



## OXFAM MEDIA BRIEFING 2 December 2019

# Forced from Home

## *Climate-fuelled displacement*

### Background

*Climate-fuelled disasters were the number one driver of internal displacement over the last decade – forcing an estimated 20 million people a year from their homes. Today, you are seven times more likely to be internally displaced by cyclones, floods and wildfires than by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and three times more likely than by conflict. While no one is immune, it is overwhelmingly poor countries that are most at risk. Eighty percent of those displaced in the last decade live in Asia – home to over a third of the world’s poorest people. Small island developing states such as Cuba and Tuvalu make up seven of the 10 countries that face the highest risk of internal displacement as a result of extreme weather events and are 150 times more likely to be displaced by extreme weather disasters than communities in Europe. And countries from Somalia to Guatemala are seeing large numbers of people displaced by both conflict and the climate crisis. Despite this, the international community has made little progress towards the provision of new funds to help poor countries recover from loss and damage resulting from the climate emergency. With this contentious issue expected to take centre stage at the UN Climate Summit in Madrid from 2–13 December, Oxfam is calling for more urgent and ambitious emissions reductions to minimize the impact of the crisis on people’s lives, and the establishment of a new ‘Loss and Damage’ finance facility to help communities recover and rebuild.*

### Introduction

Climate-fuelled disasters are the number one driver of internal displacement – forcing millions of people to leave home to seek refuge within the borders of their own country. Today, you are seven times more likely to be internally displaced by extreme weather disasters such as cyclones, floods and wildfires than by geophysical disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and three times more likely than by conflict.<sup>1</sup>

New Oxfam analysis of data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre reveals that there was a five-fold increase in the reported number of extreme weather disasters that resulted in people being displaced over the last decade.<sup>2</sup> On average, over 20 million people a year were internally displaced by extreme weather disasters over the last 10 years – 87% of all people internally displaced by disasters during this period. Millions more have been driven from their homes by drought, rising sea levels and other ‘slow-onset’ climate-fuelled disasters. More still are forced to flee across borders to find refuge outside their home country.

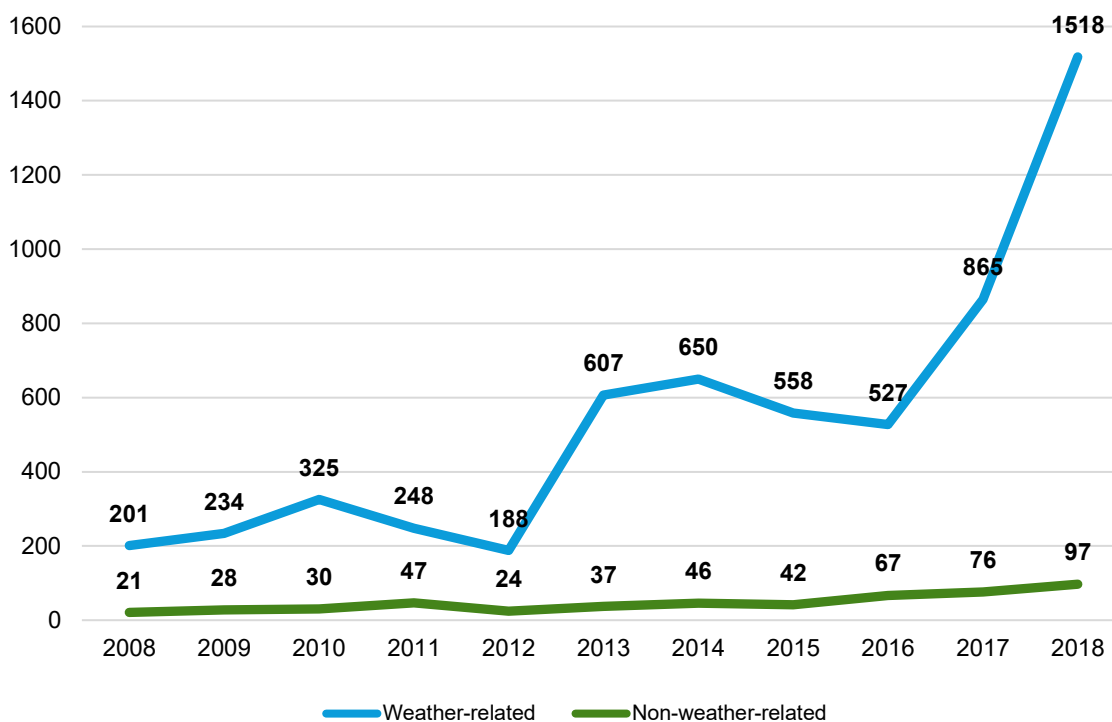
This briefing shows that it is the world's poorest countries and communities, which bear little responsibility for global carbon pollution, that face the highest risk of climate-fuelled displacement. And it sets out how some poor countries are working, with little or no support from rich polluting nations, to help communities recover from loss and damage resulting from the climate crisis, including forced displacement.

