

***Official Statement from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
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Forced displacement is one of the most common and consequential impacts of disasters. As reported by IDMC, in 2017 alone, 18.8 million new internal displacements by sudden onset disasters were recorded in 135 countries. Some of these people have also been affected by generalized violence, increasing their vulnerability.

Still, disaster displacement risk is often neglected in discussions about DRR. For example, there is very little guidance or mechanisms to guarantee that states admit people who might need protection and assistance in another country after a disaster.

This should not be the case. The Regional DRR Strategy and Plan has to refer to human mobility. It is essential that Disaster Risk Reduction and Management include activities that reduce disaster displacement risk and address disaster displacement.

Displacement is included in the Sendai Framework. Governments have a unique opportunity to make significant progress on reducing the number of people affected by disasters (Target B of the Sendai Framework) by accounting and planning for disaster displacement and displacement risk.

This is particularly important for the most vulnerable countries and people in need of protection and support, who evidence shows, are disproportionately impacted.

As governments seek to implement Target E of the Sendai Framework and draft or revise national and local DRR strategies, disaster displacement has to be explicitly included.

There is also a clear gap in the understanding of disaster displacement risk. Data-related challenges and knowledge gaps are hindering the capacity of countries to meaningfully monitor, measure and manage risk and losses related to disaster displacement.

We welcome the fact that a working session on disaster displacement will be part of the Global Platform 2019.

NRC has two requests to stakeholders:

First: update or develop your national and local DRR strategies to include specific provisions on disaster displacement by 2020.

Second: strengthen national and international monitoring frameworks and improve the collection of data and evidence on new and ongoing disaster displacement.

We offer to support implementation of the Sendai Framework:

a) *Firstly by collecting data, providing technical guidance, and enhancing knowledge on disaster-related displacement and displacement risk.*

- Through IDMC, we will provide evidence, research and modelling of disaster displacement and future displacement risk, including data on both internal and cross-border disaster displacement;
- With others, we have developed a Words into Action guide that offers practical advice to incorporate the Sendai Framework into national and local DRR strategies. We are ready to support governments with the inclusion of disaster displacement into their DRR strategies.

b) *Secondly by implementing operational programs, deploying expert support capacity, and advocating for people affected by disaster displacement and displacement risk.*

- Through our offices we are running programs and advocacy to prevent disaster displacement and protect people displaced and at risk of becoming so;
- Through NORCAP, our expert deployment mechanism we deploy meteorologists, hydrologists and DRR expertise to build capacity within UN agencies, regional climate institutions and national meteorological and hydrological services to ensure that adequate and actionable DRR information reaches the most vulnerable people.