



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

Statement of the International Organization for Migration  
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Today's world is witnessing an unparalleled level of human mobility. There are more than 1 billion people on the move: approximately 250 million international migrants and 750 million internal migrants.

Human mobility, when safe, orderly and regular, can generate vital benefits and opportunities for those seeking a better life. Human mobility can also make significant, and often underestimated, development contributions to communities and States of origin, transit and destination. The role that human mobility plays for inclusive growth, sustainable development, and resilience-building - especially for disaster risk reduction - is now widely recognized. In fact, it was here in Cancun that the link between human mobility and climate change was first acknowledged through the Cancun Adaptation Framework in 2010.

Following that significant global acknowledgment, IOM worked closely with its Member States and partners to include dimensions of human mobility and displacement within

the final Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is unique among its predecessors in that it captures the complexity and significance of population movements as a key dynamic of disaster risk and resilience. The Sendai Framework not only recognizes displacement as a principal consequence of disaster, but also acknowledges the important contributions that migrants can make – through remittances, networks, skills and investments - in addressing risk drivers and promoting resilience. Migrants, in all their positive contributions, embody resilience within our communities, our economies and our cultures.

Since the Sendai Framework was adopted, I'm pleased to note that issues of mobility and displacement are now more prominently featured across key international policy frameworks. For example, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development calls for effective measures and strengthened support to empower displaced people and migrants as part of a broader commitment "to leave no one behind".

The Paris Agreement recognizes the need to protect vulnerable populations, including migrants, and establishes a special task force to develop recommendations on how to avert, minimize and address displacement related to climate change. More recently, The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants recognizes the importance of disasters, climate change and other environmental factors as drivers of large-scale, unmanaged migration and calls for bold commitments by world leaders to address such drivers. Just this week, toward agreeing on a Global Compact on safe, regular and orderly migration, member states of the UN convened to discuss the dimensions and impacts of natural disasters and climate change as drivers of migration.

Mass displacement continues to be one of the most visible consequences of disasters globally. In 2015, an estimated 8.6 million people were displaced within their country

due to conflict, violence or human rights violations. In comparison, in 2015 alone, there were 19.2 million people newly displaced by disasters in 113 countries, more than twice as many as by conflict and violence. As numbers grow and solutions to displacement are often elusive, it is now more critical than ever that we intensify our collective efforts to build the resilience of at-risk communities to disasters and displacement.

IOM has committed to support its Member States to implement the Sendai Framework coherently with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the World Humanitarian Summit outcomes, including the Grand Bargain, the International Health Regulations and other relevant frameworks. As a member of the Task Force on Displacement under the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage, and as a leader on the State-led process for a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018, IOM is committed to advancing this agenda as part of a system-wide effort, working collaboratively with UN, local partners and the international system. We ourselves have begun to take action on these commitments as outlined in IOM's Strategic Work Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction, which is aligned with the UN Plan of Action.

On the ground, IOM is working closely with local and national governments, civil-society, migrants and affected communities, across more than 100 countries through 400 field offices. Since the Sendai Framework, IOM has been working on Disaster Risk Reduction in 26 countries. As the global lead agency on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) for natural disaster, IOM has supported strengthened disaster preparedness in Myanmar, Mozambique and the Philippines. In Pakistan, Vanuatu, Nepal, Rwanda and Timor Leste, IOM has assisted thousands of households to recover from disaster by rebuilding stronger houses, restoring resilient infrastructure and

supporting livelihoods. In addition to reducing and responding to existing risks, IOM is also working to prevent new risks in countries such as Indonesia, Afghanistan, and Micronesia.

IOM is also working hard to improve data collection and analysis on displacement for partners and Member States to strengthen the evidence base for joint initiatives, to better understand exposure and vulnerabilities, and will continue to help strengthen national capacities to report through the Sendai Framework Monitor.

IOM views partnerships as essential to reducing risk. In the framework of government-led, multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, we support the inclusion of migrants and displaced persons in disaster risk reduction actions, given the specific vulnerabilities these groups face, and the fact that they are too often unaccounted for when disaster strikes.

Mobility can save lives, enhance resilience and reduce risks; but mobility can also lead to vulnerabilities. As we are witnessing widespread suffering resulting from sustained droughts across Africa and nearby regions, we must ensure that our joint commitment to disaster risk reduction accounts for human mobility in all its dimensions from the vulnerabilities associated with it to the innate capacities that migration brings to our communities and to global development. As the UN Agency for Migration we are committed to working in partnership and translating the mobility dimensions of reducing disaster risk into concrete action.