## Key points

- Small island developing states such as Cuba and Tuvalu make up seven of the 10 countries that face the highest risk of internal displacement as a result of extreme weather events. In Cuba, Dominica and Tuvalu, nearly 5 percent of the population has been displaced annually by extreme weather on average over this period - equivalent to almost half the of the population of Madrid being displaced within Spain in a single year.<sup>3</sup>
- People in low- and lower-middle income countries such as Somalia and India are over four times more likely to be displaced by extreme weather disasters than people in high-income countries such as Spain and the United States.<sup>4</sup>
- Many poor countries face multiple risks, with large numbers of people displaced by conflict as well as the climate crisis. In 2018 Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan saw 3.8 million people newly displaced by conflict and just under 1 million people newly displaced by extreme weather disasters such as floods. These countries also regularly see large proportions of their population impacted by drought.<sup>5</sup>

The contentious question of support for poor countries that suffer loss or damage as a result of the climate crisis is likely to take centre stage at the UN Climate Summit in Madrid with the conclusion of a review into the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss on Damage. Oxfam is calling for more urgent and ambitious emissions reductions to minimize the impact of the climate crisis, and the establishment of a new Loss and Damage finance facility to help communities displaced or otherwise impacted by the climate crisis rebuild their lives and their livelihoods.

**Figure 1: Number of climate-related disasters per year that have resulted in people being internally displaced**



Source: Oxfam analysis of data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.<sup>6</sup>

## High-risk countries

People in low- and lower-middle income countries such as Somalia and India are over four times more likely to be displaced by extreme weather disasters than people in high-income countries such as Spain and the United States.<sup>7</sup> In the decade between 2008 and 2019, low- and lower-middle income countries saw over 11 times more people displaced by extreme weather than in high-income countries.<sup>8</sup>

The vast majority – around 80% – of those displaced live in Asia. The region is home to around 60% of the world population, and over a third of the people globally who live in extreme poverty.<sup>9</sup> Many of its cities and megacities in low-lying coastal areas are particularly susceptible to rising sea levels and storms. For example, a single event, Cyclone Fani, triggered the displacement of nearly 3.5 million people in Bangladesh and India in May 2019, most of who were pre-emptively evacuated. In 2018, 3.8 million people were reported displaced by extreme weather in the Philippines and a further 3.8 million in China.<sup>10</sup>

However, many other countries face very high risks of displacement from extreme weather in terms of the proportion of population affected.

## Small Island Developing States

People from the Small island Developing States (SIDS), particularly those from the Caribbean and the Pacific, face the greatest risks. Seven of the 10 countries with the highest rates of displacement from extreme weather disasters between 2008 and 2018 are classified as SIDS, a recognized grouping in UN climate and environmental negotiations.<sup>11</sup> A further two of the 10, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, are also developing island states (though not part of the SIDS grouping at the UN climate talks).

While numbers vary significantly year-to-year, more than 1% of people living in SIDS were displaced by sudden-onset extreme weather disasters on average each year between 2008 and 2018. In Cuba, Dominica and Tuvalu, nearly 5% of the population has been displaced annually by extreme weather on average over this period – equivalent to the entire combined populations of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston all being displaced each year in the US, or nearly half the population of Madrid being displaced within Spain each year.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 1: Ten countries where people are most at risk of displacement from extreme weather disasters**

