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### **Concept Note for pre-conference event**

#### **MOVING FROM WORDS TO ACTION ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**at African Regional Platform on DRR: TOWARDS DISASTER RISK-INFORMED DEVELOPMENT FOR A RESILIENT AFRICA IN A COVID-19 TRANSFORMED WORLD, 16– 19 NOVEMBER 2021, NAIROBI, KENYA**

**Tuesday 16 November, 10:00 – 11:00 EAT**

**Register here to attend this event on ZOOM: <https://bit.ly/3F197sa>**

**Lead Organizer:** Norwegian Refugee Council

**Collaborators:** Government of South Africa (NDMC), Government of Mozambique (INGD), Platform on Disaster Displacement and OXFAM South Africa

#### **1. Background and Rationale**

Large numbers of persons are displaced each year in Africa in the context of conflict, disasters or both, and this number is expected to increase due to the adverse effects of climate change. In 2020, Sub-Saharan Africa experienced unusually long and intense rainy seasons. The rains caused flooding in areas already affected by violence, prompting new and secondary displacements in Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Niger, triggering 4.3 million new displacements across the region, the second highest figure on record (IDMC 2021). Mozambique experienced periods of extended drought in recent years, and in 2019 cyclones Idai and Kenneth cut across Central Mozambique and Cabo Delgado, triggering more than 160,000 displacements. By the end of 2020, conflict in the north of Mozambique left more than 660,000 people living in internal displacement. In neighboring South Africa, 12,000 people were displaced by wildfires in 2017, and every year storms and floods cause hundreds or thousands of new displacements. More generally, across Southern Africa, storms and droughts trigger displacements every year, a trend expected to worsen as the subregion faces increasing climate change impacts.

This event provides an overview of disaster displacement in Southern Africa and an opportunity for Mozambique and South Africa to share effective practices on how to address disaster displacement in national strategies and policies for the benefit of participating stakeholders.

Mozambique has just adopted its National Policy and Strategy for Internal Displacement Management, which will be operationalized through multisectorial engagement, led by the National Institute for

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (INGD). The Policy and Strategy includes a detailed matrix of actions to be taken by various Government authorities to prevent displacement, as well as to prepare and respond to displacement in a way that helps displaced people find a durable solution to their displacement.

The South Africa National Disaster Management Centre is completing guidelines that will consolidate and harmonize all relevant South African regulations related to the reduction and management of displacement risk in the country. The development of the displacement guidelines is part of a broader NDMC initiative to provide actionable guidance for the implementation of South Africa's National Disaster Management Framework. Once approved, subnational disaster management centres will receive training to operationalize the displacement guidelines.

Government representatives will describe the motivation, process and policy tools they have developed. The side event will showcase the Words into Action guidelines [Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience](#), its accompanying [checklist](#) and the [eLearning tool](#) that has been developed and is freely available, in different languages, on the UNDRR website, to raise awareness of resources available to support countries to address disaster displacement comprehensively.

## **2. Session objectives**

This pre-conference event pursues the following concrete objectives:

- Promote effective policies and practices to prevent, reduce and address disaster displacement through integrated DRR, climate change adaptation and development planning in line with efforts to implement the Sendai Framework.
- Showcase an innovative family of tools—the Words into Action on Disaster Displacement Guidelines, Checklist and eLearning—developed to guide States and other stakeholders in their efforts to address displacement in disaster contexts.
- Support efforts to integrate human mobility and displacement challenges into national DRR strategies, in line with Target E of the Sendai Framework.

## **3. Session format and programme**

Welcome remarks (5 minutes)

- Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) frames the discussion

Challenges and solutions: An overview of disaster displacement in Southern Africa and resources to support Governments and other stakeholders to address disaster displacement (15 minutes)

- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) presents an overview of disaster displacement in Southern Africa, followed by an introduction to the Words into Action on Disaster Displacement Guidelines, Checklist, eLearning course and training opportunities available to support DRR policymakers and practitioners to address disaster displacement.

Strengthening policies and practices to address disaster displacement (25 minutes)

- Government of Mozambique/INGD describes the motivation, multi-sectorial process and content of its National Policy and Strategy on Internal Displacement Management
- Government of South Africa describes its displacement guidelines and operationalization
- Oxfam South Africa representative shares examples from Southern Africa of applying an inclusive approach to address displacement
- IFRC (TBC)

Q&A: discussion with panelists (10 minutes)

*Closing (5 minutes)*

- Germany and NRC

#### **4. Key messages/recommendations**

The key messages and recommendations discussed at this pre-conference event are as follows:

- Displacement is one of the main ways in which disasters affect people. Stepping up efforts for a **human-centered approach to reduce displacement risk** is essential for the accelerated implementation of **Target B** of the Sendai Framework.
- States are encouraged to **integrate disaster displacement and human mobility in regional, national and, crucially, local-level development plans as well as specific DRR, land use and sectoral planning strategies** to prevent displacement and reduce displacement risk and address the protection needs of displaced people and promote durable solutions to displacement, in line with the Sendai Framework.
- **Guidance is available**, in the form of the Words into Action on disaster displacement guideline, a companion checklist to assess progress, an eLearning to build awareness and capacity, and additional resources such as the [Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda](#) and UNDRR's report on [Scaling up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action](#). Many partners from civil society, the UN system, regional organizations and the Red Cross Red Crescent stand ready to guide and support governments at all levels in their efforts to better understand and address disaster displacement.

#### **5. Moderator and list of speakers**

*Moderator:*

Atle Solberg, Head of Secretariat, Platform on Disaster Displacement, [atles@unops.org](mailto:atles@unops.org)

*Speakers:*

Eng. Higino Rodrigues, Senior Technician for Displacement, INGD, Government of Mozambique

Mr Jurgens Dyssel, Director, Policy Development and Regulatory Frameworks, National Disaster Management Centre, Government of South Africa

Benedetta Gualandi, Humanitarian Programme Lead and Urban Resilience Expert, OXFAM South Africa, and Tapiwa Jamu, Oxfam Malawi.

Nelson Tivane, Project Manager Disaster Displacement, NRC Mozambique

[name TBC], IFRC Southern Africa

Matthias Amling, Desk Officer, German Federal Foreign Office [TBC]

Nina M Birkeland, Senior Adviser on Disaster Displacement and Climate Change, Norwegian Refugee Council Geneva.

***Contact details for further questions:***

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