

# FORCED TO FLEE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

How the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is addressing climate and disaster displacement across the Asia Pacific Region



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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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**COVER: BANGLADESH 2020** – Jorina Begum checks on her flooded home after being forced to leave during floods in June 2020, which displaced 5.4 million people. As climate change intensifies, communities like Jorina's are increasingly vulnerable to prolonged flooding, forcing many to seek shelter on higher ground or along roadsides. *AJ Ghani / IFRC*

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## About this report

In the face of disasters and the changing climate, people in Asia Pacific are being forced to flee their homes. Using case studies of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society action in Asia Pacific, this report underscores the need to scale up efforts to support people and communities to adapt and reduce the risks of displacement, address the humanitarian impacts of displacement and support resilient and sustainable recovery. It articulates where we need to do more, anchoring our action in local leadership and the meaningful participation of affected people and communities.

## Acknowledgements

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Hanna Butler coordinated the editing and production of the report, with design from MakeReady. Graphic content was developed by Eszter Sarodzy. All photographs were sourced from the IFRC ShaRED collection and are credited to the photographers.



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Several National Societies also support the work of Asia Pacific National Societies in reducing risks and addressing needs related to displacement in the context of disasters and climate change in Asia Pacific. These include American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hong Kong Red Cross Branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Korean Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent.

## Get involved

There are many ways to support the work of National Societies addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

CEA	Community engagement and accountability
CVA	Cash and voucher assistance
EAP	Early action protocol
eVCA	Enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments
IDP	Internally displaced person
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IFRC-DREF	IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund
PASSA	Participatory Approach for Safer Shelter and Settlement Awareness
PER	Preparedness for Effective Response
PGI	Protection, gender and inclusion
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene



## FOREWORD

The impacts of displacement do not end with the decision to move. Risks and uncertainties follow people into new, and often precarious places, testing their ability to rebuild and find stability.

For millions of people across Asia Pacific this is not a distant possibility, it is a daily reality. In 2024 alone, there were 24 million disaster displacements across the region, accounting for over half of all global disaster displacements. Asia Pacific is the world's most disaster-prone region. The number of people forced to move is only set to increase as climate change accelerates.

The diversity of this region means that displacement looks different in every context. In Tuvalu, rising seas inch closer each day, forcing decisions to be made about leaving centuries-old homelands. In Mongolia, droughts and harsh winters drive herders from the steppes. In the crowded lanes of Bangkok, floods push the poorest from already fragile homes. Whether on a tiny island or in a sprawling city, the stories are the same: disasters, driven and amplified by climate change, are uprooting lives and erasing the familiar.

Yet, in the face of these challenges, there is hope. Hope is found in the strength of communities and in the tireless work of those who stand with them. Across Asia Pacific, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its member National Societies are already at the forefront of locally led action, working with communities to reduce risks, support recovery and strengthen resilience. Our collective action spans the full cycle: from early warning and early action, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, to humanitarian response and long-term recovery. They work to ensure no one is left behind – supporting displaced people, migrants, refugees and host communities alike.

This report is a call to see what is at stake and to recognise the possibilities for change. It highlights what is possible when communities are supported, and local action is prioritised. It reminds us that while Asia Pacific faces more displacement than any other region, it also holds some of the most powerful examples of resilience and adaptation.

It argues that we must invest in people's ability to stay safely in their homes, support those who must move, and ensure that no one is left to face the impacts of disasters and climate change alone.

**Alexander Matheou**

Regional Director, Asia Pacific  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change and disasters are increasingly undermining the lives, health, protection and well-being of people and communities across Asia Pacific. Each year, millions of people face escalating risks and devastating impacts – many are forced to leave their homes and become displaced, while others remain unable to move without support.

This report highlights the essential role of National Societies in Asia Pacific in reducing the risks of, and addressing the needs from, displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. The report showcases how locally led and collective action can help people to adapt, move to safer areas and recover and rebuild with dignity. It serves as both a description of challenges surrounding displacement and as a practical resource for policymakers, practitioners and partners seeking to enhance efforts in this critical space.

The urgency for action has never been greater. The Asia Pacific region sees more displacement linked to disasters and climate change than any other region in the world. With the highest number of disasters globally, the region is facing increasingly frequent and intense events due to climate change. In 2024 alone, these events triggered over 24 million displacements – over half of the global total – and the situation is expected to worsen.

More frequent and intense climate and weather-related disasters are becoming the norm. Recent years have seen floods, storms, heavy rains, tropical cyclones, heatwaves and prolonged droughts. Climate hazards often intersect with geophysical hazards such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, compounding risk. Consecutive and cyclical events leave communities with little time to recover, increasing the risk of repeated displacement and worsening living conditions. Displacement is also becoming more protracted and complex, driven by the interconnected impacts of climate change, disasters, conflict, violence, poverty and other factors.

Empowering people and expanding their options is essential to helping them stay safely in their homes, move out of harm's way and recover with dignity on their own terms. Achieving this requires sustained investment in risk reduction, climate adaptation and early action, alongside robust preparedness measures, targeted humanitarian support and efforts to strengthen sustainable and resilient recovery.

Through 39 case studies from 21 National Societies in Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, this report demonstrates how they are working with local communities and leading efforts to reduce risks, protect lives and support recovery. These examples of addressing displacement and strengthening resilience to the impacts of disasters and climate change across Asia Pacific offer insights and inspiration for action.

## Who we are

As the world's largest humanitarian network, the IFRC is comprised of 191 National Societies, 38 of which are in Asia Pacific. National Societies are uniquely placed to address displacement. As trusted and present community members with networks of local staff and volunteers, and as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field, National Societies bridge gaps between communities, governments and other actors to address the needs of the most at-risk. This unique dual positioning also allows National Societies to engage with decision-makers and opinion-shapers, elevating community voices and priorities to inform policy and programmatic action.

Working closely with diverse communities, including people of all ages, genders and backgrounds, National Societies play a pivotal role in identifying those at risk of displacement, reducing risks and advancing climate adaptation. Their work encompasses preparedness; early warning and early action; humanitarian response; recovery and resilience-strengthening. These efforts are complemented by work on disaster risk governance; protection, gender and inclusion; community engagement and accountability; and humanitarian diplomacy. National Societies aim to take an inclusive approach, working to leave no one behind by supporting internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers, migrants and host communities while empowering them to shape programming and services.

For the IFRC, addressing the needs of people and communities at risk of or adversely affected by displacement in the context of disasters and climate change is a global strategic priority. This commitment is reflected in the IFRC's Strategy 2030 and the Migration Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2024–2030. Through the Global Climate Resilience Platform, IFRC is generating financial resources to scale-up locally led climate action, focusing on meaningful participation and active leadership by communities, including those at risk of or affected by displacement. Climate resilience programming is already underway in at least 94 countries. These commitments underscore the reality that National Societies are already responding to this challenge in every corner of the globe – and will continue to do so for years to come.



## The challenge

In Asia Pacific, the ways in which disasters and climate change increase the risks of displacement – and exacerbate challenges for people who are already displaced – are complex and constantly evolving. Economic, social, political, environmental and demographic factors intersect to shape whether, how and when people move in response to disasters and climate change.<sup>1</sup>

Evidence from Asia Pacific shows:

- People are experiencing repeat displacement as disasters triggered by climate hazards such as seasonal flooding, droughts or storms force them to flee.<sup>2</sup>
- People are displaced for longer periods, as disasters triggered by climate hazards overlap with protracted crises, conflict, poverty, marginalization and food, water and resource insecurity.<sup>3</sup>
- Climate change is contributing to worsening food insecurity, which can limit local adaptation options.<sup>4</sup>
- As the impacts of climate change make rural lives and livelihoods more difficult, people are moving toward urban areas, including informal settlements.<sup>5</sup> Asia Pacific has the largest number of people living in informal urban settlements, often in climate-exposed areas with limited access to essential services.<sup>6</sup>
- Displacement is disproportionately impacting marginalized groups, including people living in poverty, women, children and older persons.<sup>7</sup>

## Hazards and displacement in Asia Pacific



**Storms** triggered **114 million** displacements between 2013-2024, representing over 50 per cent of all disaster displacements in Asia Pacific.<sup>15</sup>



**Floods** triggered **88.4 million** displacements between 2013-2024, representing over 40 per cent of disaster displacements in Asia Pacific.

All disaster displacement figures sourced from IDMC, Global Internal Displacement Database.

- Displacement is heightening exposure to health and other risks, with displaced people and others on the move in the context of climate change facing greater health risks and barriers to accessing essential health and other services.<sup>8</sup>
- Displacement in the context of disasters and climate change has negative impacts on mental health, including trauma experienced during disasters as well as the impacts of the loss of livelihoods and culture.<sup>9</sup>

Scientific projections also indicate:

- The number of people exposed to compounding hazards – such as cyclones followed by floods and landslides, sea-level rise exacerbating storm surges and coastal erosion, or heatwaves combined with droughts – is set to rise.<sup>10</sup>
- The number of people moving into urban areas is expected to grow, resulting in larger populations in urban areas and informal settlements exposed to floods, heatwaves and other hazards.<sup>11</sup>
- As sea levels rise across Asia Pacific, millions of people living in low-lying coastal areas will face increasing risks of displacement associated with sea-level rise, coastal flooding and extreme coastal events.<sup>12</sup>
- The impacts of average temperature increases, including more frequent extreme heat events and sea-level rise, threaten the ability of land to support human life and livelihoods in arid regions and low-lying coastal settlements.<sup>13</sup>
- Climate impacts may also reduce the ability of people in situations of vulnerability to move due to loss of assets, reinforcing existing inequalities and adaptive capacities, leaving people trapped in high-risk areas, unable to move without support.<sup>14</sup>



**Sea-level rise** poses multiple and compounding risks to people living in coastal regions and islands across Asia Pacific. However, data on displacement linked to sea-level rise and related coastal hazards is lacking.



**Drought** affects millions of people across Asia Pacific, undermining food and water security and threatening livelihoods. However, data on displacement linked to drought is only reported for some countries and partially.

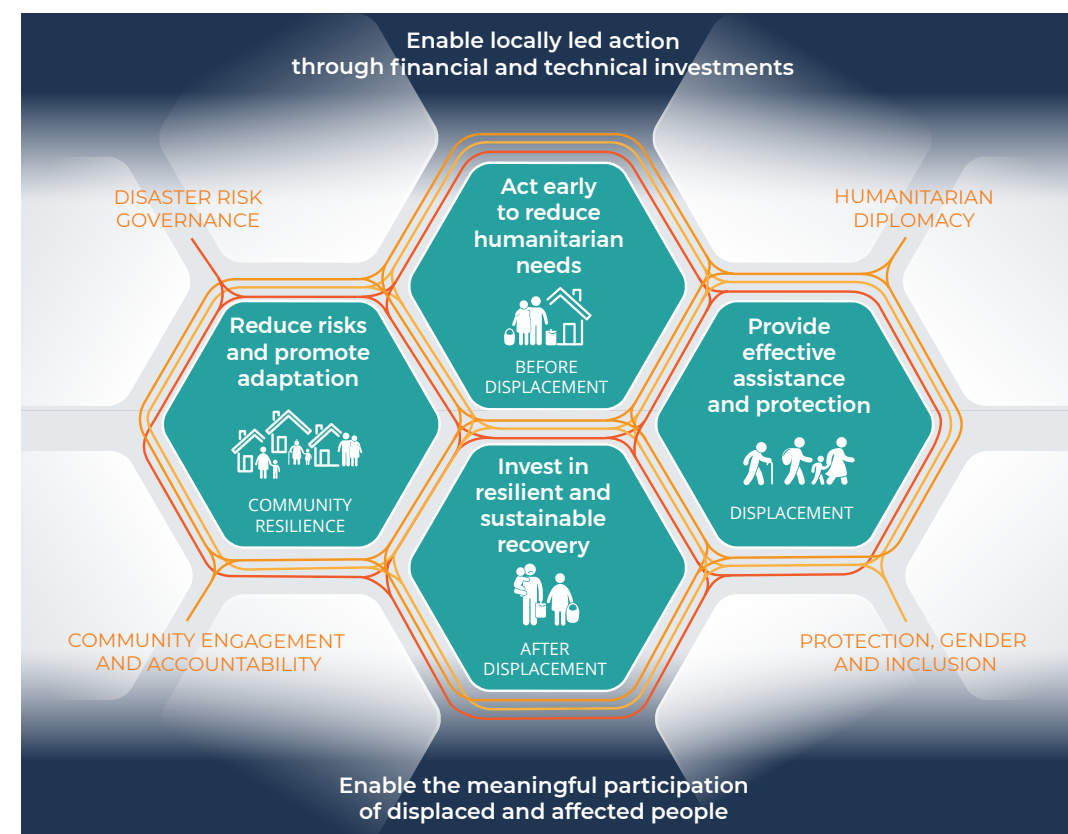


**Rising temperatures and extreme heat** affect the health and livelihoods of millions of people across Asia Pacific. While data on displacement linked to rising temperatures and extreme heat remains limited, heat stress not only reduces options for adapting locally but also increases risks for people on the move.

## How we can do more

There is a need to scale up individual and collective action to both reduce the risk of and address the impacts of displacement in the context of disaster and climate change. Understanding the nature and dynamics of displacement and other forms of human movement is essential for shaping effective programmes, emergency responses, laws and policies, and humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy. This research provides valuable insights and evidence on areas where stronger investments are needed, as reflected in the diagram below. By scaling up action in these areas, based on contexts and needs, with and through local leadership and the meaningful participation of affected people, we can help expand options for people and communities – enabling them to adapt and stay in their homes, move to safety, recover and remain resilient on their own terms.

### ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE AND DISASTER DISPLACEMENT



## National Society action in Asia Pacific

Sustained action at the local level is vital to addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. Through their extensive networks of staff and over 10 million volunteers, National Societies in Asia Pacific are already taking action as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field, with strong local connections and global reach. Some of these actions are discussed in Section III and IV of this report.

The below box discusses the cross-cutting areas where National Societies take action across the displacement cycle, while the graphic on the next page provides descriptions of the actions taken across the different phases.

### Cross-cutting action and tools

National Societies are taking action in the following cross-cutting areas:

- Disaster risk governance supports public authorities in developing or strengthening comprehensive legal and policy frameworks to reduce risks of disasters and displacement and address the needs of displaced people.
- Humanitarian diplomacy influences policies, practices and public perceptions to better address the needs and resilience of at-risk and displaced people.
- Community engagement and accountability promotes inclusive participatory approaches that consider and are guided by the needs and priorities of people in vulnerable situations, including internally displaced people, migrants, refugees, people at risk of displacement and host communities, as well as fostering their ability to influence programming and services.
- Protection, gender and inclusion analysis and programming adaptation minimizes and addresses harms, promotes access to protection services and supports the inclusion of diverse populations.
- Cash and voucher assistance is a tool used for interventions ahead of disasters and during response and recovery. It enables people to use the autonomy they have to decide on how best to meet their needs and priorities with dignity.



