

**Managing Risk and Addressing Disaster Displacement:
Challenges, Effective Practices and Solutions in the Asia
Regional Consultation on Disaster Displacement**

November 19, 2020

The High-Level Panel (HLP) on Internal Displacement was established by the UN Secretary-General to identify concrete recommendations for member states, the UN, and other actors on **how to better prevent, respond and achieve solutions to internal displacement**, including in the context of disasters and climate change.¹ The HLP is currently in the process of gathering inputs from a wide array of stakeholders, including Member States, UN agencies, regional and international organizations, NGOs, civil society, think tanks and academia.

To contribute to this effort, a regional consultation to gather inputs and perspectives from across Asia² on **disaster-induced displacement** is being organized jointly by the Asia-Pacific Disaster Displacement Working Group (DDWG)³, the Asia-Pacific Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience, the GP20 Initiative on internal displacement, the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement Secretariat. The exchange is designed to provide a platform for governmental representatives (or officials) to share best practices, discuss challenges and gaps, and identify opportunities for strengthened action on internal displacement in the region.

With more than 80 percent of documented disaster displacement between 2008 and 2019 occurring across Asia and the Pacific, it is a particularly salient issue for the region.⁴ An increasing number of people in the region are also compelled to move or are displaced because of slow-onset events, such as the effects of sea level rise, desertification and environmental degradation linked to the adverse effects of climate change, as highlighted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in her [recent report](#) to the UN General Assembly 2020 on the human rights IDPs displaced by the adverse effects of slow onset climate change. Countries will increasingly experience the limitations of current climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts, requiring novel and more proactive approaches. This consultation will enable stakeholders from across Asia to ensure that recommendations, innovations, and key issues for the region are taken into consideration by the High Level Panel in their recommendations to the UN Secretary General.

The consultation, which will be moderated by **Cecilia Jimenez**, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internal displaced persons, with opening remarks from HLP member **Dr. Sima Samar** and **Professor Walter Kaelin**, Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and HLP Expert Advisor. These will be followed by presentations and a discussion with targeted government representatives from Mongolia, the Philippines and Bangladesh, with a focus on the below experiences:

¹ The full Terms of Reference of the Panel can be found at: https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/sites/www.un.org.internal-displacement-panel/files/tor_of_the_panel.pdf

² While this consultation is focused on Asia, the Technical Working Group on Human Mobility in Fiji is concurrently planning a similar consultation dedicated to the Pacific, and in coordination with the Asia Pacific DDWG.

³ The organizing committee for this consultation consisted of IOM, UNDRR, the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), IFRC, UNDP, RWI, with support of the wider DDWG membership. This is one of the working groups in the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience.

⁴ IDMC Disaster Displacement: A Global Review, 2008-2018, available at <https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/201905-disaster-displacement-global-review-2008-2018.pdf> ; IDMC Global Report on internal Displacement 2020, available at <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2020/downloads/2020-IDMC-GRID-east-asia-pacific.pdf?v=1.17>

Mongolia – understanding risk, predictions and investments in risk reduction (e.g. forecast based financing, and other mechanisms) that may be applicable in other contexts;

Philippines – systems, coordination and processes required to achieve capacity to manage recurrent, multiple and large scale displacements, with limited international support; process for solutions of IDPs and the mechanisms in place to resolve displacement situations;

Bangladesh – displacement management policies and mechanisms for resolving displacement; how ministries and sectors combine to achieve success.

Additional states are being invited to provide further inputs by presenting for 4-7 minutes on their national perspectives and recommendations to the panel. Guiding questions for these interventions and recommendations is annexed.

