



# Displacement Guidelines

*In the context of climate change and disasters*



## Living Document

The Displacement Guidelines is a “living” document and the information expressed in this publication supports the Fijian Government’s commitment to build a climate resilient nation. The Fijian Government reserves the right to periodically update the Displacement Guidelines, as may be needed, to ensure validity, transparency, and accuracy over time.

## Acknowledgements

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# Foreword

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Throughout the years, the Fijian Government has shown its commitment to building the resilience and adaptive capacity of all Fijians in the face of a changing climate. This is evident by the increasing resources allocated by the State annually towards climate change-related interventions. The Fijian Government has also ensured that the necessary enabling environments and policies are in place to help guide our efforts to address the impacts of climate change. In 2018, the Fijian Government, with the support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), developed Fiji's first Planned Relocation Guidelines (PRG). As a first of its kind, the PRG were developed to guide relocation efforts at local level and ensure their cost effectiveness and sustainability.



This year, with continued support from GIZ, the Fijian Government has developed Fiji's Displacement Guidelines. Distinct from the PRG, the Displacement Guidelines aim to reduce the vulnerabilities associated with displacement and consider durable solutions to prevent and minimize the drivers of displacement in affected communities in Fiji. Recognising that displacement is primarily not a State-led process, this document provides guidance for both state and Non-State stakeholders in addressing displacement in various stages.

In 2012, members of Tukuraki Village in Viti Levu, Fiji's largest island, were displaced to neighbouring communities after a land slide occurred within their village. The people of Tukuraki remained displaced until they were permanently relocated to a new site with State and non-State assistance. The experience and lessons learnt from displaced communities in Fiji, like those of Tukuraki Village, coupled with the latest policy and scientific findings are the foundation and basis of the Displacement Guidelines.

The Displacement Guideline does not exist in silo, but aligns with the provisions of Fiji's 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plans, Fiji's National Adaptation Plan, the National Climate Change Policy and other relevant national, regional and international frameworks. Fiji's Displacement Guidelines are also ingrained in sustainable development process therefore its implementation will accelerate Fiji's progress in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have developed these Displacement Guidelines in a holistic and transparent manner through collaboration with various State and non-State stakeholders and representatives from affected communities. The Fijian Government appreciates the continued support of our development partners, non-government organisations and Fijian civil society in developing this document. It is only through partnership that we can effectively address the varying impacts of climate change and build the resilience of all Fijians.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Bainimarama'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

**Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama**  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji

# List of abbreviations and acronyms

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The following abbreviations are used throughout this document:

CCICD	-	Climate Change & International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Economy
COP	-	Conference of the Parties
CROC*	-	Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund
CRPD	-	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
FRDP	-	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
FTRD	-	Fiji Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement
GIZ	-	German Agency for International Cooperation
GCM	-	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
IASC	-	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICCPR	-	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	-	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IDMC	-	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
INGO	-	International Non-government Organisation
IOM	-	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	-	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NAP	-	National Adaptation Plan
NCCP	-	National Climate Change Policy
NDC	-	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDMO	-	National Disasters Management Office
NDRRP	-	National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy
NGO	-	Non-governmental Organisation
PICs	-	Pacific Island Countries
PRG	-	Planned Relocation Guidelines
SAMOA	-	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SIDS	-	Small Island Developing States
SDG	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SLR	-	Sea Level Rise
SOPs	-	Standard Operating Procedures
SPC	-	Pacific Community
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	-	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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\* It may be the case that the coverage or application of the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund is extended to include displacement or that there would be another Trust Fund for Displacement.

# Scope and Purpose

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Recognising that the displacement of people related to climate change and disasters is **not** a State-led process<sup>1</sup>, and concurrently acknowledging both the rising risk and trend of displaced population in the context of climate change and disasters on the territory of Fiji, this document provides guidance for the Fijian Government and all other stakeholders present in Fiji, to address and reduce vulnerabilities associated with displacement. It also provides guidance for considering sustainable solutions to prevent and minimize the drivers of displacement on the affected communities in relation to climate change and disaster-associated events occurring on the territory of Fiji.

