

Disaster Displacement and Disaster Risk Reduction

Putting displacement at the forefront of international, regional and national disaster risk reduction policies and practice.

Disaster displacement is one of the biggest humanitarian challenges of the 21st century. Addressing displacement is a key element of disaster risk reduction and in line with NRC's work to provide assistance, protection and durable solutions to people affected by displacement worldwide.

Background

Disaster displacement can have devastating impacts on individuals and communities by raising protection concerns, undermining development gains, increasing human rights challenges, creating greater humanitarian needs and causing disruptions to community and family life.

In 2018, 1579 disasters led to 17.2 million new displacements in 142 countries (IDMC 2019). Most displacements are caused by weather-related hazards, like floods and tropical storms. As global temperatures increase with climate change, so has the intensity and frequency of weather-related hazards leading to greater displacement risk in the future. Additionally, climate change exacerbates the risk of slow-onset events like drought, desertification and sea-level rise.

Getting out of harm's way through pre-emptive evacuations and planned relocation can be some of the most effective ways to reduce injury and mortality. However, disaster displacement can have a variety of immediate- and long-term consequences, worsening pre-existing

vulnerabilities, undermining social cohesion and resilience and potentially creating new risks. While NRC has traditionally served people affected by conflict-related displacement, it also works with host communities and those displaced due to natural hazards and the adverse effects of climate change.



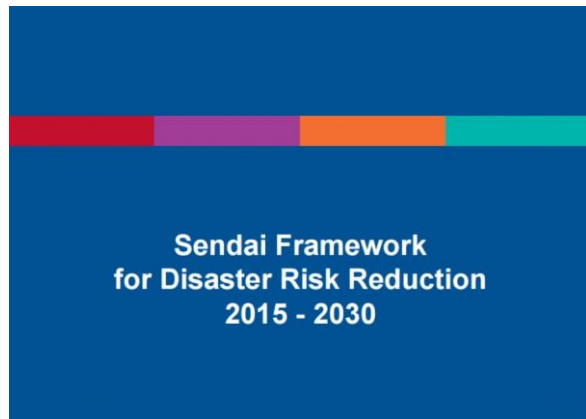
A flood hit in 2016, almost collapsing U Khin Maung Thein's house in Myanmar. After a few weeks in a shelter with his wife and nine kids, the family returned to rebuild their home. NRC / 2016

Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) is a voluntary agreement that recognises that States have the primary role in reducing disaster risk. However, the key to resilient societies is an all-of-society approach to engagement.

At the core of the Sendai Framework is its aim to substantially reduce disaster risk and the loss of life, livelihoods and health as well as the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of individuals, businesses, communities and countries. This includes the prioritisation of disaster displacement. There are many opportunities in which disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy and practice can reduce risk and address displacement in disaster contexts.

The [Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction](#) is a biannual forum that allows Member States and other stakeholders to share experiences, learn from good practices, identify gaps and assess the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The 2019 platform, co-chaired by the Government of Switzerland and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) provides an important opportunity for the international community to boost the implementation of the Sendai



Framework. Recognising the cross-cutting nature of disaster preparedness, response and recovery, DRR requires efforts made in other policy areas including climate change action, humanitarian response and sustainable development.

Recognising that inter-governmental collaboration is key to disaster risk reduction, Platforms take place at the regional level between Global Platforms. Regional Platforms provide a forum for all those engaged in DRR to showcase practical action, discuss challenges and consider priorities for the region. Disaster displacement has been a topic of increasing concern at the regional level. For example, the Asia Pacific platform identified addressing disaster displacement as a key priority of action. NRC worked with partners to ensure that displacement was addressed at all of the 2018 [Regional Platforms](#).

Sendai Framework Targets and disaster displacement:

Target B aims to “substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030.” Directly affected people include those “who have suffered injury, illness or other health effects; who were evacuated, displaced, relocated; or have suffered direct damage to their livelihoods, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets.”

Target E aims to “substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.”

Words into Action

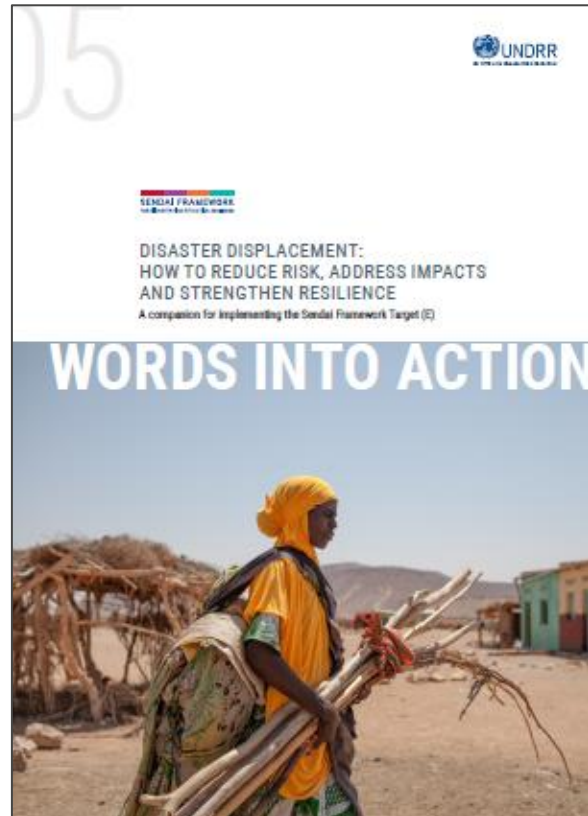
Disaster displacement: How to reduce risk, address impacts and strengthen resilience

