



2026 RESILIENCE LEARNING MONTH

KNOWLEDGE SHARING
AND LEARNING EVENTS
23 APRIL–7 MAY 2026

Exploring the Pacific's Approach to Planned Relocation in the Context of Climate Change and Disasters

7 May 2026 | 2:00–3:00 p.m. (Manila)

Virtual via Teams [MEETING ID: 468 844 269 850 80](#) | [PASSCODE: qM9L9rF9](#)

Pacific Island countries have been working together for over a decade to better understand and plan for climate mobility. Pacific Leaders endorsed the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility (PRFCM) in 2023, with an Implementation Plan approved in March 2026. The PRFCM recognizes the right of all Pacific peoples to stay in their homes, while promoting rights-based and people-centered approaches that considers not only planned relocation but also other forms of climate (im)mobility, including displacement, migration, stranded migrants and staying in place. This session will share the Pacific's regional approach and explore the potential role of development partners and ADB in its implementation.



SPEAKERS



CHRISTELLE CAZABAT
Senior Researcher



NACANIELI SPEIGHTH
Desk Officer (SIDS),
Santiago Network



MODERATOR

STEVEN GOLDFINCH
Senior Disaster Risk
Management Specialist, CCDR



ERIN FELTON
Senior Operations
Coordination Specialist
(Fragile Situations), CCFE



RAHUL TIKARAM
Senior Climate Change
Officer, SPSO



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ADB

MODERATOR

Steven Goldfinch

Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist
CCSD-CCDR



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Planned relocation is emerging as a development challenge; development finance—and MDBs—are not ready

- Planned relocation of highly climate-vulnerable communities is happening – largely ad hoc and small-scale.
- Public policy on planned relocation is being put in place at the national level.
- Countries are increasingly recognizing planned relocation in the NAPs (49 in 2023), albeit often without actions.
- The case for MDB engagement is clear - planned relocations are complex and costly. Governments will need assistance in planning, implementing, and funding. MDBs can offer their resources in three principal areas: (i) technical assistance, (ii) safeguards, and (iii) finance.
- Climate finance (FRLD, GCF, AF et al.) remains largely untapped.
- MDBs need to present a clear ‘offer’ to countries. There’s an opportunity for a coordinated approach to address the barriers.

Figure 1: First movers – countries with public policy on planned relocation

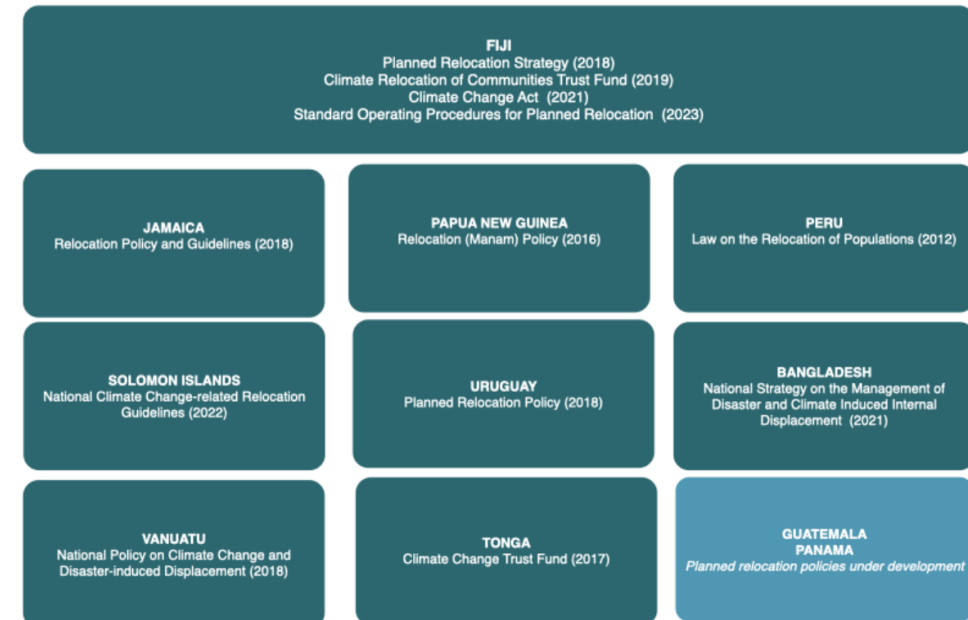
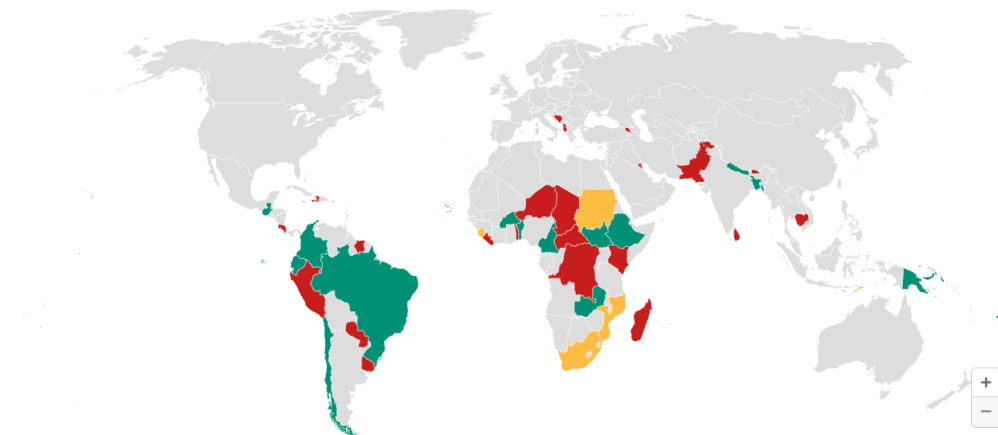


