



Issues Briefs

Event title	Disaster Displacement and Disaster Risk Reduction
Rationale	<p><i>~ 500 words</i></p> <p><i>Why is this topic important and worth a Working Session?</i></p> <p>One of the most visible and sometimes permanent impacts of disasters is the displacement of families or entire communities. The Sendai Framework therefore recognizes disaster displacement—the forced or involuntary movement of people associated with disasters—as an important concern. It calls on States to develop policies and take the actions required to reduce the risk of disaster displacement and related human suffering. Addressing disaster displacement risk is necessary to achieve Target B, to substantially reduce the number of people affected by disasters globally.</p> <p>More people are displaced by disasters today than by conflict. Since 2008, an average of 26.4 million people have been displaced by sudden-onset disasters each year. Both sudden-onset disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, and slow-onset disasters such as drought, fuel disaster displacement. Climate change is projected to increase disaster displacement as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense, particularly in developing countries.</p> <p>There are multiple factors that lead to displacement in disasters such as inadequate early warning systems and poor construction of homes. Understanding who is most vulnerable and at risk of displacement and addressing these risks and vulnerabilities before a disaster strikes can help prevent displacement. This requires the integration of displacement prevention actions in national and local DRR and development strategies as well as in humanitarian contingency planning.</p> <p>When displacement cannot be avoided, the Sendai Framework identifies actions to prepare effective responses and strengthen the resilience of those affected until they are able to find an acceptable solution to their displacement.</p> <p>Addressing disaster displacement is also central to fulfilling Sendai Framework principle 19(c), which recognizes that disaster risk management (DRM) aims to</p>

	<p>protect people and their assets in ways that also protect and promote all human rights.</p>
<p>State of Play and Opportunities</p>	<p><i>~ 500 words.</i></p> <p><i>What are the main challenges? What gaps need to be filled?</i></p> <p>Challenges</p> <p>Existing challenges in addressing disaster displacement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of awareness among DRR managers and policy makers of their role in avoiding, preventing and responding to disaster displacement, and of the need to work together with ministries responsible for migration, human mobility, domestic affairs, human rights, development and others. Many policymakers are unaware of the need to put in place measures to reduce the risk of displacement prior to a disaster and also to minimize the impact of displacement once it occurs. Disaster risk managers may feel that their responsibilities end with a successful evacuation, but in reality much must be done, in collaboration with other local and national actors, to avoid disaster displacement, to better manage evacuations, to support and protect people that have been displaced and to enable a more resilient future after displacement. - There is a capacity gap in many countries in both the formulation and the implementation of DRR strategies and programmes that appropriately address disaster displacement. - There is a need for knowledge and experience exchange among DRR ministries and other stakeholders from different countries and regions, notably around issues within disaster displacement such as evacuations, planned relocation, durable solutions, etc. - There is also a need for greater policy coherence with other international agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Beyond their commitments to the Sendai Framework, Governments have agreed to address disaster displacement through the UNFCCC’s Task Force on Displacement, the Nansen Initiative’s Protection Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and most recently the follow up to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants—the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The GCM calls on Governments to: i) develop adaptation and resilience strategies to disasters and adverse effects of climate change that take into account migration, ii) integrate displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies, iii) address the vulnerabilities of people affected by disasters and provide them with necessary humanitarian assistance, and iv) develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration and displacement. The GCR makes specific reference to the need to reduce disaster risks and recognizes that “environmental degradation

	<p>and natural disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements”.</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <p>To support policy makers, DRR regional and global platforms can raise awareness of the need to address disaster displacement through law, policy, strategy and actions. Greater awareness will need to be supported with information and tools to build capacity to prevent and address disaster displacement.</p> <p>Governments have an important opportunity to address disaster displacement in their DRR strategies. An important milestone in this respect is the 2020 Target E deadline for the drafting or revision of DRR strategies at the national and local levels. A study conducted by the Platform on Disaster Displacement revealed that to date, only few DRR strategies address disaster displacement. The Words into Action guide, <i>Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience</i> was developed to support Governments to meet their Target E commitment and is being launched at the 2019 Global Platform.</p>
Way Forward	<p>What innovative approaches should be considered? ~ 500 words.</p> <p>Addressing displacement risk comprehensively requires the participation of displaced populations and host communities throughout the disaster risk management cycle (before, during and after disaster displacement). Concrete, innovative approaches to address disaster displacement are described in the Words into Action guide and should be included in DRR strategies, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring the causes and incidences of displacement through data collection. As people often follow previous displacement and migration patterns, an understanding of past displacement should inform policies to address future displacement. Once disaster displacement occurs, data about those displaced, their current location and their support requirements to rebuild their lives is also required. 2. Developing national, customized targets and indicators on disaster displacement and reporting on progress through the Sendai Monitor. 3. Allocating land and securing services to the allocated area before a disaster strikes to accommodate displaced populations. 4. Establishing policies to promptly re-issue documents lost in disaster and ensuring access to basic services, including health and education, leaving no one behind. 5. Formally recognizing informal or marginalized settlements in DRR strategies to ensure policies protect displaced people and people at risk of displacement. 6. Ensuring early warning and DRR information is communicated in the languages of migrants and displaced people, and through channels they can access. 7. Establishing cross-border and regional collaboration including coherent policies on early warning and displacement, such as through bilateral or

	<p>regional guidelines or standard operating procedures, as well as simulation exercises between neighbouring countries.</p> <p>8. Developing and piloting the use of tools to forecast displacement risk based on current vulnerability and projected climate change impact scenarios.</p>
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