

## CONTEXT

With the number of international migrants estimated to be nearly 272 million globally, more people are on the move than ever before. Migration has been, and always will be, a strategy that people rely on to build resilience and cope with shocks, including by successfully adapting to environmental change. However, millions of people are displaced every year by disasters or compelled to migrate due to environmental stressors. An average of 24 million new displacements per year were recorded between 2008 and 2018, which is three times higher than for people displaced by conflict and violence.

It is expected that both sudden- and slow-onset disasters – amplified by issues such as unsustainable ecosystem use, climate change, conflict, urbanization, and water scarcity – will increase disaster displacement in the years to come, and further compel people to migrate within and across borders. Without urgent climate action, as many as 140 million people may migrate internally across Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America by 2050 due to environmental factors.

**More information can be found on [IOM's DRR website](#).**

## REBUILDING SAFER HOMES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In February 2018, Papua New Guinea was struck by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake that damaged many homes and displaced local communities. In the aftermath of the earthquake, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered with the Government and the United Nations to provide 'build back better' training to community members. After the training, beneficiary communities selected safer land, materials, and structural designs to rebuild their houses. Diane Joel took part in the training and received a shelter toolkit to rebuild her house in the Humbra community. She noted that the training raised community awareness for building safer and more resilient shelters that are better constructed to withstand extreme weather conditions. Diane summarized her experience by saying, "IOM taught us how to build safer homes and this is the house which I have built. It is safer for me to live in, and when a natural hazard strikes, we will be safe." The training also challenges cultural perceptions of the role of women in construction, which was an activity previously undertaken almost exclusively by men.



Diane Joel presenting her new house in Humbra, Papua New Guinea. © IOM 2018/ Christine Conway.

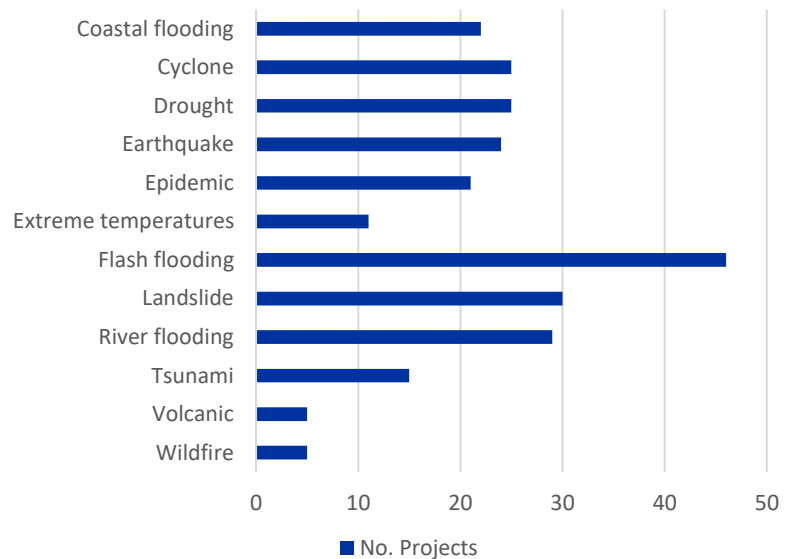
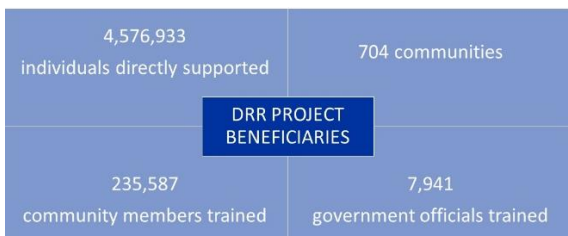
## DRR PROGRAMMING

Given the extent and complexity of challenges, IOM has increased efforts in recent years to support Member States in preventing disasters and addressing related population movements. In the lead up to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2015 Paris Conference of Parties, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Organization worked with Member States and partners to ensure that appropriate attention was given to displacement and mobility dimensions within the final agreements. IOM also supported the inclusion of these topics in The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. This compact explicitly highlights the need to address the drivers of large-scale movements, prevent and prepare for disaster-induced population movements, and include migrants in disaster risk management efforts.

To operationalize its commitments and guide the DRR and partnership activities of IOM's country offices, IOM elaborated a four-year plan of action in 2017. Launched on the occasion of the Global Platform in Cancun, *Taking Sendai Forward: IOM Strategic Work Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience 2017-2020* is helping to improve the Organization's ability to measure progress on DRR across distinct activity areas — including through contributions to the UN system — while seeking to foster a more coherent, institution-wide approach based on IOM's mandate and comparative advantage.

## IOM's DRR ACTIVITIES IN 2018: A SNAPSHOT

### IOM DRR Projects by Hazard Type in 2018



## PARTNERSHIPS

IOM also maintains partnerships with local and national non-governmental organizations and civil society partners to incorporate local knowledge, capacities, and resources to promote better ownership and sustainability of DRR beyond IOM's engagement. At the global level, IOM supports initiatives by maintaining its close collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, which serves as the focal point in the UN system for the coordination of DRR activities and is in accordance with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. Additionally, the Organization is an Executive Member of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative, which is the largest existing inter-agency mechanism supporting countries to integrate risk reduction in development and humanitarian response planning. Furthermore, IOM is a Standing Invitee for the Platform on Disaster Displacement, which is a state-led initiative working towards better protection for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.