Figure 2: Do National Adaptation Plans mention planned relocation?

Do NAPs mention planned relocation?

With concrete policies Without concrete policies Not mentioned



Click on countries for more details and links to NAPs.
Map: Center for Global Development • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper



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SPEAKER

Christelle Cazabat, PhD

Senior Researcher

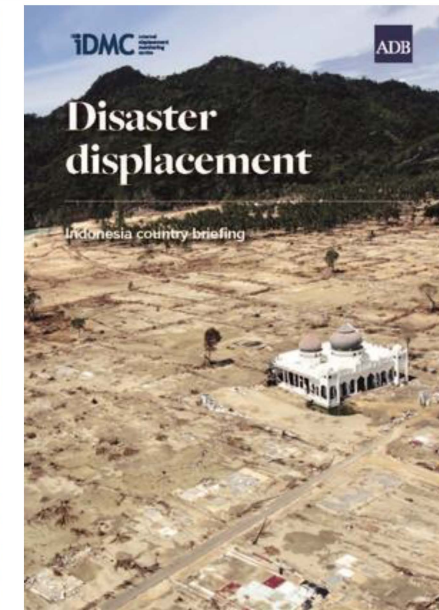
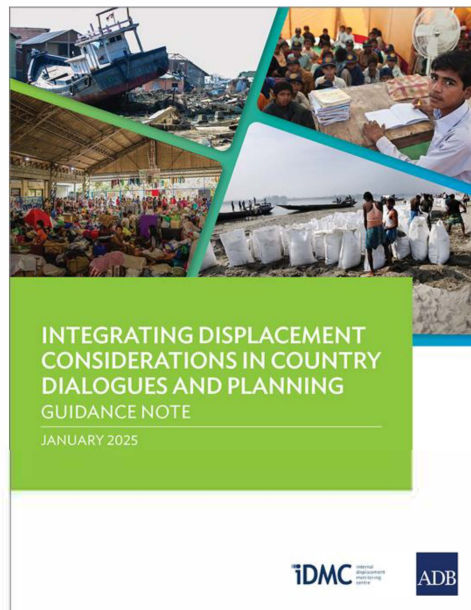
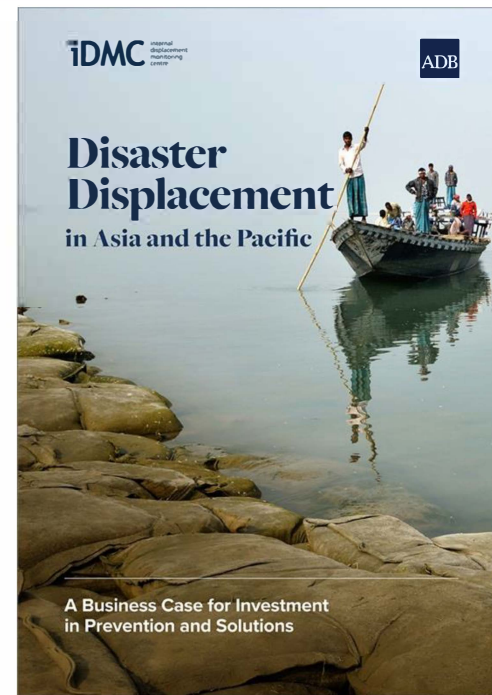
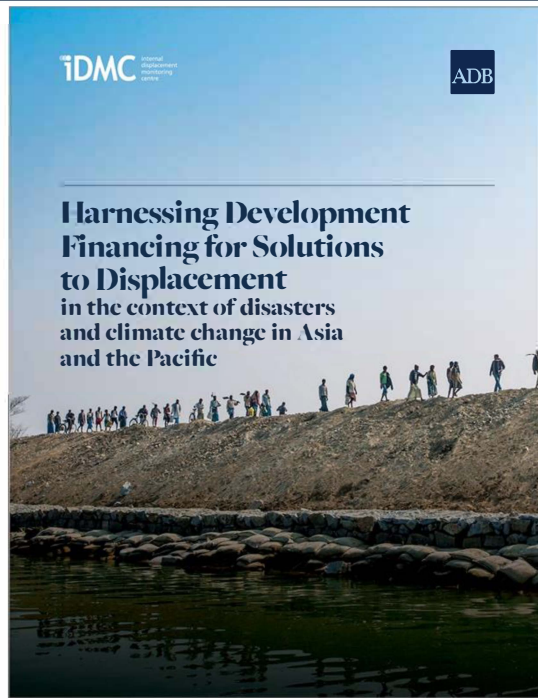