The purpose of this document is to:

- *provide complementary support to the existing Fijian policies when addressing the movement of people caused by climate change and disasters, by ensuring an integrated approach and comprehensive implementation of preventive and assistive measures performed during both slow-onset and rapid-onset events;*
- *recognise the multiple categories of population that may be displaced namely: individuals, households and/or communities at-risk of displacement, internally displaced people or any (group of) people directly or indirectly impacted by displacement, including those who have been evacuated, people left behind in places of origin (as a result of former displacement or planned relocation) or people who offered support to displaced or relocated communities, at destination;*
- *enhance the participation of all relevant stakeholders involved in the displacement process, by providing durable solutions, best practices and efficient mitigation and adaptation strategies in the context of climate change and disasters. Stakeholders refer (but not limited) to affected communities, households and individuals, government bodies, inter-governmental organisations, regional and international organisations, trade unions and employers' organisations, civil society organisations, gender related organisations, private sector, faith-based groups and academia;*
- *promote institutional frameworks at local, national and regional levels to build up resilience of the communities tackling climate change and disasters by providing capacity building mechanisms, inclusive and gender-responsive consultative and participatory processes, including talanoa dialogues, constructive use of the indigenous knowledge and public-private-people partnerships;*
- *recognise communities, households and individuals' human rights preserved under the Fijian Constitution and affected by the process of displacement in the context of climate change and disasters and to serve as a policy framework to better protect and assist displaced people and to support governmental authorities and communities to implement all relevant domestic laws, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, consistent with all international legal obligations.*

This document may also serve as a catalyst between different human mobility policies to be supported by durable financial solutions in accordance with the laws of Fiji, such as the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund (CROC).

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<sup>1</sup> As the process of displacement related to climate change and disasters belongs to communities, households and individuals, this is not a State-led process. Also, both in form and nature, displacement is distinct from planned relocation or evacuation, however there are clear indicators that these groups may intersect during the process.

*As human mobility is increasingly understood as a subsidiary effect of climate change processes, the relationship between environmental change (defined here as an inclusive concept including environmental degradation, climate change and disasters), human rights and human mobility becomes an interrelated and interconnected hybrid concept, where State practices may not address one without addressing the others<sup>2</sup>.*

Although displacement is not a State-led process, the Fijian Government must ensure that all preventive measures are considered to avert and minimize the impacts of displacement on the affected population. In this regard, the Climate Change & International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Economy collaborates permanently with all relevant governmental agencies (including NDMO) to certify synergy and feature specific operational attributions, consistent with the all existing Fijian policies and mandates.

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2 Corendea, C., (2017) Migration and human rights in the wake of climate change - A policy perspective over the Pacific, UNU-EHS

# Terminology

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**Climate Change** is a change in the state of the climate, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

**Climate Change Adaptation** is an adjustment in natural and/or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

**Disasters** represent a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.

**Displacement** is the movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters.

**Evacuation** refers to situations of urgency where risk is imminent and, the rapid physical controlled movement of people away from the immediate threat or impact of a hazard to a safer place is required. The purpose is to move people as rapidly as possible to a place of safety and shelter. It is commonly characterised by a short timeframe (from hours to weeks) within which emergency procedures need to be enacted to save lives and minimize exposure to harm. Evacuations are always conducted by the State (agencies, local representatives, military, etc.) and may be mandatory, advisory, or spontaneous. While evacuations should be orderly, they may not be owing to the prevailing situation, although this does not imply that they cannot be planned.

**Hazard** is a natural or man-made phenomenon which may cause physical damage, economic losses, or threaten human life and wellbeing if it occurs in an area of human settlement, agricultural, or industrial activity.

**Human Mobility** is an umbrella term that refers to all aspects of the movement of people. Human mobility is understood to encompass involuntary internal and cross-border displacement of populations, voluntary internal and cross-border migration and planned and consented relocation:

**Vulnerability** is the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity and it is commonly identified with (groups of) women, children, elderly and people with disabilities.



# Part I: Overview

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## 1. Background

This document emanates from the fundamental principles of humanity and free movement of people, non-political in nature, in line with the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), and including in its implementation the National Development Plan (NDP), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (NDRRP), Planned Relocation Guidelines – a framework to undertake climate change related relocation, and Fiji’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). The Displacement Guidelines in the context of climate change and disasters build on all relevant Fijian laws and policies, and all international commitments Fiji is party to, to address and avert the drivers of displacement and minimize the impacts of this process.

This document serves to demonstrate the Fijian Government’s commitment to effectively respond to the displacement related to climate change and disasters, drawing from the latest policy developments and lessons learned in the area of human mobility, the latest climate scientific findings, relevant (independent) climate and disaster risk assessments and studies carried out in the country. The focus of this initiative is to ensure sustainable economic and social development and thereby improve the livelihoods of all communities in Fiji. These policies play an important role in supporting efforts to reduce adverse impacts of climate change on Fiji’s economic and social development.

*Recognising* that it has the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection to the people at risk of, or affected by displacement in the context of climate change and disasters, the Fijian Government intends to initiate and extend its assistance in all stages of displacement by building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities of the people at-risk of displacement, increasing and strengthening the capacity of all (other) stakeholders during the onset of the displacement process and actively introducing initiatives in the post-displacement stage.

*Acknowledging* the importance of regionalism and regional collaboration, considering the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), as they may soon contribute to addressing cross-border displacement related to climate change and disasters in the Pacific.

*Conforming* with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the SDG 13 on Climate Action and the corresponding Fijian commitment under Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, which reaffirms the need to recognise the importance of averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage such as human mobility associated with adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events.

*Acknowledging* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, including the primary responsibility for providing protection and assistance to internally displaced persons without discrimination, and for preventing and avoiding conditions that might lead to displacement of persons. Prior to any decision requiring the displacement of persons, the Fijian Government shall ensure that all feasible alternatives are explored in order to avoid displacement. Where no alternatives exist, all measures shall be taken to minimize displacement and its adverse effects.

*Acknowledging* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) which proposes adaptation and resilience strategies together with integration of displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies as mitigation measures for adverse impacts of climate change, disasters and environmental degradation.

*Recognising* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), affirming that climate change is an existential threat to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), that they are disproportionately affected by natural hazards, that climate change is affecting their growth and development of SIDS, and that adaptation can reduce the impacts of climate change, but with limits and risks involved.

*Acknowledging* the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land stating that extreme weather and climate or slow-onset events may lead to increased displacement, disrupted food chains and threatened livelihoods, and contribute to exacerbated stresses for conflict.

*Considering* the IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, which in its chapter on Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low Lying Islands, Coasts and Communities, anticipates that current and future sea-level rise will increase risks of displacement and resettlement.

Due to the close relationship between some impacts of environmental degradation, climate change, and disasters, these Guidelines recognise that planned relocation may occur in the context of permanent displacement and evacuation may be necessary in the context of sudden-onset events.

This document may also be relevant to the wider communities in Fiji and in the Pacific region, which consider displacement as an imminent threat with potential of socio-economic and cultural conflicts. The assimilation of these Guidelines as an adaptation measure in relation to climate change and disasters, may provide helpful insights into identifying communities at-risk, procedural guidelines, and completion of the displacement process in a humanitarian way.

The following stakeholders were consulted in the formulation of these guidelines:

- Affected communities, households, and individuals;
- Government representatives;
- Other stakeholders, such as international organisations, INGOs, local NGOs, private entities, faith-based organisations, gender and women's organisations, persons with disabilities organisations, trade unions and employer organisations, donors, and representatives of other Pacific countries and regional organisations..

## 2. Causes (Drivers) of Displacement

Fiji is located in a tropical climate with abundant precipitation. During the rainy season from November to April, an average of two cyclones accompanied with rainstorm outbreaks in Fiji, and a large-scale damage of flood occurs on average, once a year. Main types of natural hazards and disasters Fiji faces are cyclones, river floods including inland floods, landslides, coastal erosions, storm surges, drought, earthquakes and tsunamis.<sup>3</sup>

As preempted by the Fijian NCCP, displacement is majorly influenced by climate and disaster-related drivers which are likely to continue to increase the risk of conflict, create economic shocks and exacerbate human rights issues and undermine indigenous rights unless global efforts to manage these issues are drastically increased.

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3 World Bank, 2015: Pacific Catastrophic Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) Summary Report, 2015

According to the IPCC Special Report on The Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, Retreat<sup>4</sup> reduces coastal risk by moving people, assets and human activities out of the exposed coastal hazard zone. This includes the following three forms: i) Migration, which is the voluntary, permanent or semi - permanent movement by a person at least for one year ii) Displacement, which refers to the involuntary and unforeseen movement of people due to environment-related impacts or political or military unrest and iii) Relocation, also termed resettlement, managed retreat or managed realignment, which is typically initiated, supervised and implemented by governments from national to local levels and usually involves small sites and/or communities. Managed realignment may also be conducted for the purpose of creating new habitat. These three sub-categories are not neatly separable. Any household's decision to retreat may be "voluntary" in theory, but in practice, may result from very limited choices. Displacement certainly occurs in response to extreme events but some of those retreating may have other options. The need for retreat and other response measures can be reduced by avoiding new development commitments in areas prone to severe sea level rise (SLR) hazards.

Besides SLR, displacement in Fiji may often find its triggers in slow-onset or rapid-onset events, in coastal erosion, coastal flooding, coral bleaching, (fresh) water scarcity, salinization, changes in rainfall patterns. Frequent intense storms and cyclones can drastically impact (food security) and traditional livelihoods of communities which can be potentially harmed to an extent making the loss of livelihood irreversible. Permanent changes in landscape may induce the displacement to be temporary or permanent. Other factors may include (but not limited to): rapid economic development of specific communities, urban growth and population growth in climate change/ disasters/ hazard prone areas, climate sensitive health issues (vector, food and water-borne diseases) that may escalate the intensity and impact(s) of climate change or disasters triggers leading to increase in displacement.

Identified climate threats in Fiji are<sup>5</sup>:

- More disease with increasing average temperatures;
- Increasingly destructive storms as oceans get warmer and more severe weather patterns;
- Agricultural disruptions due to intrusion of saltwater, damaging existing farmland.
- On Fiji's main island of Viti Levu, these factors are expected to contribute to economic damages of approximately 4% of gross domestic product of Fiji.

### 3. Principles related to Displacement

The effects of disasters and environmental change, and in particular the adverse impacts of climate change, are increasingly being felt worldwide, and the Pacific region is considered to be on the frontline of combating climate change. Fiji is particularly vulnerable to many of these impacts. The displacement appears inevitable with increasing climate change and pertinent environmental negative trends.

The State has a responsibility and duty to protect its citizens and ensure that their rights are guaranteed and protected. The State will actively work to build capacity and prevent displacement as much as possible. The State will continue to assist and strengthen the role of other stakeholders particularly during the initial displacement and will minimize the negative impacts of the post-displacement process. During all these stages, the State will always abide by the principles of displacement, relating to protection from displacement, protection during displacement and durable solutions to be developed in the aftermath process.

<sup>4</sup> Retreat, as used by IPCC in this context, introduces a new terminology and it may be referred *sui generis*, as human mobility

<sup>5</sup> World Bank, 2015: Pacific Catastrophic Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) Summary Report, 2015

*In recent years, Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have started to recognise human mobility as part of the adaptation measures taken by affected communities in response to environmental change and disasters<sup>6</sup>.*

*This document proposes a holistic approach as displacement related to climate change and disasters may be prevented and minimized if all the drivers are taken into consideration and addressed collectively.*

### **A HUMAN CENTRED APPROACH (PEOPLE CENTRED APPROACH)**

It is crucial to maintain a human-centred approach throughout the process of displacement. It is the duty of the Fijian Government not only to protect its citizens from adverse impacts of climate change, but also to take a PREEMPTIVE APPROACH with the goal of preventing or minimising the adverse impacts of displacement. This would assist the people involved in the displacement from the places of their habitual residence, focusing on the vulnerable groups, as they find themselves under undue stress and higher danger and vulnerability. Vulnerable groups were identified as those facing existential challenges in addition to the limited resources and reduced capacities that affect the human rights of everyone involved in the displacement process.

### **A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH**

A human rights based approach is required to ensure a gender- responsive, age sensitive and child- sensitive response in line with the rule of law, as promulgated by international law. The approach is obligatory to be considered, in order to ensure that dignity of each and every person affected by displacement is respected at all times. All the activities pertaining to displacement process to be designed and implemented in such a way that it permanently observes human rights. This includes focus on the right to life, safety, dignity, non-discrimination and the access to basic necessity to ensure that every person has equitable access to humanitarian and development assistance. Addressing human rights aspects is imperative in all three stages of displacement, as the displaced people carry their rights at all times, and implicitly the Fijian Government's obligation to protect.

### **A LIVELIHOOD BASED APPROACH**

This is required to ensure that people who are displaced have access to basic means to earn their livelihood. This document serves as an extension of the National Adaptation Plan wherein it considers the different needs of urban and rural adaptation. The Displacement Guidelines comply with the principle of "Pro-poor" as laid down in the NAP by ensuring that the communities who are displaced are not severely impacted and left with no means to earn their livelihood.

Sustainable solutions and measures may be considered to restore the livelihoods of people at-risk to be displaced, or already displaced. The solutions should provide alternative sources to generate livelihood along with their capacity building in order to avoid potential acute humanitarian situations.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Rarely will a climate change stressor or disaster be the sole cause of a person's displacement and individually influence a person's decision to leave a disaster-affected region. The capacity building of the population is required to better assess and adapt to the possible future displacement due to climate change and disasters, and to enable people to make voluntary and informed choices, such as participating in durable solutions planning. Every individual needs to be made aware through appropriate channels of the climatic situation and the threat to life as a result of impending disasters. Capacity building is to be provided at divisional and community level on how to build resilience by partnering with civil societies. Priority should be given to identifying and serving the most vulnerable groups.

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<sup>6</sup> Fiji Government, 2018: Planned Relocation Guidelines

The human rights-based approach is also the main component of the PARTICIPATION and CONSULTATION processes stipulated under the Paris Agreement together with the TRANSPARENCY CONCEPT, as stated in Article 13 that established an enhanced transparency framework for action and support, with built-in flexibility which considers Parties' different capacities and builds upon collective experience. The purpose of the framework for transparency of support is to provide clarity on support provided and received by relevant individual Parties in the context of climate change and related displacement actions (as mentioned in Article 8) and, to the extent possible, to provide a full overview of aggregate financial support provided, to inform the global stocktaking under Article 14.

## **EQUITY APPROACH**

To ensure that the relief and assistance is provided in an equitable manner to the communities affected by displacement and to ensure that there is no form of discrimination. The State, where possible, extends assistance, support and aid equitably amongst all the displaced communities, households and individuals.

Regional Approach (International Approach) refers to bringing domestic policies in harmony with existing regional norms in order to strengthen the societal values and traditions specific to all regions in the world and to address the need for an inclusive approach for all stakeholders, including civil society, and uphold the relevance of *"pre-existing cultural and social beliefs about the roles, functions, responsibilities and social standing of different groups within societies, and resulting practices"*. It can be built through international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue on the foundation of consensus, credibility, collective ownership, joint implementation, follow-up and review.



## Part II: Stages of Displacement

IPCC identifies different stages associated with the **Retreat** process, including Protection, Accommodation, Advance, Retreat and Ecosystem Based Adaptations.<sup>7</sup> Fiji is at the frontier in combatting climate change and has been addressing most of these stages through different policies. The stages of Protection, Accommodation and Advance are governed by the NAP and DRRP. The fourth stage of Retreat includes migration, displacement and relocation. Relocation is being governed by PRG, as the last resort. This Guideline address the fourth stage i.e. Retreat (displacement) to reduce the involuntary movement of exposed people, assets and human activities out of the hazard zones.

The displacement process being involuntary in nature and unforeseen movement of people is a complex concern which requires fundamental and efficient relationships among all three main actors involved: the State, the affected communities, households and/or individuals and the other stakeholders to optimize the stages of displacement and minimize any negative impact associated with the movement.

The following stages of displacement were identified based on widely accepted and available research regarding displacement, present in literature and State practice:

1. The **PRE - Displacement** process represents the stage when the decision of being displaced is still pending, and adaptation options are still in place.
2. The **IN - Displacement** process, when the decision to move is being initiated by communities, households and/or individuals and different elements of the displacement process are in motion.
3. The **POST - Displacement** stage, when the displacement process is completed, and further action is required to ensure that displacement does NOT become permanent, and it stays temporary with the possibility to return, using a monitoring and evaluation process in order to ensure re-adaptability, including but not limited to security, access to human rights, and building resilience.

All three identified stages are fundamentally distinguished, as the affected communities, households, individuals and the host communities together with the Fijian Government and other stakeholders find themselves at different points of (in) action and different levels of coping with the respective climate and disaster triggers.

The stages also distinguish the roles and coordination of the Fijian Government agencies, ministries, task-forces and divisions (herein: Government Stakeholders) involved in the displacement and post-displacement process and the role of non-State actors (herein: Other Stakeholders) as their roles in assisting the displacement and post-displacement processes are guided by their own objectives and targets (mandates), however complementary both in nature and practice.

It is essential that the entire displacement process involves an inclusive range of relevant sectors and stakeholders including indigenous communities, women, elderly, and persons with disabilities, and that it represents a cross-pollination of expertise, ideas, and action among a variety of experts and institutions, in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance, human rights, disaster risk management, environment, climate change, and urban and regional planning, as well as affected communities, households and individuals, as all may be involved in undertaking displacement and post-displacement measures.

<sup>7</sup> IPCC Special Report on The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, Summary for Policy Makers

## 1. PRE - Displacement Process

*The Pre-Displacement stage represents the time to take precautions and preventive measures to combat possible future displacement. The people are witnessing the changes and future possible risks related to climate change and disasters but have not yet taken the decision to move.*

*In this phase, the movement of potentially displaced people needs to be anticipated and awareness among the populace needs to be generated. People need to be made aware of the danger and high stakes involved in case they become displaced. The move from risk to resilience needs to be made to combat climate change and disasters, as drivers for displacement. This would be complementary to the principles adopted by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to prepare, plan and respond to national disaster situations and the National Adaptation Plan to work towards climate resilience. The assessment of the sites of at-risk communities is required in order to take preventive measures for climate change and disasters. Increasing the resilience of people, land and structures towards the disasters in such sites would help in protecting the potentially displaced people.*

### **Fijian Government**

1. Government Stakeholders should ensure that capacity building programs are in place for communities, households and/or individuals at risk of displacement. These programs would assist the target group, including vulnerable people to become aware of the drivers and consequences of displacement, understand about the risks and challenges involved in the process of displacement and equip them to the best extent possible to handle the displacement process.
2. As displacement generally occurs when adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions are unable to address the drivers of climate change and disasters to any further extent, the Government Stakeholders should ensure that all possible adaptation measures are efficiently implemented, in accordance with NAP and NDRRP and in order to build resilience and avoid displacement.
3. It is imperative to ensure reliable and non-biased data collection of potential identified at-risk communities, households and/or individuals for further evidence-based policies. Accurate and disaggregated data of the at-risk group and gender impact analysis, collaborated with empirical data retrieved from previous displacement experiences would minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors as contributors to displacement, enhance availability and flexibility of pathways and address and reduce vulnerabilities associated with the process of displacement.
4. Coordinate and contribute to analysing site assessments, environmental impact assessments, social, economic and livelihood impact assessments, and nature of climate change and disasters drivers, harmoniously with NAP and in most sustainable manner in order to minimize the potential sources of displacement, in particular focusing on vulnerable groups, such as women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities.
5. Ensure that at-risk of displacement communities, households and/or individuals do have permanent access to (basic) human rights, such as rights to food, water, a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of potential at-risk groups, and access to social and cultural rights in accordance with Fijian law, environmental and climate change polices, including but not limited to the Bill of Rights in the Fijian Constitution, the NAP, NCCP, and NDRRP.
6. Concrete and efficient pre-emptive measures are considered for the at-risk communities, households and/or individuals to avoid displacement, by coordinating and contributing to CROC, and any applicable and transparent insurance mechanisms available for climate change and disaster-prone areas.

## Other Stakeholders

1. The Other Stakeholders should continuously support Government Stakeholders' actions in regard to providing sustainable solutions to prevent and minimize the drivers of displacement, ensuring transparency and accountability, together with a clear understanding of human and financial costs associated with the process of displacement.
2. Actively engage in capacity building and outreach exercises with identified at-risk communities, for minimising the impacts of the displacement process and to ensure that communities are aware of the risk(s) associated with displacement.
3. Engage in collaboration with all State actors responsible for the displacement process, as well as at-risk communities, ensuring that the views of the affected communities are recognised, and facilitate communication with State representatives, if available.
4. Actively participate and contribute to creating empirical research and focusing on assessment information, in accordance with international standards for assessments, especially in assessing and identifying sites and at-risk communities and inform the Government Stakeholders for feasible and sustainable structural measures.
5. Support the Government Stakeholders' efforts to focus on vulnerable groups and assist in monitoring and evaluating their adaptation capabilities, complement the adaptation measures already in place, and assess the potential emotional, social, cultural and economic impact of potential forceful movement.
6. Support the preemptive measures considered by the Government Stakeholders, by contributing to CROC, and/or any applicable and potential insurance mechanisms associated with drivers of climate change and disasters.

## 2. IN - Displacement Process

*Although displacement may be initiated at any time by the affected communities, households and/or individuals, without State awareness, it is crucial that the people found in motion would continuously have access to basic human rights and viable solutions for their (immediate) choice of destination. The State in collaboration with Other Stakeholders is in the role of assisting the displaced communities, providing safe and dignified passage, and enabling alternative solutions, as recognising displaced group(s) at this stage, would provide better cooperation with the affected people. If applicable, all State agencies work together, as many times displacement may take the form of evacuation, as a controlled movement of population.*

### Fijian Government

1. It is essential for Government Stakeholders to coordinate the work of all agencies involved in the displacement process and complement where necessary, the actions of other governmental bodies in creating synergy in the process of providing assistance to the displaced communities. It is also important to identify and analyse the areas impacted by the onset of the event, as well as areas targeted for destination, if available. Moreover, they need to work with relevant agencies, such as NDMO to implement evacuation plans (controlled movement of population) and prevent involuntary movement of people.
2. All relevant State agencies and Other Stakeholders recognise that working together with affected group(s) for betterment of displaced communities would result in minimizing the risk and challenges posed by the displacement process.

3. Collaborate with the affected communities, households and/or individuals, ensuring the displaced groups are being identified at the earliest as possible, in order to provide adequate assistance in the displacement process.
4. Governmental Stakeholders should make all efforts to continuously respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of the displaced group(s), in a safe, dignified and timely manner, prioritising the needs of most vulnerable groups facing displacement.

#### **Other Stakeholders**

1. Coordinate with all Government Stakeholders involved in the process of displacement, for adequate management of displacement, efficient utilisation of resources, essential emergency aid and protection of the displaced population.
2. Other Stakeholders should play a pro-active role in the potential emergency situation occurred as a result of displacement of population, by providing concrete answers to the immediate needs of the affected group(s), supporting Government initiatives and focusing on assisting the vulnerable people, such as women, children, elderly and people with disabilities.
3. Permanently communicate with the Government Stakeholders and inform relevant agencies involved in the process of displacement, of potential recognised places of origin, transit and destination, as well as of all immediate threats and needs of the displaced population.
4. Other Stakeholders together with the Government Stakeholders should contribute to a smooth and less harmful process of displacement, by ensuring a human (individual) oriented approach aligned with immediate human rights access.

### **3. POST - Displacement Process**

*Protection mechanisms intended to benefit people displaced in the context of disasters must also consider their complex and varied needs. In particular, any assessment that it is safe for populations to return home must not only look at whether or not the disaster situation itself has passed, but more broadly to whether the region of return provides sufficient security and stability for the full realisation of human rights. Moreover, if return is not possible, durable solutions should be considered for a sustainable local integration in places where displaced people take refuge or for sustainable integration in another part of the country. Failure to do so would not only undermine protection for those left vulnerable by the effects of a disaster, but would risk creating further displacement as people go in search of security and stable livelihoods.*

#### **3a. Temporary Displacement**

##### **Fijian Government**

1. Government Stakeholders should work towards durable solutions for displaced populations, enabling full social and economic recovery through sustainable return and reintegration at the place of origin, in order to prevent permanent displacement. The removal of initial drivers of displacement, if possible, should engage all relevant institutional mechanisms, and Other Stakeholders in order to create a transparent process of rehabilitation for the affected sites and a safe environment for the displaced people to return to, prioritising housing, livelihood, education and medical facilities.
2. Ensure appropriate standard of living for the displaced group(s), and the host communities in accordance with their cultural and social characteristics, in order to avoid discrimination and conflict at destination and to guarantee protection of human rights, in particular those belonging to vulnerable people.

3. The Government Stakeholders should consider financial support, in accordance with Fijian existing laws (access to CROC) for the displaced people, by enhancing their economic status on a temporary basis, until adequate measures have been made to provide safe return to the place of origin.
4. Monitor, evaluate and assess the impacts of displacement both on the place of origin and the place of destination, addressing (but not limited to) the labour market, education system, medical facilities and address potential challenges associated with the displacement process, in a timely manner.

### **Other Stakeholders**

1. Other Stakeholders should contribute to ensuring the temporary settlement of the displaced population, by providing assistance to vulnerable groups and access to information in regard to both the place of origin and the place of destination and enabling temporary integration of the displaced people into the new hosting communities.
2. Safeguard the continuous application and access to human rights together with the Fijian Government, in particular access to basic facilities, education system and medical services, including psychological support for vulnerable groups.
3. Other Stakeholders should work together with the Government Stakeholders for collecting disaggregated data and relevant information in regard to the displacement process and support the Fijian Government in processing any learnings and key elements for improving further existing policies.
4. Together with the Government Stakeholders, ensure that the source of displacement is fully rehabilitated (repaired) before the displaced group(s) return and support the Government Stakeholders' efforts, together with the affected population in elaborating a sustainable planning for return.
5. Assist the Government Stakeholders with distribution of temporary financial support for the displaced population, in accordance with the existing Fijian laws.

## **3b. Permanent Displacement**

### **Fijian Government**

1. Government Stakeholders should ensure adequate assistance and protection for the displaced population unable to return to the area of origin of displacement, considering that the process of displacement could convert (transform) into a planned relocation practice, where the Planned Relocation Guidelines procedures should be followed.
2. Depending on the adaptability capacities of the displaced communities, households and/or individuals, the decision to stay has to be coordinated by both Government Stakeholders and Other Stakeholders focusing permanently on the interest and safety of the affected group(s) including the hosting community and the vulnerable displaced people.
3. Ensure the protection of human rights of the displaced group(s), as vulnerability of all displaced people is increased and needs to a new process of adaptation is required.
4. Consider a sustainable livelihood income, eventual diversification of income, and/or alternative financial schemes (following the temporary access to financial support from CROC, as well as the impact on labour market, along with additional cultural and social challenges.
5. Ensure training and preparation of the new host community in line with goals of social cohesion, social integration and potential conflict resolution.

6. Collaborate with all relevant agencies to collect unbiased and disaggregated data of displaced populations and initiate and coordinate a monitoring and evaluation process in order to ensure a smooth transition of the affected people.

#### **Other Stakeholders**

1. Other Stakeholders should support the Government Stakeholders in their undertaking to transform the permanent displacement into a sustainable and efficient planned relocation process, in accordance with the Planned Relocation Guidelines.
2. Contribute to building resilience at the new destination, by providing counselling services, capacity building exercises and adaptation trainings in order to secure a minimum negative impact on the health and wellbeing of the displaced population, and increased adaptive capacity to the social, cultural, and economic challenges the displaced people are facing at the new permanent site.
3. Support the Government Stakeholders in collecting unbiased and disaggregated data, contributing to the monitoring and evaluation process of the permanent displaced population
4. Other Stakeholders should support Government Stakeholders' efforts to secure a minimum financial stability for the affected group(s), by providing reliable financial solutions within the laws of Fiji (insurance schemes) to reduce the burden on the displaced people.



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