



POSITION PAPER

January 2025

DISASTERS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISPLACEMENT

Challenges and recommendations Madagascar, Somalia and Pakistan

This document presents the challenges of internal displacement due to disasters and climate change, describes SIF's approach and its actions in Madagascar, Somalia, and Pakistan, and suggests recommendations to strengthen and speed up the response.

Internal displacement at a record high, getting more repeated and protracted

In 2023, there were **26.4 million internal displacements associated with disasters**¹. This figure is the third highest in the past decade. At the end of the year, 7.7 million people displaced by disasters were still living in a situation of displacement.²

This phenomenon affected 148 countries in 2023, three times more than the number of countries where internal displacement due to conflict and violence occurred (48 countries in 2023). Over the **period 2008-2023**, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)³ recorded a total of **402.4 million internal displacements due to disasters**, twice and a half more than the number of displacements due to conflict and violence over the same period (160.2 million).

Secours Islamique France (SIF)

Secours Islamique France (SIF) is an independent, humanitarian, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization. Founded in 1991 in France, SIF is engaged in humanitarian assistance and development aid at the international level, as well as to social assistance in France. Through its operations, SIF responds to the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations, guided by solidarity and respect for human dignity and by the humanitarian principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality. SIF is a signatory of IFRC Code of Conduct.



ADVOCACY

¹ A disaster is: « A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts» (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction).

² Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2024 Global Report on Internal Displacement

³ IDMC (internal-displacement.org).

As the internal displacements associated with slow on-set events⁴ such as droughts, erosion or salinisation are still under-documented, **these data tend to be underestimated**.

Disaster-induced displacement refers to “situations where people are forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of a disaster or in order to avoid the impacts of an immediate and foreseeable natural hazard. Such displacement results from the fact that affected persons are (i) exposed to (ii) a natural hazard in a situation where (iii) they are too vulnerable and lack the resilience to withstand the impacts of that hazard”.⁵



Pakistan, 2022 / © SIF

It is therefore a **forced movement** that undermines **access to basic services** and the **realisation of human rights**. Despite its global nature, displacement does not impact all individuals and communities in the same way. The most vulnerable people, due to factors such as gender, age, disability, migratory status, and ethnic origin, are disproportionately impacted and face increased protection risks during displacement.⁶

In 2023, according to the IDMC, the **number of disaster-related internal displacements** was particularly high in **East Asia and the Pacific** (9 million), the **Middle East and North Africa** (6 million) and **Sub-Saharan Africa** (6 million)⁷. Due to their territories being highly exposed to natural hazards⁸, to the high vulnerability of their populations to disasters, and to the fragility of their governments to respond effectively to these challenges, these regions regularly face crises, which lead to the increasing vulnerability of communities and generate structural difficulties in overcoming the consequences of disasters.



Pakistan, 2022 / © SIF

⁴ The stakeholders conference at the Convention on Climate Change in Cancún (COP 16) identified 8 types of slow-onset event: rising temperatures, desertification, loss of biodiversity, land and forest degradation, retreating glaciers, ocean acidification, rising sea levels and soil salinisation.

⁵ The Nansen initiative, 2015.

⁶ Protection risk explanatory note (Global protection cluster).

⁷ 2024 Global Report on Internal Displacement

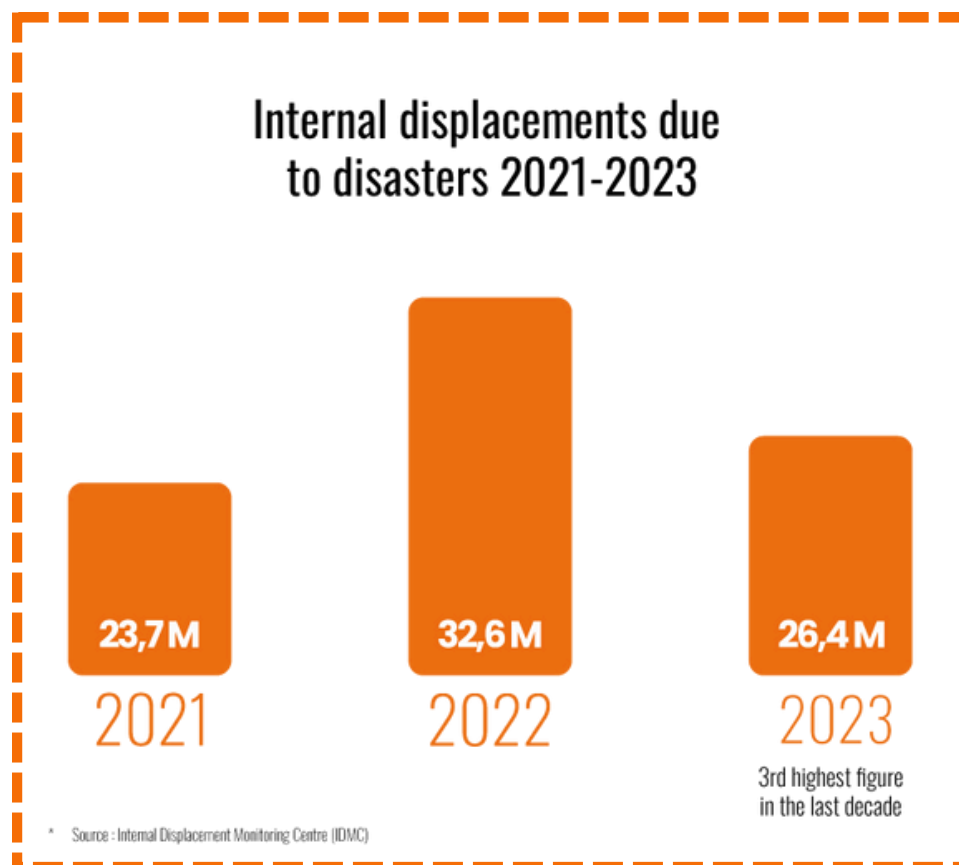
⁸ A hazard is: « A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation ». Also, « natural hazards are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena ». (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction).

