

Addressing displacement caused by disasters

Towards Climate Smart Policy Frameworks that leave no one
behind

Abuja, 15 November 2019



**Climate
change &
human
mobility**



**Policy
initiatives**



**DLP Focus
themes**

Megatrends affecting human mobility

Climate
change

Urbanisation

Demographic
change

Technological
innovation

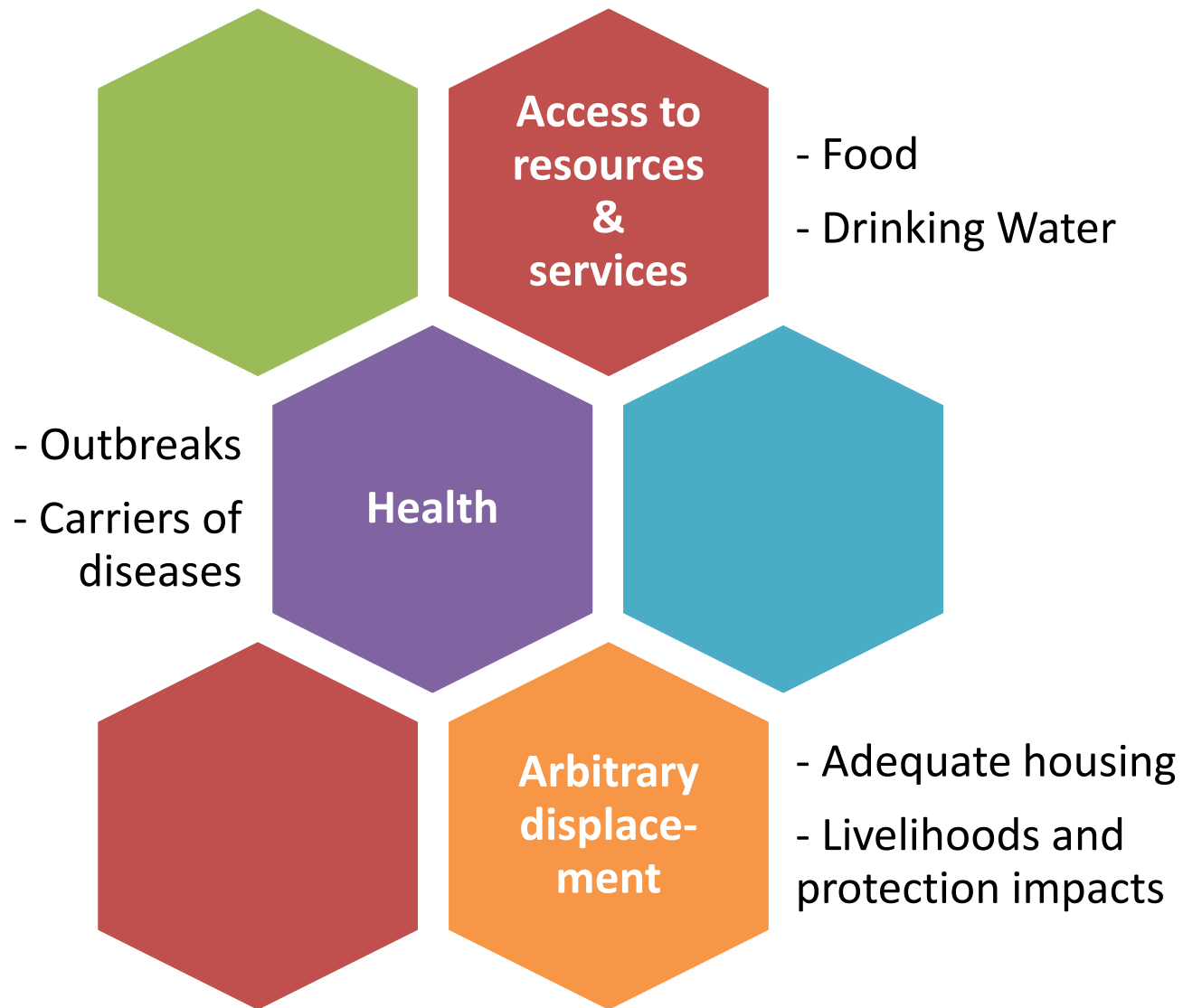
Climate change and human mobility

- 4 main climate-related variables impacting human mobility:
 - Weather-related disasters
 - Global warming
 - Rising sea levels
 - Competition over shrinking resources
- Context-specific impact:
 - Short-term displacement or migration
 - Longer-term displacement or migration
 - Being unable to move (trapped populations – often the most vulnerable)
- In the face of these challenges, mobility is not just part of the problem. It is also a solution – an effective **adaptation strategy**
- “The greatest single impact of climate change could be on human migration—with millions of people displaced by shoreline erosion, coastal flooding and agricultural disruption” (IPCC 1990)

