



GP20 Webinar

Putting words into action: Reducing disaster displacement risks through local measures

12 December 2019

9.00-10.30 New York time/15.00-16.30 Geneva time/17.00-18.30 Nairobi time/Bangkok time 21.00-22.30

Displacement triggered by natural hazards is a major global challenge with an average of 25.3 million disaster displacements reported each year since 2008¹. The vast majority of such displacement occurs in the Asia Pacific region and is often an annual recurrence² – with the South and East Asia regions typically the most affected. In relation to population size, countries most affected are on the African continent and Small Island Developing States. Compounded by climate change, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense and are projected to increase disaster displacement. Urbanization and industrialization, water scarcity, sea-level rise, land degradation, desertification, droughts, and biodiversity loss are some of the many inter-linked drivers of increasing disaster- and climate change-related. Most of this displacement is internal, while some may be obliged to flee across borders.

Scaled up investment in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and preparedness measures and resilience building are key in addressing challenges of disaster displacement. Such measures are essential to avoiding or minimizing the occurrence of disaster displacement through preventative action. Measures to prevent risk need to be coupled with effective preparedness to manage displacement when it cannot not be avoided and to reduce impacts on affected communities. Effective response and recovery initiatives where displacement does occur are equally essential in ensuring durable solutions to displacement in the post-disaster phase and the reduction of residual and future displacement risk.

The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 calls on states to integrate displacement and other forms of human mobility in their national and regional DRR strategies. Launched in 2019, *Words into Action on Disaster Displacement*³ is a practical guide to help governments achieve this commitment. Local organisations are well placed to support governments to better prevent and prepare for displacement, protect those most at risk, and support local level, community-led disaster risk reduction measures and initiatives, in line with their climate change adaptation and development planning.

This webinar is part of the GP20 initiative launched for the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal displacement, which aims to bring additional attention to the issue of internal displacement and strengthen collaboration to prevent, address and resolve this issue in countries coping with internal displacement. This webinar will be an opportunity to learn about disaster risk reduction in action with concrete examples of what has worked at the local level.

It will focus on the following questions:

- How can governments be supported in including necessary provisions on disaster displacement in their country's or region's DRR strategy and planning?
- What are some examples of local, community based, targeted DRR measures that build resilience and reduce the risk of displacement for the most vulnerable? What can we learn from them?

¹ IDMC, 2018, Global Report on Internal Displacement, available at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/> This global estimate excludes displacement data on slow onset disasters for all years except a sample of drought-related disasters in 2017.

² Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Global Internal Displacement Database: <http://internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>

³ UNDRR, 2019, Words Into Action-Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Vulnerabilities and Strengthen Resilience, available at: <https://disasterdisplacement.org/wia-launch-gp19>



Target audience

The target audience for this webinar are officials from relevant government agencies, NGO, UN and donor staff (HQ and field) and IDPs working on preventing, addressing or resolving internal displacement, and with an interest in sharing and learning from practical experiences on disaster risk reduction at local level and reducing displacement risks through specific laws and policies.

Agenda

- 1) Introduction by the Webinar, Lorenzo Guadagno, IOM (5 minutes)
- 2) Presentation by UNDRR on displacement in the Sendai Framework, TBC (10 minutes)
- 3) Presentation by Nina Birkeland, Senior Adviser Disaster Displacement and Climate Change, NRC Geneva on Words into Action guidance (10 minutes)
- 4) Presentation by Ané Bruwer, Executive Manager: Disaster Management Legislation, Policy and Compliance Management, NDMC South Africa on their efforts to implement Words Into Action (10 minutes)
- 5) Presentation by Achala Navaratne, Head of Delegation for the American Red Cross in Bangladesh on the DRR/displacement case study from Cox's Bazar (10 minutes)
- 6) Q&A (30 minutes)
- 7) Concluding remarks by the Platform on Disaster Displacement (5 minutes)

Logistics

GP20 will organize and host the webinar event at UNHCR premises.