A business case for investment in planned relocation and displacement in the context of disasters and climate change

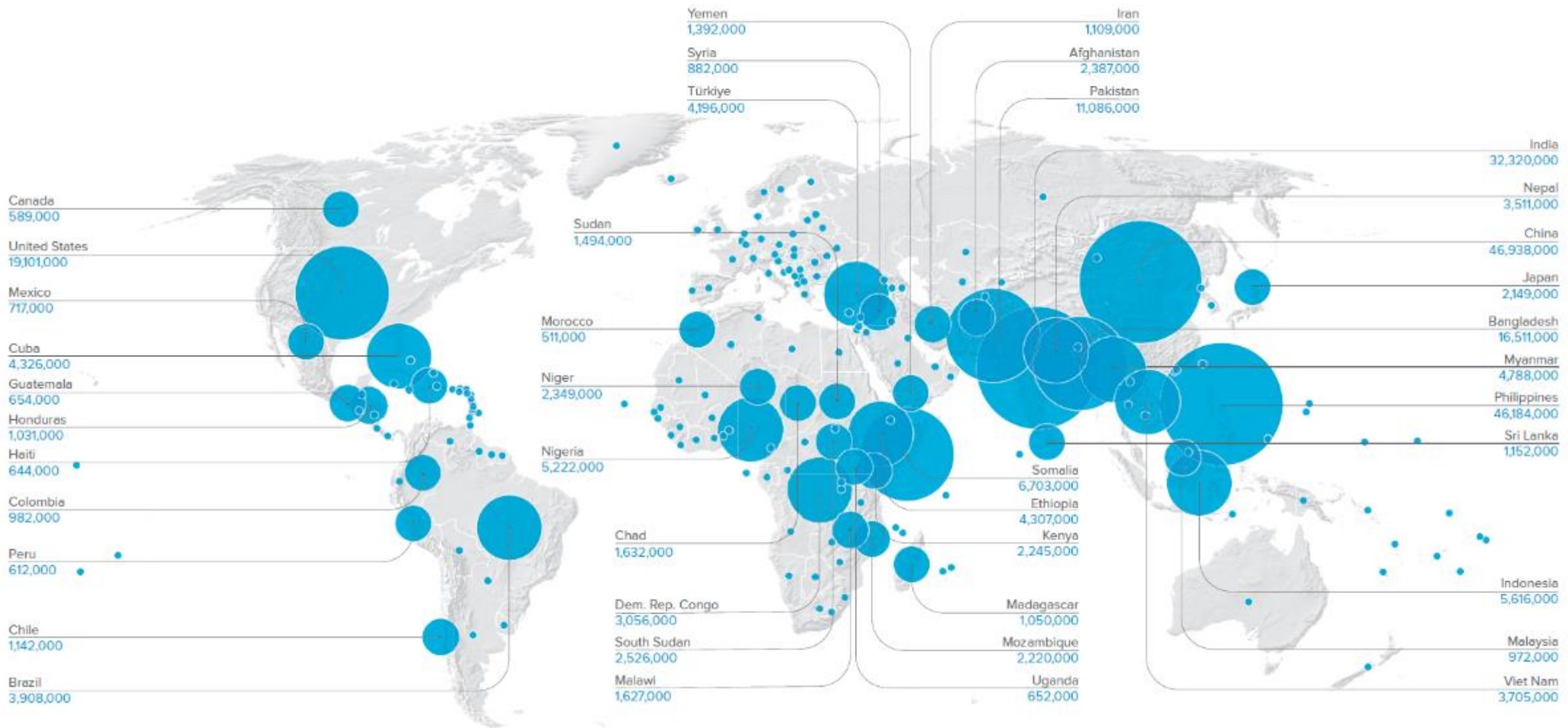
Christelle Cazabat (PhD)