Country	Key cause of displacement	Percentage of population newly displaced by sudden-onset extreme weather events on average each year between 2008-18	Emissions per capita (global rank out of 193 Member States of the UN as of 2014)
Cuba	Tropical cyclones (Atlantic hurricanes)	4.8%	127 <sup>th</sup>
Dominica	Tropical cyclones (Atlantic hurricanes)	4.6%	96 <sup>th</sup>
Tuvalu	Tropical cyclones <sup>13</sup>	4.5%	158 <sup>th</sup>

Philippines	Tropical cyclones (north-western Pacific typhoons), floods	3.5%	170 <sup>th</sup>
Saint Maarten	Tropical cyclones (Atlantic hurricanes)	2.8%	(No data)
Vanuatu	Tropical cyclones	2.4%	131 <sup>st</sup>
Fiji	Tropical cyclones, floods	1.5%	190 <sup>th</sup>
Sri Lanka	Floods, storms	1.4%	147 <sup>th</sup>
Tonga	Tropical cyclones	1.3%	121 <sup>st</sup>
Somalia	Floods	1.1%	132 <sup>nd</sup>
Global average		0.3%	

Source: Oxfam analysis of data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre<sup>14</sup> plus emissions data from World Resources Institute.<sup>15</sup>

Approximately 95% of people that were forced to move within SIDS between 2008 and 2018 were displaced by tropical cyclones and storms. Storms are becoming more destructive as warmer waters contribute to higher maximum wind speeds and more rainfall, while sea level rise is also causing more damaging storm surges. Overall, people living in SIDS are around 150 times more likely to be displaced by extreme weather disasters than people in Europe, 12 times more likely than people living in high-income countries, and four times more likely than the global average.<sup>16</sup>

In addition to the high risk of sudden-onset disasters, many SIDS are also dealing with the creeping threat of slow-onset changes such as sea-level rise and drought. Between 2006 and 2016, the rate of global sea-level rise was 2.5 times faster than it was for almost all of the 20th century.<sup>17</sup> At the extreme end of this vulnerability are the world's atoll countries – including the Pacific nations of Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands. All rank among the 50 countries facing the highest risk of displacement from extreme weather disasters.

With little or no land more than a few metres above sea level, these countries face the prospect of having to relocate large portions of their population as rising seas swallow land and homes and contaminate soils and fresh water supplies. In the ultimate injustice of the climate crisis, atoll nations must grapple with how to secure their sovereignty, resource rights and cultural identity, as they face the increasingly likely prospect that much, or all, of their land will sink beneath the rising waves.

While people living in SIDS may face an extraordinarily high risk of displacement as a result of the climate crisis, they have contributed little to its causes. On average, emissions per capita among

people living in SIDS are around one-third those of people living in high-income countries. In Tuvalu, the most vulnerable of all the SIDS, it is around one-seventh.<sup>18</sup>

## Conflict and climate

While extreme weather is the single biggest driver of internal displacement worldwide, the number of people being internally displaced by conflict each year is also rising, more than doubling between 2008 and 2018.<sup>19</sup>

Many poor countries have large populations of people displaced by both conflict and extreme weather disasters, while also struggling with the impact of slow-onset extreme weather events. For example, four of the ten countries where people are most at risk of displacement from conflict and sudden-onset weather disasters also regularly see large proportions of their populations impacted by drought.<sup>20</sup>

A particular hotspot is the Horn of Africa. In 2018 Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan saw 3.8 million people newly displaced by conflict and just under 1 million people newly displaced by extreme weather disasters such as floods.<sup>21</sup> These countries are also grappling with the ongoing impact of a series of intense droughts in 2011, 2017 and 2019 repeatedly wiping out people's crops and livestock, in a region where up to 80% of the population are subsistence farmers.<sup>22</sup>

In 2018, Somalia – one of the poorest countries in the world, with per capita emissions just one-fifth of high-income countries – 547,00 people (3.6% of its population) were newly displaced by extreme weather events and 578,000 (3.9%) were newly displaced by conflict.<sup>23</sup> This is the equivalent of almost the entire population of Berlin, Hamburg and Munich being displaced within Germany in a single year.<sup>24</sup> The country is also struggling to cope with years of extreme drought that has destroyed crops and pastureland.

It is difficult to give an accurate picture of the extent to which slow-onset disasters fuel displacement, as there are no comprehensive data sources available. However, there is a large and growing body of evidence which shows that more severe or frequent drought, sea-level rise, glacial melt, shifting seasons and extreme temperatures gradually erode people's ability to make a living, feed their families or to cope with other shocks, increasing their risk of displacement.

