



Photo: Islanders bid farewell to IOM DRR staff as they leave the Carteret Islands in PNG © IOM/Muse Mohammed

## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Internally displaced persons are among the world's most vulnerable people, facing poverty, lost educational opportunities, unemployment, marginalization and insecurity, to name but a few challenges.

The course of internal displacement is set to continue given the increased frequency, intensity and duration of contemporary conflicts, a general lack of political solutions to resolve the drivers of displacement, and the rising risks associated with environmental degradation, climate change and other sudden-impact or slow-onset disasters. Internal displacement has become an increasingly global and protracted phenomenon that requires concerted global attention.

IOM is uniquely mandated, through its Constitution, to assist displaced persons. The Organization is increasingly called upon to respond to the mobility dimensions of a crisis, and its work on internal displacement in crisis, post-crisis and at-risk contexts represents a significant bulk of its activities.

In doing so, IOM is guided by the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), Migration Crisis Operation Framework (MCOF), as well as the IOM Framework for Addressing Displacement.

## IOM FRAMEWORK FOR ADDRESSING DISPLACEMENT

The goal of the framework is to support operational effectiveness across the organization in the identification and implementation of responses to internal displacement and as part of its coordinated partnerships.



The internationally recognized Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement define IDPs as: 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 natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

The cluster approach, which resulted from the 2005 humanitarian reform process of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), remains the central mechanism for the international community to deliver humanitarian aid in situations of internal displacement. IOM was assigned as the co-lead of the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and as such, is guided by the framework's principles of engagement and commitments:

### PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

- Primary responsibility of States
- Grounded in prevailing principles, policies and practices
- People-centred

### COMMITMENTS AT A GLANCE:

- Human dignity and well-being of all mobile populations
- Inclusive scope of coverage
- Proximate and cost effective operating model
- Institutional strength and transparency

# INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE PACIFIC CONTEXT

There is a direct relationship between natural hazards and displacement of people in the Pacific. The region has a disproportionately high disaster risk, and displacement relative to population size is consistently high. This has manifested recently in several natural disasters, including Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015 and Ambae Island relocation in 2018 in Vanuatu. Fiji was hit by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, Papua New Guinea was affected by the 7.5 magnitude earthquake and Tropical Cyclone Gita hit Tonga in early 2018, all resulting in various levels of displacement.

The high-frequency, prevalence and intensity of sudden- and slow-onset natural disasters in the Pacific result in significant damage to infrastructure and displacement beyond the coping capacity of national authorities. Climate variables, such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and longer-term climate change symptoms are affecting and increasing hazard risks within the region. Although Pacific Island States have established institutions to support the response, risk reduction and mitigation, logistical challenges, limited infrastructure, assets and human resources remain a challenge. These factors can result in increased vulnerability to population displacement, which gives rise to acute protection and humanitarian needs.



Three generations of villagers pose for a picture along the shoreline on one of the Carteret Islands, PNG. Due to coastal erosion, the islands have progressively become uninhabitable as their homes slowly become consumed by the sea over several decades. Photo: © IOM / Muse Mohammed

## ADDRESSING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE PACIFIC

IOM works to addressing internal displacement in the context of both natural disasters and human conflict. IOM works to address displacement related challenges by helping to build capacities to ensure displaced populations are protected from and resilient to impact of disasters in the Pacific. Programmes in the Pacific are utilising IOM Global tools and methodologies in the areas of Preparedness, Emergency Response and Resilience Building.



### CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM is the Global Cluster Lead CCCM in emergencies induced by natural disasters.

In April 2018 a state of emergency was declared because of volcanic eruption in Ambae Island of **Vanuatu**, that brought ash fall and acid rain displacing the entire population. As a result, IOM is strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders in Vanuatu to manage displacement induced by natural disasters and climate change.

IOM's approach is to adapt global best practice in displacement management for out of camp settings, including through facilitating participation of affected communities in site management, prioritizing site risk reduction and safe evacuation awareness, and to support government and non-governments humanitarian actors in coordinating service provision, information dissemination and identification of durable solutions to displacement.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED POPULATIONS

IOM's activities relating to emergency and post-emergency operations assistance focus on four phases of emergency intervention: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Programme activities cover emergency relief, return, reintegration, capacity-building and protection of the rights of affected populations.