7 May 2026





About 180 million disaster displacements were reported in Asia and the Pacific over the past decade - 75% of the global total



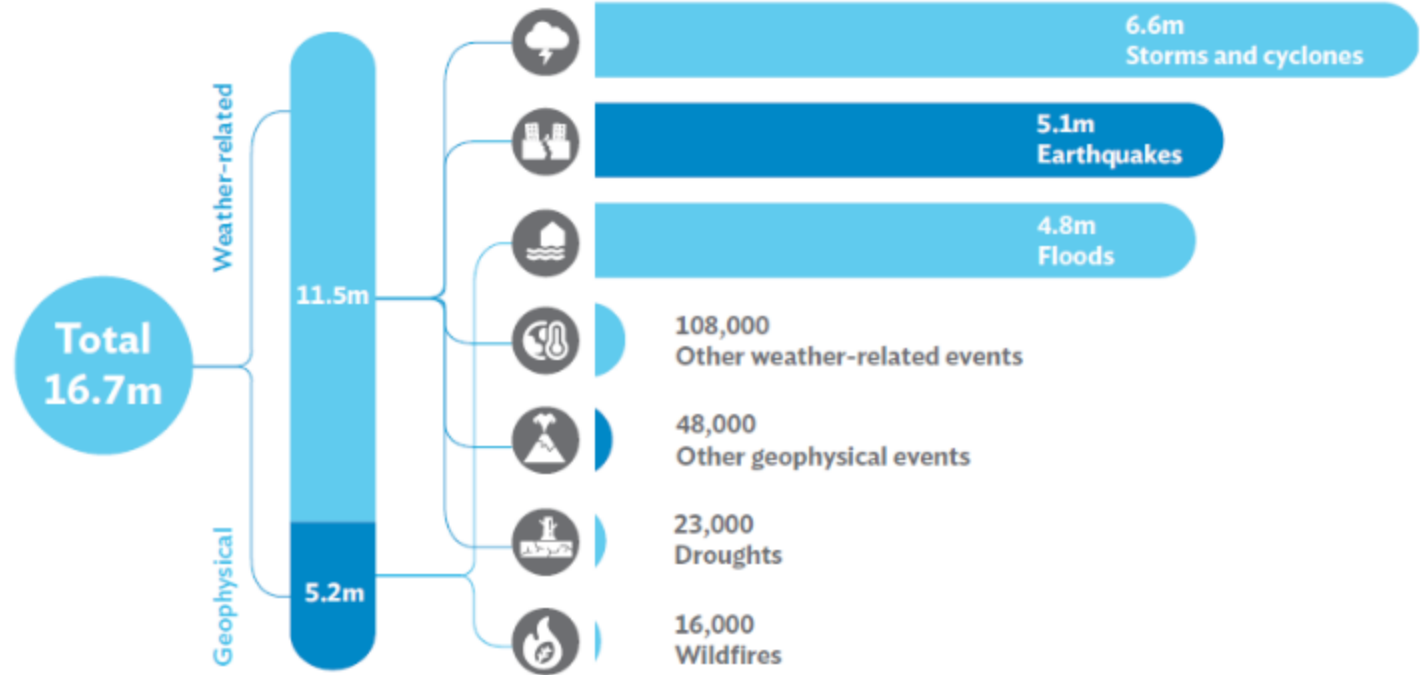
Main drivers of disaster displacement in the region

Weather-related hazards (monsoon rains, floods, storms, tropical cyclones...) are responsible for **92%** of all disaster displacements over the past decade.

Geophysical events (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions) have triggered an additional **13.6 million** displacements.

At the end of 2023, IDMC estimated that **5 million** people were living in a situation of internal displacement resulting from disasters across the region.

Figure 5: Breakdown of Disaster Displacements by Hazard Type for 2023 in Asia and the Pacific



Climate change is expected to increase the risk of disaster displacement significantly

Across the globe, the effects of climate change could **double the risk** of displacement linked with riverine and coastal floods, drought and cyclonic winds by 2100 under the optimistic climate scenario (+ 1°C) and more than **triple under the pessimistic scenario** (+5°C).

