



# CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT STRATEGY 2025–2030

**ACT FOR PEACE**  
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Act for Peace acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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# ABBREVIATIONS

AfP	Act for Peace
BHA	Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, USAID
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ER4	Strategic Framework for Early Recovery, Risk Reduction, and Resilience
FCOSS	Fiji Council of Social Services
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
INGO	International NGO
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NLU	National Liaison Unit
NZ	New Zealand
PCC	Pacific Conference of Churches
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
PIC	Pacific Island Country
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PRM	Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, USAID
PRNGO Alliance	Pacific Regional Non-Governmental Organisations Alliance
TC	Tropical Cyclone
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

# SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

This strategy was developed to better position Act for Peace (AfP) to address the increasing impacts of climate-driven displacement on communities. It leverages AfP’s core strengths and values and proposes key priority areas and pathways to achieve a vision to support communities at risk of, or experiencing, climate displacement.

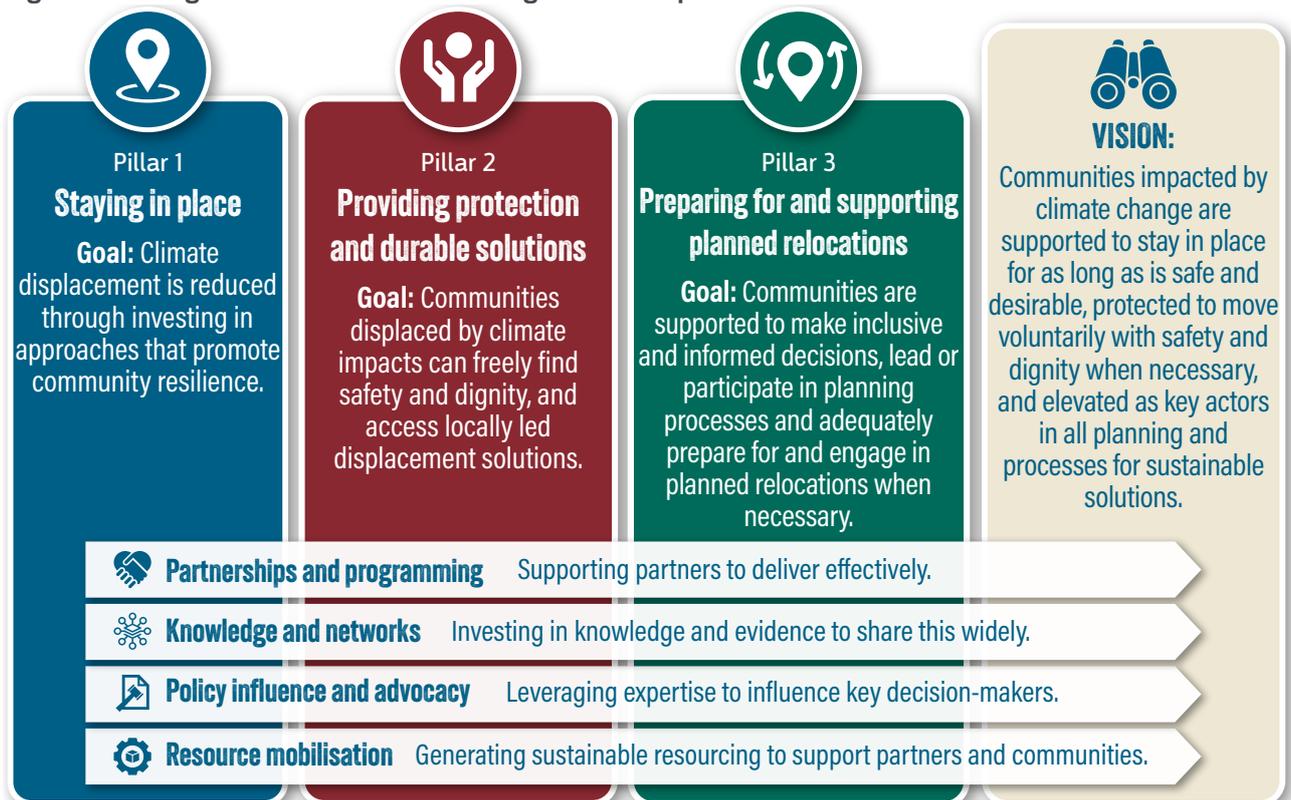
## About this Strategy

Climate change and its impacts are dramatically affecting the frequency of displacement, how and where people are being displaced, and the number of people being forced to flee their homes. This brings unique challenges, increases protection needs exponentially, and will continue to require new and innovative solutions and ways of working. In line with our commitment to sharpen displacement expertise, this strategy seeks to better understand these challenges and propose strategies that will allow AfP to have the greatest impact for affected communities over the next five years as the impacts of climate change continue to increase.

This strategy builds on the Act for Peace Strategic Framework 2022–2026, in efforts to uphold commitments to address climate-driven displacement. It is anchored within the framework’s core goals and change strategies, adapted specifically to displacement in the context of disaster and climate change. It was developed through a participatory process with AfP staff, partners, and key stakeholders. An overview of the methodology used to develop this strategy is provided in Annex A.

This strategy focuses on three core focus areas (or *pillars*). These focus areas are operationalised with key actions that sit within four *pathways* that have been identified as opportunities for AfP to add the most value in addressing climate displacement. The pillars and pathways come together to achieve the overarching vision for this strategy. Figure 1 below provides an overview of the parameters of this strategy.

Figure 1: Strategic framework for addressing climate displacement



## Purpose and audience

The purpose of this strategy is to articulate AfP's strategic direction to 2030 as it seeks to increase expertise and capacity in addressing climate displacement. It highlights AfP's existing strengths and opportunities to add value in this space, and aligns with partner priorities to ensure the proposed pathways are relevant and appropriate. It is global in nature but has a strong geographic focus on the Asia-Pacific region due to existing and prospective partnerships, as well as opportunities to expand programming in the region.

The primary audience for this strategy is AfP's leadership and staff. It will apply to a diverse range of staff and functions across the organisation, including teams managing programming, advocacy, partnerships, fundraising, business development, and senior leadership and the Board of Directors. The secondary audience for this strategy is external stakeholders, including existing and new partners, donors and other agencies.

### Box 1: What is climate displacement?

At this time, there is no single agreed definition of *climate displacement*. Numerous terms are used to describe the movement of people as a result of the adverse impacts of climate change depending on whether the move was voluntary (by choice) or involuntary (forced), its cause, and whether an international border was crossed.<sup>1</sup> *Climate mobility* is often used as an umbrella term that encompasses a range of ways people move in this context, including displacement (forced), migration (voluntary), evacuation (due to sudden-onset hazards), and planned relocations.<sup>2</sup>

It is increasingly difficult to draw clearcut lines between voluntary migration and forced displacement. The drivers of climate mobility are multifaceted and complex. Climate change does not cause displacement singlehandedly, but amplifies existing displacement drivers, exacerbates other social, economic, cultural and political factors that prompt people to move. This decision-making process is complex and varies by households, communities and contexts. It is generally understood that *climate migration* implies a degree of choice and a higher likelihood that people can move with safety and dignity, whereas *climate displacement* implies the need for protection and assistance.<sup>3</sup> The key definitions relevant to this strategy are shown in Annex B.

## Structure

This strategy has four key sections. Section 1 introduces the strategy. Section 2 provides important context to explain the rationale for this strategy, and AfP's unique value-add in addressing climate displacement. Section 3 provides the strategic framework, with a focus on three pillars and four pathways. Section 4 provides the specific pathway to action for AfP to progress the strategy.

# About Act for Peace

Act for Peace is the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. The organisation was founded in 1948 to provide aid and support to refugees and since then, has developed strong locally-led partnerships, delivering development and humanitarian programs. Today AfP works to reduce displacement across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. Act for Peace works with and for people who are uprooted by conflict and disasters. Working in solidarity with our secular and faith-based partners, Act for Peace invests in local organisations and joins forces to help build positive change – driven by the community, for the community. As an ecumenical organisation, AfP is proud to be working collaboratively and leveraging the strengths and reach of global networks of ecumenical agencies. Central to AfP’s work is a commitment to uphold its core beliefs and values and work towards fulfilling its purpose, **“to create, together, a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong.”**



These core beliefs and values are captured in the AfP Strategic Framework 2022–2026, which puts forward three core goals and three change strategies to guide AfP’s strategic direction over a five-year period. The framework narrows AfP’s focus from addressing conflict and disaster to addressing displacement.



## SECTION 2: SETTING THE SCENE

In endorsing the Strategic Framework in 2022, AfP has committed to continuing to hone and develop expertise in displacement as its core business model and commitment to affected communities. The organisation brings decades of experience in refugee protection, locally led protection and expertise in displacement solutions and humanitarian response; however, now is the time to adapt and consider the rapidly changing landscape of displacement. This section provides the context as to why this strategy is needed, and the unique role AfP can play in addressing climate displacement.

### The urgency of addressing climate displacement

Climate change is drastically altering the context of displacement by driving the increasing frequency and intensity of sudden-onset hazards, such as tropical storms, cyclones, and flooding, and slower-onset impacts such as drought, sea level rise, and rising temperatures. Without significant and sustained global mitigation and adaptation efforts, these risks will only continue to increase, pushing people within and across borders to sustain their lives and livelihoods.<sup>4</sup>

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) recognises climate change as ‘the defining crisis of our time [that] particularly impacts the displaced.’<sup>5</sup> Climate change acts as a risk multiplier, significantly increasing other drivers of displacement and often disproportionately affecting at-risk populations, including those marginalised by gender, disability, discrimination, or income inequality.<sup>6</sup> These effects are amplified further for people already living in a context of displacement without access to basic services or support systems to prepare for and cope with the impacts of climate change.<sup>7</sup> As AfP continues to strive to support and protect displaced populations globally, it is critical to consider the increasing risks and cumulative challenges of climate change (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Current and projected trends in climate displacement**



Disasters triggered 26.4 million new internal displacements, or movements, across 148 countries and territories in 2023<sup>8</sup>



216 million people will be forced to migrate within their own countries due to climate impacts by 2050<sup>9</sup>



Internal migration will continue to be driven by water scarcity, decreased crop productivity, and rising sea levels<sup>10</sup>



95% of all conflict-related displacement in 2020 occurred in countries vulnerable or highly vulnerable to climate change<sup>11</sup>



At the end of 2023, almost 3 in 4 forcibly displaced people were living in countries with high-to-extreme exposure to climate-related hazards.<sup>12</sup>



Pacific and East Asia region recorded the highest number of disaster displacements globally in 2023<sup>13</sup>



More than 400 planned relocations have been documented globally since 1970<sup>14</sup>



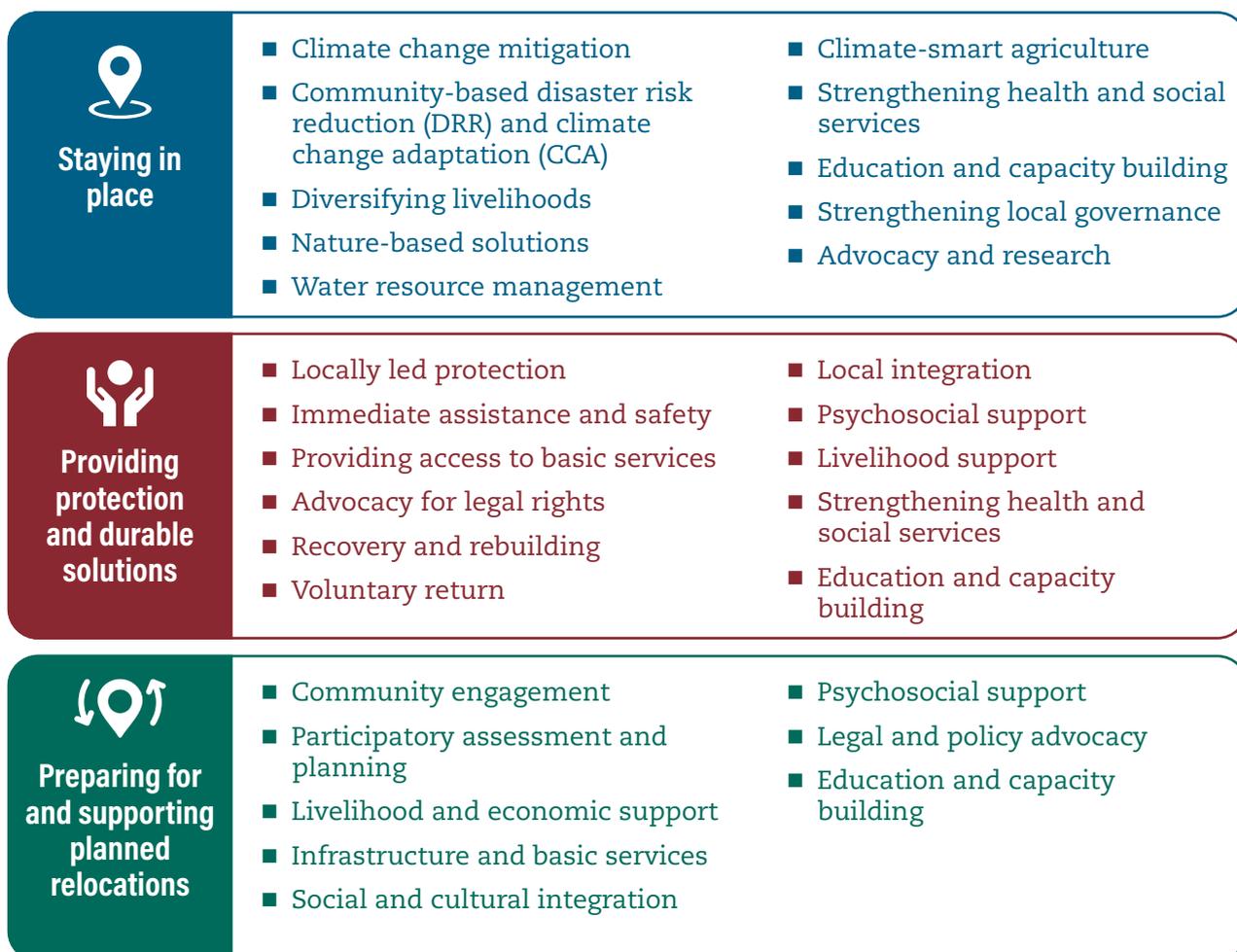
More than 50 villages have been earmarked for planned relocation in Fiji in the next 5–10 years<sup>15</sup>

## Exploring the solutions

There are several foundational strategies to address climate displacement. They include supporting communities to **stay in place** for as long as is safe and desirable, **providing protection and durable solutions** when displacement does occur, establishing **safe and viable pathways for migration**, and **preparing for planned relocations** when climate change erodes the ability of local communities to survive and prosper in the affected area—or when the impact of disasters combined with climate change is so great that people cannot return and must be relocated.<sup>16</sup> Numerous international and regional standards, guidelines, and principles can guide government and non-governmental actors to apply these strategies. For more information on these resources, please see the Raoul Wallenberg Institute’s *Background brief: Key international standards and guidelines relating to displacement in the context of disasters and climate change*.<sup>17</sup>

This strategy will focus primarily on supporting communities to **stay in place, provide protection and durable solutions** during displacement, and **prepare for and support planned relocations**. These have been identified as the areas where AfP can add the most value and create the greatest impact. Opportunities to support safe pathways for migration are included in advocacy efforts but are not elevated as a key pillar of this strategy to target resources to where AfP can have the greatest influence. Figure 3 below provides some examples of approaches within the three core focus areas of this strategy.

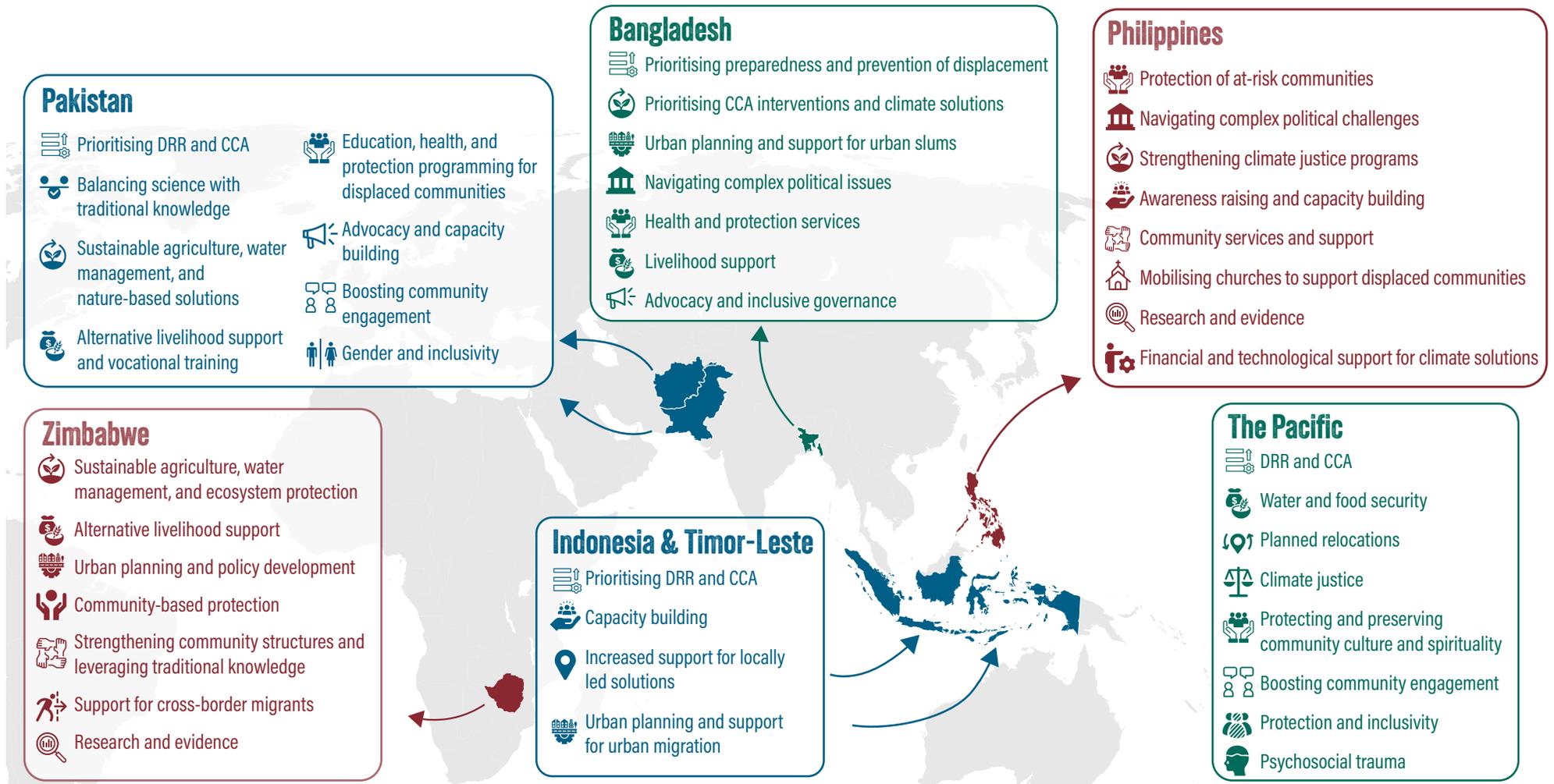
**Figure 3: Existing approaches to supporting communities before, during, and after displacement**



## Considering the context

For over 30 years, AfP has prioritised working alongside local partners and currently works in 18 countries, operating in vastly different contexts with different needs and priorities. It is critical that this strategy be contextualised and adapted in partnership with local partners to be applicable in different contexts. This aligns strongly with donors' commitment to localisation. Figure 4 below highlights some of the emerging needs and priorities from partners consulted for this strategy, as they relate to climate and disaster displacement.

**Figure 4: Partner priorities and emerging needs relating to climate and disaster displacement**



(Source: Interviews, June 2024)

## Learning from the experience of relocated communities

The lived experience of displacement offers key insights into how AfP can develop ethical and rigorous approaches to programming, partnerships, policy development and advocacy. Engaging with displaced persons to listen and learn from their experience is also consistent with AfP's principled commitment to meaningful participation of refugees and displaced persons. We recognise displaced people have the right, capacity and desire to meaningfully participate and lead, and recognise initiatives are often more relevant and sustainable when displaced people are fully engaged. This strategy is informed by a series of consultations with three communities in Fiji – Nabavatu, Tukuraki and Vunidogoloa villages (see Figure 5) – which have been, or are in the process of being, relocated. These consultations were critical to the development of Pillar 3 of this strategy and represented the first steps in understanding community priorities and needs throughout relocation processes. Key findings are presented below. Building on these findings and continuing community consultation processes will be critical as AfP seeks to explore and pilot contextualised approaches to support communities, and have particular relevance for working in the Pacific.



**Figure 5: Map of consulted communities**

**Vunidogoloa** was the first Fijian community to be relocated due to the effects of climate change; this was due to coastal erosion, repeated flooding, and saltwater intrusion. The community approached the government for assistance in 2006, and was relocated to a higher site within their ancestral lands in 2014.

**Tukuraki** was devastated by a landslide in January 2012. The community was moved to a temporary location that became their home for the next five years because it was unsafe to return. Fiji's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) secured a site for permanent relocation in 2015, but the community was significantly impacted by Tropical Cyclone (TC) Evans (2012) and TC Winston (2016) while waiting to move.

**Nabavatu** was evacuated following TC Ana in January 2021. The village was deemed unsafe, and a relocation site was identified 800 metres distance from the village location. However, as of mid-2024, community members remain living in temporary shelters awaiting completion of the new village construction.

*Photo credit: Julia Loersch/Act for Peace*

## Key findings from communities<sup>18</sup>

- 1. There is often a lack of meaningful community consultation.** All communities raised concerns about the lack of consultation with community members during the relocation process. Few members were aware of the decision-making or planning processes that went into the relocation and/or updated regularly on progress or timelines. This hindered planning and effective preparation for the move and the incorporation of community needs, knowledge, and priorities in new site construction.
- 2. Communities, government, and external partners have important roles and contributions to relocation processes.** There is an important role for communities, government and external partners in supporting planned relocations. Communities should lead the decision-making and play an active role in planning and preparing for the move. The government plays an important role in risk assessment and planning, site selection and infrastructure development, and coordination, and provides financial and technical support. External partners and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can offer financial and technical support, capacity building, livelihood support, psychosocial support, and facilitate increased community engagement and participation in the relocation process. All actors can plan to work together to facilitate successful relocation.
- 3. Timeliness, communication, and collaboration are critical.** The biggest challenges raised across all three communities were the slow process of relocation, lack of communication, and lack of coordination between stakeholders leading to increased delays, uncertainty and confusion. There is a need for greater harmony between government and traditional systems, improved two-way communication with communities, and enhanced cooperation between the stakeholders supporting the move.
- 4. Relocation often has both positive and negative impacts on livelihoods and well-being.** Community members described positive outcomes from their moves, such as better access to essential services, improved infrastructure, and new livelihood opportunities. They also raised concerns about loss of access to traditional land, farmland and/or water sources for fishing, inadequate housing, and health hazards due to poor living conditions in temporary shelters.
- 5. Communities utilise unique coping strategies to deal with the trauma of relocation.** These include community solidarity and mutual support, and heavy reliance on the church to help deal with trauma and the uncertainty of displacement. Some villages formed committees to support aspects of the process (e.g. disaster committees, development committees, women's groups, youth groups). Communities also relied on their spiritual leaders and traditional governance systems for guidance and support.
- 6. Communities identified several key opportunities for NGOs to support planned relocation processes.** They included raising awareness about the risks and opportunities associated with staying in place and the choice to move, education and capacity-building programs, livelihood support, elevating consideration of inclusion and gender roles in the relocation process, and providing psychosocial support and services.

## Understanding Act for Peace's strengths and added value

The Strategic Framework 2022–2026 highlights AfP's well-developed capacity to support displaced populations. This includes more than 70 years of working with trusted partners to deliver locally led protection policy, advocacy and programs, and decades of building expertise in displacement issues to better support communities and enable locally led displacement solutions. This strategy is designed to leverage and build on AfP's existing strengths and ongoing programming to prevent and respond to displacement, and help AfP to expand its own expertise and capability into new areas, such as planned relocations.



### Cultivated expertise in displacement, protection, and community-led resilience

For decades, AfP has supported partners to deliver programming across contexts of conflict, disaster, and displacement and has been leading global and regional advocacy on displacement issues. This has included more than 10 years of support to partners across Asia Pacific and Africa on community-based approaches to climate change adaptation (CCA), mitigation, and disaster risk reduction (DRR). One of AfP's strengths has been its ability to leverage cross-contextual knowledge of displacement to help local partners develop stronger programs and advocacy; a value-add that can be leveraged for its climate displacement work. This work has cultivated extensive knowledge, networks and expertise within the AfP team that can be leveraged and shared to support efforts to address climate displacement, for example utilising its expertise in innovative voluntary repatriation programming for planned relocations. Its ability to compare and contrast methods and practice across contexts has been a key strength, enabling valued advice to partners. Partners and technical experts specifically highlighted expertise in protection as a key value-add that AfP can elevate.<sup>19</sup>

*Act for Peace comes with a lot of experience from working with churches in different countries and learning from the different projects and local contexts [...] This would allow the organisation to understand needs more holistically when developing a relocation or displacement strategy.<sup>20</sup>*



### Foundations of trust, credibility, and ability to mobilise a global ecumenical network

Act for Peace's status as a faith-based, ecumenical organisation, and its long track record of being able to work in ethical and equitable partnerships with ecumenical and secular organisations, affords a high level of trust, credibility and legitimacy with communities and supporters. Church networks are a core support system for communities facing displacement or dealing with the impacts and trauma of displacement or relocation. They are strategically positioned between governments and communities and work on either side of the displacement divide with displaced and host communities. A global ecumenical network allows AfP and partners to access many communities that otherwise may be left behind. A shared language and strong moral basis underpins AfP's advocacy and mobilisation around climate justice, building on its core belief of *peace with justice*. Working through a diversity of Christian church networks is a particularly significant pathway for action in the Pacific, where local churches are uniquely placed to support displaced communities.<sup>21</sup>

*There is a particular advantage in the voice of faith-based organisations and churches. They can offer moral guidance to decision-makers and can more easily influence civil society.<sup>22</sup>*

*Church is everywhere in the Pacific. You will very rarely find a village that doesn't have a church [...] In the Pacific, outside of Fiji, the region is 80–90% Christian. There is a very strong advantage here.<sup>23</sup>*



## Strong local partnerships and established ways of working to support local leadership

Working in solidarity with local partners is core to AfP's current business model and approach. This was consistently highlighted by partners and technical experts as a crucial way that AfP can bring value to climate displacement programming. Displacement solutions must be locally owned and locally led to be sustainable. AfP's established ways of working intentionally provides long term support to local partners helping to sustain this leadership across contexts. Partners highlighted important capacity support that AfP has provided, both in technical skills and in developing internal policies and processes, and connections and opportunities for collaboration that AfP has facilitated. They also highlighted the flexibility and adaptability that AfP has offered in meeting emerging needs and being responsive to partner priorities. This well-established way of working will be critical in meeting emerging needs driven by the climate crisis.<sup>24</sup>

*They are very flexible in understanding the context, funding, and providing support. It is a unique opportunity to get this support. We connect regularly to share learnings and challenges.*<sup>25</sup>



## Commitment to working with and elevating the voices of displaced people

AfP has committed to *backing displaced people* and working in solidarity with local partners and affected communities in its Strategic Framework. The organisation has cultivated expertise in meaningful participation and leadership of people affected by displacement through existing approaches to co-produce research and to facilitate programming led by displaced peoples organisations and community groups. Through existing partnerships, church networks and engagement in policy and advocacy, AfP is well connected to communities and local needs and priorities; this connection will be critical in developing successful interventions for climate displacement.<sup>26</sup>

*The connection into communities that AfP has is a big advantage. The extent that you can have community informed interventions and strategies, they can draw on that as a great strength – grassroots participation and building an evidence base.*<sup>27</sup>



## Proven track record in advocacy that transforms systems

Effective advocacy at local, national and global levels to change laws, policy and practice is critical in addressing climate displacement. For decades, AfP has built a strong regional and global refugee advocacy program. The organisation is well placed to engage effectively in policy dialogues at the domestic, regional and international level and to support partners with tools and strategies for local and national advocacy. Partners consistently highlighted opportunities for AfP to support and strengthen their advocacy work.<sup>28</sup>

*Act for Peace can amplify the complexity of climate displacement and relocation in the Pacific, especially for indigenous communities [...] Act for Peace can amplify the voice of Pacific communities to push for ambitious targets to reduce carbon emissions and support climate justice.*<sup>29</sup>

# SECTION 3: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This section details the strategic framework for AfP's work in climate displacement. The overarching vision is that:



**Communities impacted by climate change are supported to stay in place for as long as is safe and desirable, protected to move voluntarily with safety and dignity when necessary, and elevated as key actors in all planning and processes for sustainable solutions.**

The strategy identifies three technical *pillars* – the key areas within the broad scope of climate displacement work in which AfP should focus its efforts. The pillars have been identified by analysing partner needs and priorities, gaps in current sector practice, and opportunities for AfP to add value or innovate based on existing strengths and expertise.

**The three pillars are:**



**Pillar 1: Staying in place**

**Goal:** Climate displacement is reduced through investing in approaches that promote community resilience and reduce displacement drivers.



**Pillar 2: Providing protection and durable solutions**

**Goal:** Communities displaced by climate impacts can freely find safety and dignity, and access locally led displacement solutions.



**Pillar 3: Preparing for and supporting planned relocations**

**Goal:** Communities are supported to make inclusive and informed decisions, lead or participate in planning processes and adequately prepare for and engage in planned relocations when necessary.

The *pathways* represent the ways in which the pillars will be achieved. They are overarching categories of specific actions that will drive progress towards the vision. The pathways have been identified by considering the strengths and limitations of AfP's current business model and ways of working, support requested by partners, and opportunities to leverage existing strengths for the greatest impact.

**The four pathways are:**



**Partnerships and programming:** Supporting partners to deliver effectively for communities at risk of climate displacement and those that have already been displaced. Adapting programming approaches to ensure they are relevant, fit for purpose and meet existing and emerging needs driven by climate displacement.<sup>30</sup>



**Knowledge and networks:** Investing in knowledge and evidence that is co-produced with affected communities, leading to innovative, context appropriate methods and solutions. Further developing and honing technical expertise internally and externally to better support climate relocation and offer a strong value-add for affected communities, local organisations and donors. Mobilising ecumenical networks to support communities at risk of and experiencing displacement.<sup>31</sup>



**Policy and advocacy:** Leveraging global advocacy expertise to influence key decision-makers and support partners to advocate to local and national government to influence policy.<sup>32</sup>



**Resource mobilisation:** Generating sustainable resourcing through new funding partners to provide flexible, multi-year funding to support at-risk and displaced communities.<sup>33</sup>

# PILLAR 1: Staying in place



**GOAL:** Climate displacement is reduced through investing in approaches that promote community resilience and reduce displacement drivers.

Most communities are determined to stay in place for as long as possible.<sup>34</sup> In contrast to displacement driven by conflict, violence and persecution, or economic and political factors, local actors and communities have greater agency to reduce risk of climate-driven displacement, through approaches to reduce risk and adapt to the changing climate. This has also been identified as a core priority for partners.<sup>35</sup> There is opportunity for AfP to further scale up support for preparedness and prevention of displacement, supporting communities to *stay in place* via tackling the root causes of climate displacement through increased focus on preparedness, community-led resilience, and anticipatory action, as well as increasing domestic advocacy for climate action and justice.<sup>36</sup>

*We are not just talking about displacement, to only limit it to displacement does not work in our context. How are you addressing prevention?<sup>37</sup>*

## Pathways



### Partnerships and programming

Partners are supported to meet growing needs for DRR, CCA, resilience programming, and anticipatory action. This includes community-based approaches to identification of needs and the co-design of technical training and capacity building activities.<sup>38</sup>



### Knowledge and networks

Knowledge and evidence on the drivers and impact of climate displacement is co-produced with affected communities and shared with partners and key decision-makers in context. Evidence around the links between increased investment in DRR and CCA and reduced displacement will be communicated effectively to key stakeholders.<sup>39</sup>



### Policy and advocacy

Partners are supported with the necessary evidence and tools to advocate for climate justice and the integration of climate displacement in national legal, policy and operational frameworks. Domestic advocacy for climate justice is prioritised.<sup>40</sup>



### Resource mobilisation

Partners are supported to access sustainable resourcing to meet growing needs for DRR, CCA and resilience programming. Strategies aligned with national government priorities are developed for financing sustainable development and climate adaptation to reduce displacement. Act for Peace strengthens its access to sustainable resourcing and builds capability in policy and programs.<sup>41</sup>

Photo credit: Richard Wainwright



## PILLAR 2: Providing protection and durable solutions



**GOAL:** Communities displaced by climate impacts can freely find safety and dignity, and access locally led displacement solutions.

This pillar focuses on the provision of protection and durable solutions for communities once displacement, whether temporary or protracted, has occurred. This primarily relates to internal displacement because this is the most common form of climate-driven displacement and the primary concern of most partners.<sup>42</sup> However, it also recognises that cross-border displacement due to climate change and disasters may occur in some contexts and is likely to increase.<sup>43</sup> This pillar builds directly on the Strategic Framework 2022-2026, and presents an opportunity for AfP to continue honing and developing this expertise and capacity as a core service offering to the sector.<sup>44</sup>

*Act for Peace has been very good at reiterating the importance of connecting human rights and protection to climate solutions. It is important we continue to elevate human rights and protection concerns within climate displacement.*<sup>45</sup>

### Pathways



#### Partnerships and programming

Partners are supported to deliver immediate assistance and provide locally led protection to communities displaced by climate and disaster. Partners are trained and supported to facilitate local integration, service provision, and social and cultural cohesion programs to support communities who are living in protracted displacement situations or are unable to return, and to support communities to return if and when it is safe. New partnerships are brokered to leverage expertise in this area and investment in relationships building is prioritised.<sup>46</sup>



#### Knowledge and networks

Technical expertise in climate displacement is further developed internally with AfP staff and partners and shared throughout networks and the broader humanitarian sector. AfP invests in internal learning and capability development of staff to position the organisation as a thought leader and technical expert on displacement.<sup>47</sup>



#### Policy and advocacy

Global protection policy and advocacy expertise is leveraged to influence national policies, and promote durable solutions across contexts, including increased regional cooperation for cross-border displacement. Partners are supported to advocate for national climate mobility frameworks and policies that protect rights and create opportunities for those displaced.<sup>48</sup>



#### Resource mobilisation

Partners are supported to access flexible and sustainable resourcing to deliver emergency assistance, protection programming, and to sustain longer-term integration. Strategies are developed to leverage humanitarian funding for longer-term solutions and to obtain climate financing where applicable. Act for Peace accesses new funding through new partnerships and opportunities to provide technical advice on displacement issues. New funding is accessed through new strategic partnerships.

Photo credit: Richard Wainwright



## PILLAR 3: Preparing for and supporting planned relocations



**GOAL:** Communities are supported to make inclusive and informed decisions, lead or participate in planning processes and adequately prepare for and engage in planned relocations when necessary.

Relocation can mean loss of land, culture and heritage and can potentially expose people to further risks. It is generally considered a last resort by governments and communities, once staying in place is no longer a viable option. Extensive planning in advance of relocation processes enhances inclusion and protection. This involves consultations across government, traditional leaders, and community members, to understand needs and priorities which differ significantly across contexts.<sup>49</sup> AfP can add value to these processes by elevating the voices of affected communities as key decision-makers about context-appropriate solutions, by supporting more effective community organising and planning for planned relocations, and by mobilising locally-led organisations, including ecumenical networks and churches, to support community consultation and provide social, cultural and spiritual support to communities before, during and after relocation.<sup>50</sup>

*It is important to talk to communities who have been relocated, partially relocated, those in tents who have yet to return to their homes because of the trauma of disasters. Their voice and experience are very important in centring this work.<sup>51</sup>*

### Pathways



#### Partnerships and programming

Partners are supported to develop skills in facilitating community-led processes for planned relocations, such as informed and inclusive decision-making and preparedness. Training and program models are co-designed and implemented in partnership with communities. New partnerships are brokered to develop expertise in this area and investment in organisational capability and relationship building is prioritised.<sup>52</sup>



#### Knowledge and networks

Knowledge and evidence are co-produced with affected communities to inform contextualised approaches for community-led planned relocations. Lessons learned are effectively shared between communities, local partners and donors to inform future processes. Church networks are mobilised to understand, support and implement this approach.<sup>53</sup>



#### Policy and advocacy

Global advocacy targets a shift in the narrative and approach to integrate locally-led development principles in climate displacement policy. Advocacy integrates and elevates affected communities as decision-makers. Addressing non-economic loss and damage and climate justice are elevated as core advocacy priorities. National and local governments are supported to institutionalise the planning and implementation of community-led models of relocation. The value of new models and programming innovations are effectively communicated to key stakeholders.<sup>54</sup>



#### Resource mobilisation

Partners are resourced to facilitate community-led relocations. Strategies are developed to target donors with a special interest in planned relocations, including climate finance where applicable. Appropriate time and resources are invested in understanding and supporting contextualised approaches to community-led relocations.<sup>55</sup>

# SECTION 4: HOW DO WE GET THERE?

This section outlines the actions that can be taken under each of the four pathways to achieve the goals under each pillar presented above.

## PATHWAY 1: PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMMING

Supporting local partners to deliver effectively for communities at risk of climate displacement and those already displaced. Adapting programming approaches to ensure they are relevant, fit for purpose and meet existing and emerging needs driven by climate displacement.

1. **Identify new and emerging needs relating to climate displacement through community-based approaches.**
  - Work with local partners to identify priority needs in their contexts (see Figure 4 on page 8). This may include approaches such as supporting community consultation and workshops.
  - Prioritise focus on community-based identification of needs. Equip local partners with the skills to engage affected communities effectively, ensuring local knowledge and needs are considered in program design and implementation.
  - Prioritise and emphasise the importance of inclusion of all groups, including displaced communities, in all consultation and planning processes.
2. **Co-design and implement technical training to build AfP and partner capacity in identified areas.**
  - Co-design training for partner staff and community members in identified areas to strengthen technical skills and boost community engagement.
  - Identify and share opportunities for AfP and partner staff to access technical training at national, regional and international levels, including those with a focus on DRR, CCA, innovative approaches and technologies, protection, and displacement solutions (see Figure 6).
  - Prioritise capacity development internally and with community-led approaches to planned relocations, for example through the development of tools for consultation and/or training to support informed and inclusive decision-making and community preparedness for relocation.
  - Facilitate opportunities for mutual learning with local partners and communities.

### Box 2: Partners' priorities for capacity building

Partners across different regions identified several technical trainings and areas for capacity development that they would prioritise and/or welcome AfP support. Broad categories are identified in Figure 6 below. This includes focus areas as they relate to climate and disaster displacement across the three pillars of this strategy. Additional consultation with partners will be required to understand needs and develop targeted training.

Figure 6: Partner priorities for technical training



Key:  Pillar 1  Pillar 2  Pillar 3

### 3. Support partners to adapt existing programs and develop new approaches to meet identified needs in the context of climate change and disaster.

- Support partners to better understand how climate change is affecting their existing programming and the communities in which they work – for example, by generating and sharing evidence in their context.
- Create opportunities to co-design new programming approaches with partners to mitigate growing climate impacts – for example, through environmental education or sustainable agriculture such as in Afghanistan,<sup>56</sup> or urban migration in Bangladesh.<sup>57</sup>
- Ensure programming approaches are inclusive and consider accessibility needs for people with a disability.
- Support partners to develop skills in facilitating local integration, service provision, and social and cultural cohesion programs to support the growing number of communities who are unable to return home due to climate impacts.
- Encourage partners to consider new ways to support planned relocations as an increasingly important approach to climate adaptation.

### 4. Broker new partnerships and invest in building relationships to leverage expertise in climate displacement and planned relocations.

- Identify priority contexts for AfP to focus its resources with the greatest potential for impact. This may include considerations of donor priorities, existing and prospective or new networks and partnerships, and regions facing the greatest risks of climate impacts. The Pacific has been identified as a priority region through this research.
- Scope and map out prospective partners in these contexts, including those outside of the traditional humanitarian sphere, such as climate and environment groups, research institutions and academics, displaced peoples organisations, and private sector.
- Invest in relationship building with new partners in priority contexts. Prioritise and allocate resources to in-person engagement, consultation, and opportunities to share learning to build foundations of trust and gain understanding of local contexts.
- Prioritise partnerships with new networks and umbrella organisations to expand reach and access to new partners and knowledge without requiring significantly increased resources.
- Increase collaboration with United Nations (UN) agencies and large international NGOs (INGOs) that are addressing climate displacement globally (e.g. the International Organization for Migration [IOM] and UNHCR) to share learnings across contexts and increase AfP's visibility to donors in this space.

*Photo credit: Richard Wainwright*



## Mapping potential partners in the Pacific

As AfP considers strengthening its presence in the Pacific region, it will be critical to map out strategic partnerships and invest in building relationships. Most Pacific stakeholders mentioned the importance of consultation and understanding key actors and existing work in this space. The Pacific is not a homogenous region, so consideration of geographic focus and understanding of local context will be critical as AfP approaches new partners. It will be important to prioritise regular communication and sustained engagement. Figure 7 below maps some existing and potential partnerships for AfP to explore. It will also be important for AfP to identify and support new or emerging displaced peoples organisations (DPOs) in the Pacific.

**Figure 7: Potential Pacific partners**

### **National Councils of Churches (NCCs)**

This engagement can build on previous and current partnerships, including work with Tonga National Council of Churches, Vanuatu Christian Council, Fiji Council of Churches, Solomon Islands Christian Association, Pacific Conference of Churches, and also members of the ACT Alliance working in the Pacific. It may be strategic for AfP to invest in building new partnerships with NCCs based in the North Pacific, as this has been identified as an area with a smaller Australian programming footprint and thus potential for higher impact.<sup>58</sup> Prioritising engagement with NCCs provides an important entry point to expand presence in this area.

### **Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC)**

Increased engagement with PCC can offer invaluable insights into the cultural and spiritual context across the region and can facilitate connections between AfP and other churches and NGOs supporting displaced communities. PCC has offered greater collaboration with AfP through increased consultation and support on developing proposals and identifying partners for AfP in the region.<sup>59</sup>

### **Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO)**

PIANGO works with more than 20 national liaison units (NLUs), or civil society umbrella organisations, across the Pacific. Partnership with PIANGO would offer AfP access to a wide network of civil society organisations who are working directly with communities. For example, the NLU in Fiji, with Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS), is currently supporting the pilot of a community-led relocation of Cogeia Village in Fiji, funded through US NGO, Bread for the World.<sup>60</sup> There is opportunity for AfP to further engage with FCOSS and learn from this process.

### **Pacific Regional NGO Alliance (PRNGO Alliance)**

Engagement with the PRNGO Alliance provides opportunities for increased collaboration with key regional umbrella bodies supporting civil society and Pacific communities. Membership includes PCC, PIANGO, the Council of Pacific Education, Pacific Disability Forum, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Greenpeace, Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Pacific Islands News Association, South Pacific and Oceania Council of Trade Unions, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Pacific, Pacific Network on Globalisation, and the Pacific Youth Council.

Photo credit: Richard Wainwright

### **National Disaster Management Offices**

AfP should build on and increase its engagement with NDMOs in the Pacific, potentially by providing technical advice or supporting government-led relocation processes. This engagement can be facilitated through a phased approach of building relationships with local and national partners in the region which can connect AfP with key government actors.

### **Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies**

As AfP invests more in producing knowledge and evidence to address climate displacement, there may be increased opportunities for collaboration with Pacific CROP agencies (e.g. The Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)).

### **Theological colleges and institutions**

AfP may wish to engage more with theological colleges or institutions in producing research and/or mobilising churches. For example, the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS) and member schools. Some of these colleges offer advanced degrees in Climate Justice, for example the Pacific Theological College (PTC), which could offer opportunities to co-produce research and shared learning.

### **Environment groups and Organisations for People with Disabilities (OPDs)**

AfP can increase engagement with partners outside of the traditional humanitarian sphere that are working on climate adaptation and reducing displacement. For example, environmental groups like Greenpeace, WWF, Pacific Climate Warriors, The Nature Conservancy, Friends of Earth, and Climate Action Network Pacific. It will also be important to work closely with OPDs in the Pacific to ensure support for displaced communities is inclusive and considers accessibility needs for people with a disability.

## **PATHWAY 2: KNOWLEDGE AND NETWORKS**

**Investing in knowledge and evidence that is co-produced with affected communities, leading to innovative, context appropriate methods and solutions. Further developing technical expertise internally and externally to better support communities displaced by climate impacts. Mobilising ecumenical networks to support communities at risk of and experiencing displacement.**

- 1. Support partners to commission or co-produce research and evidence on the drivers of climate displacement in their context and to identify appropriate methods and solutions.**
  - Invest in filling gaps in evidence and creating opportunities for learning prioritised by partners and key stakeholders (see Box 3).
  - Continue to commission and co-produce research with refugees and displaced persons and share evidence to inform preparedness, protection measures, and durable solutions.
  - Explore joint research initiatives and climate displacement monitoring with the Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD).<sup>61</sup>
  - Help partners to produce evidence to support communities to make informed decisions about staying, returning home, or moving by analysing risks, challenges and opportunities.

### Box 3: Mapping support for knowledge production across the three pillars

Different areas of evidence and knowledge production can be prioritised across the three pillars. Partners consistently highlighted that support from AfP in producing and sharing evidence would add significant value to their programming and advocacy efforts. Figure 8 below highlights some potential areas for future research as identified by the desk review and key stakeholders.

Figure 8: Potential focus areas for future research



## 2. Create opportunities for partners and other key stakeholders to share learnings and best practices in supporting communities facing climate displacement.

- Create spaces and organise opportunities for partners and key stakeholders to share learning about reducing displacement, protecting displaced communities, supporting communities to return home, or facilitating relocation and integration in new communities.
- Facilitate opportunities for partners to share knowledge with others operating in their context, and with those across the broader AfP network to facilitate cross-border learning and exchange.

## 3. Invest in technical training for AfP staff and partners on climate displacement.

- Invest in developing in-depth technical training for AfP staff on displacement issues.
- Work with partners to contextualise and co-design the training for their staff and others in their context.
- Consider opportunities to develop internal capacity and/or engage expert consultants to offer this training to the broader humanitarian sector to fill an identified gap in humanitarian training and boost AfP visibility as a technical expert.
- Design a communications and marketing campaign to showcase expertise and position AfP to provide technical advice on displacement issues across the humanitarian sector, including targeted support for communities, local organisations, and donors.

#### 4. Invest in the generation of evidence to support contextualised approaches to community-led planned relocations.

- Identify a priority context in which to support planned relocations. For example, the Pacific is suggested as a region with high risk of displacement and correspondingly high potential for impact.
- Map existing work and support for planned relocation in the priority context. Engage with key networks, knowledge hubs, and implementers in the region.
- Invest in community-based approaches to knowledge production to inform context-appropriate models for community-led relocation.
- Leverage and share learning from the refugee-led Sri Lanka refugee return program, the DFAT Gender Action Platform’s “I’m Prepared” return and reintegration program, which focused on gender transformative return and reintegration, to inform contextualised approaches in the priority context.
- Consult relocated communities regularly to track the impact of planned relocation; share this evidence widely to inform future processes.
- Share evidence and/or produce training materials that partners and churches can use to support communities before, during and after planned relocation.
- If resources allow, target additional regions through a phased approach which is aligned and responsive to demand for support. Share learning from the priority context across any future phases.

#### 5. Mobilise ecumenical networks to support communities at risk of and experiencing displacement

- Leverage existing trust, credibility, and support networks of churches and faith-based organisations to facilitate and support communities before, during and after displacement.
- Mobilise and support church networks to support cultural, spiritual and psychosocial trauma associated with displacement and planned relocation.
- Mobilise and facilitate churches to lead community consultations, planning and preparedness for planned relocations.
- Strengthen connections with the National Council of Churches across the Pacific through the Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN) and increased engagement with PCC, and leverage these connections to support evacuations and planned relocations.

## PATHWAY 3: POLICY INFLUENCE AND ADVOCACY

Leveraging global advocacy expertise to influence key decision-makers and supporting partners to advocate to local and national government to influence policy.

#### 1. Identify and participate in strategic forums for global dialogue on climate displacement.

- Map out strategic forums, conferences and events at which AfP can contribute effectively (see Figure 9).
- Leverage expertise and experience to develop effective advocacy strategies and tools that staff and partners can adapt and use.
- Leverage strategic networks and partnerships to increase visibility in advocacy spaces. For example, co-host or organise policy dialogues or public events in partnership with influential actors working on climate displacement (e.g. IOM, UNDRR – co-chairs of the Asia Pacific Disaster Displacement Working Group, Kaldor Centre, PCC, PDD, ACT Alliance).

## Box 4: Mapping potential engagements

Climate displacement is becoming a major concern for international and regional policymakers. AfP will have many opportunities to engage, so must identify the most strategic opportunities to have impact. Figure 9 lists some international and regional forums that are relevant to AfP's strategic priorities. AfP should also engage in regular consultation with partners to learn about important forums and events in their context.

Figure 9: Potential forums, conferences, and policy circles

 <b>Staying in place</b>	 <b>International:</b> UNFCCC COP29, Global Platform for DRR, World Urban Forum, Global Adaptation Forum, Global Climate Action Summit  <b>Regional:</b> Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR, Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, Asia-Pacific Climate Week, Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Pacific Island Development Forum, PIF Leaders meetings, Pacific Resilience Partnership meetings, Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, African Climate Week
 <b>Providing protection and durable solutions</b>	 <b>International:</b> Global Forum on Migration and Development, IOM International Dialogue on Migration, Global Refugee Forum, PDD  <b>Regional:</b> Asia-Pacific Migration and Displacement Conference, Asia Pacific Disaster Displacement Working Group, Pan-African Forum on Migration
 <b>Preparing for and supporting planned relocations</b>	 <b>International:</b> PDD, Global Forum on Migration and Development, Global Platform for DRR, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery  <b>Regional:</b> Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, PIF Leaders meetings, Pacific Resilience Partnership meetings (specifically, the technical working group on human mobility), Pacific Island Development Forum

### 2. Elevate climate justice in AfP's advocacy on climate displacement.

- Leverage the core value of *peace with justice* to sharpen focus on climate justice in advocacy.
- Work with partners and communities in priority contexts (particularly the Pacific) to engage with their understanding of climate justice and propositions for a just transition.
- Leverage evidence and research conducted with affected communities to elevate community voices in advocacy for climate justice.
- Prioritise concepts of climate justice in advocacy to the Australian government and through NGO peak bodies.

### 3. Support partners to advocate to local and national government to develop localised strategies and policies for climate mobility and displacement.

- Work with local partners to understand national and local policy and legal frameworks to identify priority areas for advocacy.
- Support partners to work with community members to understand their needs and priorities and advocate for them to be reflected in government policy.
- Create spaces for local partners and community members to lead advocacy with local government. This may include advocacy for legal protections or more inclusive policies to accommodate displaced populations, increased investment in planning for rural to urban movement, and/or the development of national climate mobility frameworks and policies to address protection concerns and enable durable solutions (see Box 5).

- Share advocacy tools, strategies and lessons learned from AfP’s extensive experience in policy dialogues and advocacy.
- Identify strategic opportunities to attend and participate in conferences, forums and workshops alongside local partners to lend credibility and advocacy expertise where appropriate.

### **Box 5: Leveraging learnings from the Pacific Regional Climate Mobility Framework**

Several partners indicated that advocating to local and national government for the integration of climate displacement considerations into national frameworks, plans and policies was a key component of their advocacy strategies.<sup>62</sup> Pacific leaders have recently endorsed the Pacific Regional Climate Mobility Framework to guide governments, communities and partners in supporting climate mobility in the region, including staying in place, displacement, planned relocation, and migration.<sup>63</sup> The Framework is now in the process of being further contextualised at the national level.<sup>64</sup> A lot of learning can be drawn from this process. There are opportunities for AfP to further engage with members of the technical working group and those who supported the development of this framework, such as PCC, Kaldor Centre and IOM.

#### **4. Develop an advocacy campaign to mobilise supporters.**

- Mobilise and leverage AfP’s strong network of supporters to get involved in advocacy for mitigation of climate displacement.
- Campaigns may involve individual actions that supporters can take to limit their own environmental footprint, or larger efforts to advocate to the Australian government for greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Utilise principles of behavioural science to shift the mindsets and behaviour of supporters related to tackling the climate crisis.<sup>65</sup>
- Unite supporters and church networks to advocate for climate justice.
- Develop public campaigns to support and welcome Pacific Islanders who have relocated to Australia.

## **PATHWAY 4: RESOURCE MOBILISATION**

**Generating sustainable resourcing through new funding partners to provide flexible, multi-year funding to support at-risk and displaced communities.**

#### **1. Prioritise business development planning processes to develop targeted funding strategies.**

- Dedicate time and resources to developing sustainable business planning processes that will be institutionalised and implemented across the team.
- Employ a phased approach to business development. Identify the most strategic and impactful partners and priorities to pursue. Invest in relationship building and strategic engagement to increase visibility to donors.
- Develop strategies to target funding opportunities across the three priority pillars.
- Broker strategic partnerships and prioritise joint proposals and opportunities with consortiums.
- Advocate for and design proposals for flexible, multi-year funding. Leverage evidence about the importance of long-term sustainable financing to produce sustainable solutions.

## **2. Connect new program proposals with domestic priorities to be well positioned to obtain funding from the Australian government.**

- Engage regularly with Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to identify evolving priorities and new opportunities for funding.
- Draw direct linkages between new proposals and Australia’s policy priorities, including priorities in the forthcoming Humanitarian Strategy.
- Leverage DFAT’s commitment to integrate climate considerations into all future programming to elevate issues of climate displacement as a core strategic priority.
- Leverage DFAT’s commitment to support the Pacific, Southeast Asia and South Asia to elevate issues of climate displacement and planned relocation in these regions in funding proposals.
- Explore the possibility of AfP supporting the relocation of Pacific Islanders to Australia, for example, in implementing the Falepili Union agreement between Australia and Tuvalu (signed in November 2023).

## **3. Determine the priorities and interests of other institutional donors with respect to climate displacement to align proposals appropriately.**

- Explore funding priorities, strategies and opportunities with bilateral and multilateral donors.
- Seek opportunities to engage and collaborate with partners who receive funding from target donors.
- Align new funding proposals with relevant donor priorities and policy through explicit linkages and references to how the proposal will support and facilitate donor policy goals.
- Identify competitive advantages over other NGOs that are applying for similar funding (e.g. related to geographic focus, expertise, or connection with communities).

## **4. Identify innovative sources of financing through new partnerships and service offerings.**

- Scope potential sources of innovative financing to understand what is practical and feasible for AfP in the short, medium, and long term.
- Target 1–2 new funding sources, understanding that it will require time and resource investment to develop appropriate strategies and complete due diligence and eligibility requirements.
- Allocate dedicated time and resources to building staff capacity to access innovative funding sources and adapt funding strategies appropriately.
- Seek partnerships with accredited entities (government ministries, development banks, or larger INGOs, if seeking climate financing) and learn from other NGOs that have received climate financing (e.g. Save the Children, CARE, WWF, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre)

## **5. Support partners to access flexible multi-year funding through joint proposal processes.**

- Undertake policy and administrative capacity building with partners to facilitate better access to funding.
- Continue to share and facilitate opportunities for joint proposal processes with partners.
- Share lessons from AfP’s business development planning and processes with partners to guide their own business development efforts.

# ANNEX A: METHODOLOGY

This strategy was developed through a mixed methods approach, including desk review, a survey of AfP partners, key informant interviews, community consultation, and a validation workshop (Figure 10). Consultation was conducted in partnership between HAG and a Pacific-based technical expert in climate displacement.

A **desk review** of 40+ documents, including research, policy, and organisational strategy and programming documents, was conducted to understand trends, projected needs, and existing approaches to climate displacement.

A **partner survey** gathered feedback and input from 6 current AfP partners to inform the strategy.

**Key informant interviews** were held with 15 stakeholders, including AfP staff, partners, Board members, technical experts, and representatives of UN agencies.

**Community consultations** were conducted in three relocated communities in Fiji – the villages of Nabavatu, Tukuraki and Vunidogoloa.

A **validation workshop** with key internal stakeholders in AfP was used to test emerging themes and proposed priorities.

Figure 10: Methodology



# ANNEX B: KEY TERMS

The definitions below were adapted mainly from the Pacific Regional Framework for Climate Mobility, endorsed by Pacific Island Leaders in November 2023, and a few additional key resources. They are highly relevant to AfP's existing and future work on climate displacement and are adaptable across diverse regions.

**Climate change adaptation (CCA):** Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.<sup>66</sup>

**Climate displacement:** The movement of people within a State or across borders due to the effects of climate change, including sudden and slow-onset environmental events and processes, occurring either alone or in combination with other factors.<sup>67</sup>

**Climate justice:** An ethics-based approach to addressing climate change that aims to share the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly.<sup>68</sup>

**Climate mobility:** Any type of movement – whether forced or voluntary, temporary or permanent, within or across borders – that may occur in the context of climate change.<sup>69</sup>

**Disaster:** A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale, due to climatic events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to human, material, economic and/or environmental losses and impacts.<sup>70</sup>

**Disaster risk reduction (DRR):** A systematic approach aimed at preventing new (and reducing existing) disaster risks and managing residual risks, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.<sup>71</sup>

**Displacement:** The movement within a State and/or across international borders of people who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence.<sup>72</sup>

**Durable solutions:** The means by which the situation of displaced people can be satisfactorily and permanently resolved by ensuring national protection of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.<sup>73</sup>

**Migration:** Human movements that are *mostly* voluntary insofar as people, while not necessarily having the ability to decide in complete freedom, still possess the ability to choose between different realistic options.<sup>74</sup>

**Planned relocation:** Well planned relocations can be both a form of disaster risk reduction and a form of climate change adaptation. Planned relocation can be undertaken pre-emptively (e.g. before a disaster strikes, or as a measure to avoid the longer-term impacts of climate change) or remedially (e.g. following a disaster). Planned relocation may be used as a strategy to avoid future displacement: for example when areas are highly disaster-prone or too dangerous for human habitation, when the impacts of climate change are expected to make life unsustainable in particular areas, or when return to original habitats is not possible. Planned relocations can also be considered part of climate change loss and damage as it remedies the effects of an abuse (forced displacement due to a climate injustice).<sup>75</sup>

**Protection:** The responsibility to restore the most basic of rights to the people affected: not least the right to life, to not suffer torture or discrimination, to ensure respect for one's human dignity and to the preservation of one's family. Protection is also about the creation of an enabling environment so that these and other rights have a reasonable chance of being enjoyed, pending a lasting solution to the problems at issue.<sup>76</sup>

# ENDNOTES

- 1 IFRC Climate Training Kit, Fact Sheet 2: [Displacement and Climate Key Terms](#)
- 2 Kaldor Centre Climate Mobility Hub (no date), Climate Mobility FAQ, <https://climatemobility.unsw.edu.au/facts/>
- 3 McAdam, J, Wood, T (2023) Kaldor Centre Principles on Climate Mobility, UNSW Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law
- 4 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Climate Change (2022) Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability (Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022)
- 5 Gaynor, T (2020) Climate change is the defining crisis of our time and it particularly impacts the displaced, UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/au/news/stories/climate-change-defining-crisis-our-time-and-it-particularly-impacts-displaced>
- 6 IPCC (2022) Assessment Report, cited in Kaldor Centre Climate Mobility Hub, <https://climatemobility.unsw.edu.au/facts/>
- 7 Kaldor Centre Climate Mobility Hub (no date), Climate Mobility FAQ, <https://climatemobility.unsw.edu.au/facts/>
- 8 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2024), Internal Displacement Data, <https://www.internal-displacement.org>
- 9 Clement, V, Rigaud, KK, de Sherbinin, A, Jones, B, Adamo, S, Schewe, J, Sadiq, N, Shabahat, E (2021) Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration. World Bank, Washington, DC
- 10 IDMC (2023) Displacement, Disasters, and climate change, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/focus-areas/Displacement-disasters-and-climate-change/>
- 11 UNHCR (2020) Global Trends in Forced Displacement, <https://www.unhcr.org/au/media/global-trends-forced-displacement-2020>
- 12 UNHCR (2024) Global Trends in Forced Displacement, <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends>
- 13 IDMC (2024) Global Report on Internal Displacement, <https://api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/IDMC-GRID-2024-Global-Report-on-Internal-Displacement.pdf#page=32>
- 14 Ferris, E, Bower, E (2023) Planned relocations: What we know, don't know, and need to know, Researching Internal Displacement, 15 March 2023, [https://researchinginternaldisplacement.org/short\\_pieces/planned-relocations-what-we-know-dont-know-and-need-to-learn/](https://researchinginternaldisplacement.org/short_pieces/planned-relocations-what-we-know-dont-know-and-need-to-learn/)
- 15 Fiji Climate Change Portal (2024) Information sharing session on climate relocation of communities, <https://fijiclimatchangeportal.gov.fj/information-sharing-session-on-climate-relocation-of-community-croc-trust-fund/>
- 16 <https://climatemobility.unsw.edu.au/facts/>
- 17 Scott, M (2019) Background brief: Key international standards and guidelines relating to displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.
- 18 June 2024, consultations with Fijian communities
- 19 Interviews 2, 4, 8, 9
- 20 Interview 12
- 21 Interviews 2, 5, 7, 10, 12
- 22 Interview 10
- 23 Interview 13
- 24 Interviews 1, 5, 6–8, 10
- 25 Interview 7
- 26 Interviews 1, 2, 4, 12–15
- 27 Interview 4
- 28 Interviews 1, 2, 4–6, 9, 10, 12
- 29 Interview 12