The Pacific Island Countries are highly exposed to natural disasters, effects of climate change, and geographic isolation, reinforcing the need for detailed preparedness planning. Several islands and atolls within **Federated States of Micronesia(FSM)** and the **Republic of Marshall Islands(RMI)** have experienced a number of disasters within the last decade, affecting thousands of people and leading to fatalities. These nations are exposed to a myriad of natural hazards, including flooding, drought, typhoons, wave surges, and tsunamis.

IOM PREPARE programme focuses on strengthening preparedness (Stage 1), emergency response (Stage 2), and recovery and reconstruction capacity (Stage 3). PREPARE focuses on developing the capacity of host government and civil society and harnessing existing resources and initiatives to enhance preparedness and response. As disasters often disproportionately affect those already vulnerable in society such as children, the elderly, women or people living with disabilities,

# DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

DTM is a system composed of a variety of tools and processes designed and developed to track and monitor population displacement during crises.

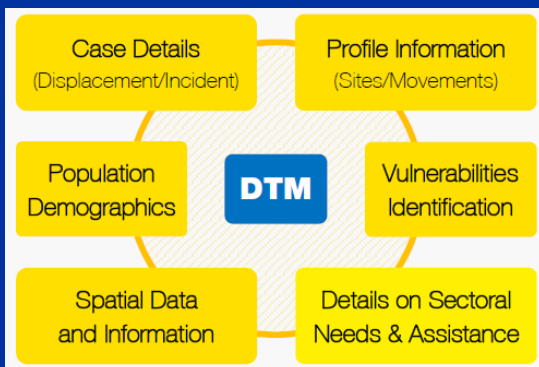
IOM has rolled out its Displacement and Evacuation Tracking Matrix in three Pacific countries:

In Vanuatu following a volcanic eruption on the island of Ambae, 11,380 individuals – 97.5% of total island population - were internally displaced. DTM data provide information on demographics, site and shelter conditions, and intentions to return.

In Fiji, Following the devastation brought about by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, initial reports from the Fiji Government indicated more than 54,000 evacuees. As no comprehensive survey had been undertaken, IOM was requested by the Government of Fiji to conduct tracking and monitoring to capture that information and provide effective assistance.

In Papua New Guinea IOM has been helping people affected by the earthquake that hit the Highlands region in February 2018. Provinces highly impacted by the disaster were the Southern Highlands and Hela. Response by IOM includes tracking human displacement through the DTM, as well as providing Non-Food Items to affected populations.

IOM PNG regularly conducts event tracking to identify locations housing the displaced including their humanitarian needs. As part of its DTM operations, IOM in partnership with the Government of PNG and development actors, conducted a profiling of IDPs in the country (2017) to better understand the current situation and to inform strategy development and planning towards durable solutions to displacement.



PREPARE ensures the views of men, women, girls and boys and vulnerable groups are well represented.

In Papua New Guinea(PNG), the 7.5 magnitude earthquake of February 2018 had severely impacted an already fragile WASH infrastructure in the four affected highland provinces. The country ranks the lowest globally for access to safe water (37%) and the lowest in the Pacific region for adequate sanitation (19%).

IOM contributed towards the provision of safe drinking water at community level and at institutions such as schools and health centres through the rehabilitation of rain water harvesting systems. Providing adequate sanitation facilities through the rehabilitation of emergency latrines, at the community level and in institutions such as health centres and schools. Promotes good hygiene and health practices through the training and support of community hygiene and health promoters, on a voluntary appointment, who will disseminate messages through household visits and hygiene sessions. Procure and distribute key WASH emergency relief supplies. Ensure a coordinated and effective two-way communication with affected populations.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

IOM's work on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and environmental degradation contributes to the efforts of Member States to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 by advancing mobility-based strategies in disaster risk reduction and resilience. Paying attention to at-risk communities, migrants and other vulnerable mobile populations, this area of programming seeks to:



In FSM and Palau, IOM is working to enhance radio communications to facilitate the flow of public information and incorporating renewable energy components to help ensure sustainability. This approach ensures a cost-effective mechanism for delivering messaging to remote island communities that otherwise would not receive key public information, such as early warnings to hazards on a consistent basis. Additionally, IOM is supporting the government of RMI to develop disaster risk management plans to support communities working to secure food and water resources ahead of droughts.