Given the scale of disaster displacement and its vast humanitarian consequences, it is vital that States work at regional, national and local levels to prevent displacement as part of their DRR strategies. The first milestone of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, aiming to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies, is set for 2020.

Despite the far-reaching effects of disaster displacement, displacement is not adequately addressed in the majority of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. As governments develop or revise their national and local DRR strategies, now is the time to integrate provisions to reduce displacement risk, cope with its impacts, reduce the vulnerability of those displaced, ensure people find durable solutions, account for the impacts and support host communities.

To facilitate this process, NRC led a multi-stakeholder effort to develop a Words into Action Guide to offer practical guidance to integrate disaster displacement into regional, national, sub-national and local DRR strategies in accordance with Target (E) of the Sendai Framework.

The guide is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish to facilitate its wide distribution and help Government authorities integrate disaster displacement into their DRR strategies. NRC is currently working with the Governments of Nepal and South Africa to implement the guide by assisting in a consultative process to include disaster displacement provisions in their national and local plans. The document will be officially launched at the Global Platform 2019 alongside two other Words into Action documents.



Words into Action cover page. Photo: NRC / Adrienne Surprenant 2017

Working with partners to advocate for disaster displacement in DRR

NRC works closely with partners to ensure that disaster displacement is addressed at the global scale. Through collaboration with the Platform on Disaster Displacement, NRC has been able to strategically advocate for protection and assistance to become central components of disaster risk management, climate change action and development planning.

More broadly, NRC has been working with an array of stakeholders in to organize a [Stakeholder Forum](#), taking place just before the Global Platform 2019. The Forum aims to provide a space for stakeholders to coordinate and exchange on best practices around inclusion, collaboration and engagement.

NRC at the Global Platform 2019

DRR work falls directly in line with elements of NRC's global ambitions including its quest to be a champion for durable solutions and a leader in using data and technology to better provide assistance, solutions and concrete solutions.

In situations where disaster displacement occurs, NRC responds when already in the country and able to meaningfully contribute to the response. Our commitment not to inflict harm on the people or the communities that we assist includes doing no harm to the environment, while maximising the positive impacts of policies and programming. This also includes the integration of environmental and disaster risk reduction considerations into the design of our operations. Doing this also reduces the exposure to natural and human-induced disasters and seeks to enhance community preparedness and resilience.

NRC Geneva, IDMC and NORCAP will be attending the Platform.

NRC's recommendations for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Include disaster displacement and human mobility challenges in DRR strategies and foster their implementation.
- Integrate these strategies with other relevant frameworks and strategies, including climate change action, development, humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, etc.
- Collect data, analyse risks and monitor and report incidents and impacts of disaster displacement.

These [recommendations](#) are in line with those drafted by the Platform on Disaster Displacement at the request and in consultation with the PDD Steering Group and with contributions from the PDD Advisory Committee, including NRC.

Disaster displacement events at GP19

When?	Mon 13. May 11:00-12:30	Weds 15. May 11:30-11:45	Weds 15. May 13:00-14:30	Thurs 16. May 9:30-10:30	Thurs 16. May 11:00-11:30	Thurs 16. May 16:30-18:00
Where?	Room 18 CICG	Ignite Stage CICG	Room 14 CICG	NRC: Rue de Varembé 3	Ignite Stage CICG	Room 4 CICG
What?	"Ensuring the inclusion of displaced persons in recovery"	Communicating disaster displacement with art	"Women and Youth Speak: Faces of Disaster Displacement" side-event	Words into Action: Disaster displacement launch at NRC	UNDRR Words into Action Launch	Working Session: Disaster displacement & DRR

IDMC will have an Innovation Platform booth throughout the Global Platform to showcase and display two of its applications of innovative approaches in disaster risk reduction: IDETECT and the Global Disaster Displacement Risk Model.

Links to other relevant information:

Words into Action: Disaster displacement: How to reduce risk, address impacts and strengthen resilience: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/58821>

IDMC 2019, Global Report on Internal Displacement [www.nrc.no/XXX]

Platform on Disaster Displacement Key Messages https://disasterdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/02052019_policy_brief_screen_compressed.pdf

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