30 It was largely agreed across partners and technical experts that AfP's existing way of working with local partners is effective, sustainable, and fit-for-purpose and should be continued. Investment in effective support for partners will be critical to the success of this strategy.

31 The ability to connect and mobilise a global ecumenical network is a core value add for AfP. There is opportunity to scale up investment in knowledge production and development of technical expertise to develop a competitive advantage in the sector, better support partners, and inform effective advocacy. This should build on existing efforts to co-produce research with refugees and displaced people to elevate voices of affected communities.

32 Leveraging existing expertise and institutionalizing an effective advocacy program, which builds on increased investment in research and evidence that elevates community voices, presents an important pathway for impact. There are opportunities for AfP to contribute to global, regional, and domestic advocacy priorities. This was also highlighted as a core priority for partners.

33 Resource mobilisation was highlighted as a core pathway, understanding that without sustainable financing, implementation of this strategy will not be possible. It will be important for AfP to prioritise and institutionalise strategic business development planning processes to resource this strategy.

34 Farbotko, C (2018) No retreat: Climate change and voluntary immobility in the Pacific Islands, Migration Policy Institute, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/no-retreat-climate-change-and-voluntary-immobility-pacific-islands>; Interviews 4, 11, 12, 13, 15

35 Interviews 5–8, 10, 12, 13; Partner survey

36 Pillar 1 was identified because it is a core priority for partners, with 100% of partners consulted for this strategy indicating that strengthening community resilience and adaptive capacity is one of their top three priorities in addressing climate displacement and generally the area with the most unmet needs. It is also a core component identified in the literature and prominent in key guiding principles and frameworks, for example the Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement within States and the Pacific Regional Framework for Climate Mobility.

37 Interview 13

38 New and increased support for programming approaches to support communities to stay in place is a top priority for partners. The majority of focus areas for technical training identified by partners fall within Pillar 1.

39 Partners consistently highlighted sharing knowledge, evidence and lessons learned as an important way for AfP to support their programming and advocacy efforts in this area. Links between DRR, CCA, and anticipatory action in reducing displacement are clear in the literature, but there is limited evidence of the direct impact of these investment on reducing displacement. Producing evidence of impact can be motivating to donors in investing more in resilience.

40 Both the literature and advice from technical experts suggest that the greatest potential for impact within this pillar rests with local and national governments in strengthening policies, plans, infrastructure, social services, etc. to support people to stay in place. This has also been identified as an advocacy priority for partners. Climate justice has been identified as a key domestic advocacy priority for AfP, as it aligns closely with the organisation's values, presents an opportunity to add value, and has been identified as a core priority for Pacific partners.

41 Funding opportunities for Pillar 1 will also include sources outside of the traditional humanitarian sphere. Accessing new funding sources will require strategic planning and targeted strategies.

42 Siegfried, Kristy (2023) Climate change and displacement: The myths and the facts, UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/us/news/stories/climate-change-and-displacement-myths-and-facts>; Interviews 6, 7, 10, 11, 12

43 Siegfried, Kristy (2023) Climate change and displacement: The myths and the facts, UNHCR

44 Pillar 2 was consistently identified by technical experts as a strategic way for AfP to add value in addressing climate displacement. Stakeholders raised concerns that protection measures are not always prioritised in situations of climate displacement. This presents an opportunity for AfP to build on and leverage its existing protection expertise to elevate and address these concerns. AfP can also draw on experience supporting durable solutions for refugees and adapt these approaches for those who are unable to return home due to climate impacts, numbers which are likely to increase in the coming years.

45 Interview 10

46 Providing immediate assistance and protection following evacuations from sudden-onset disasters will be increasingly important as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of natural hazards. Several partners also identified support for local integration programs as a key area for capacity building, particularly in the context of rural to urban migration due to climate impacts.

- 47 Investing in developing technical expertise in displacement was identified as an important way for AfP to develop a competitive advantage in the sector when applying for funding and to bring added value when brokering new partnerships.
- 48 Partners in Africa highlighted a need for increased advocacy for regional cooperation for cross-border displacement as this becomes more common in their context. Key stakeholders also highlighted the impact of climate displacement on peace and stability as an important area for further research and advocacy with high levels of donor interest. Ongoing learnings from the Pacific Climate Mobility Framework, existing national policies, and technical experts highlighted the efficacy and potential value of national climate mobility frameworks.
- 49 Bower, Erica and Weerasinghe, Sanjula (2021) Planned relocation in the Pacific: A regional snapshot, PDD.
- 50 Pillar 3 was identified as a focus area that is becoming increasingly important, particularly in the Pacific region, and presents an opportunity for AfP to position itself at the forefront of increased programming and funding to support these processes over the next five years and beyond. Planned relocations have been separated from other durable solutions in Pillar 2 to tailor support and develop innovative approaches to support the decision-making, planning, preparation, relocation, and resettlement of communities who are faced with the decision to relocate.
- 51 Interview 12
- 52 Many AfP partners maintain important skills in facilitating community-led processes, this can be built on and strengthened in supporting planned relocations. Previous and perspective Pacific partners bring experience and lessons learned in supporting these processes that can be leveraged and shared. It is important to invest in relationships building with new partners to build trust and credibility.
- 53 It will be important to produce evidence with affected communities to understand what approaches are appropriate and feasible. Consulted communities and Pacific stakeholders consistently raised the importance of sharing evidence and lessons learned from relocation processes. Churches play a critical role in supporting communities before, during, and after relocation, and can provide important forums for community consultation, decision-making, and providing psychosocial support.
- 54 Effective advocacy can be used to shift mindset and behaviour as a critical first step in building momentum to reform current processes. This pillar also emphasises the importance of advocacy for climate justice and efforts to avert, minimize or address non-economic loss and damage, such as the loss of land, history, and culture. In order for new community-led approaches to relocation to be effective and sustainable, the government must be on board. Effective advocacy and collaboration with government will be key to success.
- 55 In efforts to position itself a key external partner to support planned relocations, AfP must first invest time and resources into understanding contextualised approaches to community-led relocations. By engaging with and learning from organisations that are already implementing these approaches, for example FCOSS in Fiji, AfP can develop a unique value add to pitch to donors.
- 56 Interview 6
- 57 Interview 7
- 58 Interview 13
- 59 Interview 13
- 60 Interview 15
- 61 Interview 14
- 62 Interviews 6, 7, 10; Partner survey
- 63 Pacific Islands Forum (2023) [Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility](#)
- 64 Interview 13
- 65 HAG (2020) Creating Communication that Works: Humanitarians and the Climate Crisis, <https://humanitarianadvisorygroup.org/insight/creating-communication-that-works/>
- 66 Pacific Islands Forum (2023) Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility. <https://forumsec.org/publications/pacific-regional-framework-climate-mobility>
- 67 Displacement Solutions (2013) The Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement within States. <https://www.displacementsolutions.org/peninsula-principles>
- 68 Pacific Islands Forum (2023) Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility. <https://forumsec.org/publications/pacific-regional-framework-climate-mobility>
- 69 Ibid.

70 Ibid.

71 Ibid.

72 Ibid.

73 Ibid.

74 Ibid.

75 UNHCR, The Nansen Initiative, NRC, and IDMC (2014) Planned relocation, disasters and climate change: Consolidating good practices and preparing for the future, Georgetown University and Brookings Institute.

76 UNHCR (2017) Protecting Refugees, [https://www.unhcr.org/cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2018/05/UNHCR\\_Brochure\\_EN.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2018/05/UNHCR_Brochure_EN.pdf)