Given that the **risks of disaster-related displacement** are linked to the occurrence of natural hazards, **climate change**, by increasing their frequency and intensity, can only **exacerbate** them.

According to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)⁹, almost **half the world's population** is already exposed to **climate risks**¹⁰. Without immediate measures to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to support the most vulnerable countries, this figure could rise considerably.

According to the IPCC, the consequences of climate change are already visible and are only set to amplify. These climatic and meteorological risks are causing more and more displacements, particularly in developing and least developed countries.

In a pessimistic scenario characterised by high GHG emissions and unequal development, the **World Bank's Groundswell** report points to the possibility of **216 million internal displacements in the global South by 2050**¹¹. This figure represents almost 3% of the total projected population of these regions.



⁹Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, AR6 Synthesis Report : Climate Change 2023.

¹⁰The terms « climate hazard » and « climate risk » are often used interchangeably, but they have different meanings. Climate hazard refers to a potentially damaging or disruptive climatic event or phenomenon, such as storms or droughts. A risk, on the other hand, takes into account the probability and impact of this event on people, the environment and property. Climate risks include all climate-related risks. They include marine hazards such as storms and cyclones, as well as floods and landslides when linked to precipitations, and droughts (but not tsunamis, which are tectonic in origin). While climate change has, or will certainly have, an impact on the number and intensity of climatic hazards, it is not the only factor contributing to climate risks. (Geoconfluences).

¹¹World Bank. Groundswell part II : Acting on internal climate migration, 2021.

The specific status and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons

Internally displaced persons (IDPs), who do not cross borders, have no specific status or rights compared to other citizens of their country, under international law. Their protection is the sole responsibility of the concerned State. Yet displacement entails specific vulnerabilities and an increased risk of discrimination.

The loss of access to shelters, land and livelihoods¹² and the loss of personal documents, family members and social networks compromise the exercise of human rights. Access to basic infrastructures and services is restricted, as is food security and access to livelihoods.

To understand the impact on individuals, it is necessary to analyse their specific vulnerabilities, in order to identify their coping capacities and assess the possible negative consequences of displacement. Disasters and climate change tend to exacerbate these pre-existing vulnerabilities.

Women and children are particularly affected and face increased risks during displacement (including gender-based and sexual violence). Displacement also severely limits access to education and can increase the risk of child labour. The psychosocial impact of displacement on children is also often overlooked.

At international level, several frameworks¹³ set out principles for protection, prevention and solutions for people displaced by disasters, increasingly integrating issues relating to disaster risk reduction, climate change policies, migration, development and humanitarian aid.

However, none of these frameworks is binding, and by virtue of the principle of sovereignty, the realisation of the rights of internally displaced persons depends on national legislation. Guaranteeing these principles therefore relies on States' initiatives to respect them and incorporate them into the relevant national frameworks.

However, political efforts in this area are generally too slow and the resources allocated to States, particularly the least developed countries, are insufficient to enable them to implement coherent protection and risk prevention policies throughout their territory. While internal displacement is a national issue, when it comes to the impact of climate change, responsibility also lies at the international level.

Developed countries, which are at the origin of the highest levels of greenhouse gas emissions, the main cause of climate change, must support countries experiencing its consequences, but having contributed the less. In 2023, 42 of the 45 countries and territories that experienced new conflict-related internal displacement also experienced new disaster-related internal displacement. In these conflict-affected and fragile contexts, the means and capacities to respond and to ensure adaptation and resilience are more limited, requiring greater support from the international community.

