



GP20 Webinar
Putting Words into Action:
Reducing disaster displacement risks through local measures
Thursday 12 December 2019

SUMMARY

Objectives

The objective of the webinar was to provide an opportunity to learn about disaster risk reduction in action with concrete examples and good practices of disaster risk reduction at local level and reducing displacement risks through specific laws and policies.

Agenda

- 1) Introduction by the Webinar Chair, Lorenzo Guadagno, IOM (5 minutes)
- 2) Overview on the relevance of disaster displacement and the way it has been highlighted in relevant policy processes, including the Sendai Framework (10 minutes)
- 3) Presentation by Nina Birkeland, Senior Adviser Disaster Displacement and Climate Change, NRC Geneva on [Words into Action guidelines on disaster displacement](#) (WIA) (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)

Key points & Discussion

- Displacement amplifies and extends the impact and consequences people face during disasters. When it is not adequately managed or planned for it has a cost on displaced persons and their host communities in terms of reducing access to assistance and basic services, family separation, disruption of livelihoods, protection risks and it ultimately leads to impoverishment and has serious implication on the stability and cohesion of affected communities.
- The Sendai Framework on disaster risk reduction (SF) includes a nuanced approach to displacement. Displacement is seen as one of the key impact of disasters and as one of the key element that needs to be reduced in order to achieve global target B, which is to reduce the number of people affected by disasters.
- The SF promotes preparedness efforts that reduce the risk of displacement, such as evacuation drills, area-based support systems in order for disaster management actors have systems in place to manage displacement in case it happens. It highlights the importance of developing policies and programmes to address disaster induced mobility that take into account and build the resilience of the people affected by the disaster and that have been displaced by the process, including the host communities.
- A comprehensive approach is needed that looks at all the consequences of displacement for those directly and indirectly affected. The SF promotes the whole of society approach as well as the inclusion of migrants and displaced population in the planning and programming process.

- WiA guides governments on how to include displacement in DRR strategies and a checklist for assessing inclusion of disaster displacement in DRR strategies is currently being developed and will be available in the first quarter of 2020. Besides South Africa, Nepal is another example of a country in the process of translating it into their national strategy.
- With support of NRC and Oxfam as members of PDD and support from Germany, South Africa has embarked on national disaster displacement guidelines to support implementation of its DRR/M legislation in view to align it with the SF. Their interest lies in strengthening their policy using the WIA Guidelines as basis for practical measures to reduce and manage displacement risk in the country. Currently an action plan has been proposed which identifies key areas that should be explored taking as point of reference the WIA guidelines. The key areas are: response, early warning and early action. Provisions that are being developed are in alignment with the other frameworks. It is important to look at the most vulnerable people exposed to displacement. SA hasn't signed the KC but they are still taking on the development of the guidelines.
- The South African national disaster displacement guidelines will serve as a one-stop shop and fill the identified gaps. This will lead to ensuring coherence across disaster risk reduction strategies and the implementation of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and to address displacement related to the adverse effects of disasters. It is a comprehensive approach to prevent, address and find solutions to disaster displacement focusing on coherence and predictable responses.
- South Africa's lessons learned on implementing the WIA, are that while being in the process of developing the guidelines, it is important to look at all levels, start with national level and then go further down and implement at provincial and local level.
- On the question about how these local measures are linked to existing and planned emergency response approaches: In South Africa, many of the DRM strategies don't really have a provision on displacement or a Human Rights or protection based approach. This is a gap the national guidelines want to address. Leadership should come from the government even when it comes to local measures. However, integration of global level policies into the local level is a rather slow process and a lot of capacity building work is needed.
- The example from Cox Bazar showed the expansion of the national CPP to camp settlements to ensure macro level disaster preparedness and the national cyclone early warning system is integrated into the camp settlements of Cox's Bazar. This enabled camp settlers to be prepared, equipped and responsible for the early warning dissemination and early action for over 900,000 camp settlement residents.
- The capacity of the camp settlers was increased by providing trainings and ensure they have the ownership of preparedness and response activities for a multitude of emergencies to reduce loss of life and secondary displacement. Residents were trained as First Responders to support their own camp communities and assist any internal displacement issues with site management sector partners.
- Collective action to address key disaster risks in the camps include site planning, development, embankment protection and heavy infrastructure through a consortium approach. It is a good example of a humanitarian intervention that transitioned into development considerations, including preparedness, DRR measures, urban planning and development and long term solutions, multi-level, multi stakeholder initiatives.
- As for the lessons learned, this particular example is being documented, also by UNDRR, to showcase how the national DM system can be extended and expanded to the displacement affected populations such as the refugees in the camp.
- This program had many positive impacts not originally foreseen in the process, such as the creation of disaster management units in the camps. The Government was comfortable with what was happening and felt the ownership and now discussions on disaster management committees arise to mirror the national disaster management system. Also, the program never thought it would see such a multi-agency and stakeholder engagement (25-30 agencies).

Concluding remarks

- Partnerships worked to include displacement into the SF and the global discussion, big efforts were made through a multi-stakeholder approach, same as for developing the WIA guidelines.
- WIA guidelines is an increasingly important tool. We are reaching the limits of DRR/DRM resilience and adaption mainly because of climate change and the adverse effects of climate change. We need tools to manage those situation that result in displacement. We will see more displacement and loss and damage due to hazards. Therefore we need to try and reduce the impact of the hazard as well as prepare for displacement in the future.
- It is important to get the displacement out of the shadow of DRR, because the issue is much larger than only DRR, we need to bring in the development considerations, as well as the humanitarian and development nexus and include it in DRR
- The High Level Panel on internal displacement was established and it is important that we bring disaster displacement to the attention of the HLP and issues such as data, preparedness etc. This is a call for joint advocacy to make sure disaster displacement is being considered in the panel deliberations.