



SESSION SUMMARY

Session Title: Ensuring the inclusion of displaced persons in recovery

Session Type: Thematic

Date and Time: Monday, May 13, 11:00 am-12:30 pm, Room 18

Key Speakers and Agencies:

Moderator:

- Nadine Walicki, GP20 Coordinator

Speakers:

- **Walter Kaelin**, Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement
- **Anare Leweniqila**, Director, the Fiji National Disaster Management Office
- **Fatimata Toure**, Presidente ONG GREFFA Mali Gao
- **Natalia Baal**, Coordinator, Joint-IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)
- **Amanda Entrikin**, Director of Global Affairs and Advocacy – Government Relations and Advocacy, Habitat for Humanity International
- **Suprayoga Hadi**, Director for Special Area and Disadvantaged Region – National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia

The session highlighted the need for inclusion of displaced persons in recovery. Successful recovery means rehabilitation of not just homes, but also livelihoods, and this can be successfully achieved only by coordination between various stakeholders, including displaced persons themselves, who need to be included in decision-making, planning and implementation to ensure successful recovery. Decentralized, community-based rehabilitation and recovery are crucial, as is spatial planning in disaster zones, and the identification of new areas for resettlement. Profiling and quality data can transform recovery initiatives into meaningful solutions when working in collaboration with national, subnational and local agencies and the



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community. The securing of land tenure rights is vital for the recovery of displaced persons.

Walter Kaelin situated the discussion within global frameworks emphasizing inclusive, accessible, non-discriminatory participation of internally displaced persons in decision-making. It is rare to find IDPs included at every stage, because the focus is usually on rebuilding houses, not rebuilding lives. Effective inclusion would entail asking displaced persons what they want, rather than what they need. He contended that participatory planning at local levels involving IDPs and host communities, area-based projects integrating IDPs, affordable housing with security of tenure, and access to livelihoods and basic services, housing built by the displaced with 'build back safer' techniques, linking new settlements to previous livelihoods and/or new markets, creation of new livelihoods, and support for recovery of local businesses are effective means to include displaced persons in recovery. This is not happening because people are working in silos and determining needs from the perspective of mandates instead of looking comprehensively and holistically at what displaced persons want and need. There should be a realization that not all displaced persons are poor, so there need to be some creative solutions for these individuals. National organizations should establish frameworks that leave a lot of room for local level organizations to ensure inclusion of displaced persons in recovery.

Anare Leweniqila discussed the inclusion of displaced persons in recovery in the wake of Category 5 tropical cyclone Winston in 2016 that affected 62% of the population. There was internal displacement and relocation. Ensuring inclusion of displaced persons in the recovery process entailed state support in the form of shelter assistance, social protection in the form of welfare assistance, food ration distribution and superannuation funds drawdown. The recovery process also relied on traditional coping mechanisms such as the family system and community structures. It is vital that the right persons are identified, they receive continuous support and engagement, there is an assessment of whether the support is well targeted, and progress is monitored over time to support policy review. He stressed the need for improved networking and coordination among stakeholders involved in disaster recovery management, humanitarian collaboration, and building resilience and inclusion at all levels.



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Suprayoga Hadi emphasized the importance of spatial planning in disaster-prone zones. It is important to look at not just reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected area, but also resettling new areas in safer places for displaced persons. Community-based rehabilitation and reconstruction is achieved through creating a community plan, administration preparation, and implementation with a focus on housing reconstruction, small-scale infrastructure, and community education and quality assurance. Community participation and support is critical if post-disaster recovery and disaster risk reduction are to be effective. The role of village communities is increasingly important in decision-making, including in the framework of community-based DRR at the village level. In keeping with the 'leave no one behind' principle, post-disaster recovery needs to prioritize community capacity building and disaster risk-based spatial and settlement planning. He concluded that promoting a multi-hazard early warning system will enhance community resilience to disaster.

Natalia Baal spoke about the role of evidence-building and profiling to include displacement in recovery and development processes. She defined profiling and stressed its role in informing operational/strategic decision-making when jointly undertaken by government, humanitarian and development actors along with communities. She shared how profiling was used to inform the National Development Plan in Mogadishu, Somalia, the Durable Solutions Strategy in El Fasher, Sudan, and Urban Integration Planning in Thessaloniki, Greece. She emphasized the importance of working with the right partners, prioritizing the collaborative process through neutral coordination and quality data, comparing population groups, analyzing people and places, linking analysis to the identified planning process / recovery framework from the beginning, and engaging with the community to enhance the validity and usefulness of results. A major initiative has been to build global standards to facilitate inclusion.

Amanda Entrikin contended that housing is at the center of creating stability for families across all cultures and socio-economic classes. Making homes and communities disaster-ready and resilient to shocks, responding in humanitarian contexts, and preparing communities to build back better are key components of adequate and affordable housing. She identified the (lack of) claim to the land on which their home is built as a core impediment to securing families from disasters. She emphasized that to achieve disaster-resilient communities globally, inclusion must be considered from the outset,



community input and community-led mapping should be used to identify existing land tenure arrangements and conflicts as a first step to protect residents from eviction, laws and regulations that protect security of land tenure should be reinforced and implemented at the local level, disaster reconstruction efforts must reflect a holistic approach regarding land rights to inform recovery program design in an effort to increase a family's land security over time, and disaster reconstruction efforts must prioritize onsite reconstruction over relocation where feasible. Advocacy groups and NGOs representing women and children ensure the inclusion of these vulnerable sections of displaced populations.

The session showed many examples from both the crisis context and the disaster and displacement context. Though much is being done, there is still a long way to go to ensure meaningful participation of displaced people in recovery.