### Event title

“Women and Youth Speak: Faces of Disaster Displacement”

### Organizing Team Members

This side event is organized by the Platform on Disaster Displacement under the leadership of the Norwegian Refugee Council and in collaboration with over 20 States and partner organizations:

- Bangladesh
- Costa Rica
- European Union
- Fiji
- France
- Germany
- Madagascar
- Maldives
- Mexico
- Philippines
- GIZ
- International Labour Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN Environment
- UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency
- UNICEF
- UN Women
- UN Major Group on Children and Youth
- ACT Alliance
- Action Aid Bangladesh
- Alaska Institute for Justice
- Arab Network for Environment and Development
- Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities
- Caritas Internationalis
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Norwegian Refugee Council
| **Background and Rationale** | Sudden-onset disasters displace an average of 25 million people each year. If displacement associated with slower onset disasters, such as those caused by drought or sea-level rise, were included, the global figure would be significantly higher. Although disaster displacement is typically traumatic for all, the impacts are often worse for women, youth and children.

Women, youth and children may face a greater risk of gender-based violence in crowded evacuation centres or while staying with host families. Displacement can also result in socio-economic ruptures within the family: the loss of work and income, as well as changes in social roles and status, can increase family violence. Extreme financial hardship during displacement can lead women, youth and children to transactional sex or make them vulnerable to trafficking.

Women, children, and youth displaced by disasters also face challenges accessing education and healthcare. In the weeks and months following a disaster, children and youth may have difficulty accessing quality education, either because schools were damaged or destroyed, they lack resources to attend school, or they are unable to access education while displaced. Likewise, the inability of displaced families or female-headed households to rebuild/recover their homes and livelihoods after a disaster can have impacts on women’s and children’s health, as they are often more susceptible to disaster-related illnesses or must forego healthcare treatment due to loss of financial resources. Pregnant, lactating, or older women and women with disabilities may have difficulty in accessing essential medical care or aid distribution due to mobility limitations.

Before and during disaster displacement, women, youth and children may also face challenges accessing relevant information, and have distinct needs and differing access to resources as a result of discrimination or gender-based divisions of labour, patterns of mobility and socially expected behaviour patterns. They may also face difficulties in accessing aid if they lack identity documents or if aid distribution lists only capture head of households.

Including women, youth and children in displacement risk reduction activities is essential to reduce impacts and build their resilience. The differing experiences and knowledge of women, youth and children are vital resources for disaster preparedness for response and recovery. Women often play a key role in responding to family and community needs in the aftermath of disasters, and must not only have access to recovery resources but also be empowered to build overall resilience to future disasters. |
The event will explore the policies and practices needed to reduce the risk of displacement for women, youth and children, such as risk assessments that reveal gender and age differences and early warnings targeted to women, youth and children. It will also highlight measures to ensure protection and safe shelter during displacement, to prevent and recover from trauma, to build resilience, and to address the discrimination and barriers women, youth and children often face in accessing information, housing and resources during displacement and recovery.

**Session objectives**
- To increase understanding of the impact of disaster displacement on women, youth and children as well as their empowerment to build resilience, from their perspective. The event will complement the GP working session on disaster displacement.
- To promote effective measures to reduce the risk of displacement for women, youth and children, better manage their displacement when it cannot be avoided and adopt a people-centred approach in all actions.

**Agenda and Structure**

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<tr>
<th>Agenda (as of 7 May)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 mins. Introduction of topic by professional moderator</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 mins. Moderator interviews one <strong>disaster displaced woman</strong> to recount her displacement experience in a Q&amp;A format</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 mins. Moderator interviews <strong>one disaster displaced youth</strong> to recount her displacement experience in a Q&amp;A format</td>
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<td>20 mins. Two speakers (10 minutes each) address points raised by displaced woman and youth to comment on:</td>
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<td>o The information gap on displacement of women, youth and children</td>
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<td>o Effective practices and initiatives to ensure women, youth and children benefit as well as men from disaster displacement risk reduction and resilience efforts</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Inclusiveness in access to information and participation and ways of safeguarding equal space for engagement for women, youth and children</td>
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<td>2-3 mins. Closing remarks by Ms. Kofler, German Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance</td>
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**Expected Outcomes**
- Governments, with the support of nongovernmental stakeholders, sensitized and encouraged to review policies to reduce displacement risk through gender- and age-disaggregated data collection on displacement
- Governments, with the support of nongovernmental stakeholders, encouraged to review preparedness measures to increase women’s, youths’ and children’s access to information and resources
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<th><strong>Special commitments / Announcements</strong></th>
<th><strong>TBD</strong></th>
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| **Proposed Moderator of the Session**  | Ms. Eleanor Tabi Haller-Jorden  
President & CEO, The Paradigm Forum GmbH  
Strategic Advisor, EDGE Strategy AG  
Wilson Center Global Fellow and Visiting Scholar, IMD Business School |
| **List of Panellists**                 | **Youth representative:**  
Ms Nur Safitri Lasibani. Nur is a 23-year-old woman from Indonesia. She works for a local NGO called Sikola Mombine Foundation. Nur was displaced by the Central Sulawesi earthquake (which led to a tsunami) of 28 September 2018, where she lost all her local relatives. She supported the earthquake response for a month and has to interrupt her studies as the university faculty building was destroyed in the earthquake.  

**Women representative:**  
Attorney Ms Leah Caminong. Leah is a 29-year-old woman from the Philippines. She works as Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer in Dulag town since 2015. Leah was displaced by tropical cyclone Yolanda. She and her relatives were evacuated to a community centre that functioned ineffectively as a shelter. The family house was partly ruined but nevertheless was shared by Leah and 25 relatives after the disaster. |
| **Reference Documents**               | Resources on disaster displacement and related forms of human mobility  
Assisting Host Families and Communities after Crises and Natural Disaster- A Step-by-Step Guide – IFRC, 2012  
Breaking the Impasse: Reducing Protracted Internal Displacement as a Collective Outcome - OCHA, 2017  
Camp Management Toolkit - global CCCM cluster, 2015  
Compendium of IOM Activities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience - IOM, 2013  
Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience – UNISDR 2019  
Disaster-Related Displacement Risk: Measuring the Risk and Addressing Its Drivers - IDMC/NRC, 2015  
Displacement Tracking Matrix, IOM  
Technical equipment requirements: Projector, screen and related cables for background slide presentation.