For example, the total area of the world affected by drought has significantly increased since the 1970s, with drier regions in particular experiencing longer and hotter periods with little or no rain. Oxfam estimates that in the first nine months of 2017 alone, over 1.9 million people worldwide were displaced by drought – both within their own countries and across borders.<sup>25</sup>

There is also much to learn about the links between the climate crisis and conflict. That said, there is increasing evidence that the climate crisis is exacerbating instability in many regions, worsening the conditions that lead to conflict, and increasing the risk of conflict in the future. For example, in the Sahel, recurring drought and floods are squeezing already limited resources such as pastures and water points, further fuelling tensions between communities whose frustrations are being manipulated by armed groups.

**Table 2: The ten countries where people are most at risk of displacement as a result of conflict and extreme weather disasters**

Country	Main threat(s) from sudden-onset extreme weather	Percentage of population newly displaced by sudden-onset extreme weather events on average each year between 2008–18)	Percentage of the population newly displaced by conflict in 2018)	Percentage of the population affected by drought, on average per year 2008–2018
Philippines	Tropical cyclones (north-western Pacific typhoons)	3.5%	0.18%	0.02%
Sri Lanka	Floods, storms	1.4%	0.01%	1.98%
Somalia	Floods	1.1%	3.85%	10.76%
Myanmar	Floods, storms	1.0%	0.08%	
Colombia	Floods, storms	0.7%	0.29%	
South Sudan	Floods	0.6%	2.92%	7.1%
Niger	Floods	0.6%	0.23%	7.1%
Benin	Floods	0.5%	0.03%	
Nigeria	Floods	0.4%%	0.28%	
Central African Republic	Floods	0.2%	10.93%	
Global average		0.3%	0.14%	

Important note on this table: For sudden-onset extreme weather disasters, we have given the percentage of people newly displaced *on average* each year between 2008–2018 (i.e. all the years for which data is available), as we believe that the average figure provides the best measure of the current risk of being displaced in that country by such events. For conflict we have used the percentage of people newly displaced in 2018 only, as to give a fair measure of the risk of being displaced by conflict today, it is necessary to reflect the conditions in each country at present, and to discount past conflicts that do not affect a person's current risk of displacement. The figures relating to drought are for the percentage of people *affected*, including those who may not have been displaced. The figures are annual averages for the years 2008–2018 and so mask the fact that droughts usually occur every few years and affect a large number of people. All figures are based on Oxfam analysis of data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and EM-DAT: The Emergency Events Database.<sup>26</sup>

## High-risk communities

Within countries it is often the poorest communities – and particularly women – who are most vulnerable. Poor communities tend to live in poorly built houses on marginal land that is more at risk from extreme weather such as storms or floods. They often live in areas with poor infrastructure, making it difficult to access essential services such as healthcare or education in the aftermath of an emergency. They are unlikely to have insurance or savings to help them rebuild their lives after a disaster. And many depend on farming or fishing – activities which are particularly vulnerable to more extreme and erratic weather. With the frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards increasing, the ability of people living in poverty to withstand shocks is gradually being eroded. Each disaster is leading them in a downward spiral of deeper poverty and hunger, and eventually displacement.

Cyclone Idai hit Zimbabwe during the weekend of March 15–17, 2019. The heavy rains and strong winds affected 270,000 people, killed more than 340 and displaced 51,000.<sup>27</sup> The most affected communities lived in rural areas of Chimanimani and Chipinge with poor road infrastructure and housing. The flooding and heavy rains destroyed their homes, their crops and their livestock, leaving them with little choice but to seek help in displacement camps.