# NATIONAL SOCIETY ACTION IN ASIA PACIFIC

## Action to address climate and disaster displacement

### ADAPTATION & RISK REDUCTION:

Recognizing the intensifying impacts of climate change, investment in adaptation and risk reduction can expand choices for people to stay in their homes or move out of harm's way on their own terms. National Societies are reducing risks, promoting adaptation, and strengthening resilience by:



#### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- identifying **at-risk communities** through community-led assessments, hazard mapping, and risk-informed planning and taking actions to reduce risks, including with a specific climate-risk lens
- strengthening access to **shock-responsive social protection** and existing social protection systems for people in situations of vulnerability
- strengthening access to health services and **climate-resilient health systems**, such as through community surveillance of climate-related diseases
- strengthening access to water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH), including better waste management, such as through **climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene systems**
- strengthening the **resilience of homes and assets**
- investing in **nature-based solutions**
- promoting **livelihood diversification** and climate-resilient livelihoods and climate-smart agriculture
- **educating and raising awareness** on the impacts of disasters, including displacement and the need for risk reduction and preparedness

### PREPAREDNESS & EARLY ACTION:

Before hazards and disasters strike, National Societies work with and alongside communities, providing them with the information, tools and resources to prepare and act early to protect lives and livelihoods, move out of harm's way, or reduce the impacts of displacement by:



#### BEFORE DISPLACEMENT

- promoting and shaping **early warning systems and processes** to provide people with information about forecasted hazards and helping them understand their options
- taking **anticipatory action** in response to warnings, providing tools and resources for people to protect themselves, their homes, settlements and livelihoods, and cope and stay or move out of harm's way safely and with dignity
- supporting communities to establish and map **evacuation sites and safe routes** and develop contingency plans
- **pre-positioning goods** to provide efficient and appropriate support
- promoting preparedness and early action in **displacement camps and settlements** and reducing risks and exposure to disasters and climate impacts

### ASSISTANCE & PROTECTION:

When displacement cannot be avoided, National Societies provide essential services and protection to meet the needs of displaced and other affected people drawing on a long history of expertise and action by:



#### DISPLACEMENT

- supporting **shelter needs** by setting up evacuation centers, collective accommodations, planned settlements, supporting hosting arrangement or providing rental assistance
- supporting communities to move out of harm's way through **safe and dignified evacuations**
- addressing **basic needs**, including food, water and household items
- delivering **health services**, including first aid, psychosocial support, risk communication, and community engagement to reduce health risks and promote empowerment
- providing **WASH interventions** to promote awareness of the risks of disease spread and have safe, dignified, and sustained access to water, sanitation and hygiene services.
- providing **protection services** to women, children, elderly people, people with disabilities, and others in vulnerable situations, including information on rights, how to report and receive support for abuse or harm, action to restore family links, and other essential protection and specialized services, as well as referrals to other actors
- providing **cash and voucher assistance (CVA)**, including through multi-purpose cash assistance and sector-based cash assistance, to address immediate needs, protect assets, and to address a variety of needs, such as health, WASH, shelter, food and others

### RESILIENT RECOVERY & RISK REDUCTION:

National Societies remain present long after disasters end, supporting displaced people to recover, (re)integrate and remain resilient wherever they choose—in places of origin, in places of where they found safety or in new areas. They also work to reduce risks and provide support for people who remain in displacement camps and settlements or protracted situations by:



#### AFTER DISPLACEMENT

- promoting **inclusive recovery planning and action**, including by strengthening access to services, such as health, water, sanitation, and hygiene, and fostering social cohesion
- supporting people to **return to their homes and rebuild**
- contributing to the **informed and voluntary planned relocation** of displaced people, including supporting shelter, livelihoods and other needs in places of settlement and strengthening the participation of displaced and affected people in such processes
- addressing the needs of **displaced people living in camps and settlements** or who remain in situations of protracted displacement and reducing their risks and exposure to disasters and climate impacts, including risks of further displacement
- strengthening access to social protection systems, climate-resilient health systems, climate-resilient WASH systems, strengthening the resilience of homes and productive assets, investing in nature-based solutions, and supporting livelihood diversification and climate-resilient livelihoods



## BANGLADESH

Implementing disaster preparedness for displaced communities in camps

- Partnering with government to establish a cyclone preparedness programme

Providing support in protracted displacement situations

- Supporting longer term services and social cohesion efforts in and around camp settings

Developing cyclone early action protocols in coastal districts

- Working in coastal districts to pre-position and prepare with communities ahead of disasters

## MYANMAR

Responding to complex and overlapping crises

- Supporting preparedness and response, including for people displaced by conflict

Capacity strengthening in displacement and migration contexts

- Integrating support for migrants and displaced people in disaster responses

## SRI LANKA

Supporting government-led anticipatory action

- Working with national and regional partners on dialogues and workshops on anticipatory action

Bridging disaster displacement response and recovery efforts

- Responding to displaced communities with multi-sector assistance, including cash assistance to support recovery

## PAKISTAN

Rebuilding alongside communities displaced by floods

- Supporting government efforts to provide shelter solutions for displaced communities

Understanding climate impacts on health and employment opportunities

- Conducting studies to better prepare communities on the impacts of climate on health and livelihoods

## NEPAL

Leveraging social protection programmes to meet humanitarian needs

- Shock response social protection during floods, prioritizing marginalized groups

Strengthening urban resilience and engagement

- Using pre-existing networks to scale up disaster risk reduction and resilience

## MONGOLIA

Supporting early action for extreme winters

- Developing an early action protocol to reduce livestock loss ahead of dzud impacts

Livelihood and psychosocial support for people moving to urban areas

- Incorporating mental health and care for migrants in informal settlements

## THAILAND

Responding to floods that affect already displaced communities

- Supporting an inclusive approach to flood response, including migrants and displaced people from Myanmar

## THE MALDIVES

Integrating migrants into the National Society staff and volunteer base

- Inclusive approaches to decision-making in disaster response and assessments

Providing health services for migrants during disasters

- Scaling up community engagement in communication materials on disease outbreaks

## INDONESIA

Preparing for and responding to droughts

- Carrying out anticipatory actions and supporting drought-affected families

## MALAYSIA

Providing health and care support for migrants and refugees

- Providing inclusive health services, including during disasters and climate shocks

Providing health and care during monsoon seasons

- Addressing humanitarian needs of flood-displaced households, including health and care services

## TIMOR-LESTE

Implementing cross-border disaster preparedness

- Coordinating support across borders for people displaced during disasters

Supporting displaced people during concurrent disasters

- Responding to disaster displacement and health emergency in evacuation centres

## PHILIPPINES

Supporting communities displaced by disasters from response to recovery

- Addressing immediate needs and integrating recovery through multi-sectoral response

Supporting relocation and resettlement of people displaced by disasters

- Working with local government and communities to assist a planned relocation project

## JAPAN

Supporting at-risk groups in the face of compounding disasters

- Providing assistance in evacuation shelters and mitigating impacts of heat-related illness

Supporting displaced communities in the wake of multiple disasters

- Providing emergency relief after floods and earthquakes

## PALAU

Strengthening locally led preparedness and early action

- Engaging young people in preparedness and early action ahead of disasters

Supporting communities displaced by typhoons

- Promoting response and recovery efforts for displaced communities, including through multi-purpose cash assistance

## MARSHALL ISLANDS

Enhancing community resilience to drought

- Providing health and WASH services to strength resilience during worsening droughts

Supporting people displaced by disasters in hard-to-reach outer islands

- Identifying needs and providing assistance in affected communities following floods

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

Enabling locally led disaster preparedness

- Working with communities and authorities to prepare and disseminate warnings ahead of disasters

Strengthening shelter assistance for at-risk and displaced communities

- Developing shelter trainings to strengthen preparedness and response capacity

## TUVALU

Implementing disaster preparedness and recovery plans in the outer islands

- Supporting island-specific plans on disaster preparedness with community volunteers

Strengthening early warnings and early action ahead of droughts

- Disseminating inclusive awareness messaging on predicted hazards

## SAMOA

Supporting whole-of-society preparedness in the face of climate change

- Involving at risk-communities in preparedness ahead of hazards and response efforts

## FIJI

Promoting anticipatory action to enhance resilience

- Strengthening early warning systems and anticipatory actions as an essential step towards community resilience to climate hazards.

Addressing disaster displacement through legal and policy frameworks

- Working alongside the government to strengthen legal preparedness for disasters

## VANUATU

Enhancing anticipatory action in the face of repeat cyclones

- Conducting activities ahead of cyclone season, including pre-positioning relief items

Responding to displacement during simultaneous crises

- Addressing the humanitarian needs of people displaced by cyclones, supporting them to build back better

## AUSTRALIA

Supporting communities displaced by disasters

- Empowering displaced communities to drive their response and recovery

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities



## INTRODUCTION

Addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change through locally led action has never been more important, especially as people in vulnerable situations bear disproportional impacts. The effects of climate change are increasingly disrupting people's lives, livelihoods, health and protection, while limiting options for people to adapt and remain resilient within their homes and communities.

Asia Pacific is the world's most disaster-prone region, with climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of these events.<sup>16</sup> Consequently, displacement in the context of disasters and climate change is rising and is projected to continue.<sup>17</sup> Sudden-onset events like cyclones, floods and storms force people to leave their homes. Slow-onset processes like sea-level rise and drought are becoming more severe. Climate hazards sometimes intersect with earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis, compounding vulnerabilities and limiting the ability of people to recover.

The region also grapples with overlapping crises that compound risks of displacement. Persistent poverty, instability and limited access to services increase vulnerability, especially in rural and marginalised areas. Climate change intensifies these pressures, particularly for people already displaced or living in informal settlements. Cyclical and compounding shocks – such as recurring climate hazards, food, water and resource scarcity and conflict – can further undermine people's ability to stay safely in their homes or recover after displacement.

In the face of devastating and increasingly unavoidable impacts, the staff and over ten million volunteers working within 38 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies across Asia Pacific are at the forefront of efforts to reduce the risks of displacement and address the needs of people displaced in the context of disasters and climate change. This report showcases 39 case studies from 21 National Societies in Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to illustrate the breadth of National Society action taken before, during and after displacement. They provide valuable insights into locally led action, complementing a growing body of work on displacement in the context of disasters and climate change, as outlined in Annex one. Developed through a review of country plans and research and enriched by the experiences and insights of National Society staff and volunteers and IFRC staff, this report also serves as a practical resource for policymakers, practitioners and partners seeking to enhance their efforts in this critical space.

Asia Pacific National Societies are already supporting people to adapt, better prepare for disasters and displacement, reduce the humanitarian needs from displacement and strengthen resilient recovery. Working with and alongside communities, their action spans identification of people at risk, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, early warning and early action, preparedness, humanitarian response, recovery and resilience-strengthening. These efforts are complemented by commitments and efforts to



strengthen disaster risk governance, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), community engagement and accountability (CEA), and humanitarian diplomacy. National Societies take an inclusive approach, supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and host communities, aiming to ensure no one is left behind or discriminated against.

Addressing the needs of people and communities at risk of or adversely affected by displacement in the context of disasters and climate change is a strategic priority for the IFRC. This commitment is reflected in the [IFRC Strategy 2030](#) and the [Migration Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2024–2030](#). Through the [Global Climate Resilience Platform](#), IFRC is generating financial resources to scale-up locally led climate action, focusing on meaningful participation and active leadership by communities, including people at risk of or affected by displacement. Climate resilience programming is already underway in at least 94 countries. These commitments reflect the reality that National Societies are already addressing this critical challenge and will continue to do so across the globe.

This report illustrates the vital work that National Societies in Asia Pacific are already undertaking at the local level to both reduce the risks of displacement and address the needs of people displaced in the context of disasters and climate change. Through these examples, it underscores how expanding choices can enable people to adapt and stay in their homes, move out of harm's way, and recover and rebuild on their own terms. This report is a call for scaling up relevant action.

**ABOVE: SOLOMON ISLANDS** – In Ghatere village, Kolombranga Island, schoolchildren learn about disaster risks and how to reduce them from Ogier Kiko, Solomon Islands Red Cross. With climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of storms, floods and coastal erosion, education is key to strengthening resilience. *Benoit Matsha-Carpentier / IFRC*

# DISPLACEMENT IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

As Asia Pacific grapples with the many impacts of climate change, displacement has emerged as a significant and urgent humanitarian and development challenge. This section looks at how disasters and climate change contribute to the displacement of people and communities in Asia Pacific, as well as the impacts of displacement, exploring complex and emerging trends that influence people's ability to remain in their homes, move out of harm's way and recover with dignity. Understanding displacement as a phenomenon is crucial for shaping effective programmes, emergency responses, laws and policies, and humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy.

As climate change brings more intense and frequent disasters, more people are forced to leave their homes. Tropical storms, cyclones, flooding, drought, sea-level rise and rising temperatures drive people from their homes. Concurrent and consecutive disasters are leaving communities across Asia Pacific with little time to recover before the next shock arrives.<sup>18</sup> Those most at risk are in danger of being left behind if their needs and capacities are not understood and their voices not heard.

Climate change acts as a risk multiplier. It influences other drivers of displacement and disproportionately affects marginalized groups, including people living in poverty, women, children, older persons, people with disabilities, displaced people and others on the move.<sup>19</sup>

Across Asia Pacific, the impacts of climate change interact with conditions of poverty, marginality, conflict and resource scarcity – the individual challenges of which are amplified when they occur at the same time and in the same place.<sup>20</sup> These impacts are particularly severe for people already displaced or on the move, without access to essential services or the support systems needed to prepare for and cope with the impacts of climate change.<sup>21</sup>

Almost half of internal disaster displacements globally occur in Asia Pacific, and this is set to increase.<sup>22</sup> In 2024 alone, disasters triggered over 24 million displacements in Asia Pacific – over half of the global total. If no action is taken, by 2050 climate change could result in the displacement of over 89 million people across Asia Pacific.<sup>23</sup>

## A note on terminology and scope

Many terms are used to describe the movement of people in the context of disasters and climate change. These terms account for different factors related to human movement, including the level of agency and choice available to people, the drivers triggering or underpinning the movement and geographical characteristics such as whether the movement occurs within a country or crosses an international border.

In general, migration describes a more voluntary or choice-based movement of people from one place to another, whereas displacement describes forced or involuntary movement. Making this distinction is not always simple in practice, as movements often fall along a continuum between migration and displacement and between being voluntary and forced, as people have greater or lesser levels of choice at different times. In some cases, people and communities may also initiate or be supported to move out of harm's way before or after a disaster strikes and settle in a new location within a country – this is called planned relocation.

This report discusses the movement of people in the context of disasters and climate change through a displacement lens, recognizing the acute and specific vulnerabilities faced by people forced to leave their homes. It considers evacuations within the lens of displacement, recognizing that while safe and dignified evacuations do save lives and reduce physical harm, being forced to flee one's home to protect one's life and health can contribute to adverse impacts on people. Displacement is often within a country, but some people may also be displaced across international borders. This report focuses primarily on the internal displacement of people in the context of disasters and climate change while acknowledging that often multiple, interconnected drivers make it difficult to attribute displacement to a single driver.

## The climate hazards

The main climate hazards that trigger the greatest number of displacements across Asia Pacific are outlined below. As noted, in many places they exist alongside other hazards, including geophysical hazards such as volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

**Storms** triggered 114 million new displacements in Asia Pacific between 2013-2024. Accounting for 53 per cent of all disaster displacements in the region during this period, it is important to recognize that many of the displacements triggered by storms are government-led pre-emptive evacuations to avoid loss of life and injury.<sup>24</sup> Slow-onset climate hazards – such as warming oceans, sea level rise, drought and desertification – aggravate the impacts of storms across the region, increasing the risks of displacement and deepening vulnerability for millions of people, particularly those in already fragile and underserved communities.<sup>25</sup>



**Floods** triggered 88.4 million new displacements between 2013-2024 across Asia Pacific, accounting for over 40 per cent of all disaster displacement in the region.<sup>26</sup> The majority of these displacements were pre-emptive evacuations aimed at protecting lives ahead of anticipated flood impacts. As heavy rainfall events increase in frequency and intensity due to the impacts of climate change, displacement linked to floods is projected to increase significantly across the region.<sup>27</sup>

**Sea-level rise** poses a threat across Asia Pacific. Large oceanic countries and territories in the Pacific – where about 90 per cent of the population lives within 5 km of the coast – and parts of Southeast Asia have limited adaptation options, meaning people may have no other choice but to move away as sea levels rise.<sup>28</sup> At present, Asia Pacific is the region most exposed to sea level rise.<sup>29</sup> As the number of people living in low-lying coastal cities continues to increase across the region, the risks of displacement linked to sea-level rise, coastal flooding and coastal extreme events will rise.<sup>30</sup> While Asia faces the highest absolute number of displacements, the Pacific – despite its smaller population – bears a profound impact. Entire communities may be forced to relocate. Each displacement event disrupts livelihoods, puts pressure on resources and amplifies protection challenges.

