



DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE AT A GLANCE



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During the 20th century sea levels rose at their fastest rate in 3,000 years.

As a result, millions have already been displaced by climate change and related disasters. Over the past decade, this has been at the rate of one person per second.

Hundreds of millions of additional people will be forced to flee their homes by the end of this century because of the effects of climate change.

FOR MANY PEOPLE, THE LOSS OF COASTLINES JUST MEANS ONE LESS BEACH TO HOLIDAY ON. BUT FOR MILLIONS OF OTHERS ACROSS THE WORLD, IT MEANS THE LOSS OF HOMES, THE LOSS OF LAND, AND SOMETIMES EVEN THE LOSS OF AN ENTIRE COUNTRY.

The best solutions to climate displacement are closest to home. Most displaced people only flee their countries if local options to re-start their lives are unavailable.

Domestic, land-based solutions help protect people's rights, reduce international refugee flows and are practical and affordable.



SEA LEVEL RISE IN PANAMA

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR
Location: Panama

DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS' RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT CRISIS

Displacement Solutions has been working on this problem since 2006:

- So far, we have worked with climate displaced people and communities to find solutions to climate displacement in 25 countries ranging from Bangladesh to Kiribati, Colombia to Tuvalu, and Panama to Papua New Guinea and beyond.
- We focus on trying to find new homes and lands for those being displaced by climate change within their own countries so that they do not have to cross international borders to become refugees and add to the refugee crisis sweeping across Europe.

- As there are no international laws governing this growing global problem, DS led global efforts which resulted in 2013 in a new international standard – *The Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement within States 2013* – which provides a comprehensive framework for governments to address climate displacement within their own borders.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS

The organisation was awarded a United Nations Sasakawa Certificate of Merit Award on Disaster Prevention in 2015.



DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE

Over the next five years, Displacement Solutions will implement a land initiative in five important countries already grappling with climate displacement. We aim to find new land resources for 10,000 climate-displaced people

in each of the following countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Fiji, Panama, and the Solomon Islands.

The DS Climate Displacement Land Initiative **will make a real difference to the lives** of some of the most vulnerable and dispossessed people in the world by enabling them to stay in their countries by giving them access to new housing and land resources.





It will also set **global precedents** for how one of the world's most challenging problems – climate displacement – can be solved. Our aim is that the work done under the Initiative will **provide a model to be replicated** in other countries confronting climate displacement around the world.

TOP-LEFT:
CLIMATE DISPLACED
PEOPLE IN BANGLADESH

TOP-RIGHT:
FIJIAN FAMILY
THREATENED WITH CLIMATE
DISPLACEMENT

LEFT:
MAIN STREET OF GRAMALOTE,
COLOMBIA – COMPLETELY
DESTROYED

Images: Kadir van Lohuizen

WHY BANGLADESH, COLOMBIA, FIJI, PANAMA AND SOLOMON ISLANDS WHEN CLIMATE CHANGE IS GLOBAL?

These five countries have been strategically selected as the focus of our work because:

- They are **front-line states** already struggling with climate displacement
- They have **already experienced various types of planned relocation** of populations because of climate change
- They have begun **at the government level** to address climate displacement
- They have **civil society groups** in place with whom DS closely works; and
- They have **the potential to find domestic solutions** to climate displacement and to prevent international cross-border migration.

BANGLADESH

THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT REALITY

Perhaps no country in Asia faces more daunting climate change displacement challenges than Bangladesh, with the best estimates pointing to 10–30 million people facing permanent, irreversible displacement, and millions already displaced. Without local options to access new land and housing, the default option for most is migration to the already overcrowded slums that dominate the larger cities of Dhaka and Chittagong.

THE DS TRACK RECORD

DS has worked in partnership with local NGO Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) to find land-based solutions to climate displacement in Bangladesh since 2010 producing a series of landmark studies on climate displacement, training more than 5,000 people on the rights of climate displaced people and identifying land resources that would be viable relocation sites for affected communities. DS also runs the 'One House, One Family at a Time' Project that will construct its first two houses by the end of 2016.

DS PLANS FOR 2016–2020

From 2016–2020 the Displacement Solutions' Climate Displacement Land Initiative will continue efforts to better diagnose the scale of climate displacement, identify and access land to provide permanent new homes for communities displaced by climate change and to develop a national land bank and national planned relocation policy consistent with the human rights of those affected.

Local partners – Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

Goal – *Securing improved housing and living conditions for 10,000 climate-displaced people by 2020*

Total annual project costs – CHF 400'000

Activities include –

- Acquisition of five land parcels for relocation of climate displaced persons, CHF 200'000
- National land needs assessment, CHF 117'000
- Development of land bank prototype, CHF 75'000



COLOMBIA

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THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT REALITY

Colombia is facing large-scale displacement as a result of climate-change. DS' work in Colombia has focussed so far on the situation of the people of Gramalote, a town in the north east, which was completely destroyed by extreme flooding and landslides during "La Niña" in December 2010, leaving thousands homeless. Following the disaster, the government of Colombia commenced a far-reaching process to relocate and rebuild the town, although to this day most of the former residents are still living as displaced people in temporary accommodation nearby.

THE DS TRACK RECORD

The Gramalote experience offers a unique opportunity to conduct a lessons-learned exercise, and DS has worked with all stakeholders, including affected communities and civil society groups, as well as local and national authorities, to review the status of the relocation process almost five years later in order to draw lessons from the Gramalote experience on how climate displacement and relocation might best be approached in other parts of Colombia.

DS PLANS FOR 2016-2020

During the coming five-year period, DS plans to use the experience gained thus far as a basis for developing planned relocation plans for other climate displaced communities in Colombia, as well as promoting the application of *The Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement within States* throughout the country.

Local partners – Association of Leaders from Gramalote and the Municipality of Gramalote

Goal – *Securing improved housing and living conditions for 10,000 climate-displaced people by 2020*

Total annual project costs – CHF 350'000

Activities include –

- Community advocacy for displaced people in Gramalote, CHF 140'000
- Convening national dialogue on *The Peninsula Principles* in Colombia, CHF 78'000
- Conduct national land needs assessment for climate displaced people, CHF 95'000

FIJI

THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT REALITY

The Pacific Island nations are at the global epicentre of climate displacement, with some islands facing the possibility of disappearing entirely beneath the rising seas. Fiji plays a central role in this crisis; first, because there are growing levels of internal displacement within the country because of climate change, and second, because of its' role as a potential port of call for climate displaced populations from nearby Kiribati and Tuvalu, two of the islands threatened with complete submersion.

The government has already determined that almost 700 Fijian villages will be affected by climate change and that many of these will need to be relocated in the coming years because of rising sea levels, with as many as 42 villages to be potentially relocated during the next decade. Several villages have already been relocated, including the villager-initiated relocation of Vunidogoloa.

THE DS TRACK RECORD

DS has worked for a decade in various Pacific Island nations already grappling with climate change, including the regional power of Fiji. The Fijian government's Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently preparing a national climate relocation policy, and has requested legal and policy advice from DS to ensure the policy's effectiveness.

DS PLANS FOR 2016–2020

The Climate and Displacement Land Initiative will draw on DS' extensive experience and partnership networks in the region and will work with the Pacific Conference of Churches to assist the government in ensuring that these large-scale relocations are carried out in an organised and planned process, where human rights are at the forefront of the entire effort. This project will involve fieldwork in Fiji designed to improve the planned relocation prospects of villagers throughout the country who are now threatened with climate displacement.

Local partners –

Pacific Conference of Churches

Goal – *Securing improved housing and living conditions for 10,000 climate-displaced people*

Total annual project costs –

CHF 300'000

Activities include –

- Review national climate relocation policy, 118'000
- Pilot land acquisition on Viti Levu Island, 175'000



PANAMA

THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT REALITY

Panama is another country where DS works where communities are already being displaced by climate change. Some 30,000 Gunayala Indians are seeking to relocate from their island homes in the Caribbean to mainland Panama due to rising sea levels that are threatening their homes and livelihoods.

THE DS TRACK RECORD

DS has worked with the Guna indigenous people in Gunayala territory in eastern Panama since 2013 to assist in taking the relocation process forward. A detailed report with recommendations on how to ensure that a rights-based approach to the relocation process will be implemented has been developed with all stakeholders, along with in-depth training sessions on how the *Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement Within States* can assist in improving the planned relocation process. Detailed consultations have also been conducted with government officials, community leaders and other key stakeholders who have indicated their willingness to work with DS on this issue.

DS PLANS FOR 2016–2020

This work will form the foundation for the activities envisaged under DS' Climate Displacement Land Initiative in Panama in 2016 – 2020. As with all five focus countries of the Initiative, DS will carry out comprehensive diagnostic work on the scale of climate displacement, identify at least 20 land parcels appropriate for relocation and assist in the development of a national planned relocation policy.

Local partners – The Gardi Sugdub Neighborhood Committee, Gardi Sugdub traditional authorities and the Guna General Congress.

Goal – *Securing improved housing and living conditions for 10,000 climate displaced people*

Total annual project costs – CHF 360'000

Activities include –

- Assist ongoing relocation process from Gardi Sugdub Island to mainland, CHF 250'000
- Identification of additional land for relocation of remaining displaced people, CHF 108'000

SOLOMON ISLANDS

THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT REALITY

The Solomon Islands is a Pacific island nation facing considerable damage due to climate change.

A growing proportion of the 560,000 people who call the Solomon Islands home have been or will be affected by climate displacement. A series of internal relocation measures have already been undertaken across the country, with further relocation plans to be implemented in the coming five-year period. Most of the relocation undertaken thus far has been in the provinces of Malaita and Temotu, while low-lying coastal areas on the mainland, notably Lilisiana on Auki Harbour, as well as the entire atoll of Ontong Java – which is one of the world's largest atolls – are also slated for relocation due to continually worsening conditions.

THE DS TRACK RECORD

DS has extensive experience in the Solomon Islands, including a two-month research visit to Ontong Java in mid-2015, and maintains wide networks in the country. The government of the Solomon Islands has developed a number of national policies and plans which recognize the need for the resettlement of communities affected by climate change and the acquisition of land for this purpose, and DS will build on these policies and our extensive work across the country, in particular on Ontong Java Atoll, to improve the prospects of those displaced because of climate change.

DS PLANS FOR 2016–2020

The government plans and DS field work provide a solid basis for the work planned under Displacement Solution's Climate Displacement Land Initiative. In particular, the acquisition of customary land for relocation needs to be examined carefully in the Solomons due to the complexity of the system, and the need for an adequate process of consultation and negotiation between landowners, churches and the state.

Local partners – Solomon Islands Development Trust and JMT Consultancy

Goal – *Securing improved housing and living conditions for 10,000 climate-displaced people*

Total annual project costs – CHF 290,000

Activities include –

- Coordination of land negotiations for islands of Ontong Java and Santa Isabel, CHF 118'000
- Preparation of relocation plan for Ontong Java and Santa Isabel, CHF 90'000
- Preparation of national climate displacement laws and policy, CHF 65'000

DAMAGED HOMES IN LUANIUA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Image: Beni Knight



For us as a people from Ontong Java we know that climate change is affecting our islands, and we don't know how long it will be, so many years down the line. Eventually we will have to be faced with the stark reality that we will be losing our homeland. And for us that is our fear. We would like to be able to move out to an alternative homeland but knowing that we can still maintain our identity as a people, our

culture our identity, our way of life as people from Ontong Java so that even if we have to move to an alternative homeland we will still maintain our identity as people. We fear that if we have to go out, we will be assimilated into the wider culture out there and will lose our identity as a people.

– Ontong Java leader,
Father Nigel Kelaepa



TWO GUNA DISPLACED ISLANDERS SURVEY RECENTLY CLEARED LAND AT THEIR PLANNED RELOCATION SITE

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen
Location: Guna Yala, Panama



DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS

Rue des Cordiers 14, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland
www.displacementsolutions.org

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