Communities living in poverty are also more vulnerable to slow-onset disasters such as drought. The climate crisis is already fueling hunger and food insecurity, especially in the poorest part of the world, where many people are struggling to grow food or feed themselves.<sup>28</sup> Across Africa, over 52 million people are at risk of going hungry because of drought, failed rains and flash floods – making it more likely that they will be forced to move to find food.<sup>29</sup>

In Pakistan, repeated droughts and cyclones between 1999 and 2012 resulted in the forced displacement of entire communities. In Badin in the Sindh region, the Mallah Badin people tried to rebuild and restart their lives after each disaster. But after the 2011 cyclone, which contaminated their agricultural land with saltwater and destroyed what little resources they had left, they were finally forced to abandon their ancestral land and migrate to the outskirts of Karachi.<sup>30</sup>

Life is no easier for those who make the decision to leave. Migrant communities, particularly those who used to rely on land, agriculture or fishing, often find it difficult to earn a living in towns and cities where they lack the education and skills to gain full-time employment. For many communities, especially indigenous peoples, the impacts of displacement may go far beyond the loss of security and livelihoods – the lack of community ties and the severing of their connection to their ancestral lands can impact heavily on a community's identity, social cohesion and wellbeing.

## Women at greater risk

Cultural and social norms increase the vulnerability of women to climate shocks. In many parts of the world, women do not learn to swim or are not able leave the house unaccompanied, which puts them at greater risk from floods and storms. And while women make up 43% of smallholder farmers, they do not have the same access to credit, insurance or government support as men, making it harder to adapt or rebuild their lives and livelihoods after a disaster.<sup>31</sup>

Women are often among the last to leave home when more extreme or erratic weather makes it harder for families to put food on the table, staying behind to look after children and elderly or sick relatives, while male family members leave to search for an income elsewhere. This can place a huge burden on women, who often become the main provider for the family as well as the primary caregiver. Their job is made harder by the climate crisis, which makes growing food and collecting water and fuel more difficult and time-consuming. For example, women in Somalia told Oxfam their

workload has doubled as a result of the drought – with some women travelling up to 10 km in search of firewood and water.<sup>32</sup>

When forced to leave home, women and children are particularly vulnerable to violence and abuse. For example, in Badin, Pakistan, women left displacement camps because of the uncomfortable and unsafe living conditions in camps.<sup>33</sup> Displaced children are often denied an education, locking them in an inter-generational cycle of poverty. Gender inequalities also make it harder for displaced women to rebuild their lives – for example after the cyclone in Mozambique, lower education and literacy rates meant displaced women often lacked information on their legal rights which could help secure their access to land.<sup>34</sup>

### Spotlight: Forced displacement in Central America's Dry Corridor



Silveria Pérez at home in Chiquimula Department, Guatemala with her son. 'I know that this boy is undernourished,' she says. 'I think it's because we don't get enough food...The [boy's] weight isn't increasing. When I go and get him weighed, they tell me his weight isn't increasing. He's underweight.' Photo: Pablo Tosco.

Silveria Pérez has four children and lives in a rural community in Guatemala that has been devastated by severe drought. Silveria's husband, like many of his neighbours, has been forced to leave home and seek work in Mexico – others have made the long and dangerous journey to the US.

'We used to have fields and crops, but each year the winter is getting shorter. The harvests are no good. When I was little, I remember that it used to rain quite a lot. It used to rain. But it doesn't anymore. There's no water now. As there aren't any beans, we just make tortillas, which we eat with salt. This is not enough for the children. You're told your child is malnourished. You get scared and wonder if your child is going to die. You can't sleep because you're thinking about what you can do. But as you have no money, there's no way he'll get better. My husband goes away to work in Mexico. He brings money to buy food. It's not enough. It's not even enough to buy a pound of corn.'

Silveria is not alone – her story is shared by countless households across Guatemala, Honduras El Salvador and Nicaragua, where a climate-fuelled El Niño period has brought nearly six years of drought.



Since 2014, the typical January to March dry season has extended to six months or more. Most crops have failed, leaving 3.5 million people – many of whom farm corn, beans, rice, sugar cane and coffee to make a living – in need of humanitarian assistance, and 2.5 million people food-insecure.<sup>35</sup>

A recent Oxfam study estimates that more than 78% of the corn and bean harvest was lost in Guatemala in 2019,<sup>36</sup> affecting at least 250,000 people. Child malnutrition has also increased from 60% in 2016 to 69% in 2019 in the worst-hit areas.<sup>37</sup>

With no food and no means to make a living, people have little option but to make the long and dangerous journey to Mexico or the United States in the hope of finding work and feeding their families. Yet their hopes are too often crushed at the border where they are detained for long periods in abysmal conditions, while trying to navigate an unsympathetic and hostile migration and asylum system.