**Droughts** unfold across Asia Pacific, however, it is difficult to present a consistent picture of displacement linked to these hazards. Data on displacement linked to drought and other slow-onset hazards is difficult to come by. In Southeast Asia, for example, drought is a recurring hazard with between 15 and 25 per cent of the sub-region's population living in drought hotspots.<sup>31</sup> In the Pacific, intense droughts accompanied by shortages in freshwater and saltwater intrusion linked to rising seas threaten people's lives and livelihoods, in some cases influencing people's decisions to move.<sup>32</sup>

**Rising temperatures and extreme heat** affect the health, lives and livelihoods of millions of people across Asia Pacific.<sup>33</sup> As temperatures increase, extreme heat and heatwaves, particularly in cities, also worsen.<sup>34</sup> Extreme heat stress makes it difficult to adapt and stay in place. Such changes, especially in the long term, are likely to influence people's movement patterns in terms of their intention to move, where they move to, risks while on the move, and consequences for IDPs and migrants in places of settlement. This is particularly the case in Asia Pacific's rapidly growing cities where the urban populations exposure to extreme heat is projected to increase dramatically.<sup>35</sup>

## The context

Across Asia Pacific, climate hazards and disasters are intensifying, exacerbated by compounding environmental shifts. Rising seas are worsening flooding during monsoon and cyclone seasons, while extreme heat, heatwaves and prolonged droughts are affecting communities across the region. The changing climate is also increasing the risk of water-borne diseases, especially in the aftermath of extreme weather events across the region.<sup>36</sup>

Countries in **Southeast Asia** rank as some of the most prone to climate impacts in the region and globally. Consecutive or overlapping storms and floods often hit the sub-region, displacing hundreds of thousands of people every year, and this is set to increase.<sup>37</sup> Between 2013-2024, 78.3 million disaster displacements were reported in Southeast Asia, over 30 per cent of the total recorded in the region.<sup>38</sup> The majority of disaster displacements were triggered by typhoons, cyclones and floods. Rising seas further exacerbate risks of displacement, exposing more and more people to flooding, storm surges and threatening land and coastal infrastructure.<sup>39</sup> Meanwhile, millions of people in Southeast Asia are dependent on climate-sensitive agricultural livelihoods.<sup>40</sup> As droughts, rising temperatures and extreme weather events increasingly threaten rural livelihoods, it is likely that more people will move toward urban areas.<sup>41</sup>

In **South Asia**, there were more than 76 million displacements due to disasters between 2013-2024, with floods, storms and monsoon rains triggering the majority of disaster displacements.<sup>42</sup> In 2024, disasters triggered 9.2 million new displacements. While many took the form of pre-emptive evacuations, this figure was nearly triple that of the previous year and the second highest for the region in over a decade.<sup>43</sup> Recurring cycles of severe flooding and drought threaten rural livelihoods across South Asia, while rising temperatures, extreme heat and droughts are a growing threat, particularly in urban areas.<sup>44</sup> For countries affected by conflict and violence – including Afghanistan and Pakistan and Myanmar – conflict and disaster can also overlap, aggravating risks of displacement and the impacts on those previously displaced.<sup>45</sup>

Across **East Asia**, increasing flooding during the monsoon season, as well as stronger typhoons, are displacing more and more people each year. Between 2013-2024, 60.7 million disaster displacements were reported in East Asia, over 90 per cent of these were triggered by storms and floods.<sup>46</sup> There is strong evidence that climate hazards and disasters are driving other movements in East Asia.<sup>47</sup> People are moving toward urban centres, as droughts and extreme heat threaten their livelihoods, and nomadic communities are shifting their traditional movement patterns, or in some cases abandoning them entirely and moving to urban centers, too.<sup>48</sup> At the same time, flourishing coastal cities continue to attract people, with millions who reside in low-lying coastal areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.<sup>49</sup>

**In the Pacific**,<sup>50</sup> over 950,000 disaster displacements were reported between 2013-2024.<sup>51</sup> However, the full scale of displacement remains difficult to quantify in the Pacific, where disasters often drive localized and small-scale movements.<sup>52</sup> While absolute numbers may appear smaller compared to other subregions, the movements represent entire communities, villages, or even significant portions of people living in cities forced



to leave their homes.<sup>53</sup> The Pacific's thousands of inhabited coral atolls and volcanic and continental islands are highly exposed to tropical cyclones, storm surges, flooding, drought and sea-level rise, with the frequency, intensity, and impacts of coastal hazards projected to increase. Several Pacific nations also experience earthquakes and other geophysical hazards, which can combine with extreme rainfall and storms, contributing to deadly landslides and compounding disasters, often leading to secondary or prolonged displacement.<sup>54</sup> In the Pacific, planned and permanent relocation of communities due to environmental changes has taken place for centuries. While traditionally community-led, a shift toward state-led planned relocation is evident. Countries such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have begun developing national frameworks to address this growing need.<sup>55</sup> Regional patterns of circular and temporary migration are also likely to shift as communities and destination countries respond to climate risks.<sup>56</sup>

## The challenges

### Displacement is an increasingly urban phenomenon

Asia Pacific is home to 54 per cent of the world's urban population, with more than half of its residents living in urban areas.<sup>57</sup> As of 2018, Asia Pacific had the largest number of people living in informal settlements, with some 597 million people living in overcrowded and risk-prone informal settlements.<sup>58</sup> As climate hazards, including drought, water scarcity, extreme heat, flooding, sea-level rise and tropical cyclones make rural lives and livelihoods more difficult, more people are moving toward urban areas, and this is set to increase.<sup>59</sup> Settling in urban areas, particularly informal settlements, where more economic opportunities are available, carries complex layers of risk and vulnerability for displaced people, especially women, children and older persons. Many of the region's cities are located in low-lying, hazard-prone areas, while multiple risks stemming from limited access to basic services, property rights, options, and exclusion from social services further heighten the exposure and vulnerability of people living in informal settlements.<sup>60</sup> Consequently, by moving to the city, people often replace one set of vulnerabilities with another as they try to make ends meet.<sup>61</sup>

### People are being displaced again and again

Year after year, people experience repeat displacement as seasonal flooding, drought or storms force them to flee.<sup>62</sup> A large portion of displacement in Asia Pacific is cyclical, linked to recurring hazards such as floods and drought, gradually eroding people's resilience as they are displaced again and again. The number of people exposed to compounding hazards – such as cyclones followed by floods and landslides, sea-level rise exacerbating storm surges and coastal erosion, or heatwaves combined with drought – is also set to increase across the region.<sup>63</sup> At the same time, the overlap of conflict and climate hazards means that, in some cases, displaced people remain exposed to both.<sup>64</sup>

### Displacement disproportionately affects marginalized groups

Vulnerability to climate change intersects with and is often furthered by existing marginalization, including linked to poverty, gender, ethnicity, age, disability and other factors such as displacement and migration status. Displacement amplifies risks of exploitation, violence and abuse, particularly for indigenous and minority groups, as well as for children and youth.<sup>65</sup> Global data shows an estimated 43.1 million displacements of children linked to weather-related disasters between 2016 and 2021, with hotspots mostly located in South Asia and East Asia.<sup>66</sup> Longer-term displacement disrupts access to education and healthcare, endangering children's futures and undermining their resilience to new crises. Where livelihoods are disrupted by climate change, gendered impacts of paid and unpaid labor increase impacts on marginalized groups, particularly women.<sup>67</sup> Information about age, sex and gender-disaggregated data is underreported and there is a critical need to better understand the specific impacts, risks and needs marginalized groups face when displaced in the context of disasters and climate change.<sup>68</sup>

### Displacement and food insecurity

As climate change undermines lives and livelihoods across the region, displacement and food insecurity overlap with significant humanitarian and development implications in both the short and long term.<sup>69</sup> Evidence suggests conditions are often more challenging for IDPs, who tend to lower their food intake as a result of displacement.<sup>70</sup> This is of particular concern for IDPs and migrants in urban areas where food prices can be higher and more volatile than in rural areas.<sup>71</sup>

At the same time, across Asia Pacific, food insecurity is related, at least partially, to the decision to move.<sup>72</sup> In some cases, people may move away from areas where climate change has made environments increasingly difficult – or even impossible – to inhabit.<sup>73</sup> In other cases, disasters and climate change may destroy crops and livelihoods, forcing people to move in search of food and resources.<sup>74</sup>

### Displacement is heightening exposure to health risks

People displaced in the context of disasters and climate change often face greater health risks and experience significant barriers to accessing essential health and social services. As the negative health impacts of climate change worsen, displacement will heighten people's exposure to health risks across Asia Pacific.<sup>75</sup> An upsurge in dengue cases, for example, is often seen in communities displaced by floods in Asia Pacific – driven in part by the lack of access to clean water, overcrowding and food insecurity often experienced by such communities.<sup>76</sup> Recognizing impacts on mental health is also important. When people are forced to leave their homes during disasters, or as climate change makes their lives and livelihoods unsustainable, the disruption and trauma they experience, including that associated with the loss of livelihoods, land and attachment to place and culture, can have lasting impacts on mental health.<sup>77</sup>



### For some, moving is a way to cope

In some locations, opportunities to adapt in place may be limited.<sup>78</sup> Planned and permanent relocation is increasingly being considered, for example, by and for communities living on low-lying islands, who have no option but to move.<sup>79</sup> In regions already facing food and water insecurity, climate change is worsening economic hardships and impacting decisions about whether to stay or to leave. Declining crop yields and disasters that destroy homes and farmland are influencing more people to leave, with some using existing migration routes to seek safety, income opportunities and reduce pressure on affected communities.<sup>80</sup>

## The legal and policy landscape

In Asia Pacific, the legal and policy landscape relevant to displacement in the context of disaster and climate change is diverse. The landscape includes a broad range of laws, policies, frameworks and agreements that address different types and stages of movement and the different needs of affected people. Legal and policy instruments play an important role in reducing risks, promoting adaptation and resilience, and ensuring those who choose to move or are compelled to do so can access safety, assistance and protection and meet their longer-term needs.<sup>81</sup>

A non-exhaustive summary of some of the key regional and global laws and policies for addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change can be found in Annex two.



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**ABOVE: MONGOLIA 2024** – In 2024, Mongolia battled one of the harshest winters in five decades, with dzud conditions leaving thousands of herder families struggling to survive. The Mongolian Red Cross Society provided unconditional cash assistance, hygiene and food parcels and animal care kits, supporting affected households to receive critical support. *Mongolian Red Cross Society*



## NATIONAL SOCIETY ACTION IN ASIA PACIFIC

National Societies are uniquely placed to address displacement in the context of disasters and climate change in Asia Pacific, playing a vital role across the entire displacement cycle. From helping people adapt and reducing risks of displacement, to preparing for and mitigating the impacts of hazards and disasters, responding to immediate needs during displacement and supporting long-term recovery, National Societies take action at every stage.

Through extensive networks of dedicated staff and volunteers embedded within communities, National Societies build trust, draw on local knowledge, act as first responders during crises and remain present to support over the long term. Beyond working with and in support of communities, National Societies collaborate closely with local and national disaster management and governance systems through their auxiliary role in the humanitarian field. Through this role, National Societies are often integrated into legal and institutional frameworks relating to disaster risk management, providing them with a voice to help shape disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

National Societies also address cross-cutting areas. They support public authorities in developing and strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks to reduce risks of disasters and displacement and address the needs of displaced people. Through humanitarian diplomacy, National Societies influence policies, practices and public perceptions, advocating to address needs, strengthen resilience and support at-risk and displaced people. They promote CEA, championing inclusive participatory approaches, aiming to ensure the voices of people in conditions of vulnerability, including those at risk of displacement, displaced people and host communities, are heard and can influence programming and services. National Societies undertake PGI analyses and programming adaptation to minimize and address harms, provide access to protection services and support the inclusion of diverse populations.

This section outlines National Society action in reducing risks of displacement, supporting displaced people, and strengthening the resilience of at-risk and displaced communities. By showcasing these efforts, this report is a practical resource for policymakers, practitioners and partners seeking to enhance their approaches to addressing displacement. The stages of National Society action on addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change are described and summarized below.

- As the impacts of climate change intensify, National Societies help reduce risks of disasters and displacements, strengthen resilience and promote adaptation.
- Ahead of likely displacement due to forecasted hazards, National Societies help reduce adverse impacts and humanitarian needs through preparedness and early action.<sup>82</sup>



- When displacement occurs or has occurred, National Societies respond to humanitarian needs.
- After displacement, National Societies support recovery, address longer-term needs, and reduce risks of future displacement. They also address the needs of people living in camps and settlements or who remain in protracted displacement, and reduce their risks and exposure to disasters and climate impacts.

**ABOVE: TIMOR-LESTE 2013** – Children sit on parched, cracked earth as drought grips their community. With climate change intensifying dry spells, water shortages are becoming more severe, threatening lives and livelihoods. The Timor-Leste Red Cross supports affected families by providing clean water, promoting drought resilience and educating communities on water conservation. *Ombretta Baggio / IFRC*



## Reducing risks, strengthening resilience, and promoting adaptation

Recognizing the intensifying impacts of climate change, investment in adaptation and risk reduction can expand choices for people to stay in their homes or move out of harm's way on their own terms. National Societies are reducing risks, strengthening resilience and promoting adaptation in a variety of ways.

National Societies support communities to undertake community-led risk assessments using IFRC's Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) methodology to identify key risks, including risks of displacement, and come up with community action plans to reduce these risks.

*The Solomon Islands Red Cross has used locally-led vulnerability and capacity assessments to develop evacuation plans and disaster risk reduction action plans.*

### Participatory Approach for Safer Shelter

The Participatory Approach for Safer Shelter and Settlement Awareness (PASSA) aims to strengthen local capacity to reduce shelter-related risks, including shelter-related risks of displacement, by fostering community-led analysis and decision-making. The approach involves trained National Society volunteers supporting community members to identify hazards and vulnerabilities, and mitigation and adaptation strategies. The PASSA has been carried out in nine countries in Asia Pacific. For instance, in flood-prone areas, communities have identified the need for improved drainage and elevated foundations for homes and social infrastructure, which can reduce the risks of displacement.

A better understanding of community-level vulnerabilities and capacities allows National Societies in Asia Pacific to shape interventions that reduce the risks of displacement and promote adaptation and options to stay in place. Drought-resilient seeds and drought water management systems, such as rainwater harvesting systems, help to support resource security despite climate impacts.

*The Marshall Islands Red Cross has established reverse osmosis water purification systems on isolated atolls or islands to better cope with drought.*

Some National Societies in Asia Pacific support nature-based solutions to protect and restore environments. Activities such as riverbank enhancements, planting mangroves and reforestation projects help reduce risks of disasters and displacement.

*The Myanmar Red Cross Society has initiated bamboo planting activities to combat riverbank erosion and strengthen resilience among communities living in protracted displacement.*

National Societies in Asia Pacific promote adaptation and strengthen resilience for people at risk of displacement by supporting and enhancing access to national social protection systems and strengthening social safety nets.

*The Fiji Red Cross Society supports anticipatory action ahead of disasters under the Pacific's first Anticipatory Action Framework for Tropical Cyclones, led by UNOCHA, delivering assistance through existing social protection systems and local partners.*

National Societies in Asia Pacific are sensitizing and educating people to raise awareness on the impacts of disasters and the need for preparedness and risk reduction, which helps to reduce the scale and duration of displacement and associated needs.

*The Philippine Red Cross is conducting housing design and construction training for communities adversely affected by disasters, to improve living conditions and mitigate the impact of future disasters on their homes.*

*The Mongolian Red Cross Society delivers disaster risk reduction training to people who have recently arrived in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, helping them strengthen their resilience and prepare for disasters.*

**BELOW: BANGLADESH** – Families in Kurikahunia village, Satkhira, are increasingly surrounded by water as rising seas, storms, and coastal erosion are leaving communities isolated. As risks of displacement grow, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society helps strengthen early warning systems, support climate adaptation, and assist families forced to relocate. *IFRC*





## Preparedness and early action

Before hazards and disasters strike, National Societies work with and alongside communities providing them with information, tools and resources to prepare and act early in response to warnings to protect lives and livelihoods, move out of harm's way, or reduce the adverse impacts of displacement.

Asia Pacific National Societies are working with communities to support their understanding of risks and prepare for needs stemming from disasters and displacement. Through volunteer-based, community-led initiatives, National Societies disseminate messages, promote education and raise awareness, hold hazard-specific training courses, and strengthen context-specific contingency planning.

*The Samoa Red Cross works with villages to provide disaster preparedness training that strengthens local capacity. These workshops address topics such as raising awareness of weather and climate hazards, planning evacuation routes, managing shelters, protecting vulnerable groups, developing simple disaster risk management plans, and forming village disaster committees and response teams.*

*The Solomon Islands Red Cross supports people living in informal settlements to strengthen their preparedness to disasters and climate change, focusing on their specific shelter needs. Strengthened housing can reduce the need for evacuation and enable families and individuals to remain safely in their homes*

### Preparedness for Effective Response

National Societies are undertaking the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) approach to prepare to respond to disasters and crises and increase the effectiveness of their programming in the short and long term. 22 National Societies in Asia Pacific are engaged in the different phases of the PER approach, including Orientation, Assessment, Prioritisation and Analysis, Work-plan and Action and Accountability.

Understanding climate-related risks and vulnerabilities allows National Societies in Asia Pacific to promote and shape early warning and early action systems and processes.<sup>83</sup> Widely disseminated, easy-to-understand information on disasters and risks and impacts of displacement can help people to decide if, when and how to move out of harm's way and undertake other actions.

National Society activities can include delivering messages on actions people should take in response to alerts, working to reach 'last mile' communities with timely alerts, organizing, training and testing community response teams, supporting the development and implementation of community early warning systems and creating Early Action Protocols (EAPs) to strengthen National Societies' capacity for rapid response to alerts.

### Early Action Protocol

An Early Action Protocol (EAP) is a formal plan that enables the quick release of funding and outlines pre-defined actions before a disaster strikes, based on forecast information and risk analysis. It includes specific triggers for activation, defines roles and responsibilities, and aims to minimise potential impacts of predicted hazards by enabling early actions in the window between a forecast and the onset of a hazard.

Using early warning information, National Societies in Asia Pacific are acting ahead of disasters to reduce impacts on communities before they unfold. These anticipatory actions differ based on the community context and needs, and involve the identification of triggers, a plan to help communities protect themselves and a set of actions ahead of the worst impacts of disasters.

Through these approaches, National Societies are helping to save lives and support people to move out of harm's way, providing people with the resources to cope and stay, and reducing adverse impacts people may experience once displaced. Common anticipatory actions in Asia Pacific include providing cash grants, distributing food and household items in areas prone to disasters and providing mosquito nets or shelter reinforcement materials.

*The Tuvalu Red Cross uses local networks, media, radio, TV and social media to spread drought awareness messages, alerting local communities to monitor water availability and strengthen their capacity to anticipate and prepare for drought and water shortages.*

*The Nepal Red Cross distributes waterproof document bags, hygiene kits and other essentials ahead of floods. They also provide early warning messages, evacuation site preparation, and evacuation assistance for at-risk people and their livestock.*

*The Indonesian Red Cross supports communities facing water insecurity and drought by distributing clean water, providing conditional cash assistance and supplying farming equipment to small-scale farming households.*

*As part of the United Nations Early Warnings for All initiative, nine Asia Pacific National Societies are supporting their governments to lead Pillar 4 on preparedness to respond to warnings and continuing to implement early warning and early action.*

When hazards and disasters are expected or forecasted, National Societies help communities establish and map evacuation sites and safe routes, so that people know where, when and how they can move to safety before disasters hit. National Societies also pre-position relief items to provide efficient and appropriate support to affected and displaced people.

*Vanuatu Red Cross Society prepositions essential shelter tool kits, tarpaulins and other relief materials in provinces ahead of the tropical cyclone season, reducing the time and cost of delivering assistance to the areas that need it most.*

*The Thai Red Cross Society supports evacuations during floods, with a focus on ensuring gender balance within emergency teams and encouraging the deployment of female volunteers.*

### National Society action in refugee and IDP settings

Refugees and IDPs previously displaced by conflict, violence, or disasters often live in areas that are exposed and vulnerable to disasters and climate impacts. In and around refugee and IDP camps and settlements, where the impacts of floods, droughts and storms are also felt, National Societies are supporting risk reduction and early actions to reduce humanitarian needs and risks of further displacement.

*The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society partners with local authorities and camp management in Cox's Bazar to extend their early warning system into the refugee camps, tailoring activities to the specific context of a camp setting and supporting people to better prepare for the impacts of cyclones.*

## Responding to humanitarian needs

When displacement cannot be avoided, National Societies in Asia Pacific provide essential services and protection to meet the needs of displaced and other affected people, drawing on a long history of action.

When storms, floods, or extreme weather events hit, National Societies support people to move safely out of harm's way. They support safe, dignified and timely evacuations, including accompanying and assisting evacuations for hard-to-reach communities or people facing additional conditions of vulnerability. Working in close coordination with government and local authorities, National Societies support the evacuation of people and livestock, the establishment of evacuation sites and the registration of evacuees.

*The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society assists local authorities to pre-emptively evacuate people, helping them to move safely out of harm's way before disasters strike.*

*The Palau Red Cross facilitates workshops for young people to involve them in disaster preparedness, and trains youth volunteers to assist community members who may have specific needs during evacuations, such as older people or people with disabilities, ensuring that they can move quickly, safely and with dignity.*

### Disaster Response Emergency Fund

Through the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF), National Societies can quickly access funding for early action through the Anticipatory Pillar, and for immediate disaster response through the Response Pillar. Predictable and accessible funding means that when an emergency outstretches the National Society's available capacity, they can respond at scale and quickly with the financial, technical and human resources they need. In the period between January 2020 and May 2025, at least 107 allocations from the IFRC-DREF were made to National Societies across the region in response to disasters, including climate-related disasters, with over half of the operations funded by the IFRC-DREF being implemented in response to flooding.

When displacement is inevitable, National Societies in Asia Pacific are often the first to reach people and provide essential services. National Societies set up evacuation centers and collective accommodations, planned settlements, and support hosting arrangements or provide rental assistance, as well as provide food, water and household items.

*The Palau Red Cross coordinates closely with government agencies to evacuate vulnerable households and manage evacuation shelters for people displaced by disasters, both in urban centres and on outer islands.*

*The Timor Leste Red Cross sets up evacuation centres for flood-affected families, integrating child-friendly spaces to ensure access to psychosocial support, protection services and safe recreational activities for children.*

### Cash and voucher assistance

National Societies in Asia Pacific provide multi-purpose and sector-based cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to people when they flee their homes in the context of disasters and climate change. CVA is humanitarian assistance provided through cash transfers or vouchers. It can be used before disaster strikes, during the response, or during recovery. National Societies are providing CVA to communities as it can allow people the flexibility and autonomy to decide on how best to use the funds based on their own needs and priorities, such as health, food, education and payment of debts, promoting their dignity and choice when displaced.

*The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society provided multi-purpose cash assistance to households severely affected by floods. Six months later, the support was scaled up to reach farmers who remained displaced and unable to restart their work.*

*The Nepal Red Cross Society works with existing social protection systems to provide cash assistance for vulnerable flood-affected families, including older persons, people with disabilities, and single and widowed women with children under five from Dalit families.*

*The Philippine Red Cross provided multi-purpose cash assistance to more than 14,600 households in the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Rai in 2021.*

National Societies in Asia Pacific support people displaced in the context of disasters and climate change, who often face greater health risks and experience barriers to accessing essential health and social services. Through emergency centres, mobile clinics, or referrals to national health providers or other organizations, National Societies promote access to health services for displaced people, including first aid, medical care, mental health and psychosocial support and vaccinations. National Societies also strengthen risk communication and community engagement to empower communities and reduce and address health risks and needs.

*The Malaysian Red Crescent works closely with health authorities to support inclusive health services in times of disaster, focusing on the prevention and containment of infectious diseases, such as dengue, within migrant and refugee populations.*

*The Japanese Red Cross medical teams provide critical health assistance – including psychosocial support – to affected and displaced communities through aid stations and mobile clinics in evacuation centres.*

To help prevent the spread of disease, National Societies in Asia Pacific are undertaking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, targeting displaced communities, including people living in evacuation sites or IDP or refugee camps. National Societies also spread WASH messaging so displaced people are aware of the risks of disease spread and have safe, dignified and sustained access to water and sanitation services.

*The Timor-Leste Red Cross constructed latrines and hand-washing facilities in and around evacuation centres for people displaced by cyclones who were also facing the impacts of COVID-19.*

National Societies in Asia Pacific are providing protection services to people in conditions of vulnerability, including displaced women, children, older persons, people with disabilities and others, such as by providing information on rights, how to report and receive support from violence, abuse and exploitation; connecting people and restoring family links; and making referrals to specialized services, including healthcare, education, legal and information services.

*The Australian Red Cross helps reunite people displaced during disasters through their Register.Find.Reunite service. The Australian Red Cross manages services on behalf of government agencies, operating during emergencies, including bushfires and floods.*

*The Thai Red Cross Society integrated PGI training for all volunteers supporting communities displaced by monsoon floods.*

## Support for cross-border displacement

When disasters strike, some people move across borders in search of safety, often to a neighboring country. In these situations, National Societies support people displaced from neighboring countries as well as the communities that host them. In Asia Pacific, National Societies have supported people displaced across borders by floods.

*The Timor-Leste Red Cross and the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia) work together to provide a unified approach to emergency response in times of disaster, improving access to services for people displaced across the border and promoting mutual support and cooperation.*

## Addressing resilient recovery and longer-term needs

Embedded in the communities they serve, National Societies in Asia Pacific remain present long after disasters end and while the impacts of climate change continue to intensify. They support displaced people to recover, (re)integrate and remain resilient wherever they choose—whether in places of origin, in places of safety or in new areas. Effective recovery and resilience strengthening can be an opportunity to reduce risks, exposure and conditions of vulnerability and promote adaptation. National Societies also reduce risks and provide access to support for people who remain in IDP and refugee camps and settlements or in protracted situations.

National Societies in Asia Pacific promote inclusive recovery planning and action for displaced people, whether they choose to return to their homes and communities, remain in locations where they sought safety, or move and settle in new locations within their countries. National Society action includes addressing needs and strengthening access to services such as health, education and water and sanitation, while also promoting social cohesion.

*The Mongolian Red Cross Society supports herders who have moved to urban areas to find alternative livelihoods, providing small enterprise and business management training alongside mental health and psychosocial support.*

*The Pakistan Red Crescent supports the construction of flood-resilient model homes for families living in situations of protracted displacement, promoting sustainable recovery and reducing the risk of secondary or repeat displacement in the future.*

Across Asia Pacific, National Societies are strengthening access to social protection systems and the resilience of homes and productive assets. They are also investing in nature-based solutions and promoting livelihood diversification and climate-resilient livelihoods.

*Vanuatu Red Cross Society adopts a 'building back safer' approach to shelter assistance after disasters, strengthening structures to better withstand future hazards and climate risks.*

In some places, National Societies are contributing to the planned relocation of displaced communities, supporting transportation, shelter, livelihoods, and other needs and strengthening the participation of displaced and affected people in such processes.

*The Philippine Red Cross supported the government-led relocation of vulnerable households displaced by Typhoon Rai, establishing community engagement mechanisms to assist throughout all stages of the relocation project.*

National Societies in Asia Pacific work in IDP and refugee camps and settlements to reduce risks, needs and further displacement, and to strengthen resilience to future hazards and disasters.

*The Nepal Red Cross engages with displaced people and migrants in urban settlements to strengthen preparedness for future flood events, including through resource stockpiling and training in urban disaster risk reduction, first aid and emergency response.*

National Societies also strengthen access to essential services and address the needs of displaced people living in camps and settlements or who remain in situations of protracted displacement.

*The Myanmar Red Cross Society provided humanitarian assistance to communities experiencing protracted displacement, including those displaced by conflict, in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha in 2023.*

*The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society supports social cohesion efforts within IDP camps, providing access to services such as health, protection and information to enhance the self-reliance of displaced people and reduce pressure on surrounding host communities.*

## Cross-cutting expertise

### Humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy

Leveraging their knowledge, expertise and experience of community-based risk-informed actions, National Societies in Asia Pacific engage in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy efforts at national, sub-regional and regional levels. As auxiliaries to public authorities in the humanitarian field and anchored in the communities they serve, National Societies are well-placed to advocate for the needs of people at risk of displacement or already displaced in the context of disasters and climate change. Such efforts generally concern:

Advocating for a stronger legal and policy frameworks to address disasters and risks of displacement and the needs of displaced people.

Elevating the voices of people at risk of displacement, displaced people, host communities and local responders and promoting their participation in legal, policy and other processes such as the development of national adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction strategies and local plans and strategies.

Advocating for and promoting operational activities that reduce risks of displacement and address the needs of displaced people, including through strengthening humanitarian access.

*The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's Cyclone Preparedness Programme in refugee camps has been recognized and institutionalized by the government, signaling a policy shift in enhancing disaster risk reduction in camp settings.*

### Disaster risk governance

As auxiliaries to public authorities in the humanitarian field, National Societies in Asia Pacific are uniquely mandated to support and work collaboratively with governments. Strengthening disaster risk governance and supporting well-designed, well-understood and well-implemented laws, policies and plans relating to disasters and displacement is crucial to reducing related risks and addressing their adverse impacts, including the immediate and longer-term needs of displaced people.

*The Fiji Red Cross Society, with the IFRC, assisted the government to strengthen legal preparedness for disasters, including through the development of the Disaster Risk Management Act 2024.*

*The Tuvalu Red Cross has supported island disaster councils in strengthening drought management plans and standard operating procedures, supporting communities to adopt preparedness actions and better improve coping mechanisms for future disasters.*



## Protection, gender and inclusion

Providing dignity, access, participation and safety for all people affected by disasters and crises is embedded in the work of National Societies in Asia Pacific. Displacement in the context of disasters and climate change does not impact everyone equally. Intersecting factors such as power inequalities, migration status, socioeconomic status, health, age, ethnicity, disability status, gender and sex significantly influence how people cope and recover. Climate change also acts as a threat multiplier, heightening disparities already induced by poverty and other crises, as well as elevating the potential risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, as well as mental health concerns.

*The Japanese Red Cross helps spread public safety information on preventing heatstroke in evacuation centres after floods, targeting groups at heightened risk, such as older people.*

*The Malaysian Red Crescent provides mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to displaced people and hosting communities, including age-appropriate, activities such as art, dance, singing, and psychoeducation for children and youth.*

## Community engagement and accountability

Evidence and experience highlight that when people and communities are engaged and play an active role in designing and managing programmes and operations, the outcomes are more effective, sustainable and of higher quality. Meaningful CEA can and should contribute to nuanced and longer-term perspectives and understanding on addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. This means adapting actions based on people's suggestions and solutions and strengthening systems to enable people to directly influence programming and services.

*The Samoa Red Cross supports families relocated to inland sites by involving all household members in site preparation, promoting sustainable local practices through training in rainwater harvesting system maintenance, and working with community leaders to identify and assist at-risk families unable to maintain these systems.*

National Societies in Asia Pacific also, when necessary, take steps so that host community members facing similar conditions of vulnerability receive immediate relief and services that displaced people receive. In Asia Pacific, National Societies often leverage their relationships with both host communities and displaced people to reduce tensions and promote appropriate modes of engagement and dialogue to enable host communities to understand National Societies' support, specifically for displaced communities.

*The Maldivian Red Crescent engages both host and migrant communities in its health prevention and control communication efforts, translating information into six languages commonly used by migrants and incorporating audio-visual messages to enhance outreach.*

# CASE STUDIES FROM ASIA PACIFIC

This section showcases case studies of how National Societies are working with and for communities to reduce risks of displacement, address the needs of displaced people and strengthen resilience in the face of disasters and climate change. The case studies highlight National Societies' critical role in bridging the gap between communities, governments and other stakeholders. They show how scaling up action to address displacement is not only essential but also achievable when it is rooted in local and community leadership. More than just examples, the case studies also serve as a practical resource for policymakers, practitioners, and partners seeking to enhance their approaches to addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.

The breadth and scale of humanitarian action captured in these case studies reflect the unique positioning of National Societies and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement—trusted, embedded and with unparalleled access and reach across communities in Asia Pacific.



AUSTRALIA 2024 – Australian Red Cross Emergency Services assist community members impacted by bushfires at an evacuation centre. Australian Red Cross



## AUSTRALIA



With over 18,450 members and volunteers, the Australian Red Cross reaches thousands of communities in major cities, remote areas and everywhere in between. In 2023, the National Society reached 444,000 people through long-term services and development programmes.<sup>84</sup> A further 167,000 people were supported through disaster response and early recovery programmes, 3.4 million people were reached through preparedness campaigns and 91,000 people through migrant support services.<sup>85</sup>

Since 1910, Australia's climate has warmed by 1.51°C, resulting in heightened heat events, longer fire seasons, and decreased rainfall in key regions.<sup>86</sup> Northern Australia is seeing heavier rainfall and streamflow, while southern and eastern regions endure prolonged droughts.<sup>87</sup> Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 280,000 internal displacements in Australia, with most occurring in the last five years.<sup>88</sup> Australian Red Cross works to support people and communities to participate, connect, lead and take action before, during and after disasters. For example, volunteer-run EmergencyRedi Workshops provide community members with information about the psychosocial impact of disasters, and helps them to complete their own RediPlan.<sup>89</sup>

### Supporting communities displaced by disasters

In the summers of 2019-2022, Australia was devastated by bushfires, which threatened the lives and livelihoods of tens of thousands of people. The Australian Red Cross registered over 64,570 people through the *Register.Find.Reunite* service, managed by the National Society on behalf of government agencies, and supported nearly 50,000 people through the fires.<sup>90</sup> By the time the bushfires ceased in March 2020, more than 3,300 emergency response volunteers and staff from the Australian Red Cross had been involved in supporting affected communities.

Recognizing that recovery would be a long-term process, the Australian Red Cross planned recovery activities over a three-year timeframe. Six months into the grants and recovery programme, nearly 49,718 people received evacuation support in relief centres and in affected communities, while a further 4,380 people received grant support to meet important, immediate needs.<sup>91</sup> Empowering communities to drive their own recovery, the Australian Red Cross also activated its Disaster Recovery Advisors and Mentors Australia programme, which allowed affected communities to receive advice and support from someone with personal experience of the post-disaster recovery journey.<sup>92</sup>





**FIJI 2018** – From November to April tropical cyclones bring damage and destruction to the southwest Pacific. Pacific Red Cross societies prepare for cyclone season throughout the year. Fiji Red Cross Society works with Wailotua village to ensure they understand weather warnings, have an emergency plan and kit, and know of safe places to evacuate to. *Hanna Butler / IFRC*



**FIJI**

The Fiji Red Cross Society has more than 700 volunteers and staff across 16 branches nationwide. In 2021, it reached over 789,000 people with disaster response and early recovery support, and 39,000 others through long-term services and development programmes.<sup>93</sup>

In Fiji, the impacts of climate change are intensifying, with rising cyclone damage driven by stronger winds, increased rainfall, and compounding effects from sea-level rise, storm surges, destructive waves, and coastal flooding.<sup>94</sup> Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 214,000 internal displacements in Fiji, almost all triggered by storms or floods.<sup>95</sup> Mean

temperatures are projected to rise by approximately 0.7°C (low emissions) to 1.3°C (high emissions) by 2050, alongside a projected increase in the intensity of tropical cyclones.<sup>96</sup> These hazards place significant pressure on low-lying coastal communities, where 27 per cent of the population live within one kilometre of the shoreline.<sup>97</sup>

### Promoting anticipatory action to enhance resilience

In 2024, the Fiji Red Cross Society, with IFRC and national partners, began work under the Early Warnings for All Initiative to strengthen Fiji's early warning systems – an essential step in building resilience to climate hazards. The Fiji Red Cross Society also supports anticipatory action under the Pacific's first Anticipatory Action Framework for Tropical

Cyclones, led by UNOCHA.<sup>98</sup> The framework sets out clear triggers based on cyclone forecasts and outlines anticipatory measures like multi-purpose cash assistance, protection support, health and nutrition interventions, and tools for shelter and livelihood resilience. Assistance is delivered through existing social protection systems and local partners, helping communities take action before disaster strikes.<sup>99</sup> As part of this work, the Fiji Red Cross Society is piloting a project with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to help reduce livelihood loss, providing early warning messages, boat-securing kits for fisherfolk, and crop storage materials for farmers.

### Addressing disaster displacement through legal and policy frameworks

For the past decade, through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Fiji Red Cross Society and IFRC have worked alongside the Government of Fiji to strengthen legal preparedness for disasters, with a strong focus on improving protection for people displaced by disasters. After extensive consultations with communities, government agencies and international, regional, national and local partners – including the Fiji Red Cross Society – the Disaster Risk Management Act 2024 was developed and unanimously passed by Parliament in October 2024. The Act covers all aspects of disaster risk management and includes important provisions to better protect and include people in vulnerable situations, especially those who have been evacuated, displaced, or relocated.

The Fiji Red Cross Society is also a member of the *National Taskforce for Relocation and Displacement*, working across all stages of the relocation process – from the preparation and relocation of communities to supporting sustainable livelihoods. It is recognized as a key supporting partner in the National Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation.<sup>100</sup>





**MARSHALL ISLANDS 2013** – With rising seas and saltwater intrusion affecting water shortages, the Marshall Islands Red Cross is helping communities strengthen their water security to reduce the risk of displacement. *Ana Zarcowic / IFRC*



## MARSHALL ISLANDS



The Marshall Islands Red Cross is one of the youngest National Societies within the IFRC network. In 2021, the Marshall Islands Red Cross reached over 28,000 people with disaster response and early recovery support, and in 2022, a further 33,000 people through long-term services and development programmes.<sup>101</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 2,200 internal displacements in the Marshall Islands.

Drought triggered a further 200 internal displacements in 2024.<sup>102</sup> With mean temperatures projected to rise by at least 0.8°C (low emissions) to 1.5°C (high emissions) by 2050, the Marshall Islands are increasingly facing the impacts of sea level rise, coastal inundation and saltwater intrusion.<sup>103</sup> These risks are exacerbated by the remote and isolated nature of small island communities with limited resources, fragile infrastructure and a heavy reliance on rainwater and shallow aquifers for freshwater.<sup>104</sup>

### Enhancing community resilience to drought

The outer atolls of the Marshall Islands have limited options for sustainable livelihoods, with much of the land unsuitable for farming due to recurring drought and rising soil

salinity. In 2024, the Marshall Islands Red Cross reported that repeated droughts were forcing some people to temporarily relocate from their islands. Drought and inundation affected nearly 35 per cent of the population across 23 atolls and islands in 2024.<sup>105</sup> In both 2022 and 2024, the Marshall Islands Red Cross received support from the IFRC-DREF to carry out needs assessments and deliver humanitarian assistance to the hardest-hit communities.

The National Society, which had over 450 active volunteers in 2022, invested heavily in staff and volunteer training during and after the drought response, boosting its ability to run health and WASH awareness sessions, train communities, and coordinate clean water delivery with partners. Local volunteers and communities also received training in water monitoring and safe water storage, helping build awareness and preparedness for future water shortages.<sup>106</sup> To further strengthen resilience, the National Society procured water purification systems, which can be deployed to isolated atolls during severe droughts.<sup>107</sup> These efforts are helping communities to use coping strategies that allow them to remain in place rather than having to move in the face of impending disasters.

### Supporting people displaced by disasters in hard-to-reach outer islands

As sea levels continue to rise due to climate change, coastal flooding and erosion are becoming increasingly common across the Marshall Islands, particularly in densely populated coastal areas.<sup>108</sup> In early 2024, powerful waves struck several atolls, damaging homes and public buildings and displacing families. The Marshall Islands Red Cross quickly mobilized, requesting support from the IFRC-DREF to carry out a multi-sectoral assessment, identify urgent needs and develop an action plan.<sup>109</sup> In the days following the floods, the National Society distributed essential household items, food and clean water to affected communities. They also worked closely with the National Disaster Management Office and played an active role in the Disaster Management Council, sharing valuable insights that helped shape the government's coordinated response.





**PALAU 2023** – Palau Red Cross volunteers gather for disaster response training, preparing to assist communities affected by climate-related emergencies. In a country vulnerable to rising sea levels and typhoons, the Red Cross is playing a crucial role in strengthening preparedness and response efforts. *Palau Red Cross*



## PALAU

The Palau Red Cross is present in all 16 states of Palau. In 2023, the National Society reached 16,000 people through long-term services and development programs and over 890 people with disaster response and early recovery support.<sup>110</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 4,100 internal displacements in Palau, nearly all of which took place during two typhoons in 2013 and 2021.<sup>111</sup> Mean temperatures are projected to rise by approximately 0.8°C (low emissions) to 1.4°C (high emissions) by 2050.<sup>112</sup> Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and saltwater intrusion threaten communities.<sup>113</sup> More frequent

extreme heat and intense storms are expected to increase health risks, strain water resources, and impact food security.

### Strengthening locally led preparedness and early action

Working in partnership with the National Emergency Management Office, the Palau Red Cross leads community Red Cross Disaster Action Teams across Palau's 16 states. The National Society delivers training across all states to equip community volunteers with knowledge, skills and tools to support and improve preparedness, response and resilience to climate risks.<sup>114</sup> Red Cross Disaster Action Teams are also trained

to mobilize people to evacuate, taking special precautions to ensure that those who may have difficulties in moving out of harm's way, such as older people or people with disabilities, can do so in a safe, timely and dignified manner.<sup>115</sup>

Engaging and promoting youth engagement in preparedness activities is a cornerstone of locally led action. The Palau Red Cross creates space for youth to take an active role in early warning and early action initiatives. In 2023, the Palau Red Cross Youth Council facilitated workshops for youth on safely evacuating older persons and persons with disabilities. Youth members are also trained to conduct post-typhoon damage assessments, distribute relief items and provide shelter assistance.<sup>116</sup>

### Supporting communities displaced by typhoons

In April 2021, Typhoon Surigae swept through Palau, damaging an estimated 1,500 houses and critical water and power infrastructure.<sup>117</sup> In the days following Typhoon Surigae, over 125 trained community Red Cross Disaster Action Teams and Palau Red Cross volunteers addressed the humanitarian needs of households displaced by floods, providing shelter, health and WASH, psychological first aid, food, protection and multi-purpose cash assistance.<sup>118</sup> The Palau Red Cross coordinated and liaised closely with government agencies to evacuate vulnerable households and to register people in evacuation centres. Volunteers managed evacuation shelters in urban centres, while Red Cross Disaster Action Teams managed evacuation shelters in the outer states. During response and recovery efforts, multi-purpose cash assistance was provided to strengthen longer-term resilience. Through post-distribution monitoring, it was identified that 58 per cent of households surveyed used some or all of the cash grants received for home or shelter repairs or construction.<sup>119</sup>





**SAMOA 2018** – Tropical Cyclone Gita caused widespread damage across Samoa. As most people live in low-lying coastal areas prone to cyclones and rising seas, the Red Cross supported evacuations, assessments, and water distribution. As climate-related displacement increases, Samoa Red Cross also supports families relocating inland through community-led, sustainable adaptation and preparedness efforts. *Samoa Red Cross*



## SAMOA

With over 5,698 staff and volunteers, the Samoa Red Cross has a vast network supporting community-level disaster preparedness, response and risk reduction efforts across the country. In 2022, the Samoa Red Cross reached 166,000 people with long-term services and development programming, and a further 132,000 people were reached through disaster response and early recovery programmes.<sup>120</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 9,300 internal displacements in Samoa.

A further 5,300 internal displacements were triggered by the 2009 Samoa earthquake and tsunami.<sup>121</sup> Mean temperatures are projected to rise by 1.3°C (low emissions) to 1.9°C (high emissions) by 2050.<sup>122</sup> Around 70 per cent of the population and infrastructure are located in low-lying coastal areas, heightening risks from sea-level rise, storm surges, and coastal flooding.<sup>123</sup> Cyclones are projected to be more intense, with stronger winds, heavier rainfall, and more destructive waves forecast. In places like Samoa and across the South Pacific, these events can seriously affect communities - damaging homes, roads, and livelihoods through flooding,

storm surges, and coastal erosion. Rising sea levels also threaten freshwater supplies through saltwater intrusion and worsen the impacts on coastal areas.<sup>124</sup>

### Supporting whole-of-society preparedness in the face of climate change

Samoa is prone to tropical cyclones and has experience of climate-related displacement. With approximately 70 per cent of the country's population and infrastructure located in low-lying coastal areas, and sea levels projected to further rise, some at-risk families living in coastal areas have decided to voluntarily relocate to inland sites. Using an inclusive and anticipatory approach, the Samoa Red Cross supports families who have relocated to inland sites.<sup>125</sup> Recognizing the importance of local ownership, the National Society involves all household members in site preparation and promotes sustainable local adaptation, providing training in cleaning and maintaining rainwater harvesting systems.

The Samoa Red Cross engages community leaders to identify families most at risk and unable to maintain their rainwater harvesting systems to ensure that they receive the necessary support from other community members. Community preparedness is also supported by conducting workshops on climate and disaster risk management. These workshops cover a range of matters, including improving awareness of weather and climate hazards, planning safe evacuation routes, managing shelters, protecting people in vulnerable situations, developing a clear and simple disaster risk management plan and establishing a village disaster coordination committee and response teams.<sup>126</sup>





**SOLOMON ISLANDS 2013** – Rising seas have now swallowed the beach in Gizo and with coastal erosion worsening, entire communities across the Solomon Islands face the risk of displacement. The Solomon Islands Red Cross helps communities to map risks, develop disaster preparedness plans, and strengthen local adaptation efforts to help people stay in place or move safely when needed. *Benoit Matsha-Carpentier / IFRC*



## SOLOMON ISLANDS



In 2022, the Solomon Islands Red Cross reached over 100 people with response programming and a further 57,000 people indirectly through long-term services and development programming.<sup>127</sup>

In Solomon Islands, climate change is contributing to rising sea levels and increasingly intense tropical cyclones.<sup>128</sup> Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 19,000 internal displacements, nearly all of which took place during two storm events in 2013 and

2021. A further 7,700 internal displacements were triggered by earthquakes.<sup>129</sup> Mean temperatures are projected to rise by 0.8°C (low emissions) to 1.3°C (high emissions) by 2050.<sup>130</sup> With 65 per cent of the population living within one kilometre of the coast, communities face heightened exposure to coastal inundation, erosion, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources.

### Enabling locally led disaster preparedness through effective coordination

The Solomon Islands Red Cross has a long history of working with communities to reduce the impacts of climate change and disasters. The National Society has experience supporting Village Disaster Climate Risk Committees in developing community disaster risk reduction plans, in collaboration with governments, agencies and communities to reduce vulnerabilities and build capacities.<sup>131</sup> Informed by locally led vulnerability and capacity assessments, Village Disaster Climate Risk Committees have worked with local communities to develop hazard maps, evacuation plans, response plans and disaster

risk reduction action plans with experience dating back to 2005.<sup>132</sup>

More recently, the Solomon Islands Red Cross worked with national authorities and local media to create a low-cost, low-tech community early warning system. This was the first urban community warning system in Solomon Islands and led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Society and the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service to improve community early warning systems.<sup>133</sup> Locally led disaster preparedness and planning help communities strengthen their resilience in the face of disasters, strengthening shelters, pre-positioning resources and supporting community members most at risk. Where staying at home is no longer an option, identifying safe evacuation routes and sites allows people to move out of harm's way in a safe and dignified manner.<sup>134</sup>

### Strengthening shelter assistance for at-risk and displaced communities

The Solomon Islands Red Cross plays a key role in providing shelter and evacuation assistance to communities displaced by disasters.<sup>135</sup> In 2020, with the support of IFRC, the Solomon Islands Red Cross supported the development of the Emergency Shelter Training Package to strengthen shelter preparedness and response capacity at the provincial level. Building stronger homes can reduce the need for communities to evacuate, as families and individuals can remain in place, in safer structures. In partnership with the National Disaster Management Office, the training package has been trialed across National Society branches, leading to further refinement and accompanying monitoring tools.<sup>136</sup>

In 2022, the Solomon Islands Red Cross supported the development and endorsement of the Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Shelter Guide: Urban Informal Settlements, Honiara, Solomon Islands.<sup>137</sup> The needs of displaced communities are often heightened in urban spaces, particularly for those living in hazard-prone or informal settlements. The Disaster Resilient Shelter Guide aims to better support preparedness actions, ongoing capacity-strengthening activities and longer-term recovery to improve local disaster resilience. It focuses on locally led action, underlining the vital role of volunteers and community-based actors, including the Solomon Islands Red Cross.





**TUVALU 2019** – Tuvalu Red Cross volunteers stand beside a community weather sign, an essential tool as climate change fuels rising sea levels and intensifies storms. In a country where nearly the entire population lives near the coast, the risk of displacement is escalating. The Tuvalu Red Cross works with communities to enhance early warning systems and preparedness to help families adapt and reduce the risk of displacement. *Sean Gallagher / IFRC*



## TUVALU



With over 250 staff and volunteers, the Tuvalu Red Cross works with Island Disaster Committee members and the National Disaster Management Office to strengthen community resilience to disasters, including those linked to climate change. In 2023, Tuvalu Red Cross reached the majority of the country's entire population of 10,800 people with response programming and indirectly through long-term services and development programming.<sup>138</sup>

Tuvalu is the world's second lowest-lying country, with the entire population living within one kilometre of the coast.<sup>139</sup> Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 5,600 internal

displacements in Tuvalu, nearly all of which took place during Cyclone Pam in 2015.<sup>140</sup> By 2050, mean temperatures are projected to rise by 0.8°C (low emissions) to 1.4°C (high emissions), increasing exposure to sea-level rise, coastal inundation, and saltwater intrusion.<sup>141</sup> In addition, the country's sustainable supply of freshwater is under growing threat due to changing rainfall patterns, limited rainwater storage, and the potential salinization of groundwater from rising seas.<sup>142</sup>

### Implementing disaster preparedness and recovery plans in the outer islands

Disaster preparedness is vital for Tuvalu's outer islands, where remote communities with limited resources may wait days or even weeks for assistance after a disaster, worsening the impacts of climate hazards. Equipping these communities to anticipate and respond can help reduce displacement and build resilience. The Tuvalu Red Cross, in partnership with the National Adaptation Programme of Action project and government authorities, is developing disaster preparedness, response and recovery plans for eight outer islands: Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Nukulaelae and Niulakita.<sup>143</sup>

These island-specific plans focus on early warning and early action, with an emphasis on communications and training support where infrastructure is limited. The Tuvalu Red Cross trains community volunteers to carry out initial damage assessments and vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs), ensuring that local needs and the perspectives of the most vulnerable are integrated into planning.<sup>144</sup> Relief items, such as tarpaulins, shelter toolkits, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and solar lights, are pre-positioned in island warehouses and distributed through local Red Cross branches and committees.<sup>145</sup> By investing in young volunteers, local government and community-led preparedness, Tuvalu is strengthening its capacity to respond to the growing threat of climate-related disasters.

### Strengthening early warnings and early action ahead of droughts

Simultaneous disasters in Tuvalu highlight the compounding impacts of climate change. In 2021, prolonged dry spells were made worse by unpredictable rainfall and saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers due to rising sea levels, leading to compounding impacts like water scarcity and increased risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.

Tuvalu Red Cross has been a pioneer of early action in the Pacific, using the IFRC-DREF to act early in the face of potential drought.<sup>146</sup> In 2021, for the first time in the region, funding was released based on early warning information to support early actions before dry conditions potentially worsen. Working closely with the National Drought Committee, Tuvalu Red Cross supported communities over three months, reaching around 1,755 households – an estimated 6,837 people – across the northern, central and southern islands.<sup>147</sup> CEA was central to the response, with early warnings and drought awareness messages shared through local networks, media, radio, TV and social media, alongside assessments to understand the impact of low rainfall.<sup>148</sup> Local staff and volunteers worked directly with households, supporting communities to monitor their water availability and strengthen preparedness for future dry periods. Recognizing the wide-reaching impacts of extreme dry conditions, the National Society also helped island disaster councils strengthen their drought management plans and standard operating procedures, supporting communities to adopt preparedness actions and better cope with future disasters.<sup>149</sup>





**VANUATU 2023** – Cyclone Lola, a Category 5 Tropical Cyclone, left a trail of destruction across Vanuatu, flattening homes, schools and roads. Vanuatu Red Cross Society teams responded immediately, assessing damages and providing relief to displaced families. As climate-driven disasters become more frequent and severe, efforts to strengthen resilience and recovery are critical. *Soneel Ram / IFRC*



## VANUATU

With over 420 staff and volunteers, Vanuatu Red Cross Society is a local humanitarian leader and as auxiliary to the government in the humanitarian field, adopting a community-based approach to disaster preparedness, response and resilience building.<sup>150</sup> In 2023, Vanuatu Red Cross Society reached 16,000 people with disaster response and early recovery activities, and a further 1280 people were reached through long-term services and development programming.<sup>151</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 220,000 internal displacements in Vanuatu. A further 27,000 internal displacements

were triggered by earthquakes or volcanic activity.<sup>152</sup> Mean temperatures are projected to rise by 0.7°C (low emissions) to 1.3°C (high emissions) by 2050.<sup>153</sup> With 64 per cent of the population living within one kilometre of the coast, communities face growing exposure to sea-level rise, coastal inundation, erosion, and saltwater intrusion, as well as stronger tropical cyclones and flooding.<sup>154</sup>

### Enhancing anticipatory action and readiness in the face of repeat cyclones

In 2023, Vanuatu was hit by back-to-back cyclones, causing devastation across the country and affecting 80 per cent of the total population.<sup>155</sup> With climate change increasing the frequency and severity of many hazards in the Pacific, overlapping events are making disasters more intense and recovery more complex. For instance, in places like Vanuatu, where efforts to recover from Tropical Cyclone Harold in 2020 were still ongoing when new cyclones struck.<sup>156</sup>

Long-term investment in disaster preparedness and capacity building has strengthened Vanuatu Red Cross Society, enabling it to better support at-risk communities in partnership with the government and other actors. Through ongoing resilience programming, the National Society worked with 11 communities on Emae Island to implement cyclone preparedness measures, including actions like securing homes and water sources, relocating boats, clearing roads, identifying vulnerable groups and safe evacuation routes and encouraging people to move to shelters.

Each cyclone season, IFRC supports Pacific National Societies like Vanuatu Red Cross Society with preparedness activities, ensuring trained staff and volunteers are ready to assess, coordinate and distribute relief at all levels. With over 83 inhabited islands, Vanuatu benefits from the prepositioning of items such as tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and solar lights – ensuring fast, effective support to people affected and displaced by disasters. Talking with communities about risks and evacuation plans during preparedness efforts, and making sure support is available for displaced people, helps ensure that communities are better protected when disasters hit.

### Responding to displacement during simultaneous crises

A month after Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin made landfall in Vanuatu in 2023, almost 1,000 people were still displaced and living in evacuation centres.<sup>157</sup> A further 800 were reported to be living with host families, although this number may have been much higher.<sup>158</sup>

Over nine months, Vanuatu Red Cross Society responded to the humanitarian needs of people displaced by the cyclones, providing relief assistance in the form of shelter, protection, health and WASH services, psychosocial support and food.<sup>159</sup> Focusing on displaced households and those whose homes or livelihoods were affected, the National Society also provided multi-purpose cash assistance combined with messaging about health and hygiene-related risks and the importance of strengthened shelters. Vanuatu Red Cross Society's focus on a 'building back safer' approach in shelter assistance aims to ensure structures can better withstand future hazards, including increasing climate risks. Tailored response and recovery assistance like this can support people living in situations of prolonged displacement to identify opportunities to rebuild their lives and resolve their displacement as soon as possible.





**INDONESIA 2019** – Indonesian Red Cross volunteers navigate floodwaters in Sigi district to bring relief to families displaced by landslides and torrential rains. As Indonesia faces worsening climate hazards, the Indonesian Red Cross is delivering emergency aid while supporting communities with early warning systems and resilience-building efforts. *IFRC*



**Palang  
Merah  
Indonesia**



## INDONESIA

With its over 521,000 volunteers and staff, the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia) plays a major role in disaster response across Indonesia. In 2022, the Indonesian Red Cross reached two million people through disaster response and early recovery programming.<sup>160</sup> A further 1.6 million people were reached through long-term services and development programming.

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 5.3 million internal displacements

in Indonesia. A further 3.3 million internal displacements were triggered by earthquakes, volcanic activity or drought.<sup>161</sup> Mean temperatures are projected to rise by 0.9°C (low emissions) to 3.4°C (high emissions) by the end of the century.<sup>162</sup> Rising temperatures are expected to intensify the frequency and duration of extreme heat events and increase the severity of rainfall extremes, contributing to greater flood and landslide risks. Sea level rise - already affecting low-lying coastal and island areas - is projected to continue, posing significant risks to coastal infrastructure, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

### Preparing for and responding to droughts

2023 was the hottest year on record due to the El Niño climate pattern, extending Indonesia's main dry season beyond October. Widespread crop failures led to surging rice prices across the country, threatening the lives and livelihoods of thousands of people. While it remains difficult to paint a consistent picture of displacement associated with slow-onset events, it is evident that these events erode people's capacity to cope. In some cases, people are driven to move in search of livelihoods and resources, while others are rendered more vulnerable to shocks with fewer opportunities to adapt locally or to move away from risk.<sup>163</sup>

At the national level, the Indonesian Red Cross actively participates in the National Anticipatory Action Working Group to design and carry out anticipatory actions that can reduce potential displacement and other negative impacts before a disaster strikes.<sup>164</sup> In 2023, the National Society launched a national drought response operation, supporting drought-affected families with food and water assistance, health and WASH services and conditional cash assistance.<sup>165</sup> During the operation, the Indonesian Red Cross distributed an average of 285,000 litres of water to more than 34,000 people each day.<sup>166</sup> Conditional cash assistance for livelihood support was provided to households that had been severely affected by the drought. Cash recipients also received training on protecting or re-establishing livelihoods, which reduced aid dependency and helped to reduce the risk of protracted displacement.





**MALAYSIA 2024** – Malaysian Red Crescent volunteers assist families displaced by devastating floods in Kelantan, where over 106,000 people were affected. As climate change increases the intensity and frequency of floods, the Malaysian Red Crescent provided early warnings, evacuation support and emergency relief to reduce the impacts of displacement. *Malaysian Red Crescent*



## MALAYSIA

With over 79,000 volunteers, the Malaysian Red Crescent's extensive network is active across the country. In 2023, the National Society reached more than 13,000 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes, and more than 18,000 people through long-term services and development programmes.<sup>167</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 1.4 million internal displacements in Malaysia. Almost all of these were triggered by floods.<sup>168</sup> As temperatures rise, Malaysia is likely to experience more intense extreme events,

floods and droughts.<sup>169</sup> Coastal and low-lying areas are particularly vulnerable, with sea level rise increasing risks linked to coastal erosion and flooding in low-lying areas. Mean temperature are projected to rise by 0.9°C (low emissions) to 3.4°C (high emissions) by the end of the century.<sup>170</sup>

### Providing health and care support for migrants and refugees

The Malaysian Red Crescent works closely with health authorities to support migrant communities with health services, particularly in infectious disease prevention. During disasters and climate shocks, the National Society promotes an inclusive approach so that all groups - including migrants and refugees - can access essential healthcare. In 2023, dengue cases in Malaysia surged due to heavy rains and warmer monsoon temperatures.<sup>171</sup> A substantial proportion of the cases were amongst migrant workers due, in part, to overcrowded living areas and inadequate waste disposal infrastructure.<sup>172</sup> In response, the National Society distributed dengue prevention kits and ran outreach in schools and construction sites, focusing on at-risk migrant communities. A key part

of the response was recruiting and training volunteers from migrant communities in WASH and PGI, helping bridge gaps between migrants, host communities and the Malaysian Red Crescent. Information was shared through multilingual flyers, posters and videos, developed with input from migrant volunteers. The National Society also created internal guidance for staff and volunteers on engaging migrants in line with the Movement's principles.<sup>173</sup> To broaden its reach, it worked with community leaders and employers to explain and encourage migrant participation in the response.<sup>174</sup>

### Providing health and care during monsoon seasons

In 2022, the monsoon season started earlier and lasted longer than usual, resulting in widespread flooding across the Malaysian peninsula. By March 2023, more than 113,000 people had been affected, with many experiencing repeated or prolonged displacement.<sup>175</sup>

Supporting national and local response efforts, the Malaysian Red Crescent addressed the humanitarian needs of households displaced by floods through extended assistance in shelter, emergency WASH services, multi-purpose cash assistance, mobile health clinics, health awareness initiatives and mental health and psychosocial support services. Reaching over 8,000 displaced people living in evacuation centres and target villages, the National Society made significant efforts to provide for the people most in need.<sup>176</sup>

In coordination with the Ministry of Health, the Malaysian Red Crescent delivered psychosocial support to both displaced and host communities. Recognizing the trauma and disruption linked to displacement, trained volunteers held private, confidential conversations with adults, assessed individual mental health and psychosocial needs, and provided the psychosocial support. For children, the National Society ran age-appropriate, supportive activities such as art, dance, singing and support in evacuation centres—critical for recovery and long-term resilience.<sup>177</sup>





MYANMAR 2019 – Severe floods in Mon State affected over 76,000 people, leaving many in urgent need of food, water and shelter. The Myanmar Red Cross Society mobilized to deliver emergency assistance and continues to support displaced communities facing climate hazards. IFRC



## MYANMAR

The Myanmar Red Cross Society has an extensive reach, operating through over 6,400 volunteers and staff across the country.<sup>178</sup> In 2022, the Myanmar Red Cross Society reached 3.6 million people through disaster response and early recovery, and a further 18,000 people through long-term services and development programming.<sup>179</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 7.5 million internal displacements in Myanmar, most of these triggered by floods and storms. A further 29,000 internal displacements were triggered by earthquakes.<sup>180</sup> Mean

temperatures are projected to rise by 1.4°C (low emissions) to 3.7°C (high emissions) by the end of the century, with hotter days and more frequent extremes expected.<sup>181</sup> Rainfall during the wet season is also projected to increase, heightening the risk of seasonal flooding in vulnerable areas.<sup>182</sup> With much of the population living along the coast and in the central dry zone, communities are increasingly exposed to both the slow-onset impacts of rising temperatures and sea levels, and the devastating effects of sudden-onset hazards, including cyclones, storm surges, and floods.<sup>183</sup>



### Responding to complex and overlapping crises

In Myanmar, the complex interactions between disasters and conflict heighten the needs of affected people. People already displaced by previous disasters or conflict – including returnees, IDPs and the communities that host them – tend to have less capacity to cope with a disaster's impacts and manage future disaster risk. Long-term programming by the Myanmar Red Cross Society in Rakhine State, where conflict and extreme disasters overlap, strengthens the resilience of displaced communities, helping them better prepare for and respond to disasters.

In 2023, when Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Myanmar, an estimated 231,600 people were internally displaced in Rakhine State.<sup>184</sup> The cyclone triggered 912,000 additional displacements across the country, with at least 63,000 displacements taking place in camps sheltering people already displaced by conflict.<sup>185</sup> Before the cyclone hit, the Myanmar Red Cross Society activated its emergency operations centre and initiated preparedness measures and early actions. This included evacuation assistance, awareness campaigns and data collection. In the aftermath of the cyclone, the Myanmar Red Cross Society provided humanitarian assistance to communities living in protracted displacement. Over 290,000 people received relief and shelter assistance, health and WASH services, and multi-purpose cash assistance geared toward agricultural support.<sup>186</sup>

To help communities in protracted displacement strengthen resilience to future disasters and climate shocks, the National Society supported nature-based solutions, such as planting bamboo to fortify riverbanks against erosion. Awareness-raising materials about food risks and safe shelter approaches were also developed under the cyclone's response operation. These materials have since been replicated and used for awareness-raising in later flood response operations led by the Myanmar Red Cross Society.<sup>187</sup>

### Capacity strengthening in displacement and migration contexts

In Myanmar, millions of people require humanitarian assistance as ongoing conflict, rising poverty, and back-to-back climate disasters compound existing vulnerabilities. Over the past decade, the Myanmar Red Cross Society has strengthened its internal capacity to respond to the humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced people. Across the country, the impacts of climate change interact with ongoing conflict, exacerbating risks and vulnerabilities, underscoring the urgent need for responses to the humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced persons during disasters.

In 2018, the Myanmar Red Cross Society developed an action plan on migration and displacement and an accompanying strategy, committing to increasing awareness and enhancing understanding of risks, vulnerabilities and responses for the needs of people affected by both migration and displacement.<sup>188</sup> Capacity strengthening and training for staff and volunteers have supported implementation efforts, focusing on integrating support for migrants and displaced people into existing preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities. The Myanmar Red Cross Society is also working to conduct integrated assessments to understand the needs of IDPs and migrants, and returnees including as part of emergency operations. Efforts to better integrate migrants and displaced people into National Society action were evident during the National Society's response to severe flooding and displacement in early 2024, where interventions focused on evacuees, returnees, existing IDPs and people in situations of protracted or secondary displacement.<sup>189</sup>





**PHILIPPINES 2023** – Treciano Moriano Jr., a fish vendor in Burgos Municipality, lost his home when the rising shoreline consumed his land. Sea level rise is forcing many in the Philippines to relocate. The Philippine Red Cross provided emergency relief, livelihood support, and advocated for planned relocation to ensure displaced families rebuild with dignity. *Alecs Ongal / IFRC*

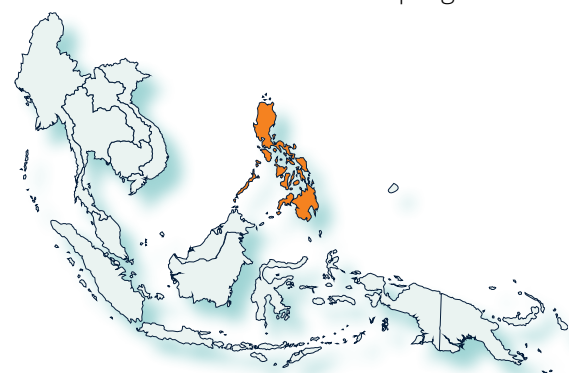


## PHILIPPINES

In 2022, the Philippine Red Cross reached more than 755,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes and more than 2.9 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.<sup>190</sup> The National Society has 2,221 staff at the national headquarters and across the provincial chapters, and approximately 500,000 volunteers and supporters nationwide.

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 68.7 million internal displacements in the Philippines. A further 2.5 million internal displacements were triggered by earthquakes, volcanic activity or drought.<sup>191</sup>

Mean temperatures in the Philippines are projected to rise by 0.8°C (low emissions) to 3.2°C (high emissions) by the end of the century.<sup>192</sup> In addition, rainfall patterns are likely to shift and while fewer tropical cyclones may enter the region, they are expected to be more intense. Sea levels in certain parts of the Philippines are rising at nearly twice the global average and could increase by around 20cm by 2100.<sup>193</sup> These changes are expected to intensify floods, storm surges, landslides, and droughts, threatening livelihoods, infrastructure, and vital ecosystems.



### Supporting communities displaced by disasters from response to recovery

In 2021, Typhoon Rai (locally known as Odette) devastated large parts of the Philippines, displacing 3.9 million people.<sup>194</sup> In response, the Philippine Red Cross launched an emergency operation initially supported by funding from the IFRC-DREF, to assist 400,000 of the most affected people. This was later elevated to an Emergency Appeal, implemented with support from multiple donors. The operation focused on addressing immediate needs during the emergency phase and supporting recovery efforts to strengthen community resilience to future shocks.<sup>195</sup> In the immediate aftermath of the typhoon, the Philippine Red Cross, with support from the IFRC, provided shelter assistance, health, including psychosocial support and WASH services, and food and multi-purpose cash assistance. Restoring Family Links services were also provided to facilitate the reconnection of family members separated during the disaster.<sup>196</sup> Over 10,000 displaced families were supported through the emergency operation.

In the months following the typhoon, the Philippine Red Cross continued to assist displaced and affected households, supporting their safe return home. To encourage continuity and prevent gaps in assistance during the transition from response to recovery, the Philippine Red Cross partnered with government agencies and development actors, clarifying roles and responsibilities to strengthen long-term recovery efforts.<sup>197</sup> Staff and volunteers further enhanced vulnerable households' resilience by integrating a 'build back safer' approach into shelter repair and construction efforts. In addition, the National Society provided conditional cash grants coupled with technical livelihood trainings, for households and community-based organisations and associations. These efforts supported the most in need, especially farmers and fisherfolk, to re-establish their livelihoods and sources of income.

### Supporting relocation and resettlement of people displaced by disasters

The Philippine Red Cross supported the relocation and resettlement of the most vulnerable households displaced by Typhoon Rai.<sup>198</sup> To complement the local government's efforts, the Philippine Red Cross established community engagement mechanisms to assist throughout all stages of the relocation and resettlement project, gathering feedback to ensure residents' voices were heard in assessing the suitability of new areas and addressing key concerns. As part of this initiative, diverse community representatives were enlisted to form the Barangay Recovery Committee. The committee's responsibilities included adapting the community selection criteria, overseeing project implementation, facilitating feedback from the community and monitoring project activities. This approach, which involved the community from the outset, was critical for promoting participation and accountability.

Housing design and construction training, led by the Philippine Red Cross, was designed to enhance the community's disaster awareness and resilience. By implementing climate-resilient construction practices and strengthening techniques, people were better able to mitigate the impact of future disasters on their homes, fostering greater resilience and sustainability. In May 2023, 70 full shelters were officially handed over in Talibon, Bohol.<sup>199</sup> In March 2024, an additional 71 full shelters with solar-powered panels were provided in Barangay Poblacion, Alegria, Cebu.<sup>200</sup> The Philippine Red Cross also supported the construction of essential infrastructure, including retaining wall construction and water pipeline installation. Planning for sustainable recovery is underway, beginning with the process of transitioning the responsibilities of the local government of Alegria.<sup>201</sup>





THAILAND 2010 – Thai Red Cross Society field kitchen teams distribute food to families affected by historic floods in Nakhon Ratchasima. Across Thailand, floods have displaced millions, and the Thai Red Cross Society provided essential relief while working with communities on early warning and preparedness strategies. *Sunthon Tipayakorn / Thai Red Cross Society*



สภากาชาดไทย  
THAI RED CROSS SOCIETY

## THAILAND

With a nationwide network of over 80,000 volunteers, the Thai Red Cross Society reached 667,000 people with disaster response and early recovery programmes in 2023.<sup>202</sup> A further 4.6 million people were reached through long-term support and development programmes in 2022.

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 3.3 million internal displacements in Thailand. Almost all of these were triggered by floods.<sup>203</sup> By the end of the century, mean temperatures in Thailand are projected to rise by around 1.1°C (low emissions) to 3.8°C (high emissions).<sup>204</sup> Thailand is among the world's most flood-affected nations; rising seas, land subsidence, and storm surges place low-lying

areas at increasing risk, threatening critical infrastructure and livelihoods. Floods, droughts and cyclone impacts are also expected to intensify.<sup>205</sup>



### Responding to floods that affect already displaced communities

In response to the monsoon floods of 2022, the Thai Red Cross Society conducted activities to meet the humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced people from neighboring Myanmar. By adopting an inclusive approach, host community elders played a crucial role in assisting migrants and displaced people from Myanmar to overcome language barriers, ensuring they could effectively communicate their needs. Consequently, the response, including reconstruction and recovery plans - addressed the specific impacts of the floods on migrants and displaced people within the wider affected communities.<sup>206</sup>

The National Society supported evacuations and addressed the humanitarian needs of communities displaced by floods through shelter, health, WASH, food and protection, with gender and inclusion components integrated into all response actions. Emphasis was placed on ensuring a gender balance within the emergency teams, and female volunteers were encouraged to deploy for the assessment and distribution of relief supplies. Almost 500 staff and volunteers of the Thai Red Cross Society were trained in PGI and CEA approaches and tools, recognizing that displacement can heighten existing protection risks, especially for children, women, older persons, people with disabilities and others with specific needs.<sup>207</sup>





**TIMOR-LESTE 2023** – Timor-Leste Red Cross volunteers teach children and adults in the Baucau district how to wash their hands using a 'tippy tap' during an El Niño-induced drought. As water shortages worsen, communities are at an increased risk of displacement. The Red Cross distributed clean water and raised awareness to help families adapt. *Sam Smith / IFRC*



## TIMOR-LESTE

In 2023, the Timor-Leste Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste) reached more than 3,710 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes and more than 108,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes.<sup>208</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 23,000 million internal displacements in Timor-Leste. Over two thirds of these were triggered by Cyclone Seroja in 2021.<sup>209</sup> By 2050, mean temperatures in Timor-Leste are projected to rise by 0.8°C (low emissions) to 1.4°C (high emissions).<sup>210</sup> Extreme rainfall events are expected to become more intense and frequent,

increasing the risk of flash floods and landslides. While tropical cyclones may occur less often, they are likely to be more severe. Sea levels will continue to rise, exposing coastal communities to stronger storm surges, winds, and tidal flooding, with serious implications for water resources and infrastructure.



### Implementing cross-border disaster preparedness

Effective cooperation between National Societies is important in areas where people frequently move across international borders. Disasters and climate risks add another layer of complexity, in some cases compelling or driving movement and in other cases increasing the vulnerability of people on the move. While limited data is available on cross-border displacement and migration between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, freedom of movement in the border areas is endorsed by both countries, along with wider commitments for cross-border cooperation.<sup>211</sup> This is particularly important in times of disaster when people may move across the border in search of safety, seeking shelter with family or friends living on the Indonesian western half of the island of Timor.<sup>212</sup>

To improve access to services for people moving across borders and to strengthen National Society capacity, in 2019, the Timor-Leste Red Cross and the Indonesian Red Cross signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a partnership of humanitarian coordination in times of disasters and emergencies along the land border between Timor-Leste and Indonesia.<sup>213</sup> This contributes to and formalizes the ongoing success of peer-to-peer cooperation between the two National Societies, evident through previous activities, including social media and communications,<sup>214</sup> search and rescue simulation exercises,<sup>215</sup> emergency response,<sup>216</sup> and cross-border preparedness during the COVID-19 response.<sup>217</sup> By preparing volunteers to handle disasters that may impact both nations, the Memorandum of Understanding and associated capacity-strengthening initiatives foster a unified approach to emergency response, promoting mutual support and cooperation when cross-border displacement occurs in times of disasters or climate shocks.

### Supporting displaced people during concurrent disasters

Across Timor-Leste, concurrent disasters have highlighted how health-related emergencies can compound risks – underscoring the importance of a multi-hazard approach to disaster and crisis management. In 2021, flash floods and landslides during Tropical Cyclone Seroja displaced over 15,000 people.<sup>218</sup> In the cyclone's aftermath, there was a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases. Despite attempts to control the spread of disease, the close quarters of evacuation centres in Dili and the poor quality of housing settlements likely increased the spread.<sup>219</sup>

The Timor-Leste Red Cross played a significant role in the response to both disasters. As one of the first responders to Tropical Cyclone Seroja, staff and volunteers helped to safely evacuate flood-affected families. The National Society established seven evacuation centres to respond to the humanitarian needs of displaced people. Volunteers assisted with preparing and distributing food and provided a range of non-food items, including kits for families and babies, shelter materials, seeds and tools. The National Society's youth programme supported almost 1,000 children, organizing sport, teaching, music and art activities as part of child-friendly spaces. The Timor-Leste Red Cross also worked in close cooperation with national authorities to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in evacuation centres. Measures were introduced to ensure social distancing, stricter sanitation and infection control to prevent evacuation centres from turning into virus hotspots. Latrines and hand-washing facilities were constructed in and around evacuation centres. In some cases, volunteers remained in the evacuation centres for a week to provide continuous support to displaced communities and to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 between displaced and host communities.<sup>220</sup>





**BANGLADESH, 2023** – Ahead of Cyclone Mocha, volunteers were trained to disseminate early warnings and support anticipatory actions, ensuring timely preparedness and response across the camp settlements. This was done under the leadership and coordination of the Government of Bangladesh, BDRCS, CPP, IFRC, and the American Red Cross in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM, and site management partners. *IFRC*



## BANGLADESH



In 2023, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) reached 3.4 million people through disaster response and early recovery programmes and a further 926,000 people through long-term services and development programmes.<sup>221</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 21.2 million internal displacements in Bangladesh. Bangladesh consistently ranks among the top ten countries globally with the highest number of recorded disaster-related displacements.<sup>222</sup> Mean temperatures are projected

to rise by 1.3°C (low emissions) to 2°C (high emissions) by 2050.<sup>223</sup> The country faces escalating climate risks, including more frequent and severe floods, droughts, and cyclones. Sea levels are expected to rise, threatening low-lying coastal regions with increased salinity intrusion and storm surges.

### Implementing disaster preparedness for displaced communities in camps

In August 2017, more than 740,000 people fled violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar and sought safety in Bangladesh. More than seven years later, over a million people remain in temporary shelters in crowded camps in Cox's Bazar and on Bhashan Char. Living in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, refugees and other displaced people face heightened exposure to climate shocks – made worse by overcrowded conditions.

To reduce these risks, the BDRCS, in partnership with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, local authorities and camp partners, helped expand the national Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) into the refugee camps. This globally recognized programme, established in 1972, is jointly operated by the Government of Bangladesh and BDRCS across 13 coastal districts and relies on a 78,460-strong volunteer network – 50 per cent of whom are women – to deliver early warnings and guide communities to safety.<sup>224</sup> Since 2017, the BDRCS, with IFRC and partners, has expanded CPP to 34 camps, supporting around one million people each year in the

camps and surrounding host communities.<sup>225</sup> This has also led to the development of a standardized preparedness model across all camps, with contextualized government-approved preparedness messaging.

Collective interventions include strengthening disaster risk management coordination mechanisms; enhancing the capacity of community volunteers to promote localized disaster preparedness and response; conducting multi-hazard awareness activities; skill development and structural mitigation to safeguard people from landslides to scale up community resilience. A key achievement has been the inclusion of camp residents as CPP volunteers – a shift that recognizes their critical role in disaster preparedness. Today, 3,300 trained volunteers help deliver early warnings and guide their community to take early action ahead of disasters.<sup>226</sup>

### Providing support in protracted displacement situations

Nearly a million people live in various stages of protracted displacement in refugee camps, and many are almost completely reliant on humanitarian assistance to meet their everyday needs. In its auxiliary role, the BDRCS supports government efforts to improve the living conditions in the densely populated camps. It provides mid-term shelter and durable housing, solar-powered water supply networks and disaster mitigation activities to strengthen the resilience of displaced people to withstand secondary hazards such as seasonal floods, flashfloods, cyclones, heavy rainfall and landslides, as well as fires and lightning strikes. Sectoral interventions including shelter, WASH, disaster risk management, health and livelihood activities are also carried out with host communities, who largely face the same climate risks. In alignment with the approach taken by the UN through their 2019 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, 25 per cent of funds are allocated to supporting Bangladeshi host communities.

The BDRCS supports social cohesion efforts. This is a critical step in enhancing the self-reliance of displaced people from Rakhine, providing them with access to services such as health, through primary healthcare centres and a mothers and babies healthcare centre; protection, through dignity, access, participation and safety centres; and, information, through information hubs and a distribution centre.<sup>227</sup> Not only does this reduce pressure on surrounding host communities, but it also creates spaces to share information and elevate the voices of displaced youth, women and other groups with limited representation in decision-making within the camp community.

### Developing cyclone early action protocols in coastal districts

Over the past decade, cyclones have affected more than a million people in Bangladesh, with coastal communities facing repeated flooding and extreme weather that steadily erode their resilience. Since 2015, the BDRCS has worked to strengthen community preparedness and resilience to disasters and climate shocks. Through its cyclone EAP – covering 13 coastal districts – pre-identified actions like pre-positioning relief supplies, evacuation support and shelter management can reach up to 20,000 people, giving communities the time and tools to act before disaster strikes.<sup>228</sup>

In 2024, Cyclone Remal triggered 1.1 million displacements. Thanks to early warning systems, early action and strong community-based disaster management, almost three-quarters of the displacements were pre-emptive evacuations. The BDRCS, acting as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, played a critical role in coordinating evacuations and supporting displaced communities with emergency shelter, health and WASH services, and food and protection, demonstrating the life-saving power of disaster risk management, preparedness and early action.<sup>229</sup>





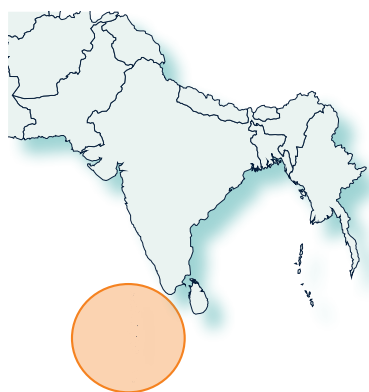
Maldives, 2021 – In a country facing growing climate and health risks, Maldivian Red Crescent volunteers worked alongside migrants, providing COVID-19 vaccine information and basic needs support. *Maldivian Red Crescent*



## THE MALDIVES

In 2023, the Maldivian Red Crescent reached 42,000 people with long-term services and development programmes, and 16,000 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.<sup>230</sup> The

National Society is the largest humanitarian organization in the Maldives.



The Maldives is facing more frequent and intense extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall, storm surges, and flooding. Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 1.1 million internal displacements in the Maldives, with most occurring in the last five years.<sup>231</sup> With over 80 per cent of its land less than one metre above sea level, even a modest rise of one metre could submerge large parts of the islands.<sup>232</sup> By the end of the century, average temperatures

are projected to increase between 1°C (low emissions) to 3.6°C (high emissions), further threatening the country's environment, communities, and infrastructure.<sup>233</sup>

### Integrating migrants into the National Society staff and volunteer base

With approximately one in every four people in the Republic of Maldives originating from another country, the Maldives hosts the largest proportional population of migrants in South Asia.<sup>234</sup> Until recently, migrants were largely overlooked in disaster planning and protection systems. However, the Maldivian Red Crescent is pioneering a more inclusive approach to humanitarian action by integrating migrants' needs into its programmes and services, particularly in disaster response and health promotion. Migrants, along with staff and volunteers, play a fundamental role in this effort. They are actively involved in the National Society's volunteer network, governing board and overall response efforts, helping to shape and inform humanitarian actions for both migrants and Maldivians.

In 2022, the Maldivian Red Crescent conducted a National Migration and Displacement Needs Assessment.<sup>235</sup> The assessment collected information from migrants to generate

a more accurate understanding of their needs and priorities. The assessment findings have since been used to inform disaster and health response actions and wider programming. Efforts to map the locations of migrant communities have also been undertaken by the National Society to ensure response activities have a whole-of-society reach. This is particularly important as migrants often live in informal and temporary housing and face challenges in accessing services. Volunteers and staff also engage with community leaders and employers of migrant workers to encourage migrants to access the services offered by the Maldivian Red Crescent.<sup>236</sup> This illustrates the effective benefits of including migrants as a part of the National Society that could be adapted to other contexts with significant populations of migrants, including those who have moved in the context of disasters and climate change.

### Providing health services for migrants during disasters

In late 2023, the Maldivian Health Protection Agency reported 25 cases of Lymphatic Filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis, a vector-borne disease transmitted through mosquitoes and often found in congested or dirty water. Several studies suggest that climate change can potentially increase the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases such as filariasis, as changes in temperature, humidity and rainfall affect mosquito populations.<sup>237</sup>

The Maldivian Red Crescent supported nationwide efforts to scale up risk communication and community engagement and prevention and control activities. The response focused on migrant communities, where most cases were concentrated.<sup>238</sup> The National Society's strong presence and rapport with migrants was fundamental to the response's success. A communications package was developed with materials translated into six languages commonly used by migrants, including audio-visual messages to maximize outreach across migrant and hosting communities. Staff and volunteers, including migrants, were involved in the development, translation, distribution and explanation of the information, education and communications materials. Utilizing its existing network of migrant volunteers across the islands, the Maldivian Red Crescent also approached island councils nationwide to support mobilization efforts to scale up prevention and control activities and community awareness.<sup>239</sup>





NEPAL 2022 – Kamal and Bipana sit inside a tent provided by the Nepal Red Cross after floods displaced their families in Kailali district. Nepal is increasingly experiencing climate-driven floods and landslides, leaving thousands homeless. The Nepal Red Cross supported affected communities with shelter, cash assistance, and long-term recovery efforts. *Shriluna Shrestha / IFRC*



## NEPAL



The Nepal Red Cross operates through its 77 district chapters and over 1,500 sub-chapters. In 2023, the National Society reached more than 1.2 million people through its long-term services and development programmes, and more than two million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.<sup>240</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 1.1 million internal displacements in Nepal. A further 2.8 million internal displacements were triggered by earthquakes.<sup>241</sup> By the end of the century, mean temperatures in Nepal are projected to rise by 1.4°C (low emissions) to 4.8°C (high emissions).<sup>242</sup> Nepal faces growing risks from sudden-onset climate hazards – such as extreme rainfall, snowstorms, high winds, heat waves, cold waves, floods, landslides, and wildfires – and slow-onset impacts including drought,

shifting rainfall patterns and glacier retreat threatening lives, water security, and fragile mountain ecosystems.<sup>243</sup>

### Leveraging social protection programmes to meet humanitarian needs

The Nepal Red Cross has nearly two decades of experience delivering CVA to help people displaced by disasters recover and rebuild.<sup>244</sup> In 2017, it provided cash support to strengthen livelihoods in flood-affected communities across seven districts. In 2024, a simplified EAP for floods was finalized and activated, enabling anticipatory actions such as early warning messaging, evacuation site setup, evacuation support for people in vulnerable situations and livestock, and the distribution of waterproof document bags, hygiene kits and other essentials.<sup>245</sup>

The National Society is also piloting shock-responsive social protection during floods. In 2021, it used the government's social security infrastructure – including financial transfer systems, information management, grievance mechanisms and communications – to deliver multi-purpose cash to hundreds of affected households.<sup>246</sup> The assistance prioritized those most at risk: older people, people with disabilities, single and widowed women and young children from Dalit families. This pilot showed how humanitarian support can be delivered efficiently at scale through existing systems, opening the door for wider government and humanitarian collaboration. Building on this success, the Nepal Red Cross is advocating to scale up shock-responsive social protection as a tool for anticipatory action and improved resilience.<sup>247</sup>

### Strengthening urban resilience and engagement

Nepal has seen rapid urbanisation in recent decades, driven largely by rural-to-urban movements in search of better opportunities. Disasters often accelerate this movement, as people seek shelter and safety in urban areas. However, lessons from past responses show that at-risk urban populations, especially displaced people, often don't engage with local disaster management committees during emergencies.<sup>248</sup>

The Strengthen Urban Resilience and Engagement (SURE) programme supported locally led and volunteer-driven approaches to strengthen resilience and disaster risk reduction actions within pre-existing and self-sustaining networks. For example, by supporting communities to stockpile response materials in urban centres, the programme ensured they were better prepared to respond to future flood events. It also worked to provide water and other essential items to informal urban settlements along the riverbanks of the Kathmandu Valley, where many migrants and displaced people reside. In addition, the Nepal Red Cross worked with local government municipalities to provide technical disaster management support, training and other capacity development activities. In doing so, they worked to create links between the government and hard-to-reach, at-risk and displaced people who are often hardest hit by disasters.<sup>249</sup>

Central to this approach was addressing the exclusion of displaced people by recognising how they self-organise and strengthening their ability to advocate for their needs through capacity development. Inclusive coordination like this is important for effective, community-rooted disaster response.





**PAKISTAN 2024** – Pakistan Red Crescent Emergency Response Teams are on high alert and fully prepared following the flood warning at Nala Lai, a rainwater-fed natural stream in Rawalpindi. The teams have been pre-positioned to ensure timely response and support to communities in case of any emergency. *Pakistan Red Crescent*



## PAKISTAN

ہلالِ احمر پاکستان



The Pakistan Red Crescent is the largest humanitarian organization in Pakistan. With 5,000 active volunteers and staff, the National Society has an active presence nationwide working at national, provincial, district and community levels. In 2022, it reached four million people with relief and recovery support and almost 70,000 people through development and disaster risk reduction initiatives.<sup>250</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 24.6 million internal displacements in Pakistan. A further 1.1 million internal displacements were triggered by earthquakes.<sup>251</sup> By the end of the century, mean temperatures in Pakistan are projected to rise by 1.3°C (low emissions) to 4.9°C (high emissions).<sup>252</sup> Seasonal droughts

and flooding are already threatening millions of lives and livelihoods, and the number of people exposed to extreme river and coastal floods is expected to increase.<sup>253</sup> Rainfall patterns are becoming more erratic, with some regions facing intense, unpredictable downpours and others prolonged dry spells. The frequency and severity of heatwaves, floods, landslides, and tropical storms are also rising, exposing much of the population to compounding climate risks – especially in vulnerable mountain regions.

### Rebuilding alongside communities displaced by floods

In the aftermath of Pakistan's 2022 floods, many people were unable to return home. By the end of 2023, an estimated 1.2 million people remained in displacement – unable to return or lacking the resources to rebuild. Since the onset of the disaster, the Pakistan Red Crescent has supported government efforts to provide sustainable, solutions for those displaced.

The National Society supported the construction of permanent, flood-resilient housing for the most vulnerable. This built on earlier efforts, with shelters constructed following

the 2010 floods withstanding subsequent disasters and later reoccupied by returning families.<sup>254</sup> In 2023, the Pakistan Red Crescent constructed 40 model houses for families in prolonged displacement due to the 2022 floods.<sup>255</sup> In addition, 300 permanent household latrines were constructed and work has begun on the construction of 23 water filtration plants and 350 handpumps in flood-affected areas to provide safe drinking water to affected communities.<sup>256</sup> The National Society's long-term goal is to construct 2,000 houses for families most at risk of being displaced by seasonal floods, which are becoming more severe each year.<sup>257</sup>

### Understanding climate impacts on health and employment opportunities

In recent years, the Pakistan Red Crescent has undertaken studies exploring the impacts of climate change on migration, health, livelihoods and employment. It is critical to better prepare communities to deal with crises and disasters and sustainably strengthen their resilience to identify, understand and address the risks they face. Research acts as a springboard for planning and implementing activities and programmes that meet the specific needs of vulnerable populations, including those who are displaced or face the risk of displacement.

In 2021, sectoral risk assessments were conducted to assess the impacts of a changing climate on health and livelihoods in Pakistan.<sup>258</sup> Climate change was found to increase the likelihood of people moving, both within Pakistan and outside of the country, particularly in the context of heat stress and flooding. The study highlighted the gendered impacts of this phenomenon, with women often remaining in distress with limited agency and options.

In 2024, the Pakistan Red Crescent youth advisory group surveyed 120 young people to identify climate impacts on young Pakistanis' employment opportunities.<sup>259</sup> The research explored how climate risks and hazards are reshaping the labor market for young people. It revealed that some young people consider migration as a coping strategy and as a means to access more sustainable work and business opportunities. The findings also identified a role for stronger social protection mechanisms to support people in navigating the impacts of climate change in Pakistan.



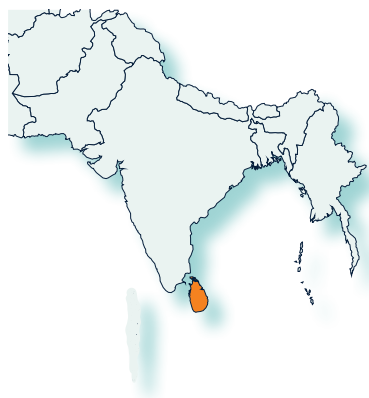


**SRI LANKA 2024** – Sri Lanka Red Cross Society teams assist families displaced by massive floods in Batticaloa. In the face of climate-related disasters, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society is providing emergency shelter, food and medical support, and working on long-term resilience strategies to help affected communities rebuild. *Sri Lanka Red Cross Society*



## SRI LANKA

In 2021, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society reached more than 17,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes, and more than 1.5 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.<sup>260</sup> With an established island-wide network, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society works closely with the Government of Sri Lanka, particularly with the environment, irrigation, health and disaster management ministries.



Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 3.5 million internal displacements in Sri Lanka, with most triggered by storms and floods.<sup>261</sup> Mean temperatures are projected to rise by 2.9°C (low emissions) to 3.5°C (high emissions) by the end of the century.<sup>262</sup> Shifting rainfall

patterns, intensified monsoon variability, and rising temperatures are already disrupting ecosystems and livelihoods. As temperatures increase, the country faces rising risks from extreme heat, floods, landslides, prolonged dry periods, sea level rise, and climate-sensitive diseases such as dengue.<sup>263</sup>

### Supporting government-led anticipatory action

The frequency and severity of climate hazards has prompted the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to play a leading role in institutionalizing anticipatory action across the country. In 2024, the first National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action was launched, aiming to enhance Sri Lanka's disaster preparedness and resilience through proactive measures to address potential risks before they escalate into disasters. With national partners, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society hosted national and regional workshops and

dialogues on anticipatory action in 2023 and 2024 to enable greater cross-sectoral engagement, uniting a range of actors to support the development of a nationally owned, sustainable system. In 2024, the Sri Lanka Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group was established by Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and World Vision Lanka, who are the co-leads alongside World Food Programme and the International Water Management Institute.<sup>264</sup>

### Bridging disaster displacement response and recovery efforts

The flexible and predictable support provided through the IFRC-DREF has enabled the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to strengthen and scale up its response to disasters and displacement. Between 2020 and 2024, the National Society received IFRC-DREF allocations six times to meet the humanitarian needs of people displaced by cyclones, monsoons, extreme flooding and affected by flood-associated dengue outbreaks.<sup>265</sup> Support was provided to people who had evacuated in advance of flooding, those displaced during the floods and people facing prolonged or repeated displacement. Shelter, WASH, health and livelihood support was provided to affected households, with dengue awareness and clean-up campaigns integrated into the response to address the wider health impacts of disasters.

At the same time, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has invested in strengthening its own disaster response systems, including the development of a CVA strategy, revision of policies and expansion of training. As most displaced people still have access to markets and services, multi-purpose cash assistance has played a key role in helping people meet their needs in a dignified way while supporting local economies. In 2023, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society provided cash assistance to households whose incomes and livelihoods were severely affected by floods. Six months later, the support was scaled up to reach farmers who remained displaced and unable to restart their work. By helping people recover and regain independence, cash-based assistance reduces reliance on aid and kick-starts local livelihoods and markets.<sup>266</sup>





JAPAN 2011 – At Yamada kindergarten, mothers learn disaster preparedness and psychosocial care while children engage in activities with Red Cross staff. Since the earthquake and tsunami, the Japanese Red Cross has been working to restore community connections and strengthen disaster resilience for future generations. Masaki Kamei / Japanese Red Cross



日本赤十字社  
Japanese Red Cross Society

## JAPAN



In 2023, the Japanese Red Cross reached 8.7 million people through long-term services and development programmes, and a further 7,667 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.<sup>267</sup> In 2020, the National Society had over 65,000 staff and almost 3,000 volunteers working to provide humanitarian services in emergency, medical and blood programmes, and strengthen resilience at the community level.<sup>268</sup>

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 4 million internal displacements in Japan. A further 773,000 internal displacements were triggered by earthquakes.<sup>269</sup> By 2050, mean temperatures in Japan are projected to rise by 1.5 (low emissions) to 2.4°C (high emissions).<sup>270</sup> At the same time, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and more intense storms could expose up to 4 million people to devastating floods, while urban areas will also be affected by increasing impacts from heatwaves and drought.<sup>271</sup> Located at the intersection of four tectonic plates, Japan is also highly vulnerable to earthquakes, compounding the country's exposure to multiple natural hazards.

### Supporting at-risk groups in the face of compounding disasters

In 2018, successive heavy downpours in southwestern Japan resulted in widespread and devastating floods and mudflows. Evacuation orders were issued for up to 8.6 million people, with thousands still residing in evacuation centres weeks after the disaster.<sup>272</sup> While dealing with the flood's aftermath, a deadly heatwave struck the affected areas. Displaced people faced significant risks linked to their displacement, particularly vulnerable groups living in overcrowded evacuation shelters.

During the aftermath of the floods, the Japanese Red Cross distributed food, water and non-food items, such as blankets, sleeping mats and hygiene kits to people in evacuation centres. They set up mist and fan cooling systems in evacuation centres to help to mitigate the risks of heat-related illnesses. Japanese Red Cross medical teams also provided critical health assistance – including psychosocial support – to affected and displaced communities through aid stations and mobile clinics in evacuation centres. Amidst soaring temperatures and widespread electrical outages, the Japanese Red Cross shared public safety information on how to prevent and treat heatstroke. This lifesaving information was especially important for elderly community members. Furthermore, to alleviate stress due to prolonged evacuation, staff and volunteers who had experience from the Great East Japan earthquake in 2011 or the Kumamoto earthquake in 2016, were dispatched to give support and advice to people. Psychosocial support teams also assisted community patrols and local government staff and managers at evacuation centres – providing critical 'support to supporters'.<sup>273</sup>

### Supporting displaced communities in the wake of multiple disasters

In January 2024, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Japan's Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, displacing nearly 13,000 people through tremors, fires and tsunamis.<sup>274</sup> Just eight months later, in September 2024, torrential rains triggered severe flooding and mudslides, prompting evacuation warnings for over 40,000 residents.<sup>275</sup> Still recovering from the earthquake, many communities, already living in temporary housing, faced renewed hardship. The Japanese Red Cross responded to both disasters by providing emergency medical care, psychosocial support, and distributing relief items such as food, purified water, and shelter kits.<sup>276</sup> After the floods, volunteers transported supplies and continued supporting displaced people through psychosocial care and activities to promote emotional and physical well-being. In both emergencies, the Japanese Red Cross played a central role in the immediate response.<sup>277</sup> Their strong community ties from the earthquake recovery enabled a swift and coordinated flood response, ensuring timely support reached those most in need.





**MONGOLIA 2024** – In 2024, Mongolia battled one of the harshest winters in five decades, with dzud conditions leaving thousands of herder families struggling to survive. The Mongolian Red Cross Society provided unconditional cash assistance, hygiene and food parcels and animal care kits, supporting affected households to receive critical support. *Mongolian Red Cross Society*



## MONGOLIA

In 2022, the Mongolian Red Cross Society reached 1.4 million people through its long-term services and development programmes and a further 11,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.<sup>278</sup> The National Society has seven regional disaster preparedness centres, and 44,000 active volunteers and youth members dispersed across 800 primary-level branches covering all provinces.

Between 2008 to 2024, extreme weather events triggered 44,000 internal displacements in Mongolia.<sup>279</sup> Around half of these took place during severe winter in 2009. By the end of the century, mean temperatures

in Mongolia are projected to rise by 1.5°C (low emissions) to 5.5°C (high emissions).<sup>280</sup> Climate-driven hazards such as heatwaves, droughts, and river floods are expected to intensify. Drought frequency could increase by up to 45 per cent, and the occurrence of dzuds – severe winter conditions that devastate livestock – is projected to rise by up to 40 per cent, posing serious risks to rural livelihoods and food security.<sup>281</sup>

### Supporting early action for extreme winters

The dzud, where summer drought is followed by extreme winter temperatures, heavy snowfall and strong winds, is a natural hazard common in Central and East Asia. Despite significant efforts to strengthen herders' resilience to dzud, each winter an increasing number of vulnerable families lose their livestock. Recognizing the predictable nature of dzud, the Mongolian Red Cross Society supported the development of early actions through an EAP for dzud to reduce livestock loss each year and maintain traditional livelihoods and movement patterns during extreme winters.

Community participation is an essential component of developing early actions. In Mongolia, mid-level branches of the Mongolian Red Cross Society worked with the local

'soum' authorities to conduct community-led risk assessments.<sup>282</sup> Local branches and networks of the Mongolian Red Cross Society provided invaluable access to hard-to-reach pastoral herder communities, who graze their animals across vast territories. Key actions include the distribution of cash assistance and livestock nutrition kits to communities most at risk. Multi-purpose cash assistance supports vulnerable herders to strengthen their resilience to extreme winters, providing access to essential resources such as hay, medicine or food. The distribution of livestock nutrition kits supports herders to keep their livestock healthy during the winter, as these products are scarce in rural areas.<sup>283</sup> The Mongolian Red Cross Society is also helping herders build animal shelters, encouraging the stockpiling of hay and feed, and supporting the development of alternative income sources, such as the production of dairy and leather products. These actions help herders maintain traditional livelihoods and movement patterns, and give them the option to pursue alternative livelihoods.

### Livelihood and psychosocial support for people moving to urban areas

Rural-urban movements in Mongolia is partly fuelled by climate-related shocks, particularly among nomadic and mobile communities whose livestock-dependent livelihoods are increasingly threatened by extreme winters exacerbated by preceding drought conditions. These households often move to urban informal 'ger' settlement areas, where limited access to proper infrastructure and government services and poor living conditions create a cycle of vulnerability.<sup>284</sup>

The Mongolian Red Cross Society works with local authorities to support people when they arrive in urban areas. They provide a range of services to help strengthen resilience and better prepare people to deal with disasters and crises. Recognizing the psychological and emotional stress that accompanies livelihood loss – exacerbated by harsh living conditions and uncertainty about their traditional ways of life, the Mongolian Red Cross Society is increasingly incorporating mental health and psychosocial support into its response efforts. Through small grants, the Mongolian Red Cross Society supports former herders who move to urban areas to find alternative livelihoods. These people often face further socio-economic challenges due to a lack of training and limited skills beyond herding. The Mongolian Red Cross Society provides small enterprise and business management training, along with disaster risk reduction training, to strengthen disaster resilience and coping capacity at the household level.<sup>285</sup>



# ANNEXES

## I. IFRC reports

The following are some of the reports on displacement in the context of disasters and climate change produced by the IFRC. Specific National Societies and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre have also produced relevant research and tools on displacement and other forms of movement in the context of disasters and climate change. The below list is not comprehensive of all case studies, relevant activities, or guidance documents that exist across the IFRC Network on this topic.

[Disaster Risk Governance Guidelines \(2024\)](#)

[Responding to Disasters and Displacement in a Changing Climate: Case Studies from Asia Pacific \(2022\)](#)

[Displacement in a Changing Climate \(2021\)](#)

[Advocating to Strengthen Disaster Laws and Policies to Protect Internally Displaced People in Africa: A Guide for National Societies \(2021\)](#)

[Planned Relocation in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change: A Guide for Asia Pacific National Societies \(2021\)](#)

[FbF and disaster displacement: acting early to reduce the humanitarian impacts of displacement \(2020\)](#)

[Climate and Disaster Displacement: The Importance of Disaster Law and Policy \(2020\)](#)

[Disasters and Displacement in a Changing Climate: Asia Pacific \(2018\)](#)

## II. Regional and global frameworks

Below are some of the key regional and global frameworks addressing displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

- The [Sendai Framework](#), which aims to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks through the implementation of multi-sectoral, integrated and inclusive measures that strengthen resilience, recognizes displacement as an important concern and provides several avenues for policy and action to address displacement. In line with this, Asia Pacific heads of states and governments adopted the Asia Pacific [Action Plan 2021-2024](#) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted to better support at-risk and displaced populations.

- The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), under objectives 2 and 5, recognizes the need for states to integrate displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies and to promote cross-border cooperation in disaster risk management activities.
- The [Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility](#), underpinned by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Continent, guides Pacific governments in ensuring rights based and people centred movement in the context of climate change – including staying in place, planned relocation, migration and displacement.
- The [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#) acknowledges climate mobility as one of the most pressing issues facing the region. The Strategy calls for a coordinated regional response, underscoring the urgent need to strengthen climate resilience, promote sustainable development, and protect the rights and dignity of Pacific peoples.
- In the last decade, several countries across Asia Pacific have begun to adopt frameworks, guidance and processes relevant to planned relocation, displacement or migration in the context of climate change and disasters.<sup>286</sup>
- In the last decade, several non-binding declarations pertaining to human rights and aspects of migration and climate change have been adopted by states across Asia Pacific.<sup>287</sup>

See also the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (21 July 2020) ([A/75/207](#)), and the report of the Special Rapporteur on Providing legal options to protect the human rights of persons displaced across international borders due to climate change (18 April 2023) ([A/HRC/53/34](#)).



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## The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

### Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

### Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

### Neutrality

In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

### Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

### Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

### Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

### Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



