

# Planned Relocation in Asia and the Pacific

*Workshop on Preventing, Managing, and Finding to Solutions to  
Disaster and Climate-Induced Displacement*

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# Background

- Substantial and increasing levels of disaster displacement in countries in Asia and the Pacific
  - Relatively comprehensive data on displacement as a result of sudden onset hazards
  - Much sparser data on displacement from slow onset hazards and other forms of climate-linked migration
- The likelihood of increased frequency and intensity of disasters, and displacement as a result of those disasters, is high
- These trends are likely to pose significant challenges to governments and communities





# Planned Relocation

- Among other responses, many governments are increasingly looking at planned relocation as a policy response
  - Organised and usually government-led process of moving individuals, communities, or groups away from high-risk areas to safer locations, typically in response to environmental risks, such as those posed by climate change, natural hazards, or disasters
  - Safeguards communities, ensures sustainable livelihoods, and maintains cultural integrity in the face of disasters and climate change
- Planned relocation as a response vs planned relocation as a prevention measure



# Planned Relocation

- Is state-led and organized
- Aims to reduce exposure to hazards
- Takes place in both emergency and non-emergency times
- Should be voluntary and done in a participatory manner
- Takes socio-economic and cultural considerations into consideration
- Is inclusive of all segments of the communities
- Should be sustainable over the long-term
- Employs a rights-based approach





# Planned Relocation in Asia and the Pacific

- **Philippines** – no-build zones and planned relocation after Typhoons Haiyan (Yolanda), Rai (Odette), etc.
- **Indonesia** – multiple earthquakes, floods, landslides, and volcanic eruptions leading to planned relocations of populations away from hazardous areas
- **Viet Nam** – relocations following floods
- **Nepal** – relocation away from hazardous areas
- **Bangladesh** – floods
- **Papua New Guinea** – coastal erosion, volcanic eruptions, tsunami
- **China, Pakistan, India, Japan, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Maldives...**
- **Multiple countries** – relocations following the 2004 tsunami
- **Multiple countries** – development of planned relocation guidelines

# Challenges and Considerations

- Access to livelihoods in new locations
- Access to basic services in new locations
- Access to viable and safe land
- Participation and engagement of communities beginning at the planning stage
- Voluntariness
- Inclusion of vulnerable groups
- Land rights and compensation
- Cultural integrity and community bonds
- Social cohesion in new locations
- Relocation post-disaster vs relocation as a prevention measure
- Lack of comprehensive data, coordination challenges
- Budgetary considerations
- Many others...

Thanks!