

# Disaster Displacement in Asia and the Pacific





# Internal displacement trends in Asia and the Pacific (2010–2021)



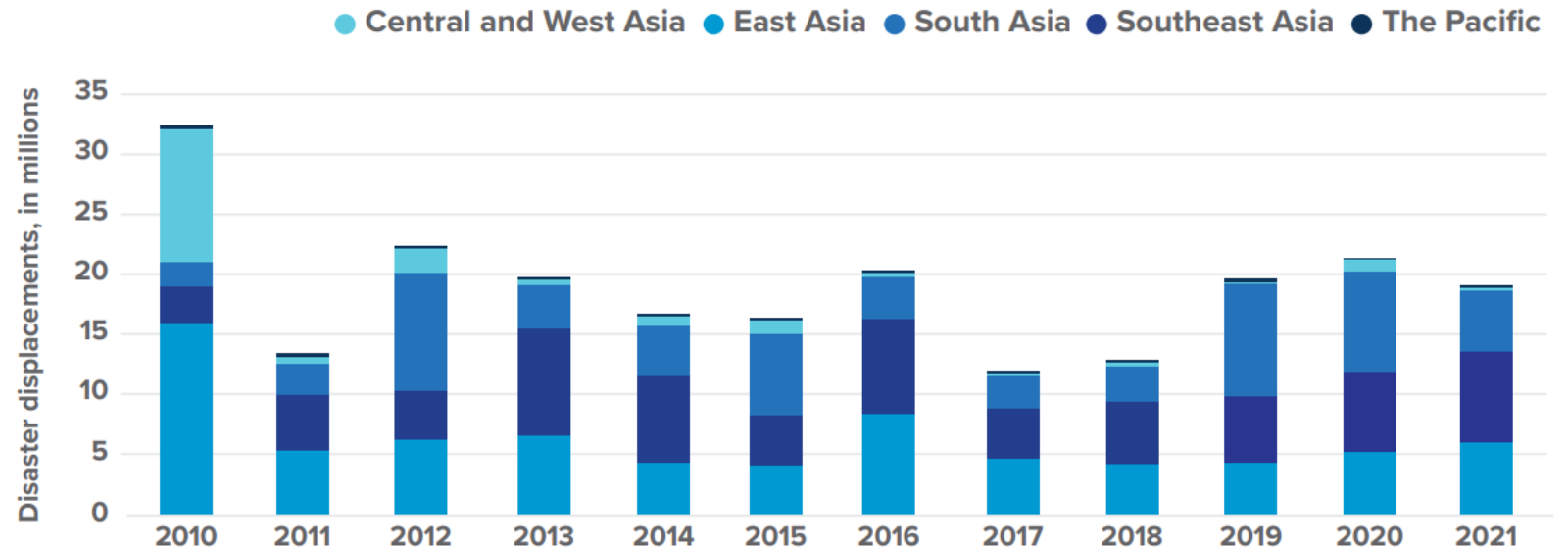


# The decade in perspective