Figures from US Customs and Border Protection show that 850,000 migrants arrived at the Mexican border in 2018 – more than double the year before – with the majority coming from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.<sup>38</sup> The number of Guatemalan and Honduran citizens detained at the US border increased by 46% and 39%, respectively, between 2017 and 2019. There has also been a marked change in the kind of migrants arriving at the border. Prior to 2014 it was predominantly young men, but now there are record numbers of families and unaccompanied children. Between 2017 and 2019 the number of unaccompanied Guatemalan children arriving at the border rose by 28%, and those from Honduras by 20%.<sup>39</sup>

While there are many factors driving migration in the Dry Corridor, the climate crisis is becoming an increasingly important one. Although levels of violence and insecurity have remained steadily high over the past five years, drought and hunger have consistently worsened. Fifty-seven percent of migrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador interviewed by the World Food Programme between 2014 and 2016 said 'lack of food' was the primary reason they had left their country.<sup>40</sup>

Without urgent action even more families will be forced to flee – the World Bank estimates that the number of people displaced by the climate crisis in Central America could rise to 2.1 million by 2050.<sup>41</sup>

Oxfam has worked with partners to support over 20,000 people across the Dry Corridor, and plans to assist at least another 10,000 people in 2020. Oxfam is supporting rural communities with cash transfers so families can buy food according to their family needs and preferences, and helping people adapt to the dry conditions through, for example, the use of drought-resistant crops. Oxfam also provides clean water and sanitation equipment, and food supplements for malnourished children.

## Solutions to the climate crisis and its impact on people

The first responsibility of the international community, and especially rich polluting countries, is to fight climate change and minimize its impact on people's lives by taking more ambitious action to cut pollution and limit global heating to 1.5°C. This is a matter of survival for some of the world's most vulnerable communities: impacts associated with warming above 1.5°C, whether monster storms, greater loss of land to rising seas or fatal damage to the ecosystems upon which they depend, will likely push them beyond their ability to adapt.

Current national emissions reduction pledges put the world on track for over 3°C of warming.<sup>42</sup> Last year the World Bank estimated that 140 million people across Sub-Saharan Africa South Asia, and Latin America would be forced to move within their countries' borders by 2050 if no governments failed to agree more ambitious climate action.<sup>43</sup> A new assessment of the number of people worldwide exposed to displacement from sea-level rise, published in October 2019, more than tripled earlier estimates of the number of people at risk in a high-emissions scenario to 300 million.<sup>44</sup>

In addition to more ambitious emissions cuts, rich polluting countries have promised to help poor countries and communities adapt and take the measures needed to help them remain in their

communities and on their land. Oxfam estimates high-income country governments had delivered less than \$10bn in net support for climate adaptation in 2015–16, and remain a long way short of delivering the promised \$100bn a year by 2020 to help poor countries avoid future emissions and adapt.<sup>45</sup>

The international community also has a responsibility to support countries to recover from unavoidable loss and damage that result from the climate crisis – including support for communities that are forced to relocate.