The magnitude of the phenomenon

- **Difficult to estimate** due to methodological problems (definitions, disaggregation of data, estimating slow-onset processes, etc.)
- Forecasts range from **25 million to 1 billion** “environmental migrants” by 2050 (IOM)
- 165.9 million people newly displaced in 2008-2013. 90% for climate and weather disasters (IDMC)
- Populations in least developed countries will be most affected due to lower adaptation capacities and **pre-existing vulnerabilities**
- Most climate-related mobility will remain within the **local-national level** (nearest safe destination, rural-urban movements, etc.)
- **Cross-border** movements are less frequent, but have the most human rights impacts due to **legal protection gaps** (OHCHR)
- Legal void could force “environmental migrants” into **irregularity**

Interrelated humanitarian consequences



Climate-related mobility in the Sahel (1/2)

- A context characterised by:
 - **Long history of inter-regional movements** (seasonal migration, pastoralism...)
 - Recent **conflict dynamics** (lake Chad, northern Mali)
 - Acute **vulnerability** and chronic food shortages
- **Temperature rise between 0.5 to over 1°C since 1970.** More than the world average
- Higher frequency of **extreme storms** correlated to rising land temperatures
- **Flooding** related to shifting seasonal rainfall
- Severe recurring **draughts**, no consensus on the cause
- 65 per cent of cultivable land is **degraded** in Western Sahel. In Niger, nearly 95 per cent of the productive land is dry land

Climate-related mobility in the Sahel (2/2)

- A response to **long-term drought and desertification**
- Young people sent away during droughts to earn money
- Migration that begins internally may later extend to neighbouring and more distant countries
- The economic factor is the mechanism through which environmental damage influences migration –
“environmentally induced economic migration”
- **Cycle of environmental degradation** leading to further movement: areas that once served as destinations have become sources of out-migration
- Permanent **southward migration** replacing seasonal migration
- Interaction between **climate change, resource competition, conflict and migration** (Lake Chad Basin)



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Recent global policy developments

- Growing recognition of the climate-displacement link
- 2010 **Cancun Adaptation Framework**, inviting all Parties to undertake “*measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels*”
- 2016 **Paris Agreement** by UNFCCC State Parties: call to ‘respect, promote and consider’ the human rights of migrants when taking measures to address climate change
- 2012 **Nansen Initiative**, resulting in the “Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change”. Follow up: **Platform on Disaster Displacement**

In 2018...

Global Compact on Migration

- Objective 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
- Natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation

Global Compact on Refugees

- *“Climate, environmental degradation and natural disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements”*

UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement

- Recommendations for integrated approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change

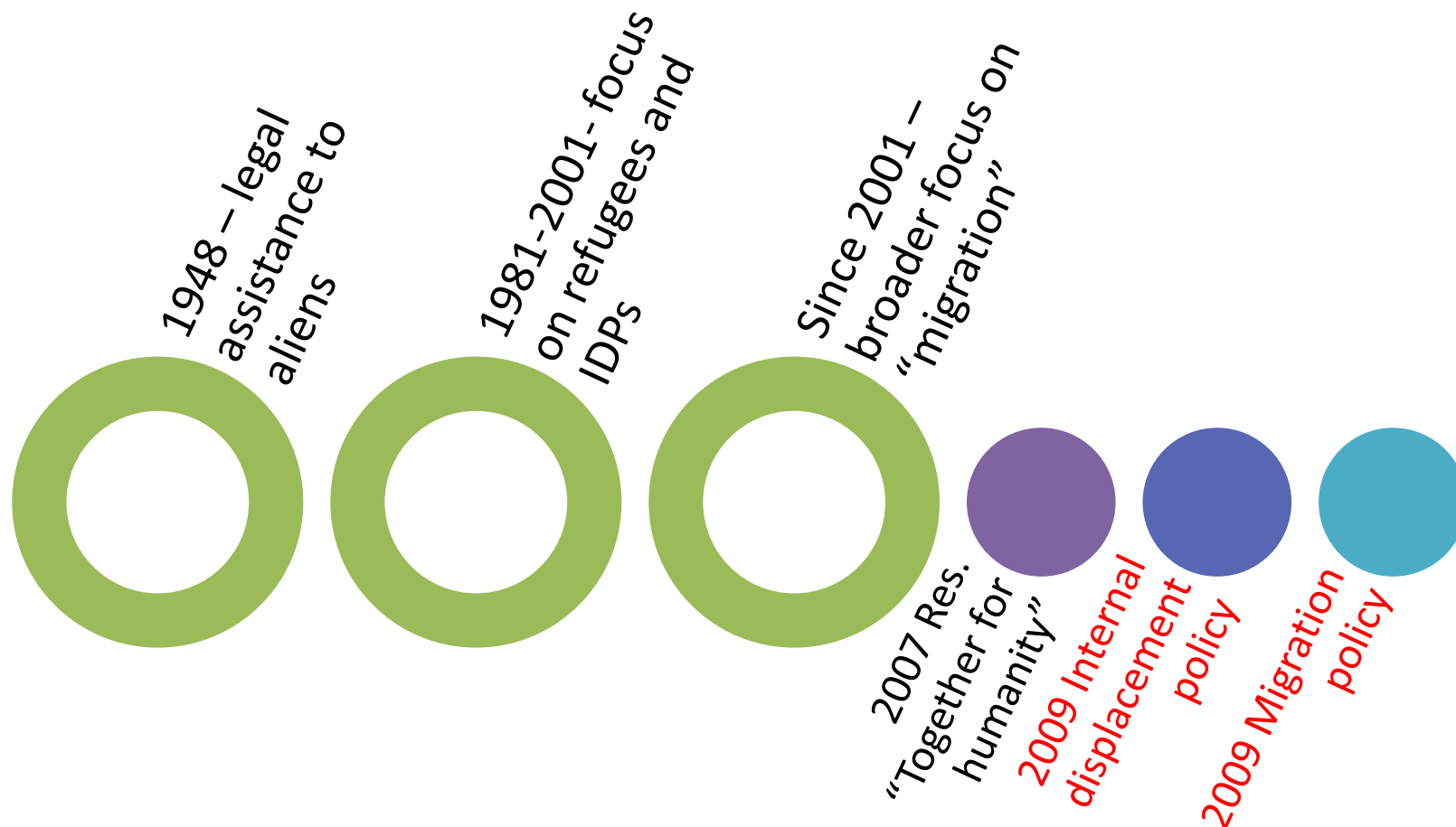
Africa focus: Kampala Convention

- IDPs defined as *“persons ... who have been forced or obliged to flee ... as a result of ... armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or **natural or human-made disasters**, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”* (= Guiding Principles)
- Obligation of Member States to devise **early warning systems** and implement **disaster risk reduction strategies**
- *“States Parties shall take measures to protect and assist persons who have been internally displaced due to natural or human made disasters, **including climate change**”*
- States’ **liability** for reparations for failure to protect and assist disaster-related IDPs

Africa focus: ECOWAS treaties

- Could the regional framework support cross-border movements as a temporary adaptation strategy?
- Role of ECOWAS as a platform for regional cooperation on human mobility in the context of climate change
- Example of facilitating pastoralist mobility to adapt to environmental stress, exception to 90-day rule (re: International Transhumance Certificate)
- Where do we stand?
 - Limited specific obligations to assist climate-displaced persons in the 2012 ECOWAS Common Humanitarian Policy (displacement tracking in the 2018-22 Plan of Action)
 - “Portability” of social rights within the region is a challenge
 - Administrative steps to gain access to the labour market and health-care system are often complex

The RCRC: a long-term engagement towards displaced persons (*Resolutions of the International Conference and the Council of Delegates*)

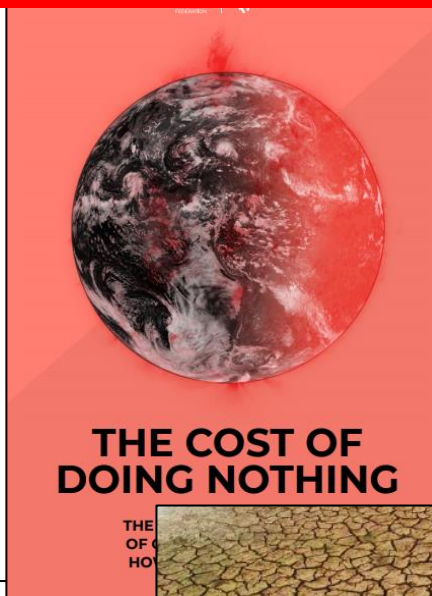


RCRC – some initiatives and tools



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Framework for Climate Action
Towards 2020



Disasters and Displacement
in a Changing Climate:

The Role of Asia Pacific
Societies



Climate
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2.3m people in Zambia face severe food insecurity – country could see 'potentially catastrophic' above-average warming by century's end

Red Cross Red Crescent
CLIMATE CENTRE

The Climate Centre supports the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its partners in reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people.