Key background docs and websites:

[-Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons \(A/75/207\)](#)

[-ODI report](#), “Reducing the risk of protracted and multiple disaster displacements in Asia-Pacific” funded by UNDRR and supported by DDWG on Displacement in Asia-Pacific;

[-Platform on Disaster Displacement \(PDD\) submission to the HLP;](#)

Draft session plan:

Session	Time	Description	Speaker
Welcoming remarks	14h	Welcome remarks to speakers and participants on behalf of DDWG	Nenette Motus, ROAP IOM, Regional Director – co chair of DDWG
Introduction	14h05	HLP, overview, goals and objectives	Dr. Sima Samar – HLP Panel Member
Setting the Stage	14h15	Key questions and issues in Disaster Displacement	Walter Kaelin – HLP Expert/PDD
Discussion Round 1: Panel Discussion	14h25	10 min each from country presenters from Mongolia, the Philippines and Bangladesh + 15 min of discussion on recommendations	Moderator: Cecilia Jimenez-Damary (SRHR IDPs)
Discussion Round 2: Interventions	15h10	4-7 min each for country and targeted pre-selected/planned speakers	Moderator: Cecilia Jimenez-Damary
Discussion Round 3: Open Floor	15h50	Open floor for additional key contributions from regional states or actors	Moderator: Cecilia Jimenez-Damary
Summary & closing by Moderator	16h10	Final remarks by moderator on key takeaways from the discussion	Moderator: Cecilia Jimenez-Damary
Closing remarks	16h20	Closing comments and thank you to speakers and participants	Loretta Hieber Girardet, UNDRR, co lead DDWG & co-chair IBC on Building Resilience

Annex: Guiding Questions

1. Rationale and Purpose of Guiding Questions

Following the session at the Regional Consultation where three Member States (Bangladesh, Mongolia and the Philippines) will present on their country situations and share lessons learned and effective practices, representatives of other Member States and other participants will be invited to make interventions and provide recommendations.

The following guiding questions are drafted in support of this session, with an aim of aiding participants to analyse the situation in their countries with a view to share experiences and effective practices. The aim is to support an outcome of the Regional Consultation geared towards formulating concrete and practical recommendations on how to better respond to internal displacement that can inform the deliberations of the HLP. The set of guiding questions can also be considered as tools in preparation for a larger face to face meeting in Bangkok in 2021.

2. Guiding Questions for Consideration

Policy and planning

- Do you have laws and policies in your country that explicitly address (i.e. stand-alone laws and policies) or include provisions on addressing internal displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change? If yes, what contributed to the decision to articulate such a law or policy?
- How does your government coordinate work across ministries and relevant government entities and between central level and regional/local level in situations of disaster displacement? Are there specific coordination mechanisms permanently established or are they only activated in the times of disasters and displacement?
- Do you have lessons learned/best practices to share in the achievement of durable solutions, be it return, relocation or local integration? Have these been reflected in national or local development plans and processes?
- Are there any and if yes which are the types of coordination mechanism that exist in your country between your government and the international community in situations of large-scale disaster and emergencies that lead to displacement?

Preparedness measures

- Does your government regularly conduct disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, including evacuation drills, and trainings with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement? If so, what lessons were later applied in practice from these efforts?
- Does your government prepare for disasters and displacement with neighbouring countries or with regional or international organizations e.g. in joint simulation exercises? If so, what are some best practices from these efforts?

Data and Evidence on Disaster Impacts and Risks

- Does your country have national and standardized data on disaster displacement? If yes, who collects and analyzes the data?
- Do you have examples in your country of data on disaster displacement being used for the purpose of planning for and responding to disaster displacement (e.g. informing budget allocations to local authorities)?
- Do you have examples in your country of disaster displacement risk mapping and/or modelling of displacement risks in high-risk areas (e.g. in areas prone to flooding or at risk of Tsunamis)? If yes, do you have examples of this risk information being successfully used to inform disaster risk reduction or climate change adaptation planning, or to facilitate evacuation or planned relocation?

Financing

- Do you consider the allocation of resources to governmental authorities at all levels in your country sufficient for preparing, responding and finding solutions to disaster displacement? If any, where do you see the most important gaps?
- Do you know of examples of joint programming where humanitarian, climate change, disaster risk reduction and development financing have been combined to develop action to prevent, respond or find solutions to disaster displacement (e.g. including planned relocation)?
- Do you have examples in your country of forecast-based financing mechanisms being used to prepare for and respond to disaster displacement and based on early warning, have been used to trigger the release of funds for early action?