¹²“Livelihoods” refers to the resources and strategies used by individuals and communities to meet their basic needs.

¹³Guiding principles on internal displacements (1998); IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (2009); Cancun Adaptation Framework (2010); Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030); Nansen Initiative (2015); Paris Agreements (2015); Global Compact for Migration (2018); United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement (2022).

Characteristics and challenges of internal displacement due to disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change

Displacement caused by disasters and climate change is a complex and heterogeneous phenomenon. It is the result of the interaction of multiple environmental, social, economic, and political factors. Nevertheless, several trends can be identified.

Disasters linked to sudden-onset natural hazards, such as floods and storms (including cyclones), represent the main cause of displacement, that are generally of short duration, with people returning home quickly.

However, displacements tend to become increasingly protracted, particularly when the impact of disasters on the places of origin and access to basic services do not guarantee the conditions for return.

On the other hand, disasters linked to slow-onset events such as droughts, erosion and salinisation are more complex, less documented, and have a greater impact on people who depend on the environment for their livelihoods, particularly agropastoral and indigenous communities.

The progressive degradation of land caused by these events can render entire areas unfit for agriculture. They impact people's livelihoods in their place of origin, and in the absence of alternatives or adaptation solutions, they may be forced to leave.

The destinations and forms of displacement vary according to regional contexts, individual strategies and the adaptation and risk reduction measures put in place in the areas of departure or destination.

Movements to the nearest towns are becoming more common, often involving a change in lifestyle for agropastoralist communities, as well as increased pressure on services and livelihoods in urban areas.

In contexts where resources are limited, IDPs face the risk of tensions with host communities, stigmatisation, and discrimination over access to services.



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“In our home, we were farmers. We moved there around 30 years ago and had enough agricultural crops to support the family for two years. The devastating drought and the constant lack of rain have affected our source of income, forcing us to move to the urban IDP camps”

Shukri Abdisalan Mohamed, 55 years old, a farmer and mother, is one of the many IDPs who have settled in Kismayo (Somalia) as a result of the recurring droughts.

Organised forms of movement, such as planned evacuations or relocations, can protect people in the event of a disaster, as the **inability to move can represent a greater risk than the movement itself**, particularly when people are trapped or immobilised and exposed to dangers.

In many cases, displacement is the result of a series of disasters, both sudden and slow, which occur with such a frequency and intensity that populations are unable to adapt and recover from these shocks, reducing their resilience.

In addition, the interaction and overlap with conflict, violence or food insecurity can create complex crisis situations and can lead to repeated and protracted displacements.



The **consequences of displacement** can **persist in the long term**, particularly when people find themselves at the intersection of **multiple vulnerabilities**, making recovery particularly difficult.

Displacement threatens human rights, development and the socio-economic well-being of communities and States. The **absence of durable solutions**¹⁴ tends to **worsen the situation of displaced people** over time, perpetuating vulnerability and threatening the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹⁵, particularly in situations of repeated and prolonged displacement.

The increasing number of internal displacements, their chronic nature and the long-term impact on individuals and communities require multi-sectoral, complementary, and integrated approaches.

“When we returned, we have faced many difficulties, including a serious shortage of food and drinking water. Our farmland that before was productive, had been completely devastated. To increase our difficulties, a scabies epidemic had spread throughout our village, affecting everyone without access to preventive medicines. Moreover, venomous insects appeared after the flooding, causing widespread fear in our community. Our mud houses were destroyed, so our priority was to build temporary shelters using metal sheets”

Sadar, 25 years old Pakistani man, describes the impact of the floods on his village in the Peshawar district of Pakistan and the conditions to which he returned.

¹⁴ A durable solution can be put in a place by ensuring : sustainable reintegration at the place of origin, sustainable local integration in areas where internally displaced people take refuge, or sustainable integration in another part of the country. (IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs).

¹⁵ Home - United Nations Sustainable Development.



Somalia, 2023 / © SIF



ZOOM ON PAKISTAN & SOMALIA

Disaster-related displacements in 2022

Droughts are a recurring phenomenon in Somalia, but 2022 recorded the worst one in 40 years which, fuelled by persistent conflict, led to 1.1 the internal displacements This figure is the highest recorded globally since drought data became available in 2017¹⁶. Somalia is also heavily impacted by sudden-onset natural hazards, such as flooding. At the end of 2023, 2.48 million people had been affected, and 899,000 people had been displaced¹⁷.