This would lead to an average of more than **65 million** and **100 million** protracted displacements respectively, in any given year.

Asia and the Pacific would be **one of the most affected regions**, if no action is taken to reduce this risk.

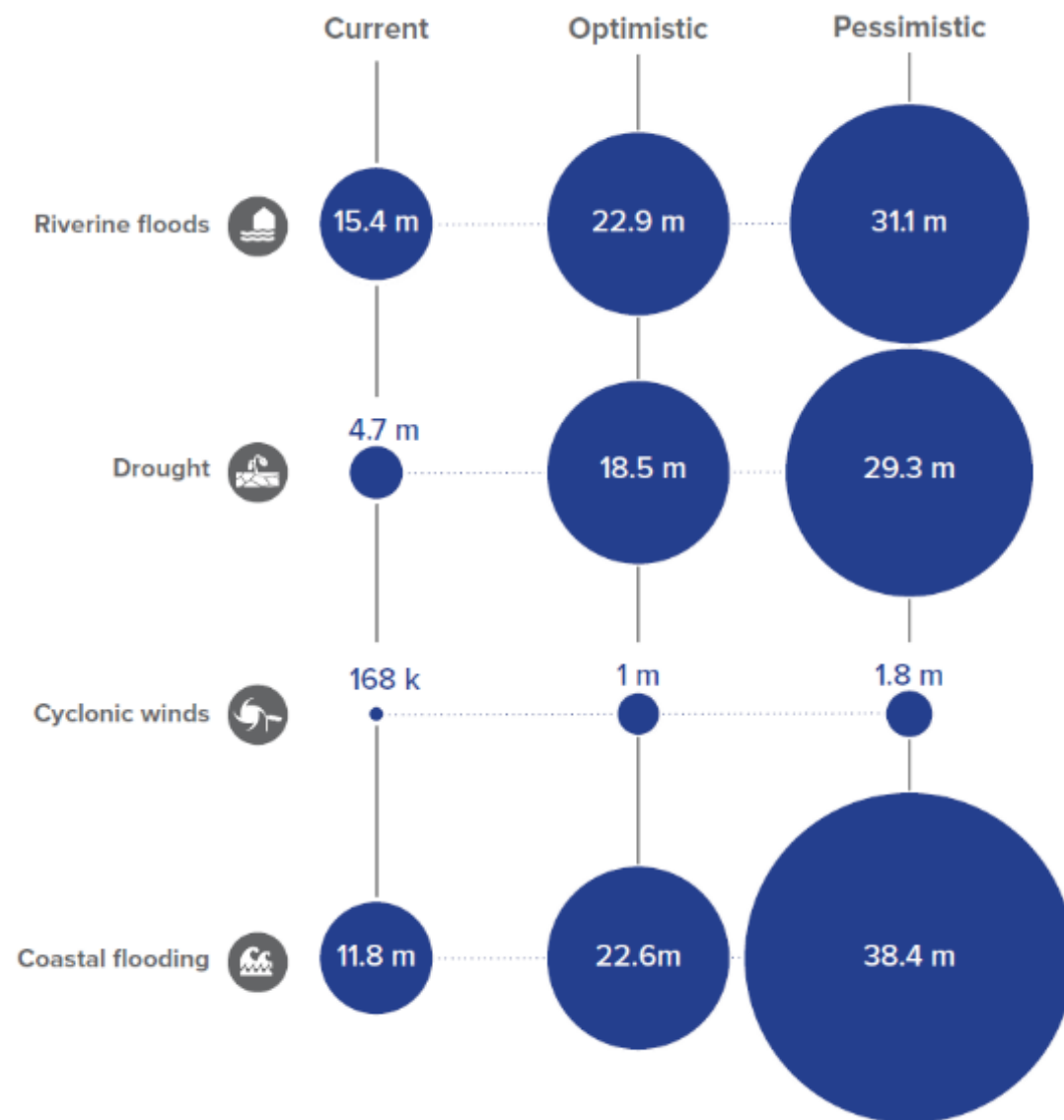
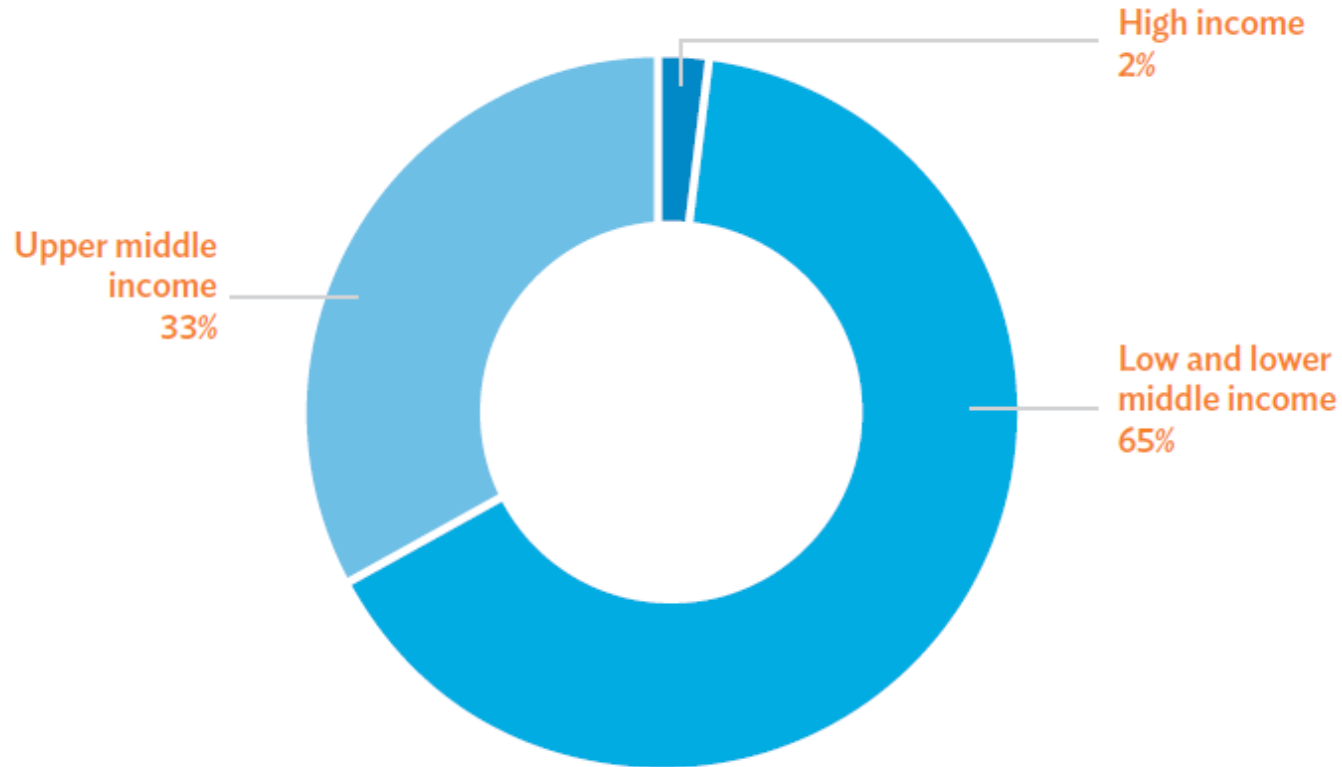


Figure 1: Disaster Displacements in Asia and the Pacific by Income Category, 2014–2023



Note:

High income: American Samoa; Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Guam; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Republic of Korea; Macau, China; Northern Mariana Islands; New Caledonia; New Zealand; French Polynesia. **Upper middle income:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Malaysia, Palau, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Tonga, Türkiye, Tuvalu. **Lower middle income:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, Federated States of Micronesia, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Vanuatu, Samoa. **Low income:** Afghanistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

ADB DMCs are disproportionately impacted

ADB's **developing member economies** accounted for **95%** of the regional total over the past decade.

Low and lower middle-income countries represent **two thirds** of the disaster displacements recorded in the region over the past decade,

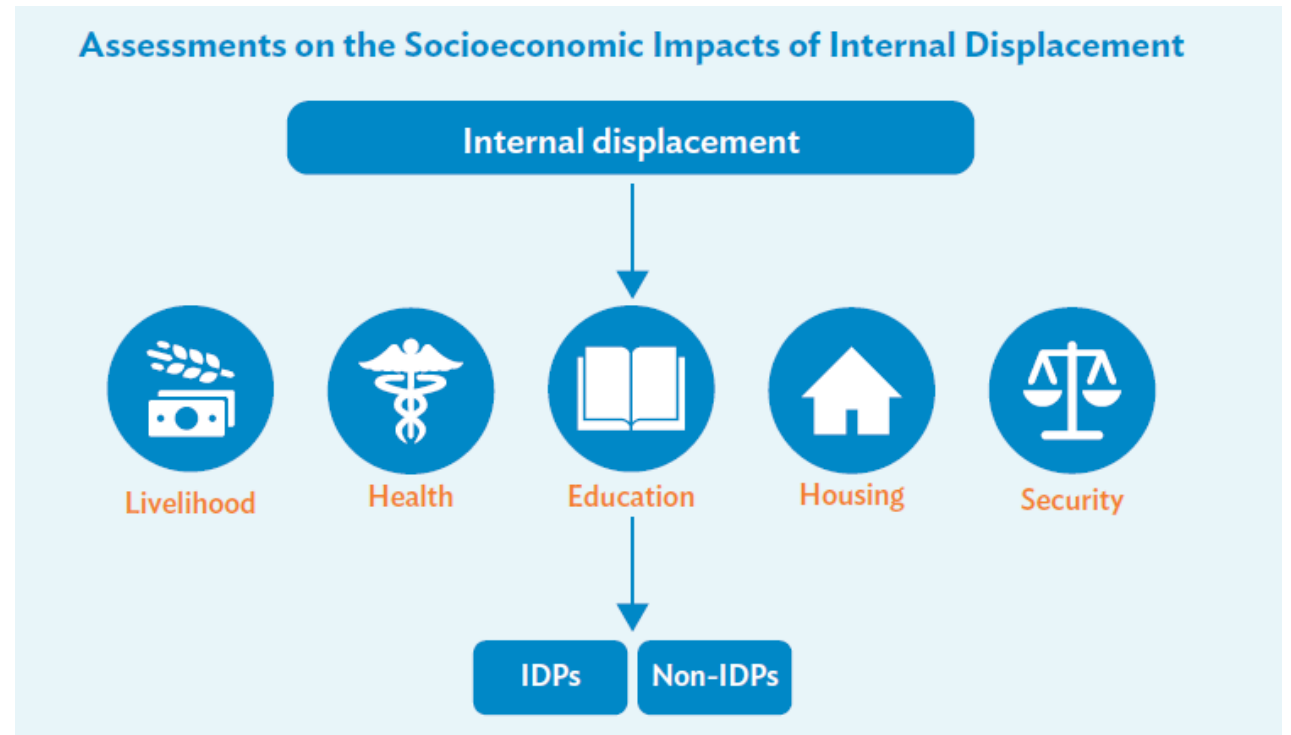
High income countries represent only 2%.

Displacement affects development and hinders progress towards the SDGs

Displacement often leads to a deterioration in affected people's livelihoods, housing conditions, security, health and access to education.

Large-scale, protracted and/or repeated displacement can have **significant impacts on countries' economies** and ability to achieve development goals.

With 9.5 million people, on average, likely to be displaced by disasters in Asia and the Pacific in any given year in the future, and an average daily GDP per capita of \$29 across the region, the **potential loss** would already amount to **\$275.5 million** if every one of them is unable to work a single day.



Case study: flood-related displacement in Jakarta, Indonesia

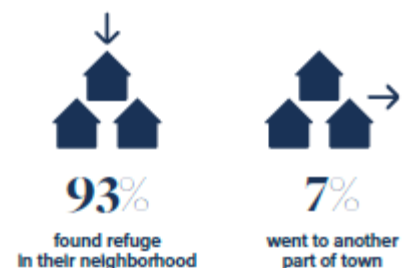


Damage from the Asian Tsunami of 26 December 2004, one of Asia's worst disasters. © Asian Development Bank

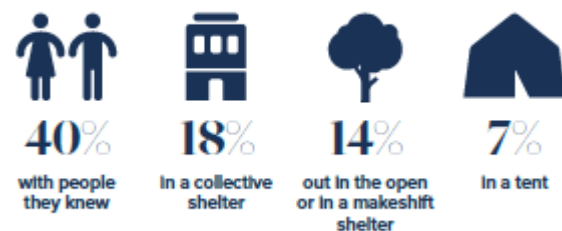
Displacement is often repeated



Displaced people stay nearby:



Displaced people found refuge...



Displacement is usually short-termed



Internally displaced persons' loss of income is significant:



Although most of the recorded displacements were short-termed and people stayed nearby, with access to free temporary housing,

impacts on their income and loss of livelihoods were significant, as were the costs associated with repairing, cleaning or rebuilding their homes.

Around 25% of the respondents said they had to spend on average one month of their habitual income to repair their home before they could return.

ADB's role in preventing and resolving displacement in the context of disasters and climate change

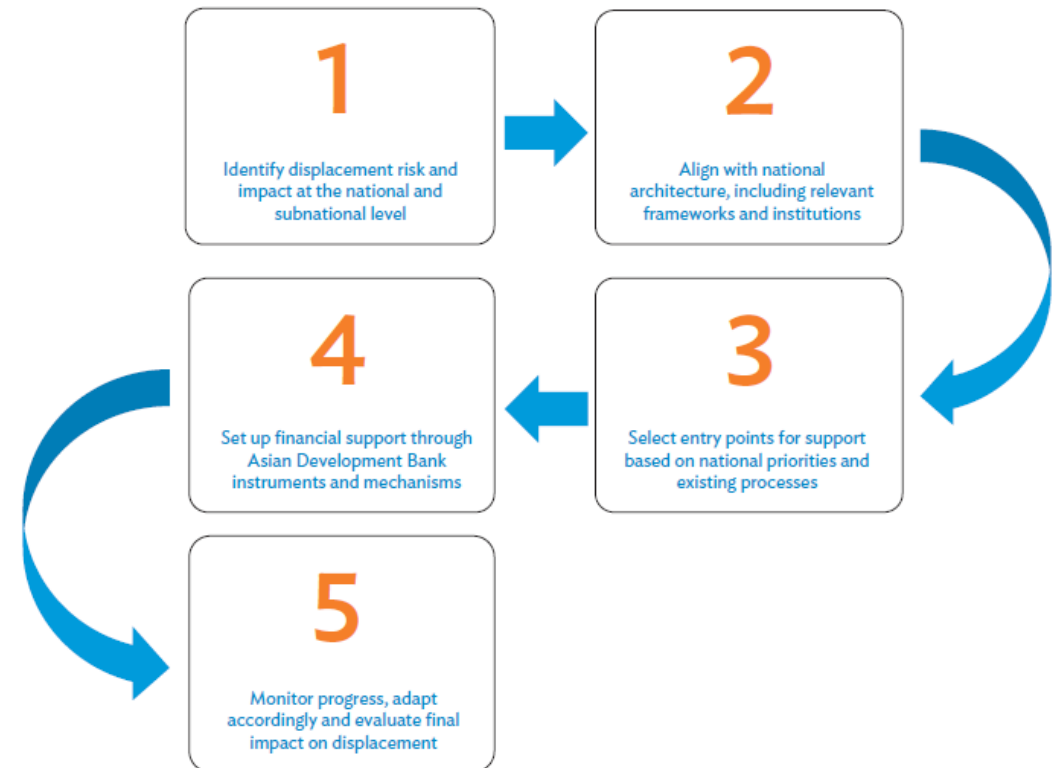
MDBs are instrumental in addressing the root causes of displacement, including low levels of socioeconomic development and disaster risk.

They have also, on occasion provided support to displaced or host communities in addressing the negative consequences of displacement or supporting durable solutions.

But measures aimed at addressing displacement and planned relocations in the context of disasters and climate change remain rare and the integration of these increasingly important issues far from systematic in country dialogues and processes.

Step-by-Step Process for Including Internal Displacement in Country Dialogues and Processes: Guiding Questions

Figure A.1: Step-by-Step Process for Including Internal Displacement in Country Dialogues and Processes





Thank you for your attention!



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SPEAKER

Erin Felton

Senior Operations Coordination Specialist
CCSD-CCFE



Relevance to ADB's fragile and conflict affected situations, and small island developing states

- Planned relocation is part of the **climate mobility** agenda which supports people to stay in place, or to engage **orderly, safe, and dignified movement**.
- It is a means to respond to fragility and **prevent displacement**.
- **Sea level rise and natural hazards** are already affecting communities in many countries that have seen populations move.
- Some communities are being displaced multiple times already – the poor are most **vulnerable**.
- Considerations of **social cohesion** and 'do no harm' in regards to conflict (including non-violent conflict) and **cultural loss** – particularly in societies closely tied to their land.

Why ADB?

Where there is government demand, ADB can offer:

- Large scale and long(er) term financing
- Experience in social and environmental safeguards, including large scale resettlement
- Policy development (ESF, financing, planning, etc.)
- Support to data and evidence – where communities are most at risk, economic and non-economic loss

But, no easy solutions:

- Who should pay? Compensation. Climate justice. Political risk.

Realities are:

- Pacific DMCs as a region are moving ahead
- Adaptation solutions have a lifespan – what then?



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SPEAKER

Nacanieli Speigth

Desk Officer for Small Island Developing States
Santiago Network





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DISCUSSANT

Rahul Tikaram

Senior Climate Change Officer
PARD-SPSO





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