





Responding to internal displacement in the context of climate change is complex. However, it is critical to ensure that any response promotes the rights, protection and dignity of those who are being displaced. As a result, the following points should guide response:

- ◁ Advocate for strengthening the rights and protections of those displaced and treat them with dignity, recognizing the vulnerability and capacity of people going through life-changing and distressing experiences.
- ◁ Provide adequate finance and resources, including through immediate humanitarian support and social safety nets, that allows for the equitable securement of land and resources necessary to sustain livelihoods disrupted by relocation, taking into account rights, protection, local culture and gender needs.
- ◁ Ensure that response efforts are based on best-practices for informed, participatory, inclusive, rights-based and culturally- and gender-sensitive decision making that supports displacement

*Solutions: multiple approaches and extensive collaboration*

As mentioned, both climate change and internal displacement are complex issues and addressing them will require multiple approaches and extensive collaboration between government agencies, relevant actors and local communities. Although solutions will be unique to every scenario, below are some key approaches to keep in mind when evaluating and implementing potential solutions:

- ◁ Focus on the fundamental rights of protection and security instead of categorizing who qualifies for support. In the context of climate change, not all those who are displaced will neatly fit into the defined IDP category. However, everyone experiencing extreme vulnerability deserves protections, regardless of whether or not they were displaced by climate change impacts or if their displacement was forced or voluntary. Additionally, making categories of qualifying people will likely fracture bureaucratic responsibility and breed animosity among local, needy populations who are excluded from support
- ◁ Consider the impacts of climate change. Climate change impacts may have been a driver of internal displacement and mitigating future impacts is crucial in order to minimize future displacement. However, climate change impacts must also be considered while identifying and implementing solutions. Failure to evaluate how solutions may be impacted by climate change now or in the future, can lead to greater vulnerability of displaced populations and repeat displacement.
- ◁ Solutions must be participatory. Local communities must be included in the identification and implementation of solutions in a participatory, transparent, culturally sensitive and -making process and help secure the necessary support (financial, technical, capacity-building, etc.). Participatory decision-making processes are crucial from a human and cultural rights perspective and often lead to better, more durable outcomes.

- ◁ Take a gender-sensitive approach that accounts for the unique ways in which women and men experience both climate change and internal displacement differently. Solutions should actively engage women in the decision-making process, seek implementation guidance from gender experts and allocate sufficient time, budget and resources to ensure that assistance is safe and gender sensitive.
- ◁ Consider psycho-social solutions, not just physical solutions. While physical solutions, such as food and shelter are crucial, often the psycho-social dimension of displacement is ignored. In many cases, displacement occurs as a result of a distressing event and being in a new, unfamiliar environment where you are unable to satisfy basic needs and are uncertain about the future can lead to constant worry, fear and frustration. Neglecting the psycho-social aspects of displacement can lead to further vulnerability.

**2. Across the objectives of prevention, response and solutions, how can national political will, responsibility and capacity be catalyzed and cultivated.**

There is a need for governments and relevant partners to catalyze and cultivate action on addressing urban internal displacement in the context of climate change. The impacts of climate change such as extreme weather disasters, floods or droughts cause internal displacement from rural to urban areas as people search for new livelihoods and opportunities. This influx of IDPs into already dense city settings puts a significant strain on an already fragile urban system and many of these urban IDPs face unique challenges and vulnerabilities. For example, IDPs tend to settle in urban slums, which can increase their vulnerability, and are often pushed towards low-paid jobs and the informal work sector because they are considered low-skill. Additionally, urban IDPs often disappear into the larger urban population and, as a result, governments may not feel responsible and these populations get the support they need.

Responding to the current needs of urban IDPs and preventing additional strain on cities as a result of displacement will require changes

Humanitarian agencies are crucial in the aftermath of a climate-fuelled disaster in order to provide life-saving aid to those who have been displaced. However, once the immediate threat has been addressed, there will be a need for development agencies to engage in recovery efforts to help internally displaced populations rebuild in a sustainable way. Climate change and disaster risk reduction agencies should be actively engaged in the recovery process as well to ensure that community development takes into consideration disaster risks and climate change impacts in an effort to reduce future displacement. Additionally, peace actors are also essential, particularly in situations where climate-related disasters strike a region in conflict. However, peace actors also play an important role in ensuring that the impacts of climate change – such as food and water insecurity, for example – do not lead to internal displacement.

The private sector should also play a role in addressing internal displacement in the context of climate change. By leveraging technological solutions, such as early warning systems, the private sector can contribute to preventing internal displacement by building resilience reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Additionally, the private sector can also contribute

impacts of climate change, including displacement. Governments need to increase the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and redouble efforts to international climate-related finance for adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance in order to avoid the most devastating consequences of climate change and future internal displacement.

**5. New or creative financing solutions which can be built up or better utilized in enabling more effective responses to displacement and the achievement of durable solutions**

*Enhance climate-related financing*

Preventing and responding to internal displacement in the context of climate change will require increasing the coordination, scale and accessibility of international finance for adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance. Developed

*Unreliable and misunderstood data and evidence for climate-related internal displacement*

In general, numbers on climate-related displacement are not very reliable. Estimating the number of people moving in response to climate change (now or in the future) is extremely difficult for a number of reasons, including the many complex factors that influence displacement, the challenges of collecting data on displaced people and the difficulties of attributing climate change to any specific event. As a result of these data challenges, internal displacement can be difficult to manage and is often stalled for prolonged periods of time.

Although the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) has become the most robust data source for climate-

1. The most significant issue is tracking the impact of disasters (which may or may not be caused by climate change) and relying on proxies for





influencing policy. Every action international actors engage in should leave local and national organizations stronger, more independent, and more confident that they can handle or avert the climate-related disasters they are facing.

### **Sources:**

This document was prepared by international, financial institutions, field, and climate policy expertise. Below are publicly available Oxfam reports used to inform this submission.

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