Level Dialogue 4 Leaving no one behind – investing in local action and empowering those most at risk**
- **Working Session – Promoting locally-led DRR/DRM: challenges, solutions and lessons learned**

Disaster risk reduction, disaster response and recovery programs need to incorporate **human rights standards and principles, including non-discrimination and participation**, with active consultation with affected communities, including migrants and displaced persons, civil society organizations and local authorities.

States are encouraged to:

- Ensure that the **specific protection and assistance needs of children, women, older persons, persons with specific needs, impoverished communities, indigenous people, migrants and marginalized groups** are identified and addressed in preparedness and response planning.
- Consider and support the capacity of local communities at risk and those already displaced in **collecting and analysing disaster displacement data**, including on its impact and opportunities for vulnerability reduction and resilience building.
- Support local communities to ensure **active participation of persons displaced or at risk of displacement** in the development of **community-based disaster risk mapping tools, early-warning systems and response plans.**
- Strengthen **awareness-raising, education and consultation**, prepare communities at high risk of displacement for the possibility that they may have to move and inform them of the importance to return, locally integrate or settle elsewhere in safe, not hazard-prone areas.

- Ensure that communities at risk of displacement have **access to funding and technical assistance** from local and national authorities for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation so that they can move safely in case of need.
- Recognize the positive contributions of migration to the resilience of communities and disaster risk reduction and **harness the role of diasporas and migrants in local DRR and resilience building**.

Working Session – Build Back Better and WRC outcomes

The fourth World Reconstruction Conference (WRC4) held in Geneva on 13-14 May 2019 with the title “Inclusion for Resilient Recovery” acknowledges that recovery can risk reinforcing existing inequalities. It aims to identify effective ways to ensure inclusive recovery and reconstruction processes to create opportunities for active and meaningful participation of the communities in recovery. This should include disaster displaced persons.

States are encouraged to:

- Adopt a comprehensive approach to the **specific protection needs of disaster displaced persons** in post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, taking into account their needs for durable solutions, housing, access to basic services, re-establishment of livelihood, infrastructure, etc.
- Cater to the specific age, gender and diversity sensitive protection needs of disaster displaced persons, as well as trapped populations unable to move, in the phases of post-disaster **recovery and rehabilitation** and ensure that local integration, return or settlement elsewhere occur in a safe and dignified manner.
- Ensure **recovery and reconstruction** are undertaken with a view to **reducing risks of future displacement** by both reducing exposure of housing and infrastructure in hazard-prone areas and strengthening the resilience of affected populations and those at risk of future displacement.
- Consider the post-disaster recovery process as an opportune moment **to invest in fundamental aspects of DRR to prevent new and reduce existing disaster and displacement risk**, which will contribute to strengthening resilience and creating pre-requisite conditions for resumption of sustainable development processes.

Working Session – Multi-hazard early warning systems: progress and challenges to achieve Target (g)

The second multi-hazard early warning conference held in Geneva on 13-14 May 2019 aims to demonstrate to countries how the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning and risk information can be improved. Regarding disaster displacement, it is essential that local knowledge, including of displaced persons, is used to improve these warning systems and that information from these systems reaches all people and communities at risk.

States are encouraged to:

- Ensure that **people and communities at high risk of disaster displacement** are provided with timely, understandable and actionable **information from multi-hazard early warning systems**

both to prepare for sudden and slow-onset events and disasters.

- Link **multi-hazard early warning systems to concrete plans** identifying evacuation corridors, sites, shelters and emergency assistance, as well as plans for return and relocation, recognizing specific protection needs of vulnerable groups, and are activated in case of need.
- Enable meaningful **community participation in the development of evacuation and response plans.**
- Undertake **comprehensive and participatory risk assessment** before deciding, in consultation with affected communities, on **planned relocation**, as a protective measure of last resort.

Special Session – Women Leadership in DRR

Women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels is essential in preparedness and response to disaster displacement, evacuation and planned relocation.

States are encouraged to:

- **Promote women's agency**, recognizing their local knowledge and role as critical actors in preparedness, response and durable solutions for disaster displacement.
- **Ensure preparedness and response measures to disaster displacement are gender sensitive**, including by involving women in leadership positions at all stages of a disaster.
Ensure **equitable and non-discriminatory allocation** of relief supplies and resources to displaced or evacuated persons.
- Plan and manage **evacuation centers and disaster displacement sites** in a gender-responsive way, meet human rights and humanitarian standards, and staff them by people trained in gender-sensitive approaches who can respond to the specific needs of women, boys and girls.
- Ensure that nobody is excluded due to gender-based differences in right to inherit or own land or other assets in efforts to **build back better**.