PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT
FOLLOW-UP TO THE NANSEN INITIATIVE

PLANNED RELOCATION IN ASIA:

A REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

By Erica Bower
& Sanjula Weerasinghe
August 2021

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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This snapshot is part of a growing body of evidence on planned relocation. The global dataset of identified planned relocation cases is available from the PDD website, www.disasterdisplacement.org. If you have cases to contribute, please share with info@disasterdisplacement.org.

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of GIZ.

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Table of Contents

1 Executive Summary

Across Asia, disasters and climate change impacts have had, and will continue to have, profound effects on people and the places they call home. As governments and communities search for safer places with secure livelihood options for people, planned relocations are becoming increasingly salient. Yet despite the growing attention to planned relocation at the international and regional levels, knowledge and data gaps remain.[1] A recent global mapping by the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at the University of New South Wales, *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*,[2] identified 160 cases in the Asia region out of a global total of 308. This snapshot draws on the cases identified in Asia to shine a spotlight on notable characteristics and insights that emerge in this regional context.

In the Asia region, identified planned relocation cases:

- Involve multiple sites of origin and/or destination;
- Span a range of distances;
- Involve larger numbers of households;
- Occur in urban, in addition to rural, areas;
- Take place after displacement has already occurred;
- May occur in the context of overlapping environmental, political, socio-economic and demographic drivers and motivations; and
- Are generally initiated by government actors.

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1 For instance, the PDD 2019-2022 Strategy and Workplan acknowledges the importance of research and analysis on planned relocation to address knowledge and data gaps and support policy development. The UNFCCC's Task Force on Displacement (TFD) workplan has also included identification of effective practices on planned relocation as an area for further attention. For further normative and policy developments at the international level, see table 1 in Ferris, E. & Weerasinghe, S. (2020). Promoting Human Security: Planned Relocation as a Protection Tool in a Time of Climate Change. *Journal on Migration and Human Security,* 8(2), 134-149.

2 Bower, E. & Weerasinghe, S. (2021). Leaving Place, Restoring Home: Enhancing the Evidence Base on Planned Relocation Cases in the Context of Hazards, Disasters, and Climate Change. Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law.

Building on these observations, this snapshot highlights relevant insights that may be of interest to practitioners, policy makers and researchers concerned with planned relocation specifically in the Asia region. For example:

- Pay careful attention to the characteristics and outcomes associated with different spatial patterns of planned relocation, particularly in cases with multiple origin and destination sites.
- Consider tradeoffs between proximity of origin and destination sites and livelihood opportunities.
- Develop deeper knowledge on relocations initiated in urban geographies.
- Understand the interim needs of relocating persons in situations where planned relocation cases are initiated following displacement.
- Generate knowledge on sectors and levels of governance involved in initiating and supporting planned relocation processes.
- Understand the multiple, diverse drivers that contribute to the motivations of actors initiating and supporting planned relocation to better safeguard against potential rights violations.

Building on these findings and implications, this regional snapshot identifies future directions to address knowledge and data gaps on planned relocation in the Asia region. This includes evaluating and monitoring the processes and outcomes of planned relocation cases undertaken in urban settings or following displacement, to better understand rights implications. It may also involve obtaining insights on the development and implementation of applicable normative frameworks. Further efforts to identify additional undocumented and under-documented cases, and to monitor progress and developments within identified cases, may be needed. Such efforts are essential to inform the development of policies, operational tools, and approaches to planned relocation practice that minimize harms and promote human rights and dignity.

2

Introduction

The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at the University of New South Wales published the report *Leaving Place, Restoring Home: Enhancing the Evidence Base on Planned Relocation in the Context of Hazards, Disasters, and Climate Impacts* (Leaving Place, Restoring Home) in early 2021. The report aimed to establish a foundational evidence base of planned relocation cases across the world, and to address data and knowledge gaps. It also conceptualized planned relocation within countries as: *the planned, permanent movement of a group of people from identifiable origin(s) to identifiable destination(s), predominantly in association with one or more hydrometeorological, geophysical/geological, or environmental hazard(s).*

To complement that report, this regional snapshot commissioned by GIZ, provides an overview of cases in the Asia region.[3] This Asia regional snapshot, together with a Pacific regional snapshot and an analysis of case studies, is part of a series of research efforts developed with the overarching goal to deepen knowledge and evidence on planned relocation.[4]

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3 The countries that comprise the Asia region are broken into **East Asia (EA):** China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan. **South Asia (SA):** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. **Central Asia (CA):** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. **South East Asia (SEA):** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

4 Bower, E. & Weerasinghe, S. (2021). Planned Relocation in the Pacific: A Regional Snapshot. GIZ; Weerasinghe, S. & Bower, E. (2021). Unpacking Spatial Complexity: Case studies of planned relocation with multiple origin and destination sites. GIZ.

In the Asia region, planned relocation cases have been implemented relatively widely, particularly through the initiative of government actors. Some of these cases are better known and documented than others. For instance, scholarly literature and media narratives have highlighted cases in Viet Nam, where the concept of "living with floods" in the Mekong Delta has gained attention.[5] Other familiar cases relate to relocations that occurred after typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines and following the widespread devastation of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.[6] Yet many other cases of planned relocation were among the 160 identified in Asia through a global mapping conducted for *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*. In this context, this snapshot provides evidence and insights specific to the 160 cases in the Asia region. These insights aim to facilitate refined understandings that enable policymakers and practitioners concerned with planned relocation in Asia to minimize harms to affected people, and to promote their human rights and dignity.

Asia encompasses roughly 60 percent of the world's population, and roughly 30 percent of the world's land mass.[7] Countries in this region are characterized by diversity in geographic, demographic and cultural respects. The region is composed of States that comprise large land masses such as China and India, as well as small land masses such as Brunei Darussalam and the Maldives. The mountainous landscapes of Nepal and Tajikistan can be contrasted with the coastal island States of the Philippines and Indonesia.

Diversity is similarly found in the hazard and climate change dynamics across countries in the Asia region. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), water scarcity is predicted for most of the region.[8] Extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and storms are likely to increase in strength and number, with the type and magnitude varying across the region.[9] In coastal areas, particularly in island States, mean sea level rise is likely to contribute to upward trends in extreme high water levels, alongside ocean acidification and other challenges for those living at the ocean's edge.[10] The Mekong Delta and the Cambodian floodplain are expected to experience increased depth and duration of flooding associated with sea level rise.[11] In some of these countries, urbanization has also contributed to environmental degradation, increased pressure on natural resources, and growing exposure to natural hazards and the impacts of climate change.[12]

Building on the evidence aggregated through the global report, this regional snapshot shines a spotlight on the unique characteristics of identified planned relocation cases in the Asia region. The information and analysis presented in the sections that follow, aim to build knowledge of the features of planned relocation cases identified in Asia and highlight relevant region-specific insights for policy and practice.

5 Danh, V. T. & Mushtaq, S. (2011). Living with floods: an evaluation of the resettlement program of the Mekong Delta of Vietnam. In M. A. Stewart & P.A. Coclanis (eds.) *Environmental change and agricultural sustainability in the Mekong Delta*. Springer, Dordrecht, 181-204.

6 Palagi, S. & Javernick-Will, A. (2020). Pathways to livable relocation settlements following disaster. *Sustainability,* 12(8), 3474; Sina, D. et al. (2019). What does the future hold for relocated communities post-disaster? Factors affecting livelihood resilience. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction,* 34, 173-183.

7 Population Reference Bureau. Available at: https://bit.ly/2VJGG0Q (accessed June 01, 2020); Statista. Distribution of the global population 2020, by continent [Graph]. Available at: https://bit.ly/3kf43ZL (accessed June 1, 2021).

8 Hijioka, Y. *et al.* (2014). Asia. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part B: Regional Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 1327-1370.

9 *Ibid.*

10 *Ibid.*

11 *Ibid.*, page 1355

12 UNESCAP. (2017). Urbanization and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: Linkages and Policy Implications. Available at: https://bit.ly/3nEgJLS (accessed June 01, 2021).

3

Approach and methods

Since this regional snapshot is drawn from the evidence gathered in *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*, it does not revisit a detailed discussion of the methodological approach and conceptualization of planned relocation used to identify cases across the globe, including in the Asia region. More comprehensive and detailed information on the definitions, methodology and limitations can be found in sections 3 and 4 of *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*. Nonetheless, for the purposes of this snapshot, it is important to recognize that the methodology was based on research to identify cases initiated after 1970, from English-language peer-reviewed scholarly and grey literature that meet the elements of the conceptualization noted above (introduction). This process identified 308 cases of planned relocation globally, among which 160 cases were in the Asia region.

In the review of English-language literature for *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*, it became apparent that planned relocation cases do not follow one spatial pattern. Many cases of planned relocation have single origin and single destination sites. This is perhaps the pattern that is most-well known among policymakers and researchers. However, other cases of planned relocation involve multiple origins and/or multiple destination sites. These insights supported the development of a typology with four distinct spatial patterns: cases involving a single origin to a single destination site (type A); cases involving multiple origins to a single destination (type B); cases involving a single origin to multiple destinations (type C); and cases involving multiple origins to multiple destinations (type D). This typology is discussed in greater detail in section 2 of *Leaving Place, Restoring Home,* and in the complementary compilation of case studies, *Unpacking Spatial Complexity*.

When reading this snapshot on the Asia region, it is important to take note of the above-mentioned typology. This is because, this snapshot undertakes a deeper analysis of a subset of nine identified type A cases that had sufficient information documented in available literature to understand so-called *context* and *design* characteristics. It also provides information on the incidence of other types (B, C and D) of planned relocation cases.

With this background in mind, the next section provides insights on basic characteristics of the 160 planned relocation cases identified in the Asia region, and provides a deeper discussion of additional characteristics related to the nine well-documented type A planned relocation cases.[13]

[13] See annex 1 for the sources used to analyze these 9 cases.

4

Findings: Basic characteristics from all cases identified in the Asia region

This section presents key findings of the 160 cases identified in the Asia region, including 63 in South East Asia, 54 in South Asia, 37 in East Asia, and 6 in Central Asia, as shown in figure 1.

As illustrated in figure 2, planned relocation cases were identified in sixteen countries, with the highest numbers of cases identified in the Philippines (27), India (22), Sri Lanka (19), China (17), Viet Nam (17) and Indonesia (16). Notably, three of these countries with the most identified cases are in the South East Asia sub-region: the Philippines, Viet Nam and Indonesia.

Planned relocation cases identified in the Asia region often took place in multi-hazard contexts, meaning that multiple different hazards informed decisions to undertake planned relocation. As noted in figure 3, the primary hazards associated with identified cases were often hydrometeorological (in green below), including storms (31) and floods (37). Other relocations were initiated primarily in association with geophysical hazards (in red below), including tsunami (53), earthquake (12) and volcanic eruptions (6).

In the Asia region, planned relocation cases follow diverse spatial patterns. Single origin to single destination relocations are most common (62 type A cases), followed by relocations with multiple origins to a single destination site (44 type B cases). Relocations with multiple origin and multiple destination sites were also identified (31 type D cases), as were cases with one origin but multiple destinations (15 type C cases). Eight cases were of unknown spatial patterns.

The vast majority of identified cases were noted as completed, meaning that the physical move from the site(s) of origin to the site(s) of destination had taken place for a majority of persons. About ten per cent, conversely, were noted as ongoing.[14] Some cases were initiated as far back as the mid 1980s, although most were initiated after the year 2000. A large number of cases were initiated in relation to two events: the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami affecting many Asian countries, and the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines.

[14] See limitations in *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*, section 4 on methodology.

Figure 1. Cases identified in Asia by sub-region

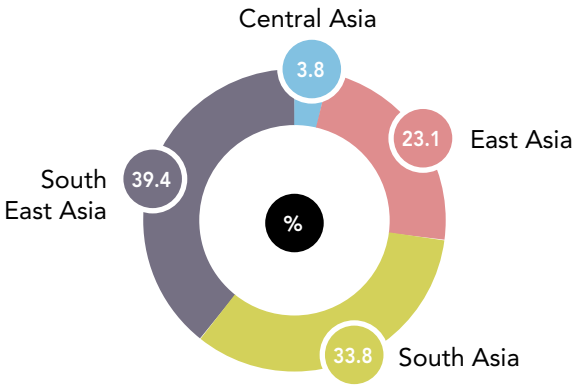


Figure 4. Cases identified by spatial pattern

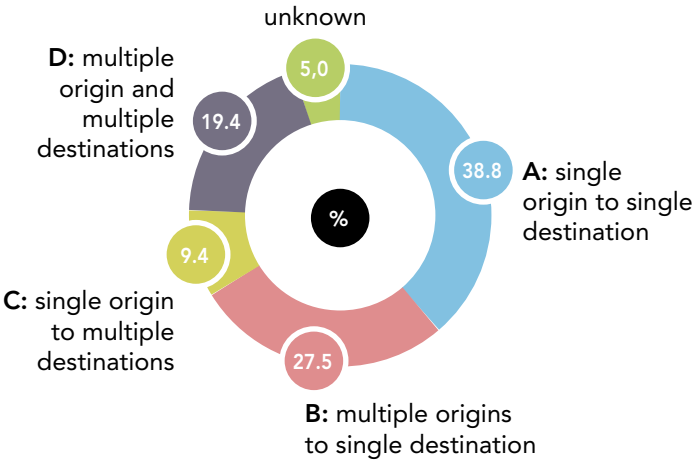


Figure 2. Cases identified in Asia by country

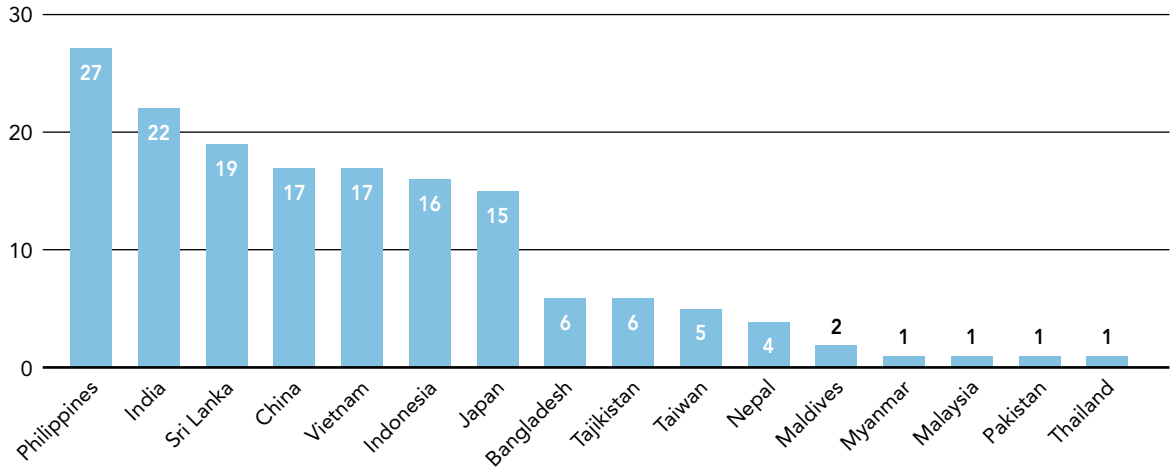
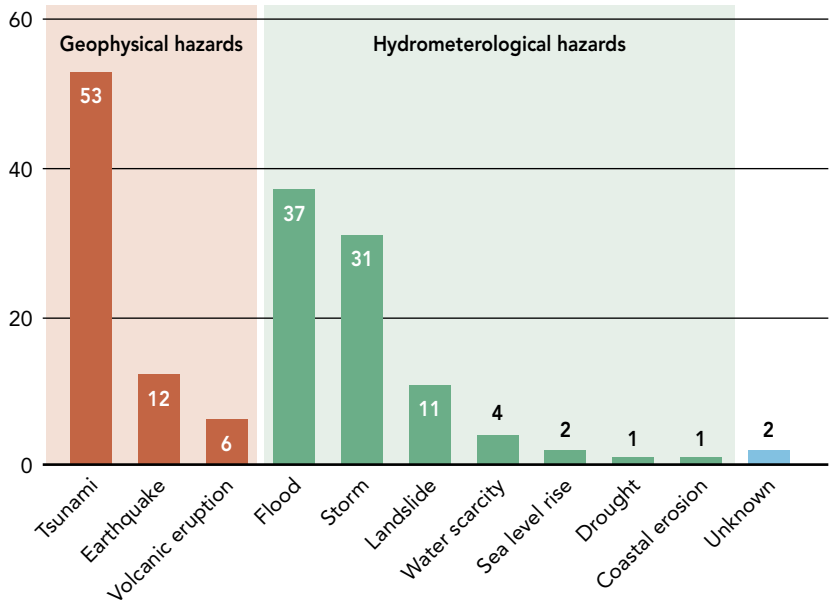


Figure 3. Cases identified by primary hazard. Note that red columns indicate cases initiated primarily in relation to geophysical hazards, while green columns reflect cases initiated primarily in relation to hydrometeorological hazards. Blue columns indicate cases where it is unclear if the primary hazard had meteorological or geophysical origins.



Findings:
Context and Design characteristics from nine cases analyzed

This section provides insights about contextual and design characteristics of nine type A cases (out of a total of 62 identified in Asia) following the single site of origin to a single destination site spatial pattern. The findings are drawn from information shared in table 1 (below) and table 2 (page 16).

Table 1. Context characteristics of cases analyzed in Asia

What is the **COUNTRY** of the site of origin in the planned relocation case? What is the exact location of the site of origin in the planned relocation case?	What is the location of the destination settlement site in the planned relocation case?	Which natural hazard(s) or adverse effect(s) of climate change is the planned relocation initiated in anticipation/reaction to?	Was the initiation decision made post sudden onset hazard related displacement?	What is the approximate physical distance (in km) between the site of origin and the site of destination?	In approximately what year was the need for planned relocation first identified?	In approximately what year was the physical relocation to the settlement site completed for the majority of people?	Approximately how many households (people) have relocated, or are identified for relocation?	Does the relocating community identify as part of an indigenous tribe or community?	Does the relocating community identify as rural or urban?
CHINA Dabashan Village, Songpan County, Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province	Songpan Capital	Landslide	No	0.25	Unclear	Unclear	19	No	Rural to Urban
INDIA (Old) Fadsar Village, Jamnagar District, Gujarat	(New) Fadsar Village	Earthquake	Yes	0.05	2001	2003	317	No	Rural
INDIA Sathankuppam Village, Tamil Nadu, Thiruvallur District	Other side of canal	Tsunami	No	1.3	2004	Unclear	376	No	Rural
INDONESIA Gampong Baro, Aceh Besar	Gapong Baro in new site	Tsunami	Yes	5	2004	Unclear	57	No	Rural
JAPAN Remote part of Higashiyama district in Ojiya City, Chuetsu	Flatlands of Higashiyama district in Ojiya City	Earthquake (and landslides/ floods in earlier years)	Yes	10	2004	2006	Unclear	No	Rural to Urban
MALDIVES Kandholhudhoo Island, Raa Atoll	Dhuvaafaru Island (same atoll)	Tsunami; Floods; Sea level rise	Yes	16-18	2004	2009 / 2010	600	No	Rural
NEPAL Dheye (Dhey) Village, Mustang District	Thangchung	Water scarcity	No	6	Approx. 2009	Approx. 2016	14	Yes	Rural
PHILIPPINES Anoling Barangay, Albay Province, Bicol Region, Luzon Island	FVR–FNM Village (Tagaytay Barangay, Camalig Municipality)	Volcanic eruption (Pyroclastic flow); Earthquake; Lahars	Yes	12	1993	1997	500	No	Rural
SRI LANKA Talalla Village, Matara District	Kananke Watta	Tsunami	Yes	1.5-2	2004	2006	18	No	Rural

HAZARD TYPES

Six of nine cases analyzed in this region were initiated in relation to a single hazard as identified in the available literature. Three of the cases in Asia involved decisions to relocate amidst multiple hazards. Some of these hazards occurred either simultaneously, such as the community in Anoling, the Philippines, facing an earthquake and volcanic eruption.[15] In other cases, the hazards occurred sequentially, such as Higashiyama, Japan, where a community that had long experienced landslides and floods was later displaced by an earthquake.[16]

DISPLACEMENT DYNAMICS

Three of nine cases were initiated in anticipation of future risks, before any displacement occurred. For example, Dabashan Village in China was relocated in the context of potential landslide risks, prior to the event occurrence, and the displacement of any community member.[17] In contrast, six cases of relocation occurred after populations had already been displaced. As an illustrative example, Talalla Village in Sri Lanka was relocated in the aftermath of the destruction and displacement of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.[18]

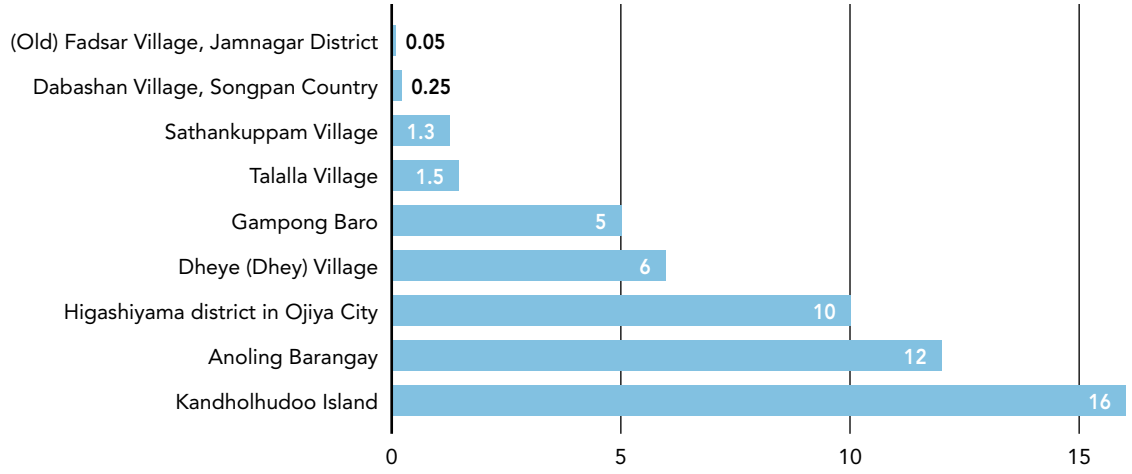
DISTANCE FROM SITE OF ORIGIN

The cases analyzed in Asia differ widely in terms of distance between site of origin and destination, as shown in figure 5. Some relocations were as short as 200 meters (Fasdar Village, India), while others were as far as 16-18 kilometers (km) apart and between islands (Kandholhudhoo, Maldives). Four of the cases analyzed concerned relatively short distances, with less than two kilometers between the site of origin to the site of destination.

DURATION OF PROCESS FROM INITIATION TO PHYSICAL RELOCATION

As demonstrated by figure 6, the passage of time between when the relocation was determined to be necessary to the completion of the physical move for a majority of persons also varied across cases. The relocation of a community in Higashiyama, Japan, for instance, was completed in two years, while the relocation of Dheye Village in Nepal took over seven years to complete. In other cases, the exact years of initiation and completion of the physical move were not available. Many factors influence the duration of relocation processes, including availability of funding, configuration of initiating and supporting actors, and identification of suitable land for a destination site.

Figure 5. Distance from site of origin to site of destination (in km)



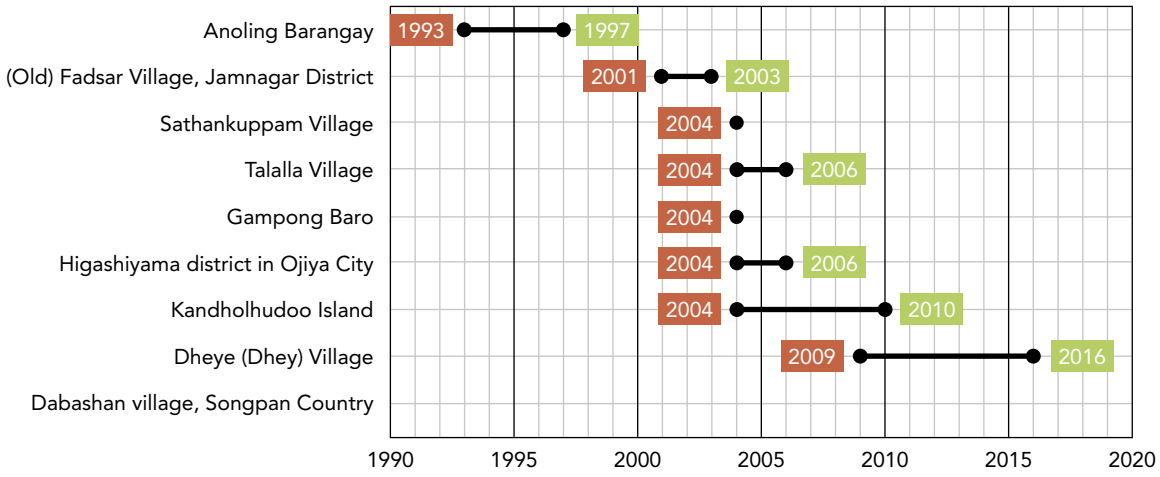
15 Usamah, M. & Haynes, K. (2012). An examination of the resettlement program at Mayon Volcano: what can we learn for sustainable volcanic risk reduction? *Bulletin of Volcanology,* 74(4), 839-859.

16 Iuchi, K. (2014). Planning resettlement after disasters. *Journal of the American Planning Association,* 80(4), 413-425.

17 Xu, Y. *et al.* (2020). Disaster risk management models for rural relocation communities of mountainous southwestern China under the stress of geological disasters. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction,* 50, 101697.

18 Vithanagama, R. *et al.* (2015). Planned Relocations in the context of Natural Disasters: The Case of Sri Lanka. Brookings Institution and the Centre for Migration Research and Development.

Figure 6. Duration of process from initiation to physical move



LOCATION, NUMBER AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF RELOCATED HOUSEHOLDS

All nine cases analyzed involved communities whose origin sites were in rural areas. Interestingly, two cases represented a unique dynamic: a relocation of a community from a rural area to an urban one. While rural to urban migration and displacement is well documented in literature, rural to urban relocations are relatively rare as analyzed in the global mapping.[19]

Only two of the nine cases analyzed in the Asia region involved communities that identify as indigenous. Some relocating communities involved only a small number of households. For instance, fewer than 20 households were relocated in Talalla Village in Sri Lanka, Dheye Village in Nepal, and Dabashan Village in China. Others involved far larger groups, such as in the relocation of 500 households in Anoling, the Philippines, or 600 households in Kandholhudhoo, Maldives.

[19] See page 36 of *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*. Some research suggests that rural to urban planned relocation cases may become more common in the future. See e.g. De Sherbinin, A. *et al.* (2011). Preparing for Resettlement Associated with Climate Change. *Science*, 334: 456–7.

Table 2. Relocation Design Characteristics of Cases analyzed in Asia

What is the **COUNTRY** of the site of origin in the planned relocation case? What is the exact location of the site of origin in the planned relocation case?	Which actor(s) initiated the planned relocation?	Which actor(s) supported the planned relocation?	Is there evidence of at least one formal assessment of the 1) location of origin to determine the need for the planned relocation; 2) settlement site to determine suitability for relocation?	Is there evidence to suggest that affected communities were participating during the relocation process?	Is there a domestic legal or policy framework applicable or relevant to relocation?	Is there evidence to suggest that similar livelihood opportunities exist in the site of origin and in destination?	What challenges have been identified during the relocation process or in the settlement site? Do any of these challenges relate to gender dimensions?
CHINA Dabashan Village, Songpan County, Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province	Government (Sub-national and Local)	Government	1. No evidence 2. Yes	Yes	Yes	No. Shift from livestock breeding and farming to migrant labor and selling medicinal materials in urban area	Concern about ongoing hazard exposure.
INDIA (Old) Fadsar Village, Jamnagar District, Gujarat	Government (Sub-national); Community members	NGO; Government (Sub-national)	1. No evidence 2. No evidence	Yes	Unclear	Yes. Many return to old sites, also NGO provided a 'livelihood restoration programme'	High levels of dissatisfaction with home design and size, which were incompatible with traditional lifestyle; lack of genuine consultation with non-elite community member(s); (in)equitable allocation of houses to families; refusal to relocate
INDIA Sathankuppam Village, Tamil Nadu, Thiruvallur District	Government (Sub-national)	Government (National and sub-national); NGO	1. No evidence 2. No evidence	Yes	Yes	No. Fisher folk have to travel three hours to the coast daily.	Distance for livelihoods
INDONESIA Gampong Baro, Aceh Besar	Community members; NGO	NGO; INGO	1. No evidence 2. No evidence	Yes	Yes	No. Commute to old site for livelihoods despite distance	Access to jobs; neighborhood safety; houses altered to allow women to run a household and business at same time
JAPAN Remote part of Higashiyama district in Ojiya City, Chuetsu	Community members; Government (National)	Community members; Government (National; sub-national)	1. No evidence 2. No evidence	Yes	Unclear	Yes. Most formerly commuted to the city for work, school and errands and commute was lessened after relocation	Lessened interaction and community cohesion after relocation; inter-generational differences (elderly were less able to adjust to relocation site in urban area compared to young people)
MALDIVES Kandholhudoo Island, Raa Atoll	Government (National)	INGO; Government (National)	1. No evidence 2. No evidence	Yes	Unclear	Yes. But the proximity and frequency of good fishing was better in old site	Ongoing hazard exposure (sea level rise, flooding); environmental degradation in new site
NEPAL Dheye (Dhey) Village, Mustang District	Community members	INGOs; NGO	1. Yes 2. Yes	Yes	Unclear	No. Yak herding is more challenging at lower elevation; apple orchards in the new site.	Issues with INGO delivery on commitments; loss of cultural heritage; flooding limiting river crossing
PHILIPPINES Anoling Barangay, Albay Province, Bicol Region, Luzon Island	Government (Local)	Government (national and local)	1. No evidence 2. No evidence	No	Yes	No. Many return to the original site in a 6km 'permanent danger zone' to farm crops and raise livestock.	Many households maintain 'translocal' ties to dual residences for livelihood purposes.
SRI LANKA Talalla Village, Matara District	Government	Government; INGO; Donor Government	1. No evidence 2. Yes	No	Yes	No. Limited options for night time fishing.	Perceptions by host community as wealthier; culture shock and nostalgia of living inland; over-reliance on single local official (in lieu of community participation) resulting in favoritism and abuse of power

INITIATING AND SUPPORTING ACTORS

Government actors initiated five of the cases analyzed in the Asia region, while community members initiated one case. Three cases were initiated by community members together with either a governmental actor (Fasdar in India and Higashiyama in Japan) or a non-governmental actor (Gampong Baro in Indonesia). Cases identified in the Asia region were supported by a diverse range of actors from national governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to donor governments. Government engagement was common in the Asia region. Only two cases did not involve government stakeholders as an initiating and/or supporting actor (Dheye Village in Nepal and Gampong Baro in Indonesia).

PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS USED IN PLANNING PROCESS

Two of nine cases did not have any evidence of mechanisms to ensure participation of community members at any stage of planning or implementing the relocation. There was variation in inclusivity and frequency of the participation mechanisms among the seven cases where such approaches were identified, although this was not the focus of this research. For instance, in the case of Talalla Village in Sri Lanka, the literature indicated that participation mechanisms relied more heavily on the views expressed by a single local official.[20] In the case of Fadsar Village in India, the literature also raised concerns relating to the lack of genuine consultation with non-elite members of the community.[21]

ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED AT SITES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

There is evidence to suggest that assessments about whether relocation was necessary were conducted at the site of origin in one case analyzed in the Asia region, while assessments about site suitability in destination locations were conducted in three cases. Only one case (Dheye Village) had formal assessments conducted in both locations of origin and destination. If any assessments were undertaken by community members observing environmental changes at sites of origin and destination, they were not documented in available literature.

POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

In Asia, the literature on five of the nine cases made passing references to applicable legal or policy frameworks. These references generally concerned the application of disaster risk reduction or disaster management norms, zoning ordinances, or building restrictions (no build zones). None of the analyzed cases discussed the application of a normative framework concerning or specific to the relocation of people.[22]

LIVELIHOODS

For six cases, the livelihood opportunities in the destination sites were not considerably different as in origin sites. In some cases, community members continued to commute to their sites of origin - including a journey of over three hours for relocated residents to fish on the coast from Sathankuppam Village, India, or a journey back to agricultural plots in the hazard 'danger zone' in Anoling, the Philippines. In other cases, relocated persons adopted new livelihood strategies such as a shift from yak herding to apple harvesting in

20 Vithanagama, R. *et al.* (2015). Planned Relocations in the context of Natural Disasters: The Case of Sri Lanka. Brookings Institution and the Centre for Migration Research and Development.

21 Duyne Barenstein, J. E. (2015). Continuity and change in housing and settlement patterns in post-earthquake Gujarat, India. *International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment,* 6(2), 140-155.

22 This is not to say that such normative frameworks do not exist. Further legal research may yield important insights for the nature and scope of the normative architecture underpinning planned relocation in the Asia region.

Dheye Village, Nepal, or a shift from livestock breeding and farming to migrant labor and selling medicinal materials in urban markets for members of Dabashan Village, China. Still other cases involved training and skills development workshops in destination sites, such as an NGO-led livelihood initiative in Fasdar Village, India.

CHALLENGES

Diverse challenges were identified across the cases analyzed in the Asia region. In some cases, communities faced new hazard risks in the destination sites. For instance, Kandholhudhoo in the Maldives was relocated after a tsunami, yet relocated persons face risk of sea level rise at the new site. In other cases, relocated persons regularly commuted back to their livelihoods in places of origin and thus sustained ongoing exposure to hazards. One example concerns risk of volcanic eruption in the agricultural land tended by members of Anoling in the Philippines. In other cases, issues arose around equitable distribution of relocation resources, or with supporting actors facing obstacles in fulfilling their financial and construction commitments to relocated persons. Finally, cultural challenges such as changes in the level of community cohesion after relocation and divergences along generational divides also emerged as important issues in some cases.

5 | Implications: Insights for region-specific policy and practice

Building on the observations summarized in the previous two sections, this snapshot highlights relevant insights that may be of interest to practitioners, policy makers and researchers concerned with planned relocation specifically in the Asia region.

- **Careful attention to the characteristics and outcomes associated with different spatial patterns of planned relocation is necessary.** A broad spectrum of spatial patterns of planned relocation has been implemented in the Asia region. In contrast to the Pacific region, where nearly all identified cases followed the single origin to single destination spatial pattern (type A), in Asia, a much broader spectrum of spatial patterns of planned relocation has been implemented.[23] As noted, in addition to type A cases, spatial patterns B, C and D were also relatively common in the region. This suggests that careful attention is needed to understand the unique characteristics of such cases and their implications for affected populations. This is necessary to ensure that lessons from a given spatial pattern are not automatically regarded as relevant to others. In spatial patterns with multiple origins and/or destinations, for instance, the governance and legal infrastructure, role of assessments, and mechanisms for community participation are different from the prototypical single origin to single destination case. The PDD report *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*, includes a series of further questions for consideration.

- **Consideration should be given to tradeoffs between proximity and livelihoods.** The cases analyzed in the Asia region span a range of distances between sites, from less than two kilometers to 18 kilometers.[24] In some cases, relocations of short distances meant similar livelihood opportunities were available, while further distances implied a shift in what livelihood opportunities were accessible. In other cases, however, community members undertook significant commutes from their homes to places

[23] See Pacific Snapshot, and page 32 of *Leaving Place, Restoring Home* for global context.

[24] See page 34 of *Leaving Place, Restoring Home* for global context.

of work even before relocation. These cases imply that the similarity of livelihood opportunities in origin and destination sites may or may not be associated with the proximity between sites. When identifying suitable destination sites, initiating and supporting actors should pay careful attention to preferred livelihood strategies and any tradeoffs between livelihoods and proximity of sites.

- **Further knowledge on relocations initiated in urban geographies is needed.** Planned relocation cases in the Asia region are often urban. Preliminary insights suggest that relative to other regions many of the 160 cases identified in Asia occur in cities and surrounding areas. However, these cases were not represented among the nine cases analyzed in depth in this snapshot given the focus on single origin and destination cases. Such urban cases may involve far larger numbers of households than rural cases and spatial patterns with multiple origins and/or multiple destination sites. Better knowledge on the characteristics of relocations initiated in urban geographies, and potential linkages with spatial patterns, number of households, and initiating and supporting actors may provide unique insights for policy and practice.

- **Multiple, diverse drivers may contribute to the motivations of actors initiating and supporting planned relocation, which may need to be examined to safeguard against rights violations.** Preliminary insights suggest that some cases of planned relocation in the Asia region may be initiated for multiple purposes. These may include motivations to reduce adverse environmental impacts and disaster risks, alongside other less "altruistic" objectives. In this context, some of these cases may raise the potential of human rights violations. For instance, some cases may have been initiated in the context of motivations that resemble "land grabs". In other cases, motivations for relocating communities facing observed adverse environmental impacts or future risks may include a desire to have nomadic peoples become sedentary. In these contexts, deeper scrutiny may be needed to assess rights implications, and safeguard against potential violations.

- **Planned relocation cases initiated following displacement raise considerations relating to interim needs for relocating persons.** In Asia, many planned relocation cases have been undertaken following population displacement. The scale of destruction or future disaster risks in sites of origin affect decisions to return to places of origin, even temporarily pending the physical relocation to a new site. In some cases, the decision to undertake planned relocation may only occur following protracted displacement in transitional arrangements. Understanding the decision-making and implementation processes that have underpinned post-displacement planned relocation has the potential to highlight lessons and insights. These may relate to the needs and rights of displaced people pending relocation, such as interim housing, access to education, compensation for losses, and restoration of livelihoods.

- **A deeper understanding of sectors and levels of governance involved in initiating and supporting planned relocation may be beneficial.** In the Asia region, government actors across diverse ministries and administrative levels have been engaged in initiating and supporting planned relocation.[25] Further research on government actors involved in initiating and supporting planned relocation may provide insights on the ministries or agencies that coordinate different facets of the implementation process and on how technical, financial and other resources are allocated across phases. This type of information builds knowledge on the governance structures relevant to planned relocation and has the potential to foster greater transparency, accountability and coordination. For instance, such analyses may shed light on whether disaster risk management actors engaged in implementing planned relocation are versed in human rights-based approaches.

[25] For global context, see page 38 of *Leaving Place, Restoring Home.*

6

Conclusion

By shining a spotlight on the Asia region, this snapshot complements the global mapping conducted in *Leaving Place, Restoring Home*, and the other complementary studies noted earlier. There are a number of notable dimensions that emerge in this regional context. For instance, in the Asia region, identified planned relocation cases:

- Involve multiple sites of origin and/or destination;
- Span a range of distances;
- Involve larger numbers of households;
- Occur in urban, in addition to rural, areas;
- Take place after displacement has already occurred;
- May occur in the context of overlapping environmental, political, socio-economic and demographic drivers and motivations; and
- Are generally initiated by government actors.

As elaborated upon in the implications section, these observations lead to a number of critical considerations for policymakers and practitioners engaging with planned relocation cases in the Asia region.

Given the increasing risks associated with climate change to communities across Asia, including in urban settings, the unique dynamics of planned relocation in this region are important to understand. This includes evaluating and monitoring the processes and outcomes of planned relocation cases undertaken in urban settings or following displacement, to better understand rights implications. It may also involve obtaining insights on the development and implementation of applicable normative frameworks. Further efforts to identify additional undocumented and under-documented cases, and to monitor progress and developments within identified cases, may be needed. Such efforts to augment available knowledge and data on planned relocation in the Asia region are vital to inform the development of additional policies, operational tools, and approaches to practice that minimize harms and promote human dignity.

7

Annex

ANNEX 1.

ANALYSIS OF THE SOURCES FOR 9 CASES ANALYZED IN DEPTH

What is the **COUNTRY** of the site of origin in the planned relocation case? What is the exact location of the site of origin in the planned relocation case?	Data Collection Methods Employed	Type of Stakeholders Interviewed	Number of Interviews	Date of Field Work	Full Citation of Primary Source, Secondary Source (as applicable)
CHINA Dabashan Village, Songpan County, Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province	Interviews, household surveys, and document analysis	Community members and government (County, township, and local)	Total Unknown 17 Household surveys; Unknown interviews [One of two communities]	Unknown	Xu, Y. *et al.* (2020). Disaster risk management models for rural relocation communities of mountainous southwestern China under the stress of geological disasters. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction,* 50, 101697
INDIA (Old) Fadsar Village, Jamnagar District, Gujarat	Interviews, focus group discussions, participant observation	Community members only (men and women, different socioeconomic backgrounds and castes)	Unknown	Unknown	Duyne Barenstein, J. E. (2015). Continuity and change in housing and settlement patterns in post-earthquake Gujarat, India. *International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment,* 6(2), 140-155.
INDIA Sathankuppam Village, Tamil Nadu, Thiruvallur District	Interviews, household survey, document analysis	Community members and NGO Officials	Unknown [Subset of multiple communities]	April – June 2008	Bavinck, M. *et al.* (2015). Post-tsunami relocation of fisher settlements in South Asia: evidence from the Coromandel Coast, India. *Disasters,* 39(3), 592-609.
INDONESIA Gampong Baro, Aceh Besar	Interviews, household survey	Community members	Approx. 21 Interviews Total 15 Survey respondents, Approx. 6 Interviews [One of multiple communities]	Nov-Dec 2015; Feb- April 2017	Sina, D. *et al.* (2019). What does the future hold for relocated communities post-disaster? Factors affecting livelihood resilience. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction,* 34, 173-183.
JAPAN Remote part of Higashiyama district in Ojiya City, Chuetsu	Interviews, household survey, participant observation	Community members and government officials	56 Interviews Total [One of multiple communities]	2008 - 2009	Iuchi, K. (2014). Planning resettlement after disasters. *Journal of the American Planning Association,* 80(4), 413-425.
MALDIVES Kandholhudhoo Island, Raa Atoll	Interviews household survey	Community members and local government	218 Interviews Total 18 Interviews, 200 Household Surveys	October 2013	Simonelli, A. C. (2016). Good Fishing in Rising Seas: Kandholhudhoo, Dhuvaafaru, and the Need for a Development-Based Migration Policy in the Maldives. In A. Milan *et al.* (eds.). *Migration, Risk Management and Climate Change: Evidence and Policy Responses.* Springer International Publishing, Switzerland, 131-148. Croshaw, H. R. (2017). In the wake of the 2004 Great Indian Ocean Tsunami: Internally displaced persons and the natural disaster response in the Maldives. *Journal of Asian Development,* 3(1), 125-143.
NEPAL Dheye (Dhey) Village, Mustang District	Interviews, focus groups, document analysis	Community members, local government	Unknown	2012	Bernet, D. *et al.* (2012). Moving down or not? A key question for Samzong, Yara, and Dheye, three villages in Upper Mustang, Mustang District, Nepal, Part IV: DHEYE. Kam For Sud. Devkota, F. (2017). Making of Prototype House of Dhe, Lo Mustang Applied Visual Anthropology. Fidel-Films, www.fidel-films.com.
PHILIPPINES Anoling Barangay, Albay Province, Bicol Region, Luzon Island	Interviews, focus group, participant observation, document analysis	Community members, government officials, IGOs, donors	Unknown total; 26 Community Members	2009 - 2010	Usamah, M. & Haynes, K. (2012). An examination of the resettlement program at Mayon Volcano: what can we learn for sustainable volcanic risk reduction? *Bulletin of Volcanology,* 74(4), 839-859.
SRI LANKA Talalla Village, Matara District	Interviews, focus group discussions, document analysis	Community members, government officials, NGOs, and donors	30 Interviews Total (18 community members, 12 government and other)	2014	Vithanagama, R. *et al.* (2015). Planned Relocations in the context of Natural Disasters: The Case of Sri Lanka. Brookings Institution and the Centre for Migration Research and Development.

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