How to help



18/10/2019 - 'Inextricable link between hunger and climate' highlighted in 2019 Global Hunger Index #news



14/10/2019 - Redouble efforts for climate resilience and risk reduction, says UN chief, as Super Typhoon Hagibis lays waste to parts of Japan

Red Cross/Red Crescent
Climate Guide



ADD YOUR FEEDBACK TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BECOME A VOLUNTEER



Climate
Training



Power of humanity

Council of Delegates of the International
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
8 December 2019, Geneva



COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Geneva, Switzerland
8 December 2019

Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on
Internal Displacement: Ten years on

DRAFT ZERO RESOLUTION

Document prepared jointly by
the International Committee of the Red Cross and
the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Geneva, July 2019





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IFRC Disaster Law Programme (DLP)

- The Programme seeks to **reduce human vulnerability by promoting effective legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction and legal preparedness for disasters**
- 3 main areas:
 - Collaboration with National Societies
 - Capacity building of National Societies and Stakeholders
 - Dissemination/advocacy/research
- The DLP has produced:
 - A **Synthesis Report** (literature review and desktop reviews). The report includes displacement-related issues such as **planned relocations** and **disaster displacements**
 - A **Checklist** on disaster preparedness and response (DPR)

Planned relocations – overview

- ‘A planned process in which persons or groups of person *move or are assisted to move* away from their homes or places of temporary residence, are *settled in a new location*, and *provided with the conditions for rebuilding their lives*’
- **Preventive or responsive** relocations
- Usually a **challenging process** due to:
 - Lack of community engagement
 - Selection of inappropriate sites
 - Underbudgeting leading to poor services and lack of opportunities in the new site
- **Sendai Framework:**
 - Relocation as a method of managing disaster risk
 - States to develop policies on relocation in disaster risk-prone zones

Planned relocations – IFRC review and recommendations

- Of 20 Sample Countries, only five have any form of law or policy on planned relocation. Notable exception – Brazil
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Principle of last resort.** After other risk reduction and/or adaptation options have been considered and exhausted
 - **Accountability.** Comply with national legislation and international law. Recognise the right to challenge a planned relocation before a court
 - **Minimum standards.** Enable relocated persons to improve, or at least restore, their living standards. Provide safe shelter, suitable livelihoods, transportation, basic infrastructure and basic services
 - **Other affected persons.** Enable host populations to maintain their pre-existing living standards, or to attain the same living standard as relocated persons
 - **Participatory approach.** Inform and consult all concerned persons

Disaster displacement – overview and recap

- *‘Situations where people are forced to or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of a disaster or in order to avoid the impact of an immediate and foreseeable natural hazard’*
- Approximately **26 million people** are newly displaced every year as a result of sudden-onset disasters – mostly internally, some cross-border
- **2018: 315 disaster events, 11,804 recorded deaths and US\$131,7 billion economic damages**
- Recall: there are **legal gaps** in the protection of cross-border disaster-displaced persons (limit of Refugee instruments)

Disaster displacement – IFRC recommendations

- **Managing disaster displacement risk**
 - Identify those at risk
 - Build adaptive capacities
 - Prioritise infrastructure improvements
 - Developing law and policy on sustainable planned relocations as last resort
- **Protecting cross-border disaster displaced persons**
 - Develop legal identification criteria
 - Ensure admission, respect of rights and assistance
 - No repatriations to disaster-affected countries if conditions are prohibitive
 - Develop return criteria consistently with IHRL
 - Grant avenues for renewed or permanent residency
- **Protecting IDPs**
 - Ensure that relevant laws and policies include disaster-displaced persons
 - Address IDP protection in contingency plans
 - Strengthen institutional capacities

The DRP checklist and displacement

Do your country's laws establish a comprehensive framework for addressing disaster displacement and planned relocation?

Which aspects would you need to consider in order to answer this questions?



THANK YOU!