In 2022, Pakistan suffered one of its worst humanitarian and climatic crises. With an unprecedented monsoon, 8.2 million internal displacements were recorded, and 33 million people were affected. This is the biggest displacement crisis in the last ten years. Most of the displaced people have been able to return home, but in extremely precarious conditions. On the other hand, thousands remain displaced, because of the impact on their homes and livelihoods in their place of origin, or have decided to move to urban areas for greater opportunities.



Pakistan, 2022 / © SIF

¹⁶ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement.

¹⁷ Situation Report, No. 4, OCHA, 2023.

SIF's response and approach

There is no single scenario for disaster-related internal displacements, and the necessary responses are not universal, but tailored to each context and specific needs.

The cyclical nature of many threats, such as storms or droughts, together with current knowledge of risk management and forecasting models, offer the possibility of better predicting risks, mitigating their impacts and reducing forced displacement.

Displacement often occurs when adaptation and resilience limits are reached. Responses must focus on limiting the increase in the occurrence of hazards, minimising the exposure of populations, and increasing their resilience and capacity to respond.

The fight against climate change is a precondition for reducing future hazards and disasters. Rapid and comprehensive measures to decrease greenhouse gas emissions could have a significant impact on the number of people displaced by disasters.

It is therefore a priority for governments to ensure that the objectives of the Paris Agreement on limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels are implemented.

SIF calls for urgent and ambitious action on climate change, and for the respect of mitigation objectives, and is committed to reducing the environmental footprint of its own activities.¹⁸

At operational level, SIF's interventions aim at preventing forced displacement by strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations and reducing their exposure to risks.

SIF is also committed to ensuring the assistance and protection of internally displaced persons, and to supporting durable solutions.

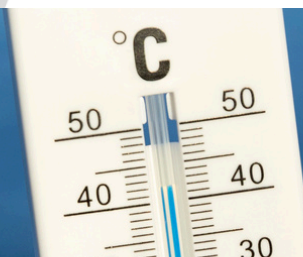
This approach, based on the promotion and respect of the rights of displaced people¹⁹, is at the core of the organization's intervention.

To ensure the quality of its responses, SIF works within solid partnerships and joint planning dynamics with humanitarian and development actors, technical experts, local authorities, and civil society, and strive for inclusive and meaningful participation of impacted communities.

Working in coherence with these different stakeholders also enables us to develop continuous locally-led responses.



At the current rate of emissions, the IPCC predicts that the 1.5°C threshold has a 50% chance of being reached on average by 2030-2035.



¹⁸ SIF has signed the *Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations* and the *Statement of Commitment on Climate by Humanitarian Organisations, 2020*.

¹⁹ In line with the *Guiding Principles on the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons*, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.



Madagascar, 2023 © V. Faucheux



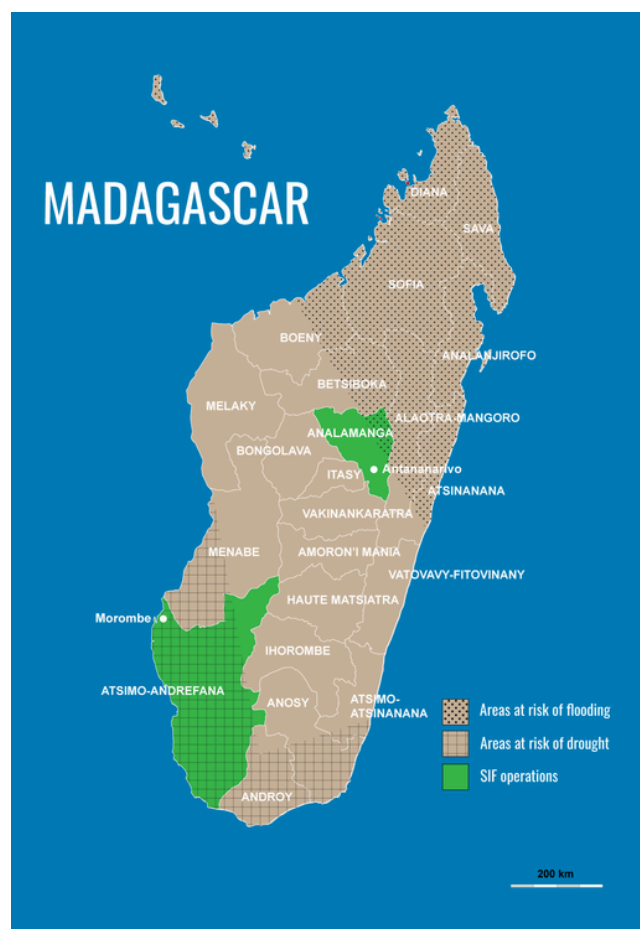
ZOOM ON MADAGASCAR

Coordination and cooperation with the authorities and other NGOs in disaster risk management

As a partner of the National Office of Risks and Disasters Management (Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes, BNGRC) and as a member of the Disaster Response Think Tank (Comité de Réflexion des Intervenants aux Catastrophes, CRIC), SIF regularly contributes to the update of the national and regional contingency plans for the Analamanga and Atsimo-Andrefana regions, as part of the response to cyclone-related emergencies.