IOM disaster risk reduction programmes in Vanuatu seek to contribute to protecting the environment from the impact of mass displacement (before during and after a displacement induced by natural disasters including slow and sudden onset). It does so by supporting the government to develop nationally endorsed guidelines and displacement tracking tools to effectively monitor and manage displacement, including the environmental impacts of displacement.



Immediately after disaster strikes, IOM is on the ground collecting valuable data on internally displaced persons (IDP) and affected communities. Following the 7.5 magnitude earthquake in **Papua New Guinea** in 2018 IOM collected data on 42,577 IDPs and in the process revealed that over 70% of displacement-affected communities lacked access to sex-segregated latrines. This priority need was then shared with the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster to inform appropriate response. Similarly, following Cyclone Gita in 2018, IOM trained enumerators across **Tonga** to collect and analyse data, which helps to identify gender-sensitive rehabilitation measures and recovery programs.

### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

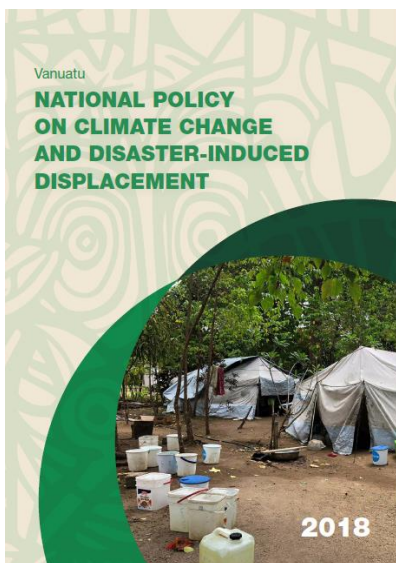
While IOM supports traditional durable solutions approaches, including voluntary return and reintegration, local integration and resettlement/relocation elsewhere, IOM recognizes the impacts of crisis and displacement on other populations, including other migrants and affected communities and the challenges to achieving definitive solutions.

In line with the national policies which call for the establishment and strengthening of institutional structures to effectively address climate change and disasters, IOM provides technical support to contribute towards enhanced capacity of the national, provincial, and local institutional structures in Vanuatu to provide protection and work towards durable solutions for population affected by displacement. It does so by supporting a) the establishment of an inter-ministerial displacement protection and planning committee, b) review of national legislation to align with the needs of displaced populations, c) assist communities and other stakeholders identify community intentions and highlight appropriate durable solutions options developed through participatory approaches and d) capacity building training on evacuation center selection, assessment and management, mass evacuation in natural disasters plans.



IOM has also contributed to resilient environmentally-appropriate building through upgrading indigenous and local techniques in **Vanuatu** and building water and agricultural resilience in **Papua New Guinea**.

### PUTTING POLICY INTO EVERYDAY PRACTICE



IOM builds the capacity of the governments in managing the displacement cycle in cases of sudden- and slow-onset emergencies, with the aim of ensuring protection-sensitive durable solutions for disaster-affected populations in the Pacific.

IOM supported the development of the **Vanuatu National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster-Induced Displacement**. The Displacement Policy aims to help guide emergency and development planners work together with the government to address the needs of all communities affected by displacement. Communities affected include people at-risk of displacement, displaced people, internal migrants, people living in informal settlements, and host communities, and especially women across these groups whose situation is especially vulnerable in displacement.

IOM also supports governments in the Pacific to mainstream displacement and migration into national policies and operational plans by conducting policy reviews, developing standard operational procedures and trainings to national and provincial government officials on policy implementation.

IOM's response to internal displacement across the Pacific region has been made possible through the generous support of:

