



# Planned relocation as an adaptation strategy

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DISASTERS  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND  
DISPLACEMENT  EVIDENCE  
FOR ACTION

## Cancun Adaptation Framework

- Cancun (COP 16), recognized the potential impact of climate change on the movement of people and invited Parties:
  - “to enhance action on adaptation by undertaking : measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation
  - with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration **and planned relocation**,
  - where appropriate, at national, regional and international levels.”



## Climate change and displacement

- More and more people live in regions and locations highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
- The latest IPCC report acknowledged that:



- “Climate change over the 21st century is projected to increase displacement of people
- Displacement risk increases when populations that **lack the resources for planned migration** experience higher exposure to extreme weather events
- in both rural and urban areas, particularly in developing countries with low income”

## Expert consultation on Planned Relocation

- UNHCR, Brookings Institution and Georgetown University's organized an expert consultation on Planned Relocation in Sanremo, Italy, from 12-14 March 2014
- Part of a multi-partner project co-funded by the European Union (EU)
- Objectives: enhance understanding and cooperation between important stakeholders; draw upon existing research and experience
- The consultation brought together 43 experts on a range of disciplines (adaptation, development, DRR, civil protection, environment and climate change, humanitarian assistance and human rights) from 21 countries, drawn from governments, international and non-governmental organizations and academia.

## What is Planned relocation ? Why is it adaptation?

- Physical movement and a process of resettlement (durable solution)
- A solutions-orientated measure that is planned in advance
- Most planned relocation is expected to occur within national borders
- Involving the State
- To protect populations with their consent and participation and prevent forced displacement
- When impacts of climate change make life unsustainable in particular areas declared as highly disaster prone or too dangerous for human habitation or when return to original habitats is precluded
- Planned relocation is already occurring in some parts of the world, sometimes affected populations are pressing authorities to assist them to relocate



## Who may be in need to be relocated?

- Those who lack resources to migrate may well be the most vulnerable and in need of relocation:



- from areas prone to sudden-onset events (e.g. tropical cyclone)
- because their livelihoods and settlements are threatened by the slow-onset effects of climate change (e.g. repetitive Droughts and floods )
- because their country or parts of their country face destruction from the effects of climate change (e.g. small island States facing sea level rise)
- due to mitigation and adaptation projects associated with climate change (e.g. dams for hydropower and water storage, biofuel and forest plantations)

## State responsibility to protect its citizens

- Planned relocation within the borders of a country is primarily the concern of individual States
- Under international law, States bear the primary to ensure the human rights of those within their territory or jurisdiction are respected
- This includes the obligation to take preventative as well as remedial actions to assist its population
- Planned relocation will largely be governed by domestic laws, implemented through national structures and pertain to a range of national frameworks including climate change adaptation and development





## How to plan for relocation in National Adaptation Plans ?



1. Planned relocation as a **last resort**
2. Creation of an **enabling environment** including capacity building and institutionalization and a whole-of-government approach
3. Mechanisms for determining when planned relocations should occur including appropriate **vulnerability and risk assessment activities**
4. Decision-making and **consent mechanisms**, participation of, and consultation with, affected and receiving individuals and communities
5. **Human rights**-based approach to planned relocation
6. **Sustainability** of planned relocation through adequate attention to site selection, livelihoods, integration (identity and culture), and host communities
7. Compensation
8. Monitoring and evaluation
9. Funding



**Thank you for your attention**

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