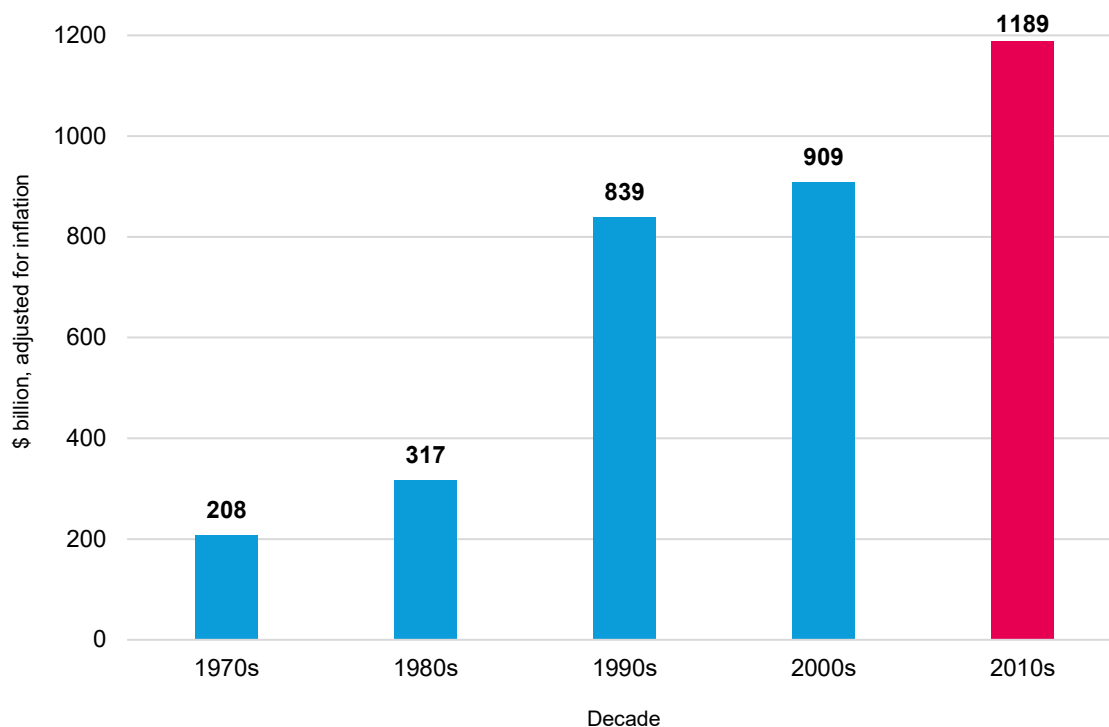
At the 2013 UN Climate Summit in Poland, governments established the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage,<sup>46</sup> with the aim of improving knowledge, action and support for countries suffering loss and damage as a result of the climate crisis. Its mandate was later expanded, including the establishment of the Taskforce on Displacement.

COP25 will see the conclusion of the first review of the Mechanism, and this contentious issue is expected to have a significant impact on the overall politics of the negotiations. A critical issue for many developing countries will be the lack of progress on funding to help poor countries and communities recover from loss and damage, including forced displacement.

The lack of progress means poor countries have to cover much of the cost of extreme weather disasters from their own budgets – and these costs have escalated alarmingly in recent decades. New Oxfam analysis of data from the international disaster database, EM-DAT, reveals that global damages from extreme weather disasters per decade exceeded \$1 trillion for the first time in the 2010s, more than a fivefold increase since the 1970s.<sup>47</sup>

On average, economic losses from extreme weather disasters over the last decade are equivalent to 2% of countries' national income (based on figures for 2017). For SIDS, the figure is an astonishing 20%.<sup>48</sup> When Cyclone Winston hit Fiji in 2016, the loss and damage from that one event amounted to around one-fifth of the country's GDP.<sup>49</sup>

**Figure 2: Total damages from extreme weather disasters worldwide per decade**



Source: Oxfam analysis of EM-DAT.<sup>50</sup>

### **Spotlight: Managed relocation in Fiji**

Recognizing that many communities will face displacement in the near future, a number of countries have taken steps to ensure their successful relocation, including ensuring that those who are forced or wish to move, either internally or across borders, are able to migrate safely, with dignity and on their own terms.

Fiji's proposed new Climate Change Act<sup>51</sup> – which when passed will become one of the most ambitious and comprehensive pieces of domestic climate legislation in the world<sup>52</sup> – includes a variety of provisions for the managed relocation of communities who have no choice but to move out of harm's way.

Fiji is no stranger to the challenges of climate-induced relocation. The well-studied case of Vunidogoloa<sup>53</sup> reveals how even the carefully planned relocation of a small community a short distance from its ancestral land can create considerable challenges in terms of restoring or replacing livelihoods, upholding cultural norms and identity, and maintaining community cohesion and access to basic services and infrastructure.

In recognition of these challenges, and with more than 80 communities earmarked for relocation, the Fiji government has developed a landmark set of guidelines and operating procedures<sup>54</sup> designed to ensure that affected communities, and in particular the most vulnerable groups within them, have full ownership over decisions on whether and how to relocate, and that no-one is left behind.

Importantly, the proposed Act recognizes that relocation should only occur when all other measures to protect the community have been exhausted. Consultations within the community are conducted in a Talanoa style, using the traditional Pacific techniques of inclusive dialogue.

Fiji has recently launched a trust fund, the Fiji Climate Relocation and Displaced People's Trust Fund for Communities and Infrastructure, to fund its relocation and displacement initiatives. The Fund is currently being financed through tax revenue from the country's own Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy. In other words, Fijians are largely being left to bear the cost of climate impacts themselves, despite having contributed negligibly to global carbon emissions.

It is vital that the international community, especially the world's big polluters, raises additional finance to support communities in Fiji and worldwide dealing with loss and damage from climate change, including forced displacement.

## **Recommendations for COP25**

In 2019 millions of people across the globe mobilized to demand climate justice. Nowhere is the injustice more clearly visible than in the shattered lives of women, men and children who have been forced to leave their homes and communities by a crisis they did little to create.

To fight climate change and minimize its impact on people's lives, governments should:

- Deliver deeper and more urgent emissions reductions in order to limit global heating to 1.5°C. Countries who are yet to do so should update their first Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement by 2020 and put in place strategies for a swift and just phase-out of fossil fuels.
- Increase the funding available to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities adapt to the escalating impacts of the climate crisis. Rich polluting countries must deliver on their promise to mobilize \$100bn a year by 2020 to support emissions reductions and adaptation in poor countries, and recipient countries must ensure this funding reaches the communities that need it most. Governments must also begin the process of agreeing a new collective goal for international climate finance that is in line with need.

To ensure that communities who suffer loss and damage due to the climate crisis receive the necessary support, governments should:

- Establish a new finance facility as a key outcome of the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. This facility should provide an assessment of global

financing needs, clear criteria for disbursing funds and agreement on new and innovative ways of mobilizing additional funds, such as through a 'climate damages tax' on fossil fuel extraction, as well as debt relief in the event of disasters.

- Continue to advance work on promoting the rights, dignity and long-term solutions for people displaced by the climate crisis, including through the work of the Taskforce on Displacement, through national strategies and via complementary initiatives outside of the UNFCCC, such as the Global Compact on Migration.
- National and international guidelines on relocation should enable women to play a lead role in decisions on if, when and how to relocate. The particular needs and strengths of women should inform the design of all new initiatives on loss and damage, including a finance facility under the Warsaw Mechanism for Loss and Damage.

## Notes

- 1 On average over the past decade, seven times as many people were forcibly displaced by extreme weather as by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other non-weather-related disasters, and three times as many as by conflict. The ratio of people being displaced by extreme weather compared to non-weather-related disasters is increasing. For example, extreme weather displaced 3.5 times as many people as non-weather-related disasters between 2008 and 2011, and 22 times as many people between 2016 and 2018. Figures based on the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's full dataset for Disaster-Related New Displacements (2008–2018), and IDMC's data on new conflict displacements over the same period. See <http://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>
- 2 Ibid. This apparent trend may be in part a result of an increase in the amount of data being collected over the years. As IDMC notes in its 2019 mid-year report, it 'has improved the monitoring of displacement associated with disasters over the years by detecting and reporting on more small-scale events and capturing more information about them'. See IDMC. *Mid-Year Figures 2019*. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/mid-year-figures>. However, we can control for this to some extent by also looking at the number of non-weather-related disasters (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, etc.). Here there is also an upward trend, though it is not nearly as strong as for weather-related disasters.
- 3 This statistic, and all statistics in this paper on the risk of displacement from sudden-onset extreme weather disasters, are calculated using the dataset from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) on Disaster-Related New Displacements (2008–2018), counting only displacement from weather-related disasters (storms, floods, etc.) and excluding geophysical disasters (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, etc.). We began by calculating the percentage of the population newly displaced each year, using yearly population data compiled by the World Bank, and then taking an average across the 11 years. Using this data for each country, we also calculated the average risk for various country groups (low-income, high-income, Asia, Small Island Developing States, etc.)
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 World Bank – Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2018 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>
- 10 K. Ober. (2019). *The Links between Climate Change, Disasters, Migration and Social Resilience in Asia*. Asian Development Bank. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/510651/ewp586-climate-change-disasters-migration-asia.pdf>
- 11 See <http://unohrrls.org/about-sids/>
- 12 Based on IDMC. (2018). Full dataset for Disaster-Related New Displacements (2008–2018), op. cit. Also see endnote 13. Note that the very large displacement numbers for some countries, including Cuba, are accounted for at least in part by people moving to shelter in either government facilities or with friends/family in advance of a storm, some of whom may be able to return soon after.
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