
Countdown to 2030



Achieving global targets on disaster displacement

Acknowledgements

This report builds on IDMC’s monitoring, researching and reporting of internal displacement linked to disasters across the globe over the past decade.

It would not have been possible without the generous contribution of the following funding partners: the Asian Development Bank, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the European Union, the German Federal Foreign Office and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Liechtenstein Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the US Agency for International Development.

We would also like to thank Sarah Koeltzow and Atle Solberg at the Platform on Disaster Displacement for their expert advice, input and peer review.

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<https://doi.org/10.55363/IDMC.BYHP3738>

To reference this report in your work, please use the following citation:

IDMC, Countdown to 2030: Achieving global targets on disaster displacement, June 2025. <https://doi.org/10.55363/IDMC.BYHP3738>

Key definitions and metrics

Disaster: “A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.”¹

Disaster displacement: “Situations where people are forced 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. Such displacement results from the fact that affected persons are (i) exposed to (ii) a natural hazard in a situation where (iii) they are too vulnerable and lack the resilience to withstand the impacts of that hazard. It is the effects of natural hazards, including the adverse impacts of climate change, that may overwhelm the resilience or adaptive capacity of an affected community or society, thus leading to a disaster that potentially results in displacement. Disaster displacement may take the form of spontaneous flight, an evacuation ordered or enforced by authorities or an involuntary planned relocation process. Such displacement can occur within a country (internal displacement), or across international borders (cross-border disaster displacement).”² This report only covers internal disaster displacements.

Internally displaced people: Internally displaced people (IDPs) are “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border”.³ This report only covers people internally displaced as a result of disasters.

Number of internally displaced people (IDPs): A snapshot of the total number of people living in internal displacement at a specific point in time in a specific location. Such figures cover people uprooted during a given year who have been unable to return home or achieve another solution to their displacement, plus people still displaced having fled in previous years. The figures in this report are as of the end of 2024, the latest data available at the time of publication, and only for people living in displacement as a result of disasters.

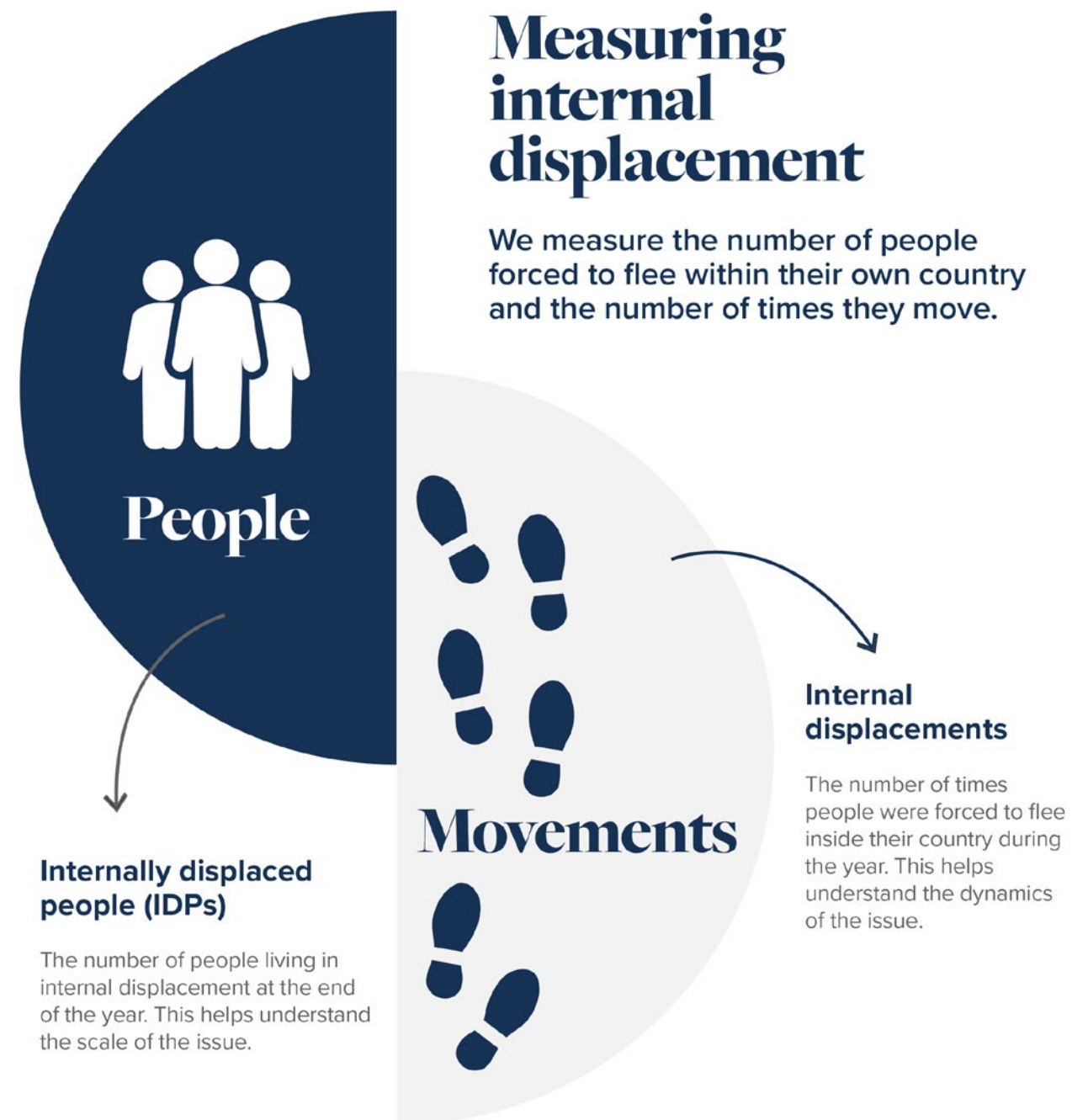
Number of internal displacements: An internal displacement refers to each new forced movement of a person within the borders of the country of their habitual residence. The same person may be displaced several times during a given year before achieving a solution to their displacement. IDMC counts each time a person is forced to move as an internal displacement, which means the number of internal displacements does not equal the number of people displaced. The resulting figures illustrate the displacement dynamics of specific crises. This report only considers displacements triggered by disasters, also referred to as disaster displacements. Pre-emptive evacuations are also counted under this metric.

Hazard: “A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards may be natural, anthropogenic or socionatural in origin. Hazards may be single, sequential or combined in their origin and effects. Each hazard is characterized by its location, intensity or magnitude, frequency and probability.”⁴ Hazards can be sudden-onset events such as earthquakes or storms, or slow-onset phenomena such as drought and sea-level rise.

Response: “Actions taken directly before, during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.”⁵

Disaster risk reduction: “Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development. Disaster risk reduction is the policy objective of disaster risk management, and its goals and objectives are defined in disaster risk reduction strategies and plans.”⁶

Evacuations: A form of disaster displacement defined as: “Moving people and assets temporarily to safer places before, during or after the occurrence of a hazardous event in order to protect them.”⁷ “Evacuation is the rapid movement of people away from the immediate threat or impact of a disaster to a safer place of shelter. It is commonly characterized by a short time frame, from hours to weeks, within which emergency procedures need to be enacted in order to save lives and minimize exposure to harm. Evacuations may be mandatory, advised or spontaneous.”⁸



Planned relocation: May or may not be a form of disaster displacement, depending on whether the movement was voluntary. It is “a planned process in which persons or groups of persons 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. Planned Relocation is carried out under the authority of the State, takes place within national borders, and is undertaken to protect people from risks and impacts related to disasters and environmental change, including the effects of climate change. Such Planned Relocation may be carried out at the individual, household, and/or community levels”.⁹

Climate change: “Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun’s activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.”¹⁰

Executive summary

Disasters triggered 264.8 million internal displacements – or forced movements – across 210 countries and territories between 2015 and 2024. The number of movements recorded has increased since 2015, the result in part of more frequent and intense hazards but also improved data availability at the national level and better monitoring capacity at the global level.

Many of the displacements were pre-emptive evacuations, testimony to the efforts of governments and local communities in disaster-prone countries to save lives and prevent injuries. Millions of people, however, remain displaced for months or years after fleeing major storms, floods and other natural hazards.

The evidence presented in this report shows that disaster displacement affects the most vulnerable more severely. They are often forced to flee repeatedly and

for longer periods of time, which heightens their pre-existing vulnerabilities and reinforces social inequalities. This in turn has ripple effects and longer-term repercussions for housing, livelihoods, health, education, security and social life, jeopardising the socioeconomic development of communities and countries as a whole.

Left unaddressed, disaster displacement will be a major obstacle to the achievement of global goals such as those set by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reducing the risk of it occurring is both a humanitarian and development challenge and needs to be a policy priority. Investing in preventative measures and preparedness is the most efficient solution, and recent improvements in knowledge and risk modelling provide a stronger evidence base for informed action.

The latest iteration of IDMC's global disaster displacement risk model suggests that under current climate conditions an annual average of 32 million people worldwide are likely to be displaced by riverine and coastal floods, drought and cyclonic winds in any given future year. That risk increases by 100 per cent under a +1.5C climate change scenario and 210 per cent under a +5C scenario.

As global temperatures rise and the number of people exposed to hazards grows, it is ever more imperative to take action to reduce displacement risk.

Strengthening the evidence base on disaster displacement is essential to identify needs, impacts, which action to take and how to mobilise adequate resources, and to measure the effectiveness of such efforts. Significant improvements have been made in data collection and analysis, but major gaps remain.

Displacements triggered by slow-onset disasters and small-scale events are under-reported, and data on the duration and end of displacement, its patterns and locations, and the social and demographic characteristics and needs of those displaced is often lacking. Such information is a prerequisite for effective action.

As global temperatures rise and the number of people exposed to hazards grows, it is ever more imperative to take action to reduce displacement risk.

Policy frameworks that integrate displacement considerations are also essential to ensure a whole-of-government approach and the efficient use of public resources. Here too, progress has been made in many countries and regions. Recognition of the needs of people displaced and their host communities has increased in disas-

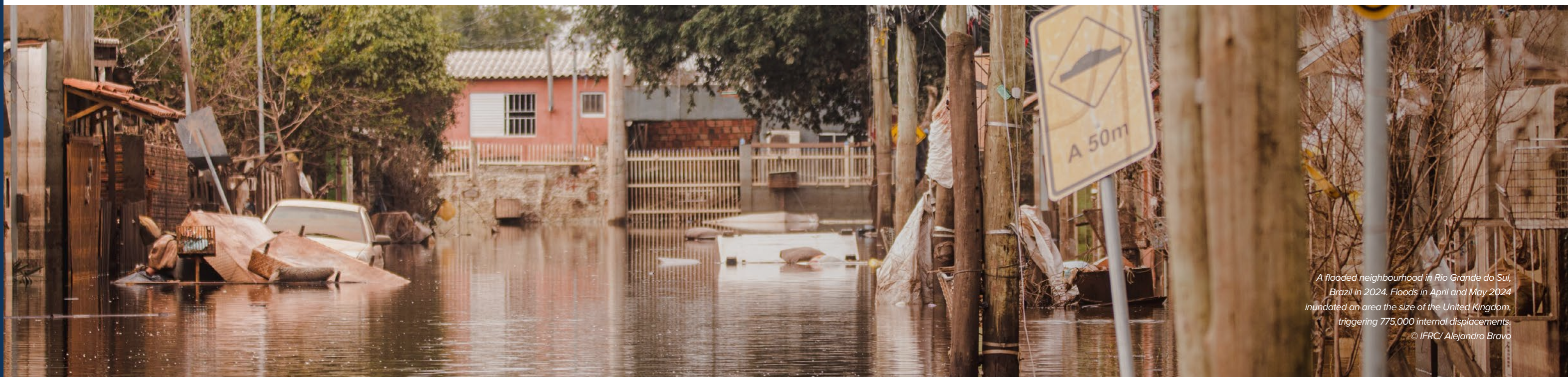
ter risk reduction strategies, plans and related instruments. National adaptation and development plans also constitute entry points to integrate disaster displacement as a national priority.

Policies and plans are only the beginning though. They will not achieve results without enough investment. Responsibility for supporting affected people and reducing the risk of future disaster displacement lies with national governments, and many have taken concrete measures and invested public funds to do so. Many, however, do not have the necessary resources to succeed on their own.

More than 60 per cent of disaster displacements in 2024 were recorded in low and lower-middle income countries and territories. More striking still, 88 per cent of the people living in displacement as a result of disasters at the end of the year were in low or lower-mid-

dle income countries or territories that were also hosting people displaced by conflict or violence. In countries where low levels of socioeconomic development aggravate the risk and impacts of displacement, and where disasters, conflict and violence overlap, increased investments in prevention, response and solutions are a necessity.

This report is intended to provide an entry point for governments and their partners to better understand how to mitigate and address disaster displacement through informed policies and action. Ten years after the adoption of the Sendai framework and five years before it expires, it is a timely contribution to building more resilient countries and societies. By shedding light on the main triggers, drivers and impacts of the phenomenon, it provides much-needed evidence to help to mainstream it as part of disaster risk reduction and achieve the framework's targets.



A flooded neighbourhood in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil in 2024. Floods in April and May 2024 inundated an area the size of the United Kingdom, triggering 775,000 internal displacements.
© IFRC/ Alejandro Bravo

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Pastoralists search for water for their cattle in South Omo Zone, Ethiopia during a prolonged drought in 2022. Displacements triggered by slow-onset disasters such as droughts are under-reported.
© WFP/Michael Tewelde

Key takeaways

Disaster displacement can affect anyone

Disasters triggered 264.8 million internal displacements across 210 countries and territories between 2015 and 2024. Nearly 90 per cent were the result of floods and storms.

High and low-income countries in all regions have recorded disaster displacements, but east and south Asia together account for nearly two-thirds of the global total.

Modelled projections suggest an annual average of 32 million people are likely to be displaced by riverine and coastal floods, drought and cyclonic winds in any given future year. Climate change is expected to increase this risk significantly in most countries.

Disaster displacement can jeopardise sustainable development

Disaster displacement can have significant repercussions for affected people's lives and broader economies, jeopardising socioeconomic development. It can also hinder the achievement of global targets such as those set by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Disaster displacement affects the most vulnerable more severely. Their resilience weakened by shocks, they are often forced to flee repeatedly and for longer periods of time, heightening their pre-existing vulnerabilities and reinforcing social inequalities.

Reducing the risk of displacement, addressing its negative impacts and achieving lasting solutions for IDPs are development as well as humanitarian challenges. Action to address them needs to be coordinated across sectors and prioritised in policies and investments.

Progress has been made, but challenges remain

More evidence is now available to guide action on disaster displacement, but data gaps persist, particularly for small-scale and slow-onset disasters. Information is also lacking on the duration and end of displacement, IDPs' location and socio-demographic characteristics, and the impacts of displacement on people's lives and economies.

An increasing number of policy frameworks, including those on disaster risk reduction (DRR), refer to disaster displacement. This shows growing recognition of the links between displacement, DRR and in some cases climate change adaptation. Few propose concrete measures, however, and many affected countries still lack frameworks to guide coordinated action.

Financial commitments to address disaster displacement are still insufficient. Many countries have invested national resources to respond to the issue, but additional sources of funding, including development and climate finance and the private sector, are needed, as are more investments in prevention, preparedness and longer-term solutions.



A truck submerged by a flash flood in Garissa, Kenya in May 2024. Around 3.5 million people were living in displacement worldwide as a result of floods at the end of 2024.
© Luis Tato/AFP via Getty Images

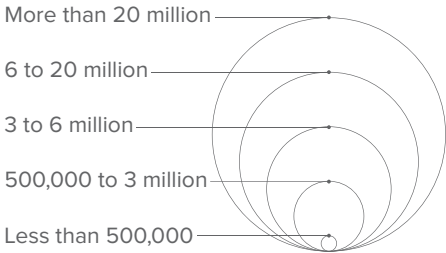
Understanding disaster displacement

Vehicles drive down a flooded street in Florida, United States, after hurricane Helene passed nearby. The US experienced more than 11 million disaster displacements in 2024, the most ever reported by a single country. Many were pre-emptive evacuations that saved numerous lives.

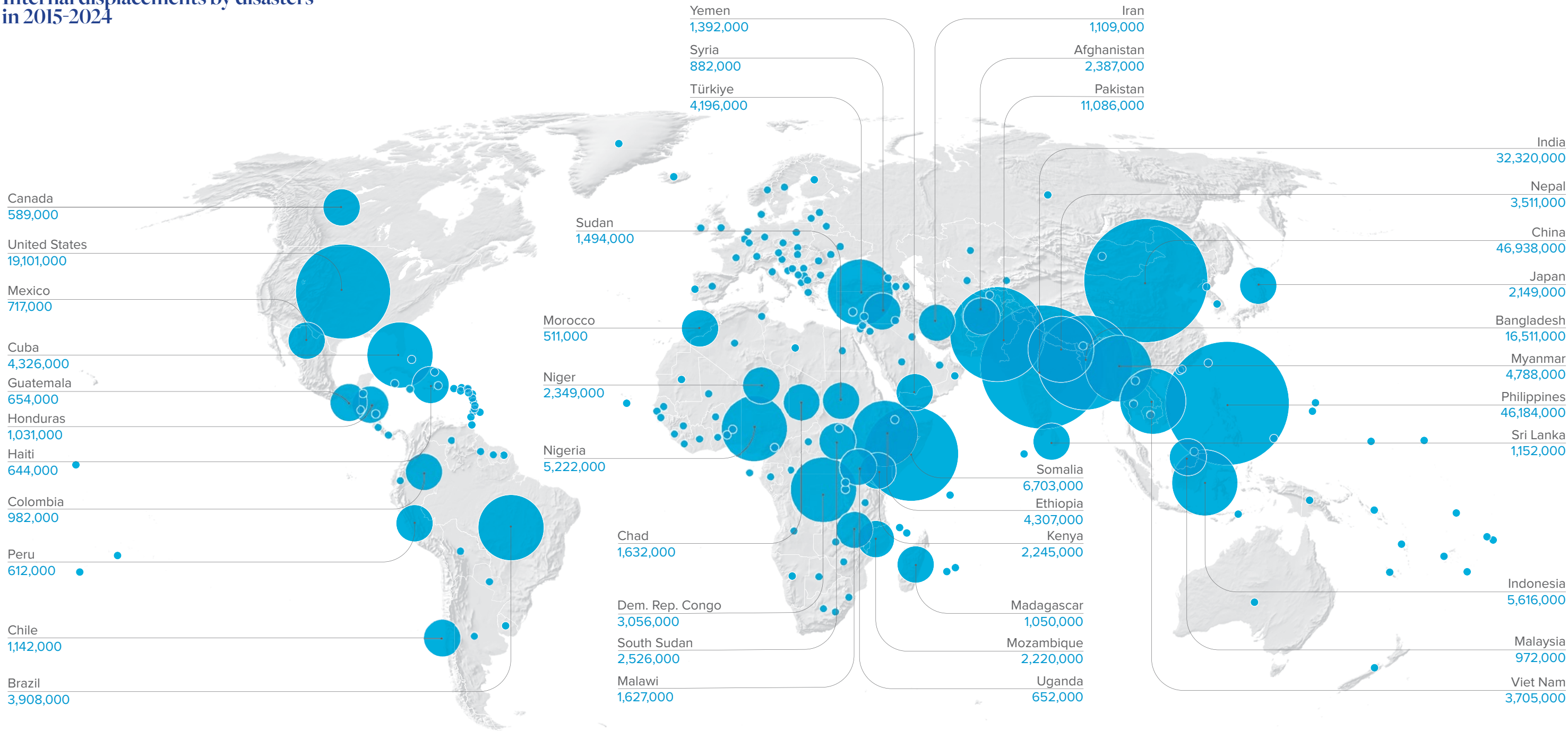
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Global overview

Disaster displacement affects all countries, regardless of their income level. Around 264.8 million movements were recorded across 210 countries and territories between 2015 and 2024. East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia were the most affected regions. At the country level, Bangladesh, China, India, the Philippines and the US recorded the highest figures over the past decade.



Internal displacements by disasters in 2015-2024



The country, territory names and figures are shown only when the total internal displacements value exceeds 500,000.
The boundaries, names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

Internal displacements by disasters by year for 2015-2024

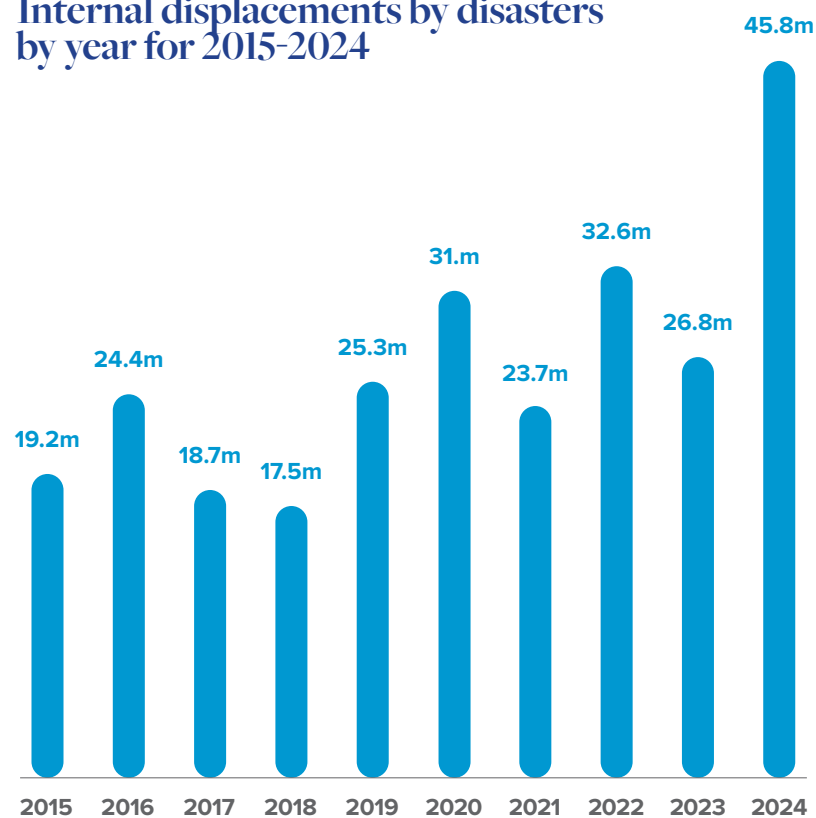
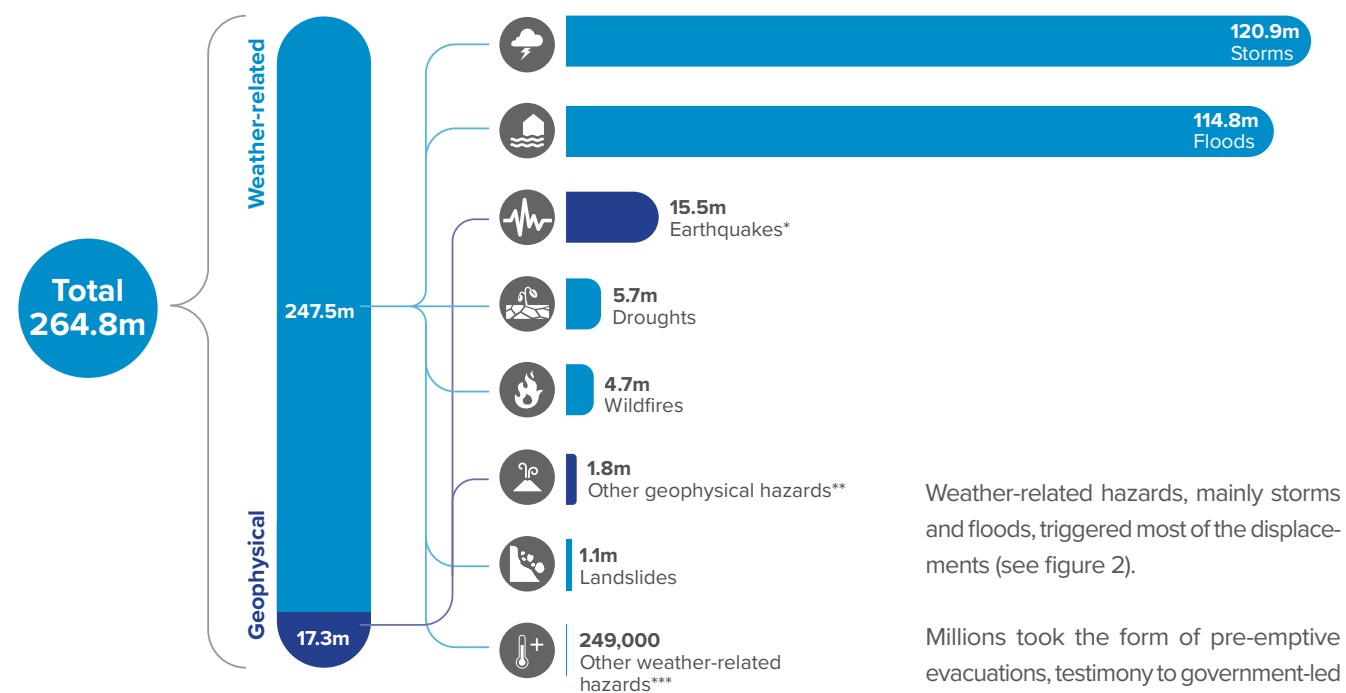


Figure 1

Disasters have triggered an increasing number of internal displacements since 2015, the result in part of more frequent and intense hazards but also improved data at the national level and better monitoring capacity at the global level (see figure 1). The figure for 2024 of 45.8 million was the highest on record and far above the decadal average of 26.5 million. A number of countries recorded exceptional figures, most notably the US with more than 11 million movements and the Philippines with 9 million.

Breakdown of the total number of internal displacements by hazard for 2015-2024



*May also include tsunamis

**Includes extreme temperatures, wet mass movements, erosion and wave action

***Includes volcanic eruptions and dry mass movements

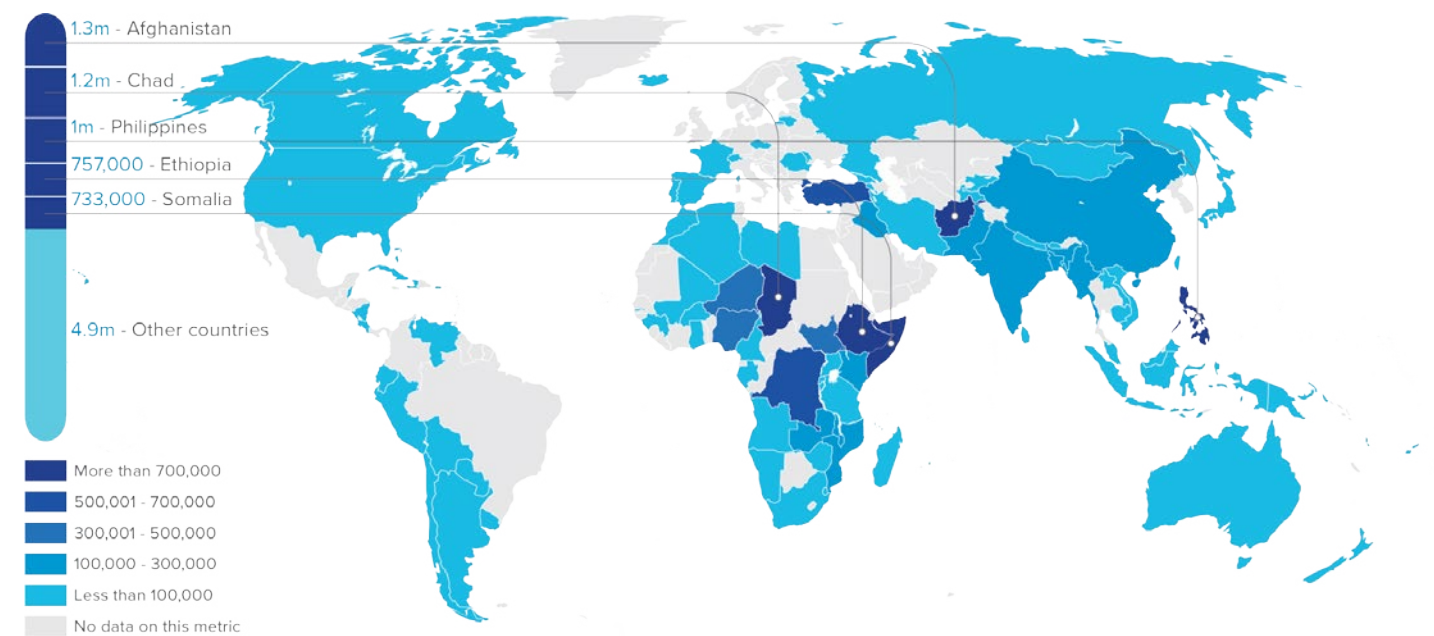
Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

Figure 2

Weather-related hazards, mainly storms and floods, triggered most of the displacements (see figure 2).

Millions took the form of pre-emptive evacuations, testimony to government-led efforts to save lives and prevent injuries. Many such movements only last for a short period of time, but disasters still leave millions of people each year without a home to return to.

IDPs by disasters at the end of 2024



The boundaries, names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

Around 9.8 million people across 94 countries and territories were living in displacement as result of disasters at the end of 2024. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 5.7 million, 58 per cent of the global total. At the country level, Afghanistan, Chad, Ethiopia, the Philippines and Somalia had the highest figures.

This shows the challenges countries face in supporting their internally displaced people (IDPs) to achieve prompt and sustainable solutions to their plight, particularly when the countries concerned are also dealing with overlapping issues such as conflict and violence and related displacement, low levels of socio-economic and infrastructure development, and insufficient financial resources.

Storms

Storms triggered most of the world's disaster displacements between 2015 and 2024, accounting for 120.9 million movements. At the country level, the Philippines recorded the highest figure, followed by China, the US, Bangladesh and India.

Cyclones, also called hurricanes in the Americas and typhoons in East Asia and the Pacific, accounted for about 92 per cent of all storm displacements. Hurricane Milton in 2024, cyclone Amphan in 2020 and typhoon Rai in 2021 triggered the highest numbers and each affected several countries. Milton led to the most ever recorded for a single storm globally. Most of the nearly six million movements it triggered took place in the US.¹¹ Several major cyclones hitting highly exposed countries such as Bangladesh, China, the Philippines and the US made 2024 an exceptional year for storm displacement (see figure 3).

These hazards are highly seasonal, and the period when they are most likely to take place varies between regions and countries. The warming of the Pacific ocean associated with the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon plays a key role in the frequency and intensity of storms.¹² Global warming is also shifting climate and weather patterns that are having different impacts on human mobility in different parts of the world, but the two phenomena are not the only factors at play and cannot be associated without additional data and analysis.

Where storms hit and at what intensity plays a role in the way they force people to flee. Some make landfall as category three events or higher, causing storm surges, coastal flooding and high winds, while others are lesser in strength but cause significant flooding inland. If they hit highly populated urban areas, more people are at risk of being displaced, as is often the case in China's Guangdong province or the US state of Florida, which are major hotspots.

Beyond population exposure, vulnerability also plays a role. When cyclone Idai hit the coastal city of Beira in Mozambique in March 2019, most of the people displaced were from poor communities living in informal settlements which could not withstand the ravages of the storm.¹³ Hurricane Dorian also affected

marginalised communities in the Bahamas disproportionately in the same year, including migrant workers from Haiti.¹⁴

People living in storm-prone areas often face repeated displacement and increasing vulnerability with each move. This is particularly true during severe storm seasons, as was illustrated by hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020. They hit several Central American and Caribbean countries, triggering 1.7 million displacements in a region that had already been affected by powerful storms in previous months.¹⁵

Around 1.1 million people were living in internal displacement as a result of storms at the end of 2024. The Philippines accounted for more than half of the total with 628,000, Bangladesh 172,000 and Mayotte 142,000. The French island was hit by cyclone Chido in December 2024, wreaking havoc in densely populated informal urban settlements that were ill-equipped to withstand torrential rains and winds of more than 200 km/h.

With solid data on past events and related displacements, and enough local and national capacity to prepare for future storms, their impacts on people and economies can be significantly reduced. Efforts were made in the Philippines after typhoon Haiyan in 2013 to improve early-warning systems and reduce the

human cost of future events.¹⁶ When typhoon Rai, a storm of similar intensity, hit the country in 2022, the death toll was 15 times lower and displaced people returned to their homes much faster. Investments in more timely data to inform early warnings and early local action were key to mitigating Rai's impacts and accelerating IDPs' recovery and solutions.¹⁷

Improvements in early-warning systems and pre-emptive evacuation mechanisms over the years have saved lives and protected people from injury. Better monitoring and reporting on such evacuations and the duration of displacement would help to design tailored approaches and measure their effectiveness in mitigating various risks.

Good data can also inform efforts to reduce the risk of future displacement. Viet Nam's disaster management authority (VDDMA) collects information on the number and location of homes damaged or destroyed by storms. Unlike many similar national entities that focus primarily on immediate relief, VDDMA's approach extends to medium and long-term recovery. By using the data it collects to prioritise rebuilding efforts and mobilising funds through a disaster prevention and control fund, it supports the construction of storm and flood-resilient homes.¹⁸

Internal displacements by storms by year for 2015-2024

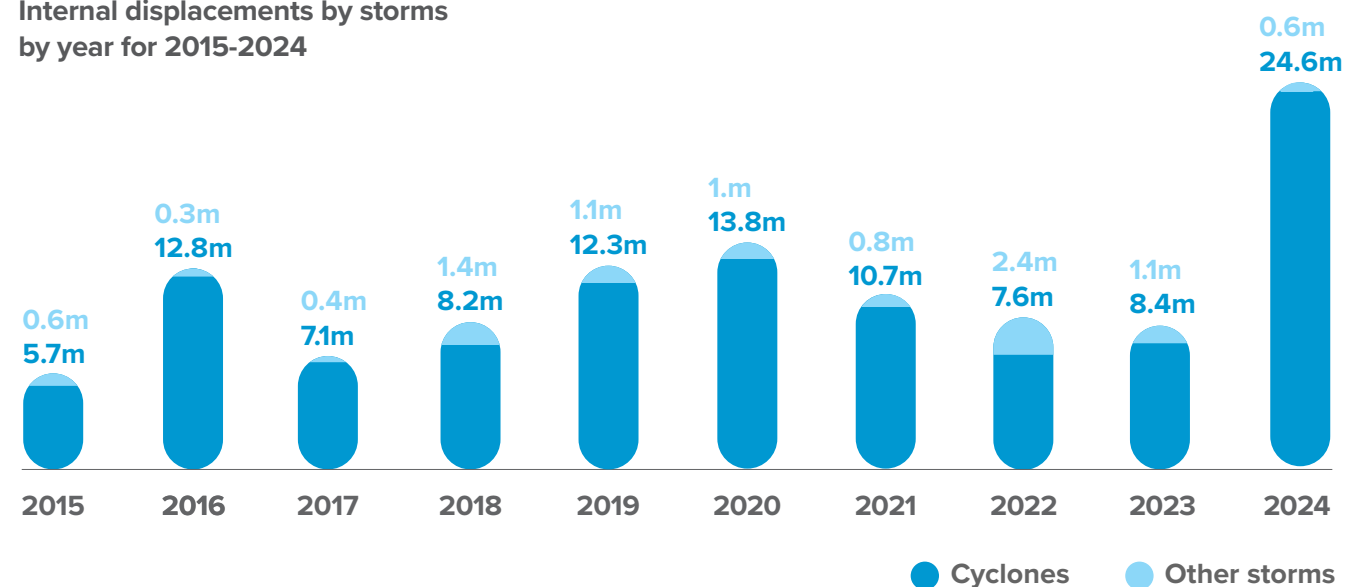


Figure 3

Regional distribution of internal displacements by storms for 2015-2024

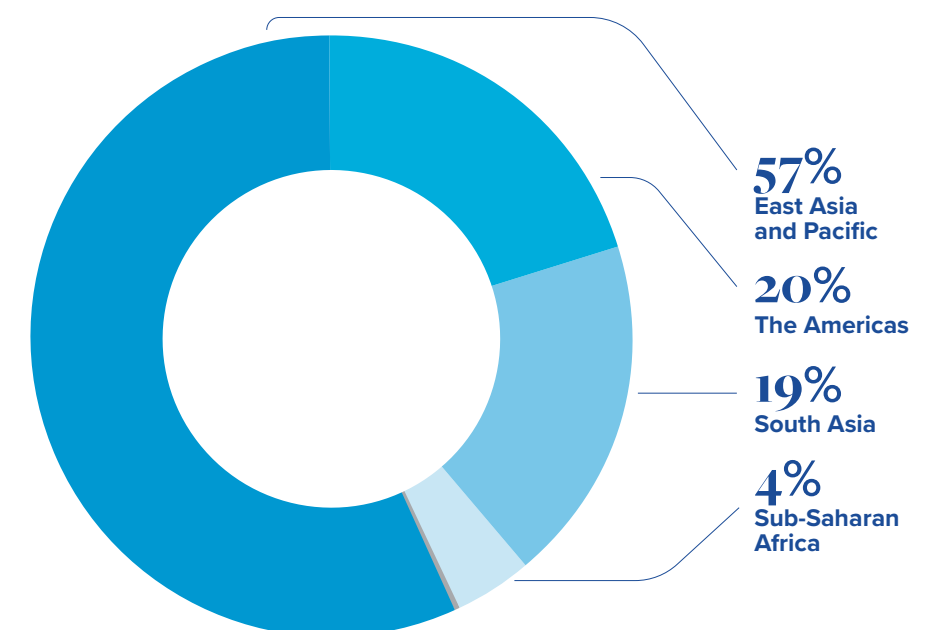


Figure 4



Floods

Floods triggered 114.8 million internal displacements between 2015 and 2024, often repeatedly in the same areas and sometimes several times during the same rainy season. Outlier events such as major monsoon floods can significantly influence the scale of associated displacement from one year to the next (see figure 5).

Around 3.5 million people were living in displacement as a result of floods at the end of 2024. About three-quarters were accounted for in sub-Saharan Africa, partly the result of better availability of data for this type of displacement in the region than in other parts of the world.

Internal displacements by floods by year for 2015-2024

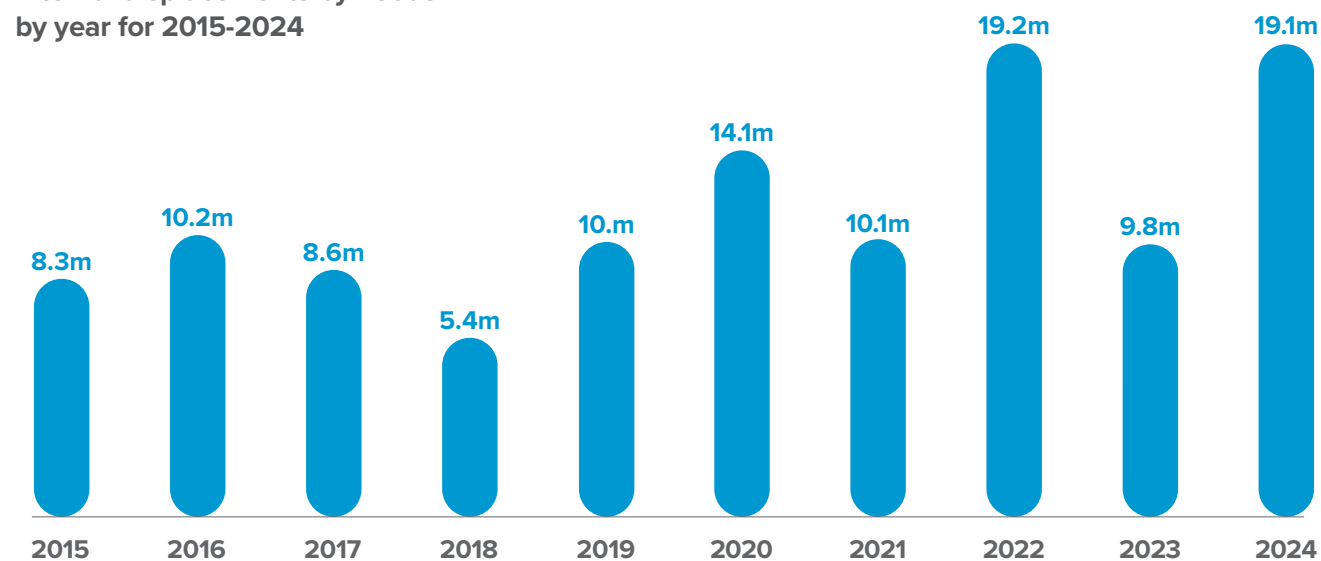


Figure 5

Climate trends associated with the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, as well as regional and local weather patterns, all influence the frequency and intensity of floods. Climate change is also likely to be shaping these patterns (see spotlight, p. 17). Flood displacement tends to coincide with monsoons, rainy seasons and cyclone activity. Across South and East Asia, for example, a significant proportion occurs between May and August, in alignment with the south-west monsoon and seasonal cyclone activity¹⁹.

These patterns leave little time for those affected to recover before new disasters strike, particularly in areas where displacement is already protracted or aggravated by other crises. Understanding the seasonal nature of floods can help governments put effective early warning systems in place and take anticipatory action to reduce their impacts, including displacement.

Human-made factors also increase people's exposure and vulnerability to flood displacement. High population density and unregulated urban expansion in flood-prone areas are two significant risk factors. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to some of the world's fastest growing cities and consistently records high levels of urban displacement linked to floods.²⁰ Many of the region's urban dwellers live in inadequate housing in overcrowded

and underserved areas at high risk of displacement should floods strike.²¹ This is, for example, the case in the city of Beledweyne in Somalia.²²

In East Asia and the Pacific, where the average annual urbanisation rate is higher than in any other region, millions of people live on deltas and coastlines and in other low-lying areas prone to riverine and coastal flooding.²³ Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh and home to more than nine million people, is traversed by six rivers that have been vital to trade, transport and livelihoods for centuries. In recent years, however, rapid urbanisation and badly managed embankment and drainage schemes have increased the risk of flooding and related displacement.²⁴

Urbanisation is not the only development that can increase the risk of flood displacement. Damage to ecosystems and the construction of infrastructure can have similar consequences.²⁵ Deforestation and land degradation in Indonesia was found to have aggravated the impacts of floods that triggered more than 115,000 displacements in the province of Aceh in 2023.²⁶ Unsustainable land use and ecosystem damage also play a key role in driving consistently high levels of flood displacement in China.²⁷

Regional distribution of internal displacements by floods for 2015-2024

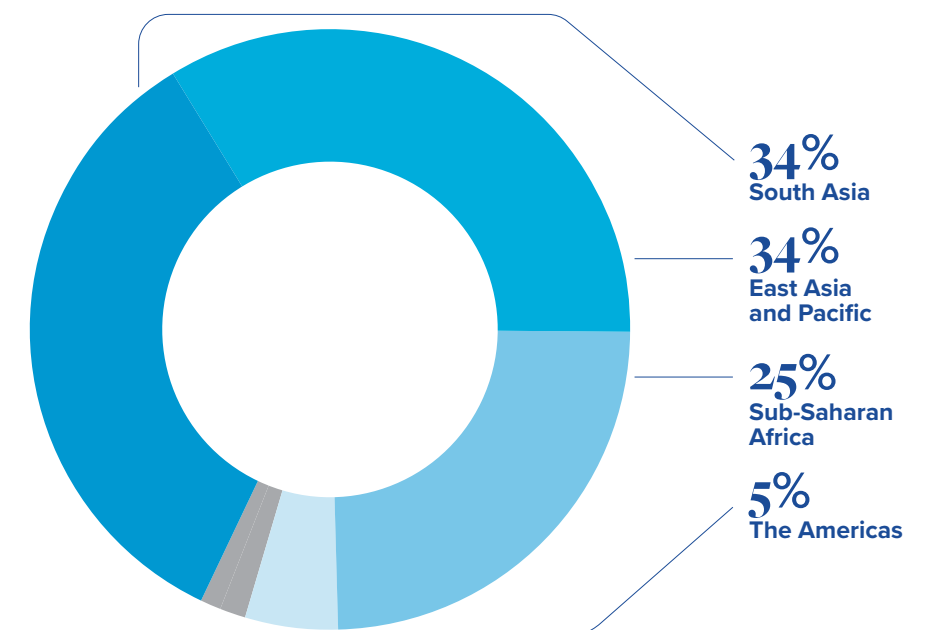


Figure 6

The construction of large dams, and their failures or releases, can also increase displacement risk, as in the case of the Mekong river.²⁸ Thousands of dams in China have already exceeded or are approaching the lifespans they were designed for. Not maintaining or managing them adequately could represent a major threat for millions of people.²⁹

Many of these risks can be significantly reduced through adequate planning and disaster risk reduction and preparedness measures. China introduced a “sponge city” initiative in 2014 to increase permeable urban areas such as rain gardens, green roofs and constructed wetlands. These mitigate surface-water flooding and peak run-off, and improve the purification of urban runoff and water conservation.³⁰ New Zealand has also invested in innovative climate and flood mitigation measures, including the expansion of permeable areas, which have helped to better manage run-off.³¹

Vulnerability also depends on socio-economic factors. People from lower-income groups or marginalised communities may be forced to settle on land that is cheaper or where habitation is forbidden because it is prone to recurrent floods.³² People who are already displaced, often living in sub-standard settlements or makeshift shelters, are particularly vulnerable to onward displacement as a result of flooding.

Floods hit camps sheltering IDPs in Sudan in 2023 and also coastal governorates in Yemen, where significant conflict displacement had been recorded in recent years.³³ In the White Nile basin, which includes parts of South Sudan, Sudan, the contested Abyei Area and Uganda, floods regularly displace people who have already fled conflict and violence and who face a combination of social, economic and political challenges.³⁴ Ongoing conflict, weak governance and political instability further increase displacement risk in the White Nile basin.³⁵

Other disasters can also aggravate flooding and the displacement it triggers. Seasonal floods in Pakistan led to the world’s largest disaster displacement event in a decade in 2022, when 8.2 million movements were recorded.³⁶ A series of events in previous months had laid the ground for such a catastrophic event. Drought in 2021 was followed by soaring temperatures and a severe rainfall deficit in early 2022.³⁷ A heatwave also prompted rapid snowmelt and glacial lake outburst floods in May, just weeks before heavier-than-usual monsoon rains started.³⁸ The floodwaters took months to recede and caused the country’s worst humanitarian crisis in decades.³⁹

Understanding how flood displacement unfolds can help to plan for future events by identifying their seasonal nature, hotspots and at-risk communities. Several countries have put successful mechanisms in place and used the information generated to limit impacts on people. Malaysia’s national disaster management agency collects valuable data on the number of IDPs in evacuation centres every four hours daily, continuing until everyone has returned home. This real-time information enables authorities to adapt resources throughout the displacement phase, from the capacity of evacuation centres to supplies distributed to IDPs as they return.⁴⁰



A woman evacuated from her home due to a fire southeast of Athens, Greece in 2021. Most wildfire displacements are short-term, but people who lose their homes are often uprooted for longer periods.
© UNICEF/UNI609077/Barai

Wildfires

Wildfires are another major displacement trigger, accounting for 4.7 million movements globally between 2015 and 2024. They also illustrate how disasters can be fuelled by aggravating drivers, in this case not only increasing temperatures, drought, winds and desertification, but also human activities and unplanned development. Most wildfire displacements occur in the Americas (see figure 7).

The US often reports high numbers of such movements. California was badly affected by wildfires in 2018, when they triggered with hundreds of thousands of displacements. Prolonged drought, higher temperatures, stronger winds and the overuse of water for agriculture caused significant harm to local ecosystems, leaving forests tinder-dry and littered with dead wood.⁴¹ The growing number of homes built in the wildland-urban interface, where housing and vegetation meet and intermingle, also means ever more people are exposed to fire risk, which in turn increases the risk of displacement.⁴²

Regional distribution of internal displacements by wildfires for 2015-2024

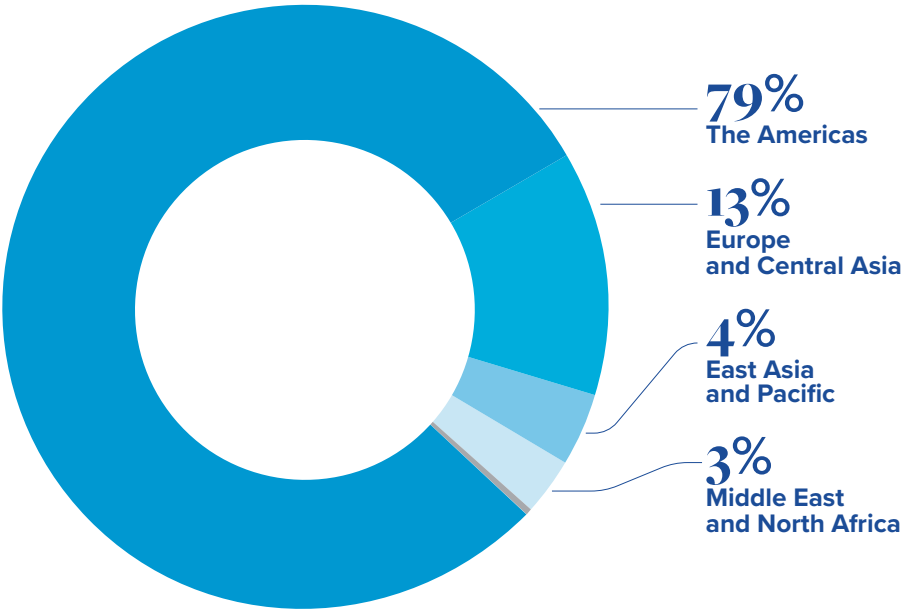


Figure 7

The same factors fuelled even more devastating wildfires in California and other western US states in in 2020, when they triggered the highest wildfire displacement figure on record for the country.⁴³

Canada experienced its most destructive wildfire season on record in 2023 after the hottest summer in 76 years. The fires triggered 185,000 movements. Here too, communities living at the urban-wildland interface in boreal forests and on prairies, including many indigenous people, were at higher risk of displacement.⁴⁴ The Canadian government responded by publishing the country’s first national risk profile in the same year, setting out measures to reduce wildfire risk. It also invested in FireSmart, a programme that raises public awareness and integrates indigenous knowledge into its recommendations.⁴⁵

Greece recorded extreme temperatures in 2024 that contributed to kickstart the year’s wildfire season. Large fires triggered more than 60,000 movements. The largest events led to 35,000 evacuations in the metropolitan area of Athens, including the whole town of Marathon, in mid-August.⁴⁶ The same area had also been affected by wildfires in August 2023.⁴⁷ Recurrent fires since 2017 have burnt 37 per cent of the area’s forests, heightening the risk of flash floods and landslides.⁴⁸

People who lose their homes are often uprooted for longer periods. In Hawaii, more than 3,000 people were still displaced at the end 2024 after the Maui fires of August 2023. They faced a number of challenges including higher rental costs, leading many to apply for government housing aid.⁴⁹

Australia’s unprecedented bushfire season, which ran from July 2019 to February 2020, triggered tens of thousands of displacements, most of them in the first two months of 2020. The fires, which burned around 17 million hectares of land and destroyed more than

3,100 homes, were fuelled by prolonged drought, extreme heat and strong winds.⁵⁰ The south-eastern states of Victoria and New South Wales were worst affected. Most displacements were in the form of pre-emptive evacuations, with people alerted to leave their homes by a text message or phone call.⁵¹ Displacement added to overall cost of the disaster. Covering the housing needs of those displaced for a year was estimated to have cost as much as US\$52 million, and loss of economic production as a result of IDPs’ inability to work was put at around US\$510 per person per day.⁵² Dry conditions at the start of the year then gave way to wet weather intensified by a moderate to strong manifestation of La Niña. This reduced the impact of the wildfires but increased the risk of flooding, landslides and erosion, particularly on burnt land.⁵³ Floods triggered further displacements in the same areas affected by the fires, particularly in the second half of the year.



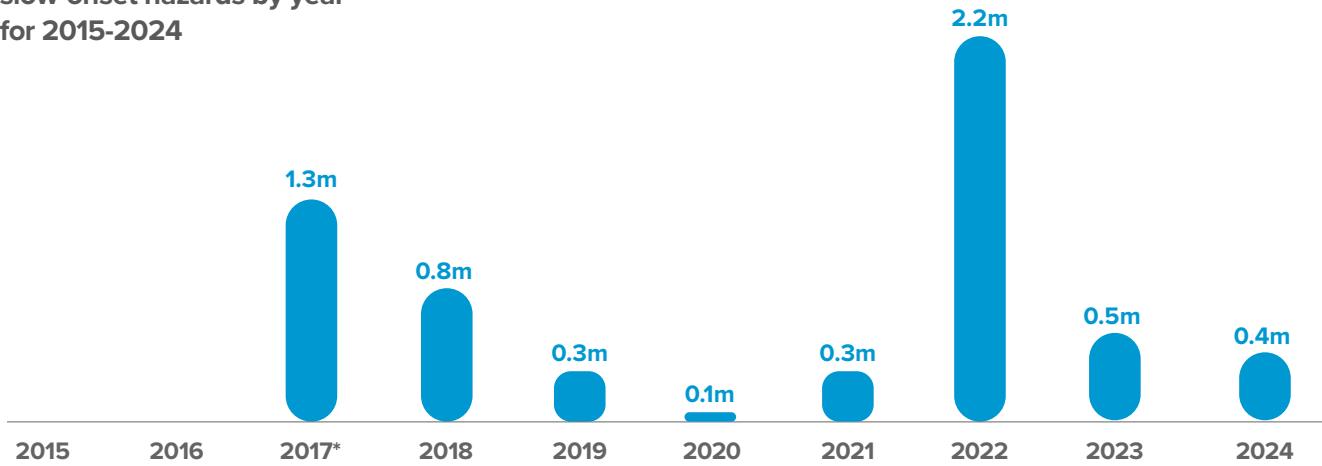
Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands. Small island developing states are particularly exposed to slow-onset hazards such sea-level rise which poses an existential threat to communities on low-lying atolls.
© Muse Mohammed / IOM

Slow-onset hazards

Painting a comprehensive picture of internal displacement associated with slow-onset hazards, such as glacier and permafrost melt, riverbank and coastal erosion, sea-level rise, salinisation and drought, is challenging. These hazards are multidimensional and are not the sole trigger for displacement, and rather emerge from a combination of socioeconomic, political and environmental drivers that interact across time and geographies.⁵⁴ These hazards also sometimes heighten the impacts of sudden-onset events and vice versa. Gradual sea-level rise, for example, may be aggravated by a sudden storm surge, which becomes the trigger of displacement.

Nearly 6 million displacements associated with slow-onset hazards have been identified across 43 countries and territories since 2015 (see figure 8). Drought accounted for 5.8 million.

Internal displacements by slow-onset hazards by year for 2015-2024



*First year drought data became available.
Figure 8

Drought

Recurring below-average rains can cause severe drought that affects rural communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. Human factors often determine whether a precipitation deficit becomes an agricultural or hydrological drought. Farmers with access to irrigation or drought-resistant crops, for example, will generally fare than those without.⁵⁵ The displacement of pastoralists as a result of drought can lead to the interruption or end of the mobility that defines their lifestyle.⁵⁶

Most countries across eastern Africa experience water stress or scarcity, and dry spells are not uncommon. Humanitarian organisations started to collect data on drought displacement in 2017, when 1.3 million such movements were recorded across Ethiopia and Somalia. Drought in Somalia led to a significant rise in rural-to-urban displacement, putting pressure on host communities and bringing challenges to IDPs in cities, as many did not have the skills to adapt to their new urban environment. Most displacements were towards the country's capital, Mogadishu, where many IDPs were subject to violence and harassment.⁵⁷

The worst drought in more than 40 years struck the region between 2021 and early 2023, fuelled by a prolonged manifestation of La Niña. It triggered displacements across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in 2022. More than half of the movements were in Somalia, mostly in the southern regions of Bay, Lower Shabelle and Bakool.⁵⁸ The drought continued to affect the livelihoods of pastoralists and farmers across the Horn of Africa, with six failed rainy seasons fuelling food insecurity, including among IDPs.⁵⁹

In Afghanistan, more than 371,000 internal displacements due to drought were reported in 2018. After four years of below-average rainfall in the north-western provinces, large

numbers of people began to move from rural to urban areas in search of livelihood opportunities, basic services and humanitarian aid.⁶⁰ A similar reality was observed again in 2021 when a nationwide drought was declared in June.⁶¹ Food insecurity and water scarcity increased, heightening the needs of those affected, including IDPs.⁶²

Iraq has been suffering its worst drought in 40 years since 2020, triggering significant displacement. Increases in water and food prices have had a disproportionate effect on those displaced.⁶³ This was particularly the case in the largely agricultural governorate of Ninewa, where IDPs and returnees struggled to grow crops and had few if any alternative sources of livelihood.⁶⁴ Some IDPs linked their decisions about whether or not to return in 2024 to their ability to farm, and others reported tensions over shared water resources.⁶⁵

These examples represent just a fraction of a reality that is still difficult to capture in most countries. Despite widespread evidence of major droughts around the world, the displacement they trigger is not systematically monitored. Southern Africa, for example, was affected by its worst drought in a century in 2024.⁶⁶ Better monitoring efforts revealed 273,000 movements across Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, but the figure is a significant underestimate. The drought left nearly 23 million people facing acute food insecurity across the subregion and will have devastating and long-lasting impacts on local development, particularly for rural households who rely on rain-fed agriculture.⁶⁷

The duration and often repeated nature of drought means people's displacement can last for months and even years, with long-lasting effects on their health, education and future opportunities. Climate change, environmental degradation and intensive agriculture are likely to continue to

fuel severe droughts. Investment in drought-resilient agriculture and alternative livelihoods in affected areas could help to prevent displacement, while similar commitments to infrastructure, services and livelihood opportunities in areas where IDPs live could mitigate the challenges they and their host communities face.

Coastal and riverbank erosion and sea-level rise

Small island developing states are particularly exposed to slow-onset hazards such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion and salinisation. These have the potential to cause severe economic and human impacts and pose an existential threat to communities living on low-lying atolls. Such hazards are often aggravated by sudden-onset events such as cyclones and storm surges, which further undermine livelihoods and force people to flee temporarily or relocate permanently.

About half of the population of Pacific small island states live within 10 kilometres of the coast, meaning permanent relocation as a means of adaptation is sometimes the only solution. Acknowledging this reality, the

government of Fiji published guidelines for planned relocations related to climate change in 2018.⁶⁸

Plantain Island, which hosts a fishing community of around 5,800 people in Sierra Leone, has been losing homes and land to the sea for several decades.⁶⁹ Many of those affected have left the island to seek refuge in mainland communities. Those unable to leave have been forced to move further inland.

More data is needed to assess the scale of displacement linked to other hazards such as riverbank erosion, which has forced people from their homes in countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines.⁷⁰ Displacement associated with land degradation, desertification and other slow-onset hazards will also need to be monitored more systematically to better understand the threats they pose to millions of people around the world as climate change and unsustainable human practices accelerate their impacts.

Regional distribution of internal displacements by drought for 2015-2024

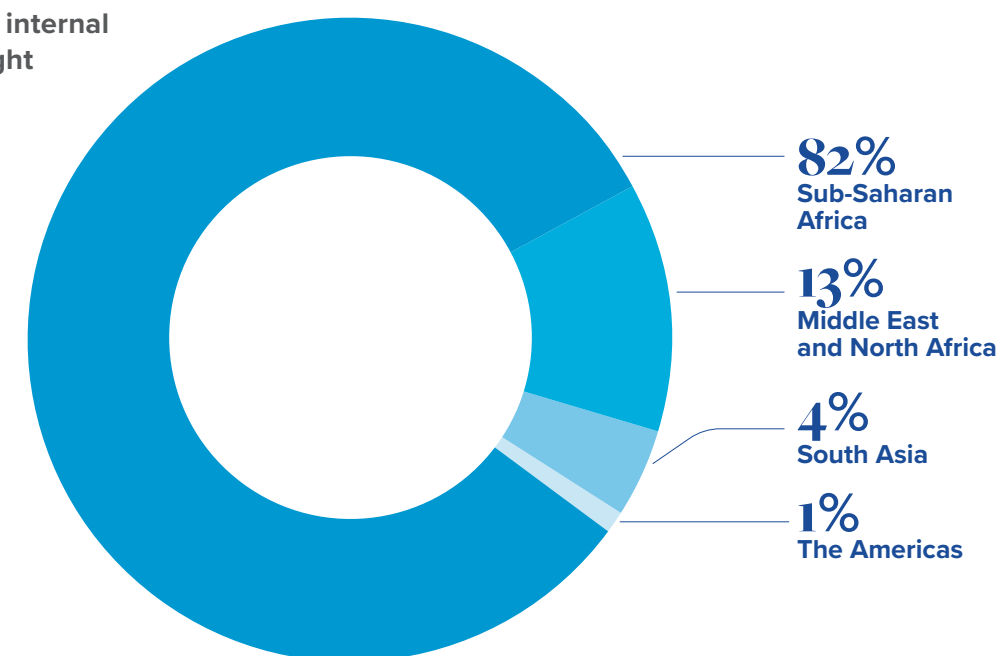


Figure 9

Spotlight: disaster displacement and climate change

An IDP settlement in Dolow, Somalia during the drought in 2022. Climate change can act as an added stressor that can push people to leave their homes because of gradual declines in livelihoods, water, food, or land quality that exceed their ability to cope.
© IOM/Claudia Rosel Barrios

There is a growing body of literature discussing the links between climate change, migration and displacement, but the complexity of the phenomenon makes it difficult to identify causal relationships. Climate change can act as an added stressor that pushes people to leave their homes, not only as a result of sudden-onset disasters, but also because of gradual declines in livelihoods, land quality or the availability of water and food that exceed their ability to cope. It can also worsen the impacts of displacement once it occurs.

Understanding how climate change influences displacement is essential for predicting, preventing and mitigating its consequences, but many data and knowledge gaps remain. The slow-onset effects of climate change, such as desertification, glacial retreat, increasing temperatures, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, ocean acidification, salinisation and sea

level rise, are becoming more apparent each year, but the displacement they trigger is mostly unrecorded (see p.14). Many countries have improved their ability to monitor and report on disasters and related displacement over the past decade, but longitudinal data that might establish a direct correlation with longer-term climate trends is still lacking.

Given that the climate varies naturally from year to year, climatologists use standard 30-year averages for temperature, precipitation, humidity and wind speed known as “climate normals” to summarise conditions. Nor should data that suggests the number of people displaced by disasters is increasing be interpreted entirely as evidence that the phenomenon is on rise. It should also be understood as a result of governments’ investments in dedicated databases. Nuances are needed when it comes to analysing trends.

Continued monitoring of disaster displacement and better data on that linked to the slow-onset effects of climate change is essential to improve this understanding and analyse the risk of future displacement and its impacts more accurately (see p. 30). Climate attribution studies can help determine the influence of climate change by focusing on hazards themselves, for example by assessing whether a cyclone’s wind speed or rainfall exceeded the 30-year average. More comprehensive modelling and in-depth research are needed, however, to uncover the full range of factors that lead to displacement and inform more holistic evidence-based strategies to address it.

Research findings from the latest iteration of IDMC’s global disaster displacement risk model indicate that global displacement risk associated with weather-related hazards – including riverine and coastal floods,

drought and cyclones – will continue to rise. For riverine floods, for example, displacement risk may increase by 50 per cent under an optimistic climate scenario of +1C global warming, and almost twice that figure under a pessimistic scenario of +5°C, based on current population distribution.

A multitude of demographic, historical, political, social and economic factors will determine whether people are able to withstand the impacts of future weather-related hazards fuelled by climate variability and change. Other risk drivers, including poverty and vulnerability, unsustainable urbanisation, land degradation and erosion, also need to be considered. A deeper understanding of the multi-layered and interdependent nature of these drivers, and how climate change shapes displacement patterns, is needed.

Climate change undeniably plays a role, but identifying it as the sole cause

of displacement risks overlooking the essential roles of disaster risk reduction and preparedness, land management, socioeconomic development and infrastructure resilience in managing displacement risk. Investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation are key, but so are targeted measures to reduce the vulnerability of systems and communities.

Establishing mangrove forests and wetlands, for example, helps to reduce the impact of storm surges on hazard-prone coastlines, protecting homes and reducing displacement risk. Diversifying livelihoods by promoting alternative income-generating activities and resilient agricultural practices helps communities reduce their vulnerability. Social protection programmes, such as cash transfers, food assistance and livelihood support, help vulnerable populations to cope with the impacts of disasters. Early warning systems help communities mitigate or avoid

disaster impacts, and insurance and other financial mechanisms help them to recover. When moving permanently becomes a necessity, clear guidelines and policies help to ensure people’s planned and dignified resettlement.

Addressing internal displacement in a changing climate calls for much more than effective emergency response and humanitarian aid mechanisms. It requires long-term planning and investment, for which different sources of financing, such as development and climate finance, will be needed (see p. 41).



A couple looks at buildings in Hatay, Türkiye destroyed by an earthquake in February 2023. Earthquakes tend to have devastating effects on the built environment and livelihoods, severely damaging and destroying houses and prolonging people's displacement.
© Chris McGrath via Getty Images

Geophysical hazards

Around 17.3 million internal displacements were recorded as a result of earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and dry-mass movements between 2015 and 2024. Earthquakes accounted for nearly 90 per cent of the total. The scale of displacement linked to geophysical hazards varies greatly from one year to the next, depending on exceptional events such as those that hit Türkiye, Syria and Morocco in 2023, and Nepal and Chile in 2015.

Predicting tectonic activity, which causes earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, is very difficult, meaning that most displacements happen once these hazards have hit. Earthquakes tend to have devastating effects on the built environment and livelihoods, severely damaging and destroying houses and prolonging people's displacement.

Nine years after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, more than 32,800 people were still living in very poor conditions in displacement camps, where they were also highly vulnerable to other disasters and insecurity.⁷¹ The magnitude 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck Japan in 2011 left around 28,600 people still living in displacement at the end of 2024, many struggling to recover from trauma and rebuild decent lives.⁷² More than 579,000 people were living in displacement as a result of earthquakes globally at the end of 2024, most of them in Türkiye.

Displacement linked to geophysical hazards results not only from the intensity of the event, but also from the exposure of populations to risk and the vulnerability of their homes and other essential infrastructure to damage. The earthquakes that triggered 2.6 million displacements in Nepal in 2015

damaged or destroyed 712,000 homes and much infrastructure, largely the result of poor building quality.⁷³ Recovery and reconstruction took years, leaving many IDPs in dire conditions in collective centres, displacement sites or makeshift shelters.⁷⁴

Similarly, the 6.8 magnitude earthquake that triggered 500,000 displacements in Morocco in 2023 mostly affected remote villages in the High Atlas mountains where mud houses were unable to withstand the impact of such an event.⁷⁵ The scale of displacement after the two major earthquakes that struck Türkiye in 2023 was also in part the result of the age of some buildings and noncompliance with construction standards.⁷⁶

Several major geophysical events of the past decade displaced people who had already fled conflict or violence. The 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye also affected Syria, displacing people who had found refuge from conflict in the north-western governorates of Aleppo and Idlib.⁷⁷ The humanitarian situation in the area was already severe before the earthquakes, the result of 12 years of civil war and repeated floods and winter storms. Nearly half of the country's IDPs were living in the two governorates in extreme deprivation.

Internal displacements by geophysical hazards by year for 2015-2024

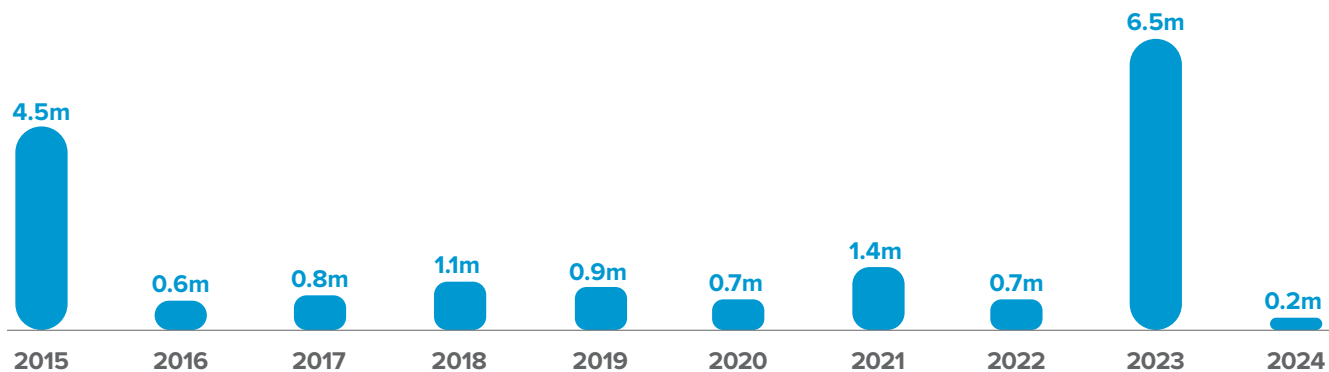


Figure 10

Regional distribution of internal displacements by geophysical hazards for 2015-2024

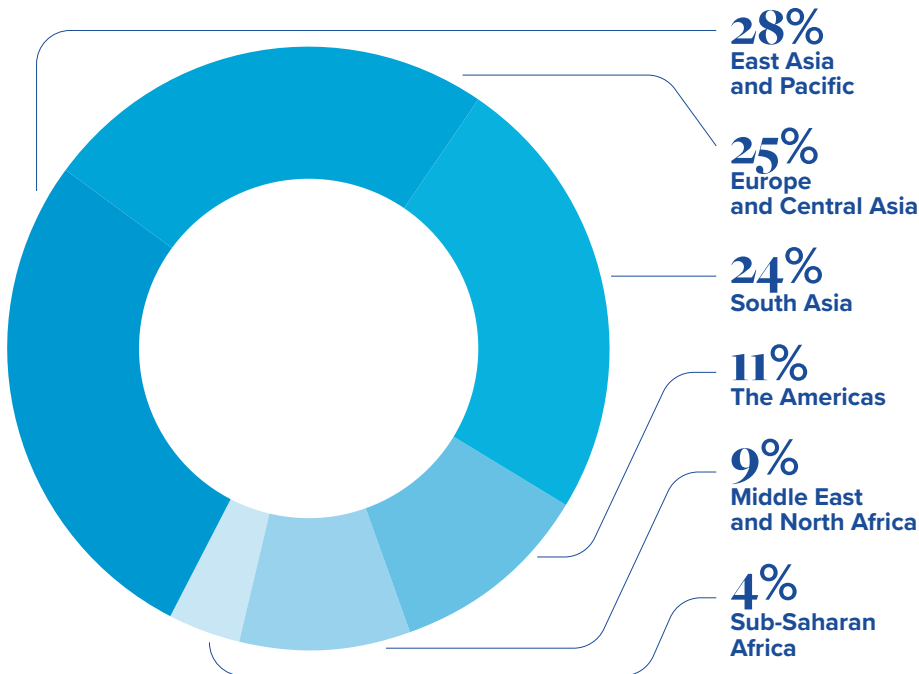


Figure 11

In Afghanistan, high-magnitude earthquakes and aftershocks hit the province of Herat the same year, triggering 380,000 displacements and destroying 10,000 homes.⁷⁸ Herat was hosting the country's largest population of IDPs when the disaster struck, many of whom had already fled a number of times as result of conflict and disasters.⁷⁹

Conflict and violence may escalate amid the unresolved devastation that follows earthquakes, particularly in countries also struggling with poverty and instability. Gang violence surged in Haiti in the years after the 2010 earthquake, which had left 1.5 million people without a home in one of the poorest countries in the world.⁸⁰

The scale of such exceptional events and the damage and destruction they cause often disrupt transport and telecommunication systems, hindering the delivery of assistance to those displaced. The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano produced the world's largest eruption in over a century in 2022, setting off tsunami waves as high as 15 metres and triggering 2,400 displacements in Tonga.⁸¹

Reaching those affected was made more difficult by the remoteness of many islands in the archipelago and the severance of undersea internet cables, which hampered communications and needs assessments.⁸² The government nonetheless provided IDPs with a range of support, from collective shelters in the immediate aftermath of the event to cash assistance, small grants, resettlement sites and new homes.⁸³

Recovery and reconstruction may also be impeded. The eruption of the Cumbre Vieja volcano on the Canary Island of La Palma in Spain triggered 7,000 evacuations in 2021.⁸⁴ Many evacuees had to delay their return because of the risk of homes collapsing and exposure to toxic gases and high temperatures in the aftermath of the event.⁸⁵

Investments in disaster risk reduction and preparedness, better construction standards and improvements in seismological technology can help to reduce the impacts of geophysical events. Several countries in East Asia and the Pacific that sit on the Pacific Ring of Fire, meaning they face the highest seismic and volcanic risk in the world, are showing the way.

Indonesia's Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation monitors seismic activity and alerted the National Disaster Management Agency in 2017 to evacuate more than 150,000 people from around Mount Agung on the island of Bali. The authorities set up 435 shelters and carried out efficient evacuations, even moving 30,000 cows to prevent people making daily trips into the exclusion zone to care for their livestock.⁸⁶

The benefits of disaster risk reduction and preparedness were also illustrated in Chile in 2015, when around a million evacuations were carried out from coastal areas in the immediate aftermath of the 8.3 magnitude Illapel earthquake, which triggered a five-metre tsunami.⁸⁷ Many people were able to return to their homes within a few hours. The country's disaster preparedness framework, adopted after a devastating earthquake in 2010, meant early warning systems were effective and response planning was good, saving many lives. The enforcement of better construction standards also meant that recently constructed buildings were better able to withstand the seismic activity.⁸⁸



A family stands alongside their damaged house near Naglebhare, Nepal after the earthquake that caused widespread damage in the country in 2015. Earthquakes accounted for nearly 90 per cent of the total displacements triggered by geophysical events between 2015 and 2024. © Asian Development Bank

Accounting for the impact and risk of disaster displacement

As the previous chapter shows, disasters displace people in virtually every country in the world, and millions are living in displacement as a result of storms, floods, wildfires, drought and other slow-onset and geophysical hazards. A phenomenon of such scale, which often affects the same people and areas repeatedly and the most vulnerable more severely, has significant repercussions for lives, societies and economies.

Beyond understanding its scale and drivers, accounting for its impacts and the risk of future displacement is an essential step for governments and their partners to plan ahead and try to mitigate negative consequences. This chapter provides an overview of the most frequently documented impacts on people's lives and on economies, and potential ways to measure them. It also presents the latest estimates of the risk of future disaster displacement in a changing climate as a useful knowledge base to guide investments in prevention and preparedness.

A family evacuates during a tsunami warning on Java island, Indonesia in December 2018. Displacement can severely disrupt people's lives, with impacts on housing conditions, livelihoods, health, education, security and social life the most often documented.
/ © UNICEF/UN0268783/Willander

Measuring impacts on people

The previous chapter features examples of how disaster displacement affects the most vulnerable people and communities more severely, often repeatedly or for longer periods of time. Understanding these impacts and who is at higher risk of facing them, meaning they need additional attention and support, is essential to inclusive and effective responses. It is also key to achieving global targets such as the Sendai framework's ambition to reduce the number of people affected by disasters and the 2030 Agenda's objective of leaving no one behind.

Displacement can severely disrupt people's lives, not only those of IDPs but also sometimes of their communities of origin and those hosting them. Impacts on housing conditions, livelihoods, health, education, security and social life are the most often documented.⁸⁹ They are frequently interconnected and cascading. Loss of income, for example, may force households to cut healthcare spending and reduce their contributions to the local economy, which also affects host communities.⁹⁰

Impacts can be immediate but they can also endure for years, sometimes long after a displaced person has returned home or settled in another community. A study conducted in Nepal seven years after the 2015 Gorkha earthquake identified IDPs who were still living in sub-standard shelters despite response and recovery efforts in the aftermath of the event.⁹¹ A survey of people displaced by drought in Ethiopia in 2021 showed that most respondents had to find another source of income as a result of their displacement, and 47 per cent lost all revenue.⁹² Of them, 81 per cent were still unemployed more than a year later.

Long-term support and strategic investments in sustainably addressing the negative consequences of displacement and enabling people to resume the life and potential they had before they were displaced is particularly challenging. Such interventions are complex and need to be durable and highly adaptable, but evidence to inform this type of support and monitor its implementation, and financial resources to match, are lacking.

Insights on groups at higher risk of different repercussions as a result of their displacement help to tailor more impactful interventions. Displaced children, for example, have specific protection needs.⁹³ Living conditions in collective shelters, including overcrowding and lack of clean water and sanitation, facilitate the spread of diseases to which children are particularly vulnerable. Disruption to their routines, including education, can be harmful to their wellbeing and psychosocial development.⁹⁴

Older IDPs also face distinct challenges and risk being left behind during disasters, particularly if they have a disability, as seen after the devastating 2010 floods in Pakistan.⁹⁵ Social isolation places an additional burden on their mental health and may cause high levels of depression.⁹⁶

Disaggregated data on IDPs' profiles and needs, and intersectional analyses are useful to inform preventative measures, responses and solutions.⁹⁷ A study conducted in Mogadishu, Somalia, showed that lower-income families displaced by drought were less likely to send their girls to school than their higher-income counterparts, but both equally sent their boys.⁹⁸ This shows how different characteristics, in this case being displaced, being a boy or a girl and belonging to a lower or higher-income family, shape the way in which displacement can affect a child's life and future.

Overall, displacement tends to aggravate pre-existing vulnerabilities and reinforce social inequalities. Poorer households are often disproportionately affected.

A study conducted in 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia, showed that people most often displaced by floods were less wealthy and lived in lower-quality homes near the riverbank, where rent was cheaper because of the recurrent flood risk.⁹⁹ Most worked as street peddlers, manual labourers, motorcycle taxi drivers and housemaids. IDPs' average monthly income was around a third of that of their non-displaced counterparts.

Women and girls also tend to be disproportionately affected in displacement, particularly in settings where gender inequalities are already high.¹⁰⁰ People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of disaster displacement and also at higher risk of being displaced in the first place.¹⁰¹ The same can be said of indigenous people, who often depend on their environment for their economic and cultural activities, and may struggle to adapt to life in a new community, particularly in unfamiliar urban areas.¹⁰²

Ensuring that policies and programmes are inclusive, participatory and tailored to the needs and vulnerabilities of communities at risk of displacement, is an essential step in reducing its negative impacts. Examples of the inclusion of people with disabilities in displacement-related initiatives in Asia are promising.¹⁰³ In Indonesia and Nepal, organisations for people with disabilities have advocated to improve the accessibility of emergency shelters and services.¹⁰⁴ In the Philippines, an inclusive data management system collects data on the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of people with disabilities before, during and after disasters.¹⁰⁵

Careful investment in support for displaced communities can bear fruits far beyond the immediate purpose. Some displaced children have acquired better access to education after their displacement, particularly if they came from under-serviced rural areas and found refuge in well-equipped camps or urban areas with more facilities.¹⁰⁶ Ensuring the continuity and quality of

their education improves their future ability to earn an income and contribute to their community's life and economy.

Sometimes host communities also benefit from investments made to support IDPs. In Liaanmo, Ethiopia, members of the host community cited an improvement in their access to healthcare after the arrival of IDPs led to developments in the health

system, the presence of more health professionals to cope with population influx and the availability of aid funds.¹⁰⁷

The arrival of IDPs can, if adequately managed, spur economic growth in host areas. If unaddressed, however, disaster displacement can jeopardise progress towards sustainable development goals and widen socioeconomic disparities,

with those most vulnerable pushed even further behind. It creates many challenges for affected people and their governments. Improved understanding of the ways it affects lives, local economies, infrastructure and services would help authorities design better programmes to mitigate negative consequences and seize potential opportunities.



Aid workers distribute relief items through floodwaters in Sindh province, Pakistan after widespread floods triggered record displacement in the country in 2022. Disaggregated data on IDPs' profiles and needs are useful to inform preventative measures, responses and solutions.

© IOM/Usman Ghani

Measuring economic impacts

The negative impacts of disaster displacement on people can lead to wider repercussions for economies in the form of financial costs and losses born by IDPs themselves, their families, host communities, governments and other aid providers. Measuring these impacts is essential to assess the true scale of the phenomenon's impacts on individuals and societies. It is also indispensable to plan proportionate investments and understand the added value of different types of intervention, from prevention and preparedness to emergency response, recovery and long-term solutions. Estimates of the economic impacts of disaster displacement are, however, extremely rare.

IDMC has focused part of its research on producing such estimates. We have put the cost of providing every IDP around the world with housing, primary health-care, primary education and security, also accounting for their loss of income for a year of displacement, at billions of dollars.¹⁰⁸ These estimates do not reflect actual expenditure by humanitarian organisations or governments in response to crises, but rather the amount required to meet all IDPs' most immediate needs. They do not account for the longer-term economic consequences of displacement, for example in terms of reduced future income or ill-health.

Nor do they include the expenses covered by IDPs themselves, their families or their hosts, but studies have shown that they all take on a heavy financial burden. A survey conducted in Jakarta in 2021 showed that one in four people displaced by floods had to pay to repair their homes, spending on average a month of their income before they could return. About 40 per cent received material or financial support from their families and 20 per cent from their friends.¹⁰⁹

Other approaches have been used to try to measure the impacts of displacement on economic production, income and work. One 2022 analysis estimated that the cost of each day of lost work as a result of disaster displacement in Asia and the Pacific over a year would have amounted to \$275 million.¹¹⁰ Other studies have attempted to incorporate information on the duration of displacement to refine these calculations. They resulted in an estimated loss of economic production of \$406 million for the 2015 Gorkha earth-

quake in Nepal and \$130 million for hurricane Ike in Cuba in 2008.¹¹¹

These figures rely heavily on proxy indicators, such as the average income per capita at the national level. They would benefit from more precise data on the actual income of affected people before their displacement, and on how it was affected. Such estimates can still be useful, however, to determine the amount of assistance that may be needed after an event, or to plan ahead for the potential losses as a result of future disaster displacement.

Lower-income countries are least likely to be able to cope with the economic consequences of disaster displacement, which can amount to a significant proportion of their GDP.¹¹² When cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in 2015, the cost of infrastructure damage alone was put at 64 per cent.¹¹³ Had the costs and losses associated with the 65,000 displacements the storm triggered been included, the estimated economic impact would have been far greater.

This makes the case for bilateral donors, multilateral development banks and international financial institutions to support countries with limited resources in investing in disaster displacement. Climate finance, including the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, can be another resource for addressing the phenomenon (see box below).

Measuring the impacts of displacement is complex, but doing so is essential to inform policies, interventions and the allocation of financial resources. It also helps to raise awareness and increase accountability among policy and decision makers.

Displacement as an indicator, form and driver of loss and damage

The concept of loss and damage has gained prominence in climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) over the past decade, and displacement has increasingly been recognised as a significant factor.¹²⁰

Loss and damage refer to the adverse effects of climate change that cannot be prevented or mitigated through adaptation efforts.¹²¹ They can be economic or non-economic, as this chapter demonstrates.

Because displacement happens when people are forced to leave their homes as a result of escalating climate and disaster risks, its occurrence signals the severity of impacts on affected communities, making it a key indicator of loss and damage. Because it often leads to harmful outcomes, it also constitutes a form of loss and damage. Its negative impacts on people's lives and economies can then be considered as losses and damages, making displacement a driver of additional loss and damage.

Despite these significant linkages, loss and damage assessments frequently overlook displacement. Lack of data on the scale of disaster displacement linked to climate change, and also on its impacts on lives and economies, is a major obstacle to better accounting of loss and damage and increased funding.

Data gaps and methodological challenges still prevent us from accurately measuring displacement as an indicator and form of loss and damage, and its economic and non-economic impacts as additional losses and damages in the medium and longer-term. Existing tools from several organisations, however, including IDMC, IOM and IMPACT Initiatives, could be adapted to support such assessments.¹²²

A destroyed home in Taunono, Vanuatu after cyclone Pam struck in March 2015. The cost of infrastructure damage alone from the storm was put at 64 per cent of the country's GDP.
© UNICEF/UNI181136/Crumb

Measuring the risk of future displacement

Investing in measures before displacement happens to limit its scale, duration and impacts is the most efficient solution to the phenomenon.¹¹⁴ Recent developments in knowledge on disaster displacement and progress in risk modelling have provided a stronger basis for governments and their partners to plan ahead and invest in prevention and preparedness.

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure intends to make the benefits that accrue from investing in resilient infrastructure visible by producing evidence on the effects of climate change on global average annual losses.¹¹⁵ The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) estimates economic damages resulting from floods that consider related displacements and fatalities.¹¹⁶

More recently, IDMC, in partnership with UNU-EHS, the CIMA Foundation, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the University of Valencia and Nanyang Technological University released a new global disaster displacement risk model, which estimates risks under different climate change scenarios. Its results provide vital insights to inform global and national discussions on loss and damage, climate adaptation, national action plans, policy development and other measures for the prevention of and preparedness for displacement.

A woman carries her child amidst destruction from flooding in Kavrepalanchowk district, Nepal in October 2024. Riverine floods are expected to trigger an average annual displacement of 18 million people under the optimistic scenario and 26 million under the pessimistic one. © UNICEF/UNI655359/Upadhayay

Number of Average Annual Displacements under optimistic and pessimistic climate change scenarios

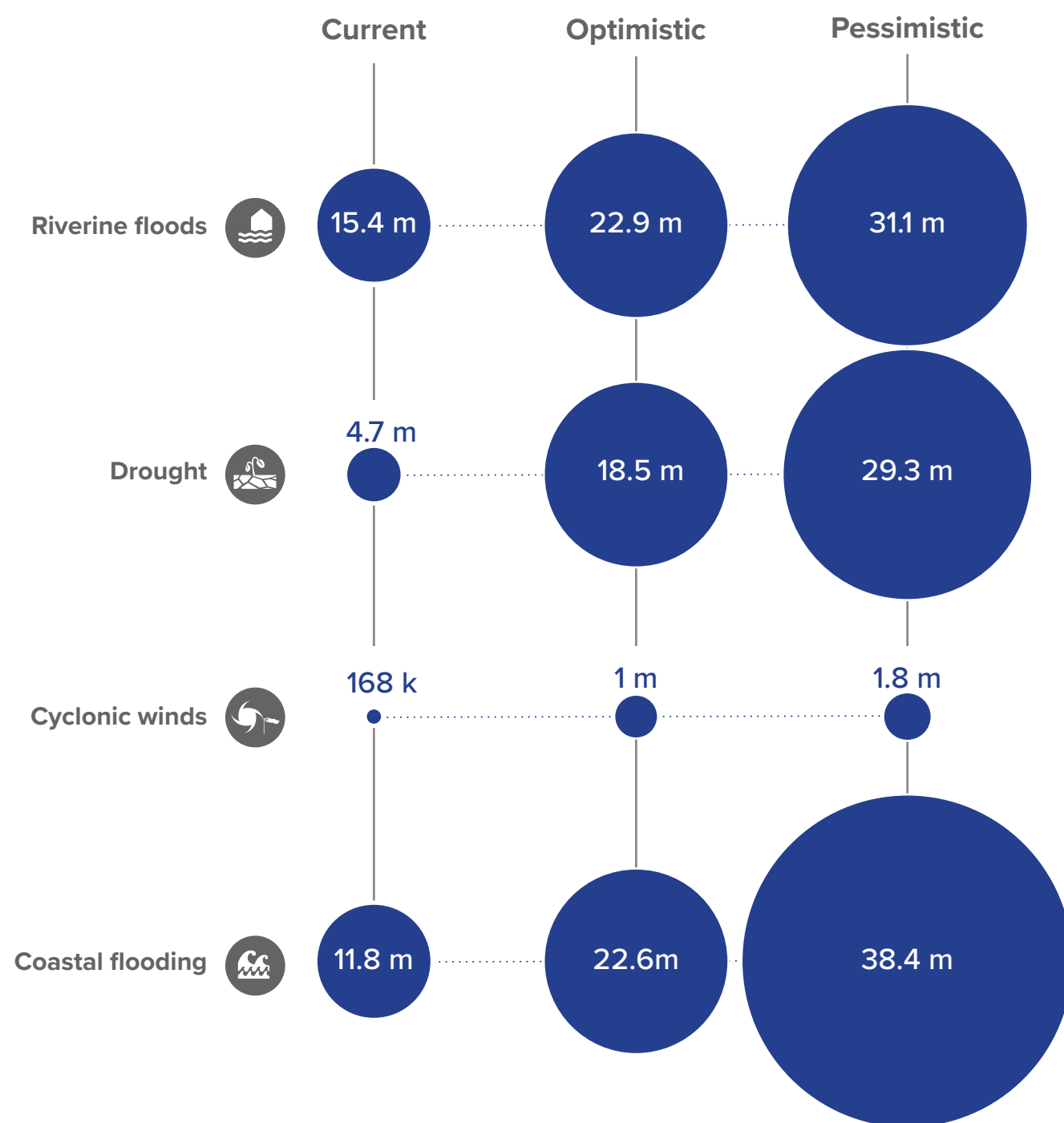


Figure 12

The model is continuously improved and expanded to provide more accurate results and encompass more hazards. At the time of this report, it covers riverine and coastal floods, drought and cyclonic winds. Initial results suggest the risk of displacement as a result of these hazards will continue to rise, be it in an optimistic climate change scenario of +1C global warming or a pessimistic one of +5C based on various shared socioeconomic pathways and representative concentration pathways.¹¹⁷

The model assesses the likelihood of medium to long-term displacement mostly as a result of homes being rendered uninhabitable and does not account for pre-emptive evacuations. This means the figures presented here are highly conservative.

The risk under current climatic conditions amounts to 32 million average annual displacements (AADs), understood as the average number people likely to be displaced by riverine and coastal floods, drought and cyclonic winds in any given year. Global displacement risk could increase by 100 per cent by 2100 under the optimistic climate scenario and 210 per cent under the pessimistic scenario, leading to more than 65 million and 100 million displacements a year respectively (see figure 12).

Riverine floods are expected to trigger an average annual displacement of 15.4 million people across 166 countries and territories under current climate conditions. The figure would increase by 50 per cent to 22 million under the optimistic scenario, and would more than double to 31 million under the pessimistic one. Areas along major river basins including the Amazon, the Niger and the Nile and entire areas of Nepal, India and Bangladesh that are highly populated and crossed by major rivers including the Ganges and the Brahmaputra are among the main flood displacement risk hotspots.

Coastal flooding, sudden inundation caused by a short-term increase in water level as a result of storm surges and/or

extreme tides, is heavily influenced by sea-level rise. The model provided estimates for 64 countries and territories, with an AAD of almost 12 million people globally in current climate conditions. The figure almost doubles to 22 million under the optimistic future scenario, and increases by nearly 225 per cent to more than 38 million under the pessimistic one.

The Netherlands is the country most prone to coastal flooding, with around a third of the population at risk of displacement in any given future year. The risk would increase by 48 per cent under the optimistic scenario, and 78 per cent under the pessimistic one to reach around 12 million people if no action is taken. Bangladesh is the second country most at risk, with an AAD of nearly 1.5 million people, rising to 3.1 million under the optimistic scenario and 5 million under the pessimistic one.

Closely linked to storm surges, estimates for cyclonic winds are available for 54 countries and territories. An average of 169,000 people are at risk of displacement in any given future year under current conditions, but the figure is expected to rise significantly as a result of climate change. It would increase by 460 per cent to almost a million under the optimistic scenario, and by 850 per cent to more than 1.5 million under the pessimistic one. For the Philippines, the country most at risk of displacement triggered by cyclonic winds with an AAD of around 100,000 people, the figure could rise to 600,000 and 878,000 under the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios respectively.

Assessing drought displacement risk requires going beyond the impact on housing to consider how the agricultural sector and related livelihoods might be affected. This type of modelling is still a nascent research area.¹¹⁸ The model still generates estimates for 173 countries and territories though, showing a global AAD of 4.7 million under current climate conditions, rising by nearly 300 per cent to 18.5 million under the optimistic scenario, and by 520 per cent to almost 30 million under the pessimistic one.

Displacement risk modelling is a complex undertaking and the current estimates come with caveats and limitations.¹¹⁹ They do not, for example, account for protective measures that could reduce the impact of hazards, such as barriers to prevent coastal flooding. Nor do they consider changes in exposure, such as population growth and distribution, and the resolution of this latest iteration does not allow a proper risk assessment for many small island developing states (SIDSs).

With this in mind, our model provides AAD estimates by hazard at Admin 1, the largest subnational level, for all countries for which data is available. It also estimates probable maximum displacement within a given time period as a result of outlier events. Such information can be used to inform governments' investments and the allocation and mobilisation of resources by helping them to identify hotspots and the potential displacement they should plan for.

Building blocks for effective action

Understanding the scale, drivers and impacts of disaster displacement, and some of the ways in which they can be mitigated, is an essential first step towards addressing the issue. Translating the commitment to do so into effective action requires reliable evidence to guide policies and plans that ensure consistency and sufficient financial resources to invest in prevention, comprehensive responses and lasting solutions.¹²³ This final chapter provides an overview of the necessary conditions for each of these building blocks for an enabling environment at the national level.

A woman stands by the remains of her home that was swept away by floods in Sylhet district, Bangladesh in 2022. Addressing disaster displacement requires reliable evidence, integrating the issue into relevant policy frameworks and securing adequate resources to move policies into action. © WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud



A man rests in front of his house destroyed by floods in Badghis, Afghanistan in 2024. The number of disaster displacement data providers has increased significantly over the past decade, with governments taking the lead in many countries, but many gaps remain. Maisam Shafiey/NRC

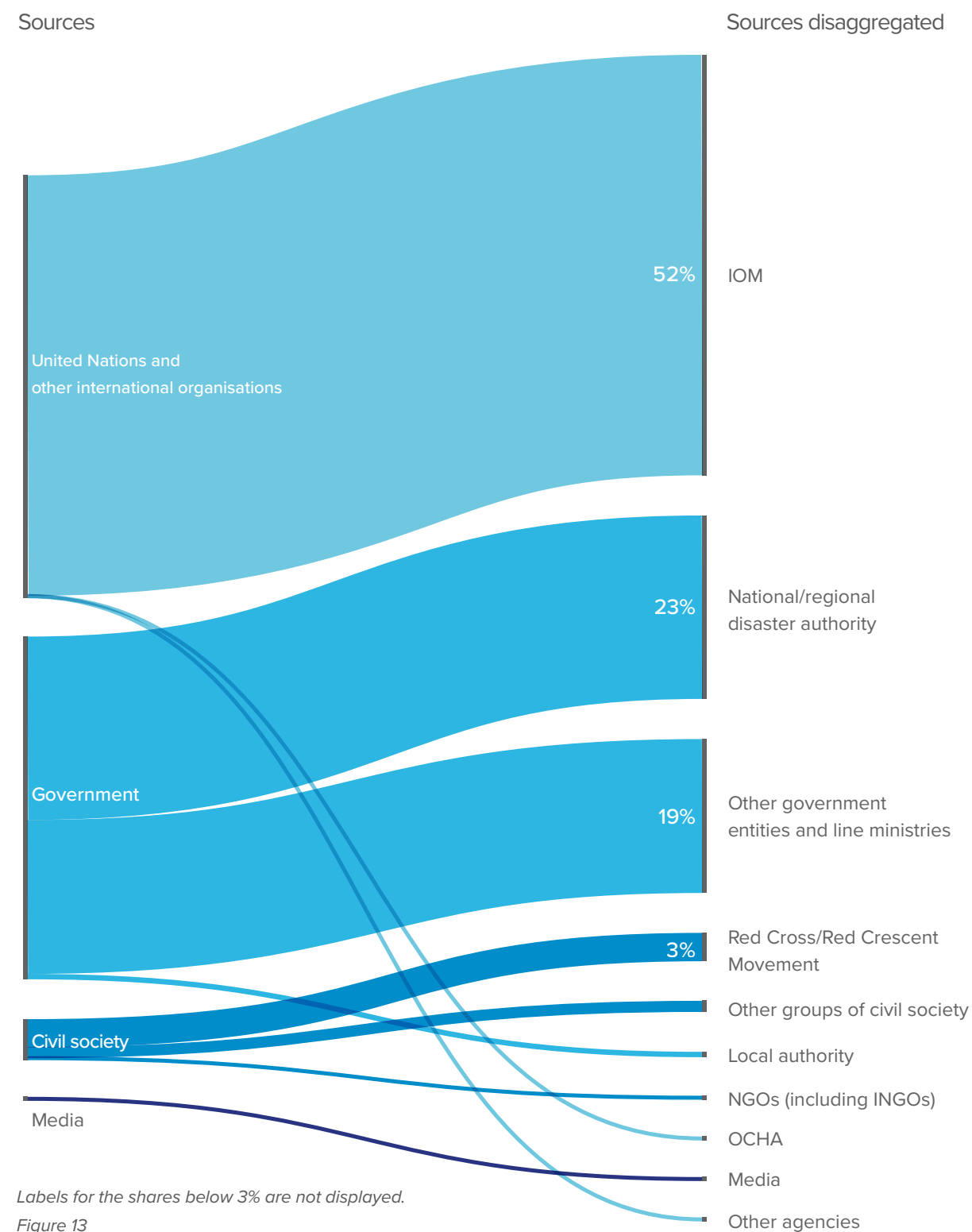
Strengthening the evidence base

Reducing the risk of future displacement, responding to IDPs' immediate and longer-term needs and addressing their related impacts sustainably requires solid evidence upon which to base strategic policy decisions and financial investments. A broad understanding of the main drivers, triggers and impacts of disaster displacement is an essential first step, and global databases such as IDMC's Global Internal Displacement Database, the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Migration Data Portal or the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Humanitarian Data Exchange are useful for preliminary assessments.¹²⁴

They are, however, rarely robust and comprehensive enough to help governments plan and prioritise. More granular national and often sub-national data is required for effective interventions. Many gaps remain in our understanding of disaster displacement (see box p. 37), but promising initiatives are showing the way in some countries.

One of the first aspects to measure is the scale of displacement. This seemingly basic information is essential to assess the resources needed to support affected people, identify the main drivers of displacement and the likely magnitude of future events to invest in prevention and preparedness. Yet, data on the number of people displaced by disasters is still not consistently available. There are major gaps, for example, in the reporting of small-scale events.¹²⁵

Sources of IDMC's estimates for IDPs by disasters



The number of data providers has increased significantly over the past decade, with governments taking the monitoring lead in many countries (see figure 13). Multilateral agencies such as IOM and NGOs such as IMPACT Initiatives as well as the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies also provide valuable

data, but access barriers in certain areas and lack of resources are still an issue. This combined with methodological challenges in assessing movements triggered by slow-onset hazards leads to consistent underestimates of the scale of disaster displacement (see p. 14).

Main data gaps on disaster displacement

Data on disaster displacement has improved significantly over the past decade, but the information available still fails to paint an accurate picture of the scale and severity of the phenomenon. Methodological challenges, lack of resources and countries' varying degrees of prioritisation mean gaps persist. Investing in better capturing the following aspects would help to secure and manage adequate resources to address disaster displacement:

- **Small-scale events:** Small-scale disaster displacement events tend to go underreported because they do not trigger humanitarian and disaster response efforts that require data collection to support relief and recovery. People displaced by these events tend to go unaccounted for as result, despite facing vulnerabilities associated with their plight. Supporting data collection at the local level would help to reveal the true extent of disaster displacement, identify hotspots where small-scale events are more frequent and impactful, and assess the social and economic impacts that localised floods, storms and other disasters have on communities.
- **Slow-onset events:** Displacement associated with slow-onset events such as drought and sea-level rise is a complex process in which people are forced to flee because their area of residence gradually becomes uninhabitable, or because their access to livelihoods, food or water deteriorates to the point that they are no longer able to stay. Accounting for such displacements is challenging because they often occur over long periods and can be hard to distinguish from voluntary migration. They also tend to be small-scale. They may only involve a few families at a time, which makes it difficult to track and monitor them accurately. Qualitative research, participatory approaches and modelled estimates can be used to bridge this knowledge gap.
- **Duration and end of displacement:** Most data collection takes place in the emergency phase of a crisis, in the days that immediately precede and follow an event. It tends to wind down and cease soon after, giving the false impression that displacement is short-lived and that all IDPs return home quickly. Information on what happens to people after they leave emergency shelters is very rare, preventing the provision of assistance to those who may still need it. Monitoring displacement over longer periods of time, ideally until all IDPs have brought their plight to a sustainable end, would help to ensure adequate support, assess the success of relief and recovery efforts, and better prepare for

future crises. Distinguishing between displacement that occurs before, during or after disasters is also important to inform interventions.

- **Distance from home and location:** Data on disaster displacement tends to indicate the place people move from, but rarely where they move to. Distance from home, location and access to social networks, markets and aid all influence on IDPs' decision making and capacity to recover from disasters. Having more comprehensive geolocated information including their origin, destination, return and pendular movements would help to better understand displacement patterns and how they relate to other forms of human mobility. Knowing the type of shelter IDPs find would also be useful. These aspects would help to better design response, recovery and durable solutions programmes.
- **Disaggregated data:** Data disaggregation is essential to ensure that people receive tailored support that corresponds to their needs and characteristics. Information on sex, age, disability status and other factors that influence IDPs' needs and wants is, however, rarely collected. Increased investment in collecting this type of data to inform support for people who are particularly vulnerable to disaster displacement and its impacts is needed.
- **Impacts of displacement:** Information on IDPs' needs and living conditions is essential to guide investments and plan responses, but it is rarely available. Data on the longer-term impacts of displacement on livelihoods, physical and mental health, education and the economy is even more difficult to come by. Dedicated research and data collection is needed to inform more comprehensive and effective action. Surveys, interviews and focus group discussions can be used to collect this type of information, and new approaches using online or phone-based questionnaires help to reduce the costs involved.

Beyond the number of people displaced, information on their conditions and their protection and assistance needs is essential to guide investments and plan responses. Data on IDPs' sex, age and other characteristics is necessary to estimate their needs for nutrition or reproductive healthcare, for example, but only a small fraction of the data available globally is disaggregated in this way.¹²⁶

Information on the specific needs of each individual is even harder to come by. IOM's displacement tracking matrix, IMPACT Initiatives' multi-sectoral needs assessments, and surveys by national or sub-national disaster management agencies and NGOs collect such data in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. But the lack of information on longer-term needs and impacts such as physical and mental health or access to education and work constitutes a major gap.

IDPs' needs and prospects for solutions evolve significantly over time.¹²⁷ Preliminary research has shown the factors that determine IDPs' preference for return or local integration vary depending on the duration of their displacement. The extent of damage to housing and infrastructure is the main factor that influences whether people can return home or not in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, but others such as livelihood opportunities, attachment to place and social networks gain importance as time passes. The longer people remain displaced, the less likely they are to return.

This shows the need to collect data beyond the emergency phase to inform effective support, but it is one of the main gaps globally. Of more than 7,700 displacement events we recorded in 2024, only 468 were monitored until the number of IDPs reached zero. More than half were in just three countries – Malaysia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka – where high quality monitoring systems are in place. Time series data also helps to plan ahead because it serves to understand the seasonal nature of some types of displacement, as well as repeated or pendular movements, which tend to increase IDPs' vulnerability.¹²⁸

Accounting for pre-emptive evacuations separately from longer-term displacement is also useful to guide support and monitor the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures. Evacuations are a life-saving measure and a mark of governments' commitment to protect people, but they come at a cost and should not be addressed in the same way as protracted displacement.

Several countries have improved their monitoring systems as part of their efforts to measure progress in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030, but more needs to be done to include displacement-related indicators.¹²⁹ We have worked with IOM to develop and test a set of standard displacement-related metrics and indicators that strengthen the ability of DRR stakeholders to integrate the phenomenon into their work.¹³⁰ The initiative also proposes common definitions to make data more interoperable. By establishing such indicators, countries are supported in addressing critical data gaps and enhancing national capacities to collect displacement data and use it to inform their decision making.

The lack of harmonised and interoperable disaster displacement data from different sources has hindered efforts to understand and address the issue at the national and global level. Data collection continues to be fragmented, with varying indicators and methodologies, but efforts are being made at the global level to develop common standards.

The International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) were developed by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) and adopted in 2020 to improve the production, quality, coordination and dissemination of data.¹³¹ The Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) taskforce has also proposed a framework and coordination approach to improve data for resolving IDPs' plight and address issues and gaps.¹³²

These are some of the crucial pieces of information upon which governments and

their partners could build more effective measures to address disaster displacement. The same evidence could also inform better predictive models and guide prevention and preparedness plans (see p. 30), and stronger investment and resource mobilisation plans (see p. 41).

We verify data from hundreds of sources around the world and render it comparable across countries and over time. Humanitarian and development stakeholders, donors, research institutions and others then use it, multiplying the impact of the original data collection and analysis.¹³³ In situations where limited resources for humanitarian assistance and longer-term investments are increasingly stretched, collaborating and building on existing information to guide action is the only way to address the global challenge of disaster displacement.

Displacement-inclusive policy frameworks

Strengthening the evidence base on disaster displacement is essential to help governments identify areas they should prioritise to address its specific effects in different parts of their territories and on different population groups. Once identified, these national priorities are best enacted if supported by strong frameworks that integrate displacement considerations in DRR, climate change adaptation and development or sector-specific plans to ensure a whole-of-government approach and the efficient use of public resources.¹³⁴

Global frameworks serve as a useful reference for national governments to build on and develop their own instruments.¹³⁵ The need to integrate displacement considerations in DRR is well reflected in the Sendai framework.¹³⁶ It is particularly relevant on aspects of transboundary cooperation to reduce displacement risk (paragraph 28(d)), building capacities to manage evacuations (paragraph 33(h and m)), post-disaster reconstruction and sustainable development for temporary settlements for people displaced by disasters (paragraph 33(j)) and adopting programmes to address disaster-induced mobility (paragraph 30(l)).¹³⁷ The framework provides hooks for policy and action to address displacement as a major human consequence and driver of disaster risk.¹³⁸

An increasing number of countries have integrated disaster displacement in their DRR strategies and plans. A study commissioned by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in cooperation with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) shows that the number of national DRR strategies and related instruments that mention human mobility increased significantly between 2018 and 2023, when 78 per cent of the 112 frameworks

examined included a reference to the phenomenon.¹³⁹

This reveals growing recognition of the needs of people displaced by disasters and their host communities among DRR stakeholders, but few strategies include concrete steps to take. More remains to be done in particular to acknowledge the need for risk assessments and modelling, data collection and prevention and preparedness measures.

The Paris Agreement also provides a strong basis for investments in the prevention of and solutions to displacement linked to disasters and climate change, as are other official texts from more recent conferences of the parties (COPs).¹⁴⁰ The agreement constitutes a “milestone in terms of global commitment, to move from enhancing knowledge on climate-related displacement to taking action to avert, minimize and address such displacement” with a decision to establish a task force on the issue.¹⁴¹ It also encourages parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), which are connected to global and domestic policy frameworks.

Of 53 NAPs submitted as of February 2024, 74 per cent make specific reference to disaster displacement.¹⁴² Only 38 per cent, however, contain concrete provisions or commitments to address the phenomenon in some way. Benin’s 2022 NAP is a comprehensive example because it commits to collecting data on the issue, promoting livelihood diversification, protecting and empowering IDPs and relocating people away from high-risk areas.¹⁴³ Cameroon’s is another good example. It looks at additional challenges in displacement settings, including social conflict and repercussions for health, and envisages ways to anticipate disaster displacement and provide medical care for IDPs.¹⁴⁴

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises displacement as one of the main threats to development. Each of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides opportunities to include IDPs in investments to reduce poverty

and ensure equal access to health, education, clean water and sanitation, work and more.¹⁴⁵ The 2030 agenda also recognises that the overarching principle of leaving no one behind requires not only ways to support IDPs but also preventive measures. Large scale or repeated displacement is an obstacle to national ambitions for socioeconomic development, while investing in development and in specific SDGs such as ending poverty (SDG 1), climate action (SDG 13) and resilient infrastructure (SDG 9) has the potential to limit future displacement.¹⁴⁶

Disaster displacement is rarely integrated in national development plans but embedding it in related frameworks would help governments secure development finance to address it through broader approaches to long-term solutions. It could, for example, be incorporated in urban and rural development strategies, while ensuring that tailored measures that address it are not overlooked.¹⁴⁷

Displacement considerations are increasingly included in disaster and climate change-related frameworks, but doing so is still not systematic.¹⁴⁸ The Task Force on Displacement of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM ExCom) has produced a technical guide that is a helpful tool to support such integration.¹⁴⁹

Countries such as Vanuatu have adopted specific instruments on displacement linked to disasters and a changing climate.¹⁵⁰ Its 2018 national policy on the issue was developed through a consultative process involving affected communities, and contains measures to prevent future displacement, including safeguards against forced eviction, action to make infrastructure more resilient to disasters and provisions for temporary and permanent relocation. The policy also emphasises the need to mainstream displacement considerations in national development plans.

Regional frameworks have also been developed to facilitate cooperation

between countries affected by climate change and disaster displacement. In Africa, for example, efforts have been made to secure regional stability through the joint prevention of conflict, disasters and displacement.¹⁵¹ The overlapping nature of these issues in many countries on the continent heightens the need for harmonised approaches to addressing them.¹⁵² The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)’s regional climate change strategy and action plan for 2023-2030 acknowledges that eastern Africa is heavily affected by displacement triggered by protracted conflicts that often stem from competition for scarce resources and are likely to be aggravated by climate change.¹⁵³

In the Pacific, where countries are heavily affected by disasters and the effects of climate change that lead to internal and cross-border displacement, a regional framework on climate mobility was endorsed in 2023.¹⁵⁴ It is intended to guide governments across the region by adopting a proactive and planned approach to climate mobility and enhancing their peoples’ resilience and wellbeing.

Despite these promising advances, many countries with frameworks that incorporate disaster displacement have struggled to implement them for lack of resources.¹⁵⁵ Fiji has taken interesting steps to try to address this issue. Not only has it developed guidelines to manage the planned relocation of communities at risk of displacement triggered by climate change.¹⁵⁶ It has also established a trust fund to support vulnerability assessments for at-risk communities and identify potential relocation sites, financed by the environment and climate adaptation levy, a national tax introduced in 2019 on the tourism, leisure and entertainment sectors, along with donor contributions.¹⁵⁷

Though some countries are able to call upon domestic resources, external support from international financial institutions or other financiers is often key.

Residents cross a temporary bridge in the aftermath of floods in Borno state, Nigeria. Nigeria is among an increasing number of countries which have integrated disaster displacement in their DRR strategies and plans. © IOM/Eljah Elaigwu

Securing adequate resources

Laws, policies and strategies are essential political signals to address disaster displacement, but they are only the beginning. They cannot achieve their anticipated results without sufficient financial support.

Reports of disaster displacement taking place year after year and of people remaining in displacement for months or even years demonstrate our collective inability to address the issue sustainably. Most resources are dedicated to emergency responses and humanitarian assistance, but broader investments are needed if the scale and severity of the phenomenon are to be reduced, and if targets under the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda are to be met.

Responsibility for supporting affected people and investing in plans to reduce the risk of future disaster displacement lies with national governments, and some have taken concrete measures as highlighted in earlier chapters. Many, however, do not have the resources to succeed on their own. More than 60 per cent of disaster displacements recorded in 2024 occurred in low and lower-middle income countries and territories. Even more striking, 88 per cent of the people displaced by disasters at the end of the year lived in low or lower-middle income countries or territories that were also hosting people living in displacement as a result of conflict or violence. In countries where low levels of socioeconomic development aggravate the risk and impacts of displacement and where disasters, conflicts and violence overlap, international support becomes a necessity.

A woman restores farmland in Sagaing Region, Myanmar, after Cyclone Komen struck the country in 2015. At the end of 2024, 88 per cent of people living in displacement as a result of disasters lived in low or lower-middle income countries or territories that were also hosting people forced into displacement by conflict or violence. © IOM/Mayco Naing

Naing

Billions of dollars a year are spent on international aid for people affected by internal displacement, but humanitarian funding is declining and by nature is only intended to provide temporary support.¹⁵⁸ The UN Secretary-General's 2022 Action Agenda on Internal Displacement calls for international financial institutions and bilateral donors to address the phenomenon proactively and systematically with development financing, but progress has been slow.¹⁵⁹

The World Bank and the African Development Bank recently introduced displacement-specific indicators in their monitoring mechanisms, and a working group of international financial institutions, UN agencies and bilateral donors has been created.¹⁶⁰ The Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s disaster risk management action plan for 2024 to 2030 commits to supporting developing member countries in harnessing development finance to address displacement, a welcome step towards putting the secretary general's recommendations into practice.¹⁶¹

The potential of development financing has yet to be harnessed, but the mechanisms are in place and sometimes already used to prevent and resolve displacement.¹⁶² More than 45 per cent of the projects the ADB funded in 2023 had disaster risk management features, often helping to reduce the risk of displacement.¹⁶³

Governments can also rely on their country allocations, a financial envelope that multilateral development banks provide to support their pre-identified priorities over a four or five-year period. Other funding mechanisms, such as thematic windows or trust funds focused on particular issues such as climate change adaptation, DRR, crisis response and poverty reduction, can also be used to address the drivers of displacement and mitigate risks.

Multilateral development banks can also provide much-needed liquidity to restore housing, infrastructure and livelihoods for displaced people, paving the way for

longer-term solutions.¹⁶⁴ The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development injected hundreds of millions of euros into the reconstruction of sustainable infrastructure and livelihood support in cities affected by 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye, encouraging IDPs' return and reintegration.¹⁶⁵

The private sector and innovative financing mechanisms are other options, but examples of investments to address internal displacement are rare.¹⁶⁶ Climate finance, through the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, climate investment funds, the Global Environment Facility and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage are other potential sources of finance to address displacement linked to disasters and climate change.¹⁶⁷

Improved loss and damage assessments help to unlock climate funding to prevent and respond to displacement, but quality data is needed to secure these resources.¹⁶⁸ This challenge is especially pronounced in fragile and conflict-affected countries which, despite being highly vulnerable to climate change and hosting significant numbers of IDPs, face major barriers in accessing such finance.¹⁶⁹

Climate finance has so far largely neglected efforts to address displacement linked to climate change and disasters, which are primarily funded by the humanitarian sector.¹⁷⁰ The establishment of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage at COP27, however, offers an opportunity to expand climate funding for addressing displacement. It explicitly includes displacement within its scope and recognises displaced people as beneficiaries. This acknowledgment marks a significant step forward, but the key challenge lies in securing enough resources to fully finance the fund.

To access development, climate and private sector financing, governments must be able to develop convincing proposals that highlight the actual and anticipated impacts of displacement on their countries' economies and iden-

tify the most cost-effective ways of addressing them. Many, however, still lack comprehensive data on the scale of the phenomenon, the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of their IDPs, the duration of their displacement and its impacts on livelihoods and the broader economy, which impedes the development of such proposals.

Progress in terms of the coverage, granularity and timeliness of displacement data, advances in displacement risk modelling and climate attribution analyses and improved collection, harmonisation and sharing of data on IDPs' profiles and needs in a growing number of countries are paving the way for stronger funding proposals in the coming years. Donors will also need to facilitate such processes, however, whether by offering technical assistance for governments to develop their proposals, simplifying procedures and mechanisms or investing in national data systems.

Conclusion

Ten years after the adoption of the Sendai framework, our collective understanding of disaster displacement and recognition of the links between it and DRR have improved significantly. More data is available to paint a fuller picture of the scale and impacts of the phenomenon, and it shows that virtually every country around the world is affected.

New modelling also shows that many countries are likely to face high levels of disaster displacement in the future, and climate change is expected to increase

the risk for most. National monitoring systems are producing better information to guide action and support for IDPs, and a growing number of countries mention disaster displacement in their policy frameworks, including DRR-related instruments.

But this stocktake should also serve as a wakeup call. The Sendai framework expires in only five years' time and there is still much to achieve. Data reveals that disaster displacement often affects the same people repeatedly and the most vulnerable more

severely, heightening pre-existing vulnerabilities. It also sheds light on the impacts on people's lives and broader economies. These jeopardise socio-economic development and hinder progress towards other global commitments such as the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

It is clear that humanitarian responses alone do not resolve disaster displacement. Development interventions are also needed. Coordinated action across sectors, accompanied by investments in prevention, prepared-

ness and lasting solutions, is the most effective and efficient way forward.

There are promising initiatives in many parts of the world. They show that evidence-based action, coupled with strong political will, institutional capacity and enough financial resources, reduce the risk and impacts of displacement. Prioritising national monitoring through investments in data systems and capacity building helps to tailor responses for more inclusive and comprehensive outcomes and inform preventative measures and

preparedness. Better knowledge of disaster displacement also helps to guide better related policies, plans, budgets and resource mobilisation.

Most people who flee disasters stay within their own borders and responsibility for their plight lies with their governments, but national public funding is rarely enough to address an issue of such scale and severity. Contributions from external partners, including the private sector, bilateral and multilateral donors, and development and climate finance are essential complements.

Given growing competition for scarce resources and overlapping crises, coordination and collaboration across countries and sectors is key to building more resilient societies.



A community in Rajshahi division, Bangladesh, fights against erosion that has displaced multiple families. Examples show that evidence-based action, coupled with strong political will, institutional capacity and enough financial resources, reduce the risk and impacts of displacement. © IOM/Amanda Nero

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Every day, people flee conflict and disasters and become displaced inside their own countries. IDMC provides data and analysis and supports partners to identify and implement solutions to internal displacement.

Join us as we work to make real and lasting change for internally displaced people in the decade ahead.



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