This participation enabled SIF to develop a contingency plan²⁰ for a rapid, coordinated and effective response with other stakeholders. Ongoing meetings at BNGRC level before, during and after disasters ensure that strategies and responses are harmonized and complementary.

In January 2024, this approach enabled SIF to ensure a rapid and coordinated emergency response in 4 shelters in the Morombe district following the passage of Cyclone Alvaro.



²⁰ A contingency plan is a set of pre-established and organised measures for dealing with unforeseen events or emergencies. The plan identifies potential risks, defines the actions to be taken in the event of their occurrence, and specifies the responsibilities of each party to ensure a rapid and effective response.

Preventing and reducing the risks of displacement through resilience-building, preparedness, and adaptation

SIF works with at-risk communities that are particularly vulnerable to natural hazards, to **strengthen their resilience** by facilitating **access to basic services** and **sustainable livelihoods**.

These **approaches** create a **virtuous circle** that enables populations to **strengthen their ability** to cope with **shocks**, to maintain their assets, to plan, and to develop economic activities.

To achieve this, it is **essential** to consider the **different characteristics** of households, and the **specific vulnerabilities** of individuals who suffer discrimination within their communities due to age, gender, ethnicity, religion, or minority status, and to understand how these vulnerabilities intersect and add up (intersectionality).



ZOOM ON PAKISTAN : THARPARKAR

Reducing women's vulnerability by improving access to water in the desert

In Tharparkar desert in Pakistan, conditions of access to water are particularly difficult, and further hindered by recurrent droughts. In this context, women and girls are responsible for fetching water from wells, which are often far away and where water is collected manually. This tiresome and time-consuming domestic task inevitably reduces the time available for other activities, such as education and the development of livelihoods, thus reinforcing economic and social inequalities. In this context, the installation of a solar water extraction systems by SIF reduced the drudgery of water collection and, above all, the work performed by children and women in fetching water. Setting up this type of infrastructure has therefore reduced the vulnerability of women and children, while strengthening the community's overall resilience.

Implementing adaptation measures to respond to climate change

SIF supports communities affected by disasters and at risk of displacement to implement adaptation measures. These activities adopt an integrated, multi-sectoral, long-term and locally-led approach to climate challenges.

In concrete terms, these actions can take the form of adapting the practices of the community (agriculture, livestock breeding), building protective infrastructures (dykes, cyclone shelters), restoring existing infrastructures (schools, hospitals, roads), or taking measures to preserve and restore specific ecosystems. The **main objective** is to ensure that **communities** are **better prepared** to cope with the impacts of **climate change** and **natural hazards**, without causing adverse consequences for either populations or ecosystems.



ZOOM ON PAKISTAN : BALOCHISTAN

Reducing the risk of displacement by implementing protective infrastructures

Alongside the emergency response for people displaced by the 2022 floods, SIF has carried out long-term actions to put in place adaptation structures to reduce the risk of disasters and displacement in the area: dykes along rivers, water retention basins to reduce the risk of flooding during periods of heavy rain, and elevated evacuation routes.



Pakistan, 2022 / © SIF



ZOOM ON SOMALIA : JUBALAND

Adapting farming practices along the Juba River

Along the Juba River in Somalia, long periods of drought and intermittent flooding are having a considerable impact on the livelihoods of livestock breeders and farmers, affecting their food security, their autonomy and traditional ways of life, and the resilience of the most vulnerable people.

SIF supports the adaptation of regenerative farming practices, through trainings on soil regeneration, pest control, permaculture, the selection of agricultural inputs, water management (rehabilitation and use of canals and water distribution systems) and the restoration of vegetation and biodiversity, to better respond future shocks. In collaboration with local authorities and experts, SIF implements Farmer Field Schools as learning and development spaces for agriculture, ecology, and the economy of the communities.



Somalie, 2023 / © SIF



ZOOM ON PAKISTAN : THARPARKAR

Researching and transforming agro-pastoral practices in collaboration with local experts

In Tharparkar desert, SIF has worked for several years with communities affected by recurrent droughts to improve their livelihoods and food security. These communities are mainly dependent on agro-pastoral activities, therefore highly vulnerable to droughts. In collaboration with local stakeholders and experts, SIF promotes farming practices that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The organisation implements bio-saline farms where crops that are resistant to water with a high salt content, are irrigated by a drip system. In addition, hydroponic grass shelters have been built to ensure fodder production with less water and land, reducing dependence on weather conditions and seasonality.



Pakistan, 2022 / © SIF

Disaster risk reduction measures

In regions vulnerable to disasters and where populations are at risk of displacement, SIF implements activities to analyse, manage, and reduce risks, and prepare for natural hazards.

The solutions are many and must be locally-led and adapted to the context. Emergency preparedness and response plans are drawn up with the responsible authorities and communities to ensure that all risks are mapped and that the specific vulnerabilities of territories and populations, as well as their capacity to cope, are considered.

To achieve this, it is essential to develop a culture of risk among the communities, integrating their local knowledge, and to strengthen the capacities of the relevant authorities, including local community structures.



Pakistan, 2022 / © SIF



ZOOM ON MADAGASCAR : ATSIMO-ANDREFANA & ANALAMANGA

Supporting local implementation of the National Adaptation Plan and the Disaster Risk Management Strategy

Working in partnership with national and local authorities, civil society and international organisations, SIF is contributing to institutionalise preparedness and early warning systems at local level, in an inclusive manner in terms of age, gender and disability. Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committees are supported and trained, and contingency plans are developed based on the vulnerabilities and capacities of local populations.

Preparing schools for cyclone risks to ensure educational continuity and school retention

In this context, particular attention is paid to children's access to school, which is greatly affected by the recurrence of natural hazards such as cyclones. SIF strengthens the capacity of educational communities to prepare for disasters and supports or sets up committees within the targeted schools. These committees conduct participatory risk assessments and develop disaster preparedness and response plans to guarantee educational continuity and to limit school drop-out. Schools are provided with the equipment they need to operationalize the contingency plans (early warning kits, school kits, kits for teachers, "school tents" if the school is damaged, etc.). Simulation exercises, as well as training and awareness-raising sessions for teachers and pupils, are also organised to address safety and resilience issues, including disaster preparedness, gender-based violence and environmental protection.

Emergency response to meet the immediate needs of those affected

When a **disaster** strikes and people are forcibly displaced, SIF **provides rapid humanitarian assistance** tailored to the needs and context of the crisis.

SIF responds in terms of access to water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, food security and livelihoods, as well as education and the promotion of children's well-being, integrating a human rights-based approach²¹ in its interventions .

In these displacement crisis contexts, it is imperative for SIF to ensure that the most vulnerable people are protected, and that the response takes into account their specific situation and needs, without exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities linked to factors such as age, gender and disability.

The **specific and increased risks** faced by these populations (gender-based violence, exploitation, trafficking) are **analysed and considered**.

The **participation of displaced people in the development and implementation of responses** reflects the diversity of displaced communities.

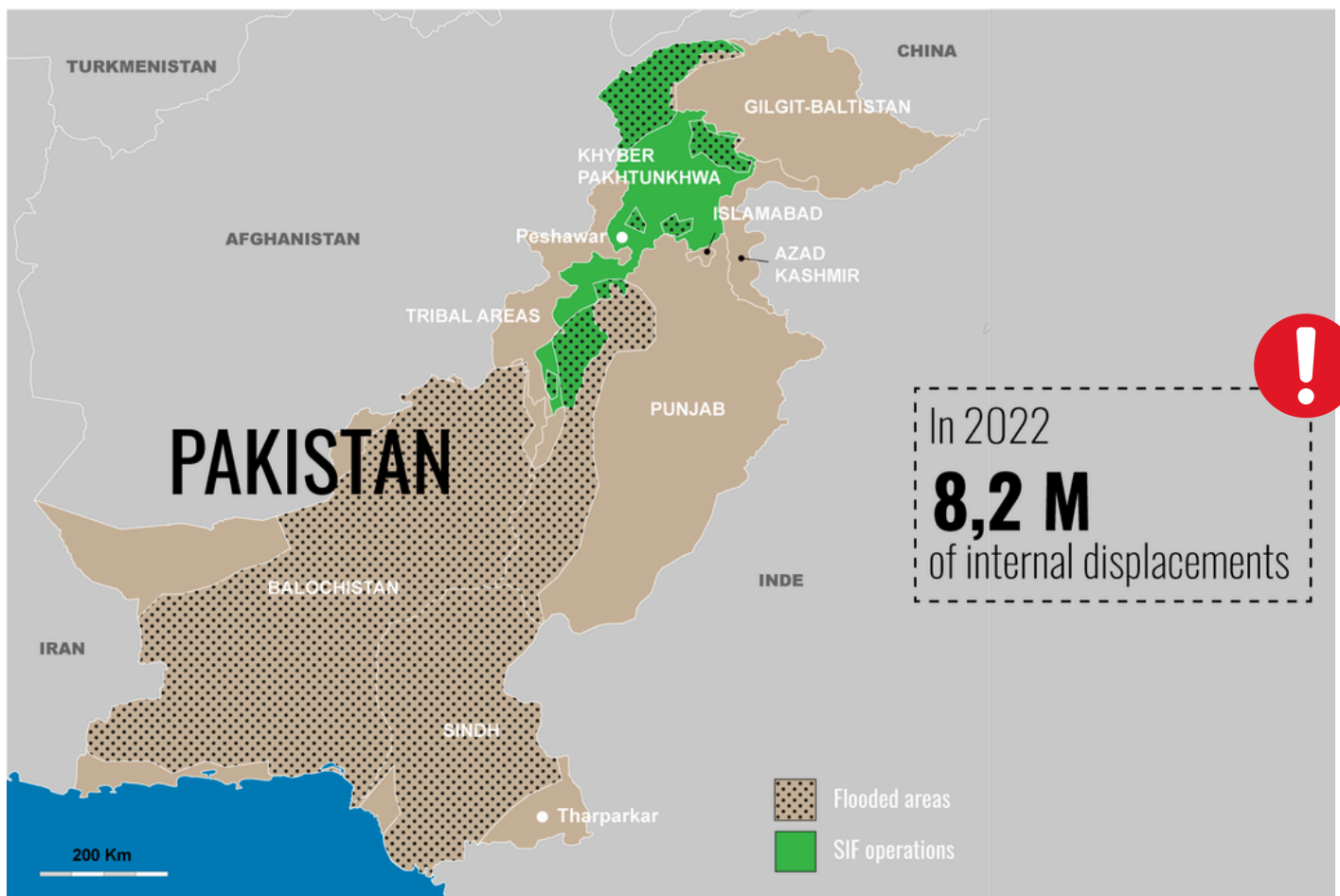
²¹ Learn more about the human rights-based approach within the water and sanitation sector with SIF : [Study Brief](#)



ZOOM ON PAKISTAN : BALUCHISTAN

Providing psychosocial assistance to children after the floods to reduce the medium and long-term impact on their well-being, and that of their families and communities

The catastrophic floods in Pakistan in 2022 affected 33 million people, displaced 8 million and killed 1,700 people, a third of whom were children. The floods pushed 8.4 to 9.1 million people into poverty. The most vulnerable groups, particularly children, are at greater risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect, and the trauma of the disaster can have a lasting effect on their mental health. The floods also affect their access to education and recreational activities. SIF implements protection and children's well-being activities in several districts of Balochistan, to help children and adolescents cope with crises and manage their emotions in the face of the trauma of the disaster. These activities involve communicating messages about child's rights in an interactive and recreational way. Mental health awareness sessions with the support of a psychologist are organized at community level, as well as personalised psychosocial support for particularly vulnerable children.



Supporting durable solutions to ensure that displaced persons enjoy their rights without discrimination based on their situation

Since the first phases of the emergency response, SIF strives to promote programmes that create the basis for durable solutions.

The transitional phase of recovery/reconstruction is essential to reduce the negative impacts of displacement, the perpetuation of vulnerabilities and to prevent displacement becoming protracted or being repeated.

This begins in a humanitarian context and continues with longer-term measures to generate self-sufficient, resilient processes led by the local population.

This integrated humanitarian-development approach may need to include the peace dimension when the situation is intertwined with conflict situations or involves the risk of intra- or inter-community conflict.

In a context of increasing disaster-related internal displacements with multiple long-term impacts, it is essential to adopt a developmental approach and promote long-term actions that focus on strengthening public systems and services.

The aim is to progressively reduce the specific needs caused by the displacement, while at the same time ensuring that IDPs enjoy their rights without discrimination.

The implementation of durable solutions entails human rights issues (enabling IDPs to enjoy their rights without discrimination)²², humanitarian issues (meeting IDPs' basic needs while durable solutions are put in place), development issues (access to work and education, establishing or re-establishing local government structures and the rule of law, rebuilding housing and infrastructure) and peace-building (social cohesion).

This strategy contributes to reducing the impact of long-term displacement on the development trajectories and stability of the countries more at risk.

To implement this approach, it is necessary that data on internal displacement don't focus only on urgent needs, but that they analyse as well how those needs change over time during displacement. Data have to be further adapted to the needs and objectives of development and climate action.



In 2022
1,1 M
of internal displacements



²² The right to security, to property, to housing, to education, to health and to work. But also the right to obtain reparation, the right to justice, to the truth and to put an end to past injustices through the implementation of transitional justice or other appropriate measures.



ZOOM ON SOMALIA : JUBALAND

Integrating emergency assistance, resilience building, and conflict prevention among agro-pastoral populations

The agro-pastoral communities of Jubaland are affected by disasters (floods, droughts) and protracted conflicts. Through a "humanitarian, development and peace" nexus approach, SIF aims to strengthen their livelihoods and their resilience to shocks. These crises have led to major internal displacements in Kismayo, requiring an emergency humanitarian response for IDPs who have lost most of their resources. The lack of access to basic services, particularly water, food, and healthcare, has an impact on people's ability to recover and to their resilience to future shocks. SIF targets IDPs, host communities and returnees from refugee camps in Kenya, through simultaneous humanitarian and development interventions. This is complemented by inter- and intra-community conflict prevention actions aimed at strengthening the social cohesion of these communities.





Madagascar, 2023 © V. Faucheux

SIF'S RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ To ensure the protection and fulfilment of the rights of IDPs affected by disasters and the effects of climate change by recognising the specific nature of their situation.

At national level, internally displaced persons face situations of vulnerability and protection risks that are specific and differ from those of other communities impacted by those crises. This condition must be better recognised to provide the most relevant responses, while ensuring the inclusive participation of IDPs in decision-making and planning processes. Particular attention must be paid to individuals at the intersection of multiple vulnerability factors.

✓ To recognise internal displacement due to disasters and the impacts of climate change as a complex development challenge, accelerating inequalities and threatening the achievement of the SDGs and the stability of societies.

Limiting ourselves to a humanitarian approach and ignoring the long-term consequences leads to an underestimation of the impact on individuals, communities, and societies, particularly in the case of repeated and protracted displacements. Long-term approaches that aim at reducing risks and supporting durable solutions to internal displacement must be prioritised and integrated into all relevant strategies, policies, and instruments. Urgent efforts are needed to further integrate internal displacement into the development agenda, as well as into climate action, including through the mobilisation of adequate long-term funding. Currently, financial support for human mobility in this context is mainly provided by migration and humanitarian aid sources, with limited contributions from climate and development funding mechanisms.



- ✓ **To promote integrated approaches that mobilise all relevant sectors (humanitarian, development, human rights, migration, environment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, etc.), in accordance with their mandate and expertise, to develop coherent, coordinated, and inclusive strategies, policies and programmes.**

This multi-sectoral approach must be applied at all levels, from local to international, and be based on partnerships and multi-stakeholder coordination, while ensuring that the solutions are co-designed and led by the impacted communities.

Policy frameworks need to better integrate disaster risk management and the response to climate change, with displacement and human mobility issues, at all levels (international, national, regional and local).

Relevant national frameworks, such as national development plans, disaster risk management plans, climate strategies and national adaptation plans, and Nationally Determined Contributions, must systematically integrate internal displacement.

- ✓ **To ensure the right of people at risk of displacement to determine their own conditions of mobility, by guaranteeing them the free choice between staying, by preparing and adapting in place, and leaving.**

Preparedness and adaptation measures help to guarantee fundamental rights in the place of origin.

Migration can be a viable adaptation strategy when not migrating and adapting locally are also achievable options.

While the response to internal displacement is the responsibility of States, greater international solidarity is needed to better avert, minimise, and address it.

To guarantee this free choice, it is necessary that impacted States present their needs in terms of preparedness and adaptation, and that States with the highest GHG emissions support them with adequate funding, and at the same time deliver on their mitigation commitments (Paris Agreement).



✔ To ensure that global climate negotiations, particularly discussions addressing loss and damage²³ and adaptation, integrate displacement and its short and long-term impacts, and mobilise resources proportionate to the needs and accessible to the impacted communities.

These funds must be made available to displaced persons and must support actions that protect their rights and promote durable solutions.

The specific mention of displacement in the decision on the "loss and damage" fund adopted at COP28²⁴, as well as in the Global Stocktake²⁵, represent a real opportunity to accelerate the response.



Regarding [internal displacements](#) and their challenges, a [position paper](#) highlighting SIF's approach, as well as recommendations to strengthen and accelerate the response, is available [here](#).

✔ To strengthen climate action in fragile countries affected by conflict and violence to address these interconnected challenges.

In these contexts, the consequences of climate change, such as the increasing scarcity of resources, further exacerbate the risks of instability. Disasters and climate change have a disproportionate impact on people already displaced by other crises. The increased mobilisation at COP28 for more climate action in these contexts (with a day dedicated to the issue and the launch of the Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace²⁶) represents an important first step. It is imperative to maintain and deliver on these commitments, and to strengthen the support to ensure the response in these contexts.

²³ Loss and damage refer to the negative effects of climate change that occur despite mitigation and adaptation efforts. They are the inevitable and irreversible consequences of the climate crisis.

²⁴ Operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damaged.

²⁵ Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

²⁶ COP28 Declaration On Climate, Relief, Recovery And Peace.





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