

The Protection Agenda

For Displaced Persons in the Country of Origin in Context of Disaster and Climate Change

Managing Disaster Displacement Risk in the Country of Origin

There are a number of measures States can take to manage disaster displacement risk in the country of origin to help people stay, move out of areas at risk, and address the specific needs of those that have been internally displaced. Available policy options to reduce vulnerability and build the resilience of people at risk of disaster displacement include disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and overall development measures. Second, when movement is unavoidable, policy options include facilitating migration and planned relocation to move people away from hazardous areas to safer areas before a disaster occurs and to help them to cope with the impacts of natural hazards and the adverse effects of climate change. Finally, integrated humanitarian action, disaster risk management and development interventions are essential for protecting those who have been internally displaced and finding durable solutions for them. This issue refers the following strategies;

1. Reducing vulnerability to displacement risks and building resilience:

State is responsible and responsibility includes preparing for foreseeable disasters and take reasonable measures to prevent threats to the lives and property of people, including preventing displacement. This requires following actions;

- Elaborating new or reviewing separate or joint climate change adaptation and disaster risk management strategies, plans or laws at all levels, in close cooperation with local governments and affected communities, to specifically incorporate disaster displacement risks and protection needs.
- Taking measures to identify people at risk of displacement in the immediate and long term, and develop appropriate responses.
- Encouraging local communities to develop

community-based and traditional disaster risk mapping tools and methodologies to establish preparedness and response plans with the support of local and national authorities, civil society and the private sector, in particular to identify potential areas suitable for evacuation and, if necessary, planned relocation.

- Prioritizing infrastructure improvements, such as sea-walls, dams, dykes, and earthquake resistant buildings, in areas where people are most at risk of displacement.

2. Addressing the Needs of Internally Displaced Persons in Disaster Contexts

Since most disaster displacement takes place within countries, where the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is particularly important. To be effective, approaches to risk mapping, disaster risk reduction measures, contingency planning, the humanitarian response, as well as efforts to find lasting solutions to disaster displacement often require addressing both internal and cross- border displacement at the same time. This requires following actions and practices;

- Reviewing domestic legislation or policies on internal displacement to identify whether the notion of IDPs includes those displaced in disaster contexts.
- Specifically incorporating IDP protection considerations, and clarifying roles and responsibilities of relevant actors within disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response plans, as well as relevant development plans, in accordance with respect for the human rights of IDPs.
- Strengthening the institutional capacity and resources of national and local authorities to enhance protection and support for IDPs in disaster contexts.

3. Planned Relocation with Respect for People's Rights

The risks and impacts of natural hazards, climate change, and environmental degradation have led many governments around the world to move and settle persons or groups of persons to safer areas, both before and after disaster displacement occurs. Planned relocation is generally considered a last resort after other options have been reasonably exhausted. This requires following actions and practices;

- Developing international and regional guidance, as well as national and local level laws and public policies, to support effective and sustainable planned relocation processes adapted to the local context and with full respect for the rights of affected persons.
- Identifying and setting aside suitable land and living space for planned relocation as a disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation measure.
- Implementing planned relocation must take into account all relevant social, economic, cultural and demographic factors, including in particular the specific needs of women and children, particularly vulnerable persons and, where relevant, indigenous peoples;
- Ensures adequate livelihood opportunities, basic services, and housing in the new location.

4. Facilitation of Migration with Dignity

- Living conditions can deteriorate so badly that people are forced to seek new opportunities away from their home area either in their own country or abroad that otherwise may result in a humanitarian crisis and displacement in the future. Managed properly, migration can contribute to coping with environmental hazards and bring economic benefits to all parties concerned.
- Displaced people, however, must be well protected from exploitation, violence, human trafficking and sexual abuse. Measures to facilitate migration with dignity include reviewing existing migration agreements. National programmes, schemes for seasonal workers and skills training make sense. Permanent migration may be necessary from low-lying areas as small island states and other countries are likely to suffer substantial loss of territory.
- Developing or adapting national policies providing for residency permit quotas or seasonal worker programs in accordance with international labour standards to prioritize people from countries or areas facing natural hazard or climate change impacts.
- Reviewing existing bilateral and sub-regional migration agreements to determine how they could facilitate migration as an adaptation measure.

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