

Policies and Frameworks

Displacement, Mobility and Solutions in the context of climate change



December 2023

Outline

- 1. Context and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- 2. Key features of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement
- 3. Legal Considerations regarding claims for international protection in the context of climate change and disasters

1. What came before the Action Agenda?

- [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#) (1998)
- [Durable Solutions: Preliminary Operational Guide](#) (2016)
- [IASC Operational Guidelines](#) (2011)

What led to the Action Agenda?

- Record numbers of displaced and forward predictions
- Climate-related disasters on the increase
- Protracted nature of displacement
- Push by Member States to rethink and step up IDP approach
- Global multi-stakeholder consultations

2. Action Agenda - Guiding considerations

- Responsibility of the State: whole of government
- Agency and participation of IDPs
- Cross-cutting – work across the HDP nexus
- “Whole of displacement” approach
- Urban reality
- Whole of society and national capacity
- High-quality data and analysis

Three interlinked goals

- Durable solutions
- Prevention
- Effective protection and assistance

*working in partnership

Solutions: recommendations to Government

- Leadership, whole-of-government
- Safe and conducive environment
- Participation in elections
- Displacement addressed in national/local development plans, urban planning, DRR and climate change plans
- Legal and policy framework (equitable access to services)
- Collaboration with international actors

Solutions: UN commitments

- Meaningful participation and inclusion of IDPs in decision-making and solutions planning
- Support whole-of-government solutions strategies
- Attention to urban displacement and support for local/city authorities
- UN leadership and accountability:
 - Special Advisor
 - Steering Group
 - Resident Coordinator in lead for UN on solutions
 - UN IDP solutions strategy (with costing)
 - Global institutional plans
- Financing for solutions
- Pilot engagement with the private sector
- Support States to more effectively use data for solutions

3. What about climate refugees?

- A refugee is defined as a person who has crossed an international border “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.”
- The term “climate refugee” is not endorsed by UNHCR, and it is more accurate to refer to “persons displaced in the context of disasters and climate change”
- Bottom line: the effects of climate change can contribute to the need for international protection, but does not create new categories of refugees.

Legal Considerations on asylum and climate change (2020)

- Elaborates [legal considerations](#) related to climate change as a ‘risk multiplier’
- Confirmed people seeking international protection may have valid claims for refugee status.
- Recalls that States are bound to ensure access to fair and efficient procedures to assess the needs.
- Identifies temporary protection or stay arrangements as a pragmatic way to provide protection for those displaced.

Climate change and disaster displacement

- Focus should be on continued advocacy for climate change action, adaptation and financing
- We can address displacement within our collective work on climate change
- Legal and policy frameworks can guide our response, structure and inform national legislation
- We cannot predict the scale of displacement, but we can prepare for it in a principled, preventative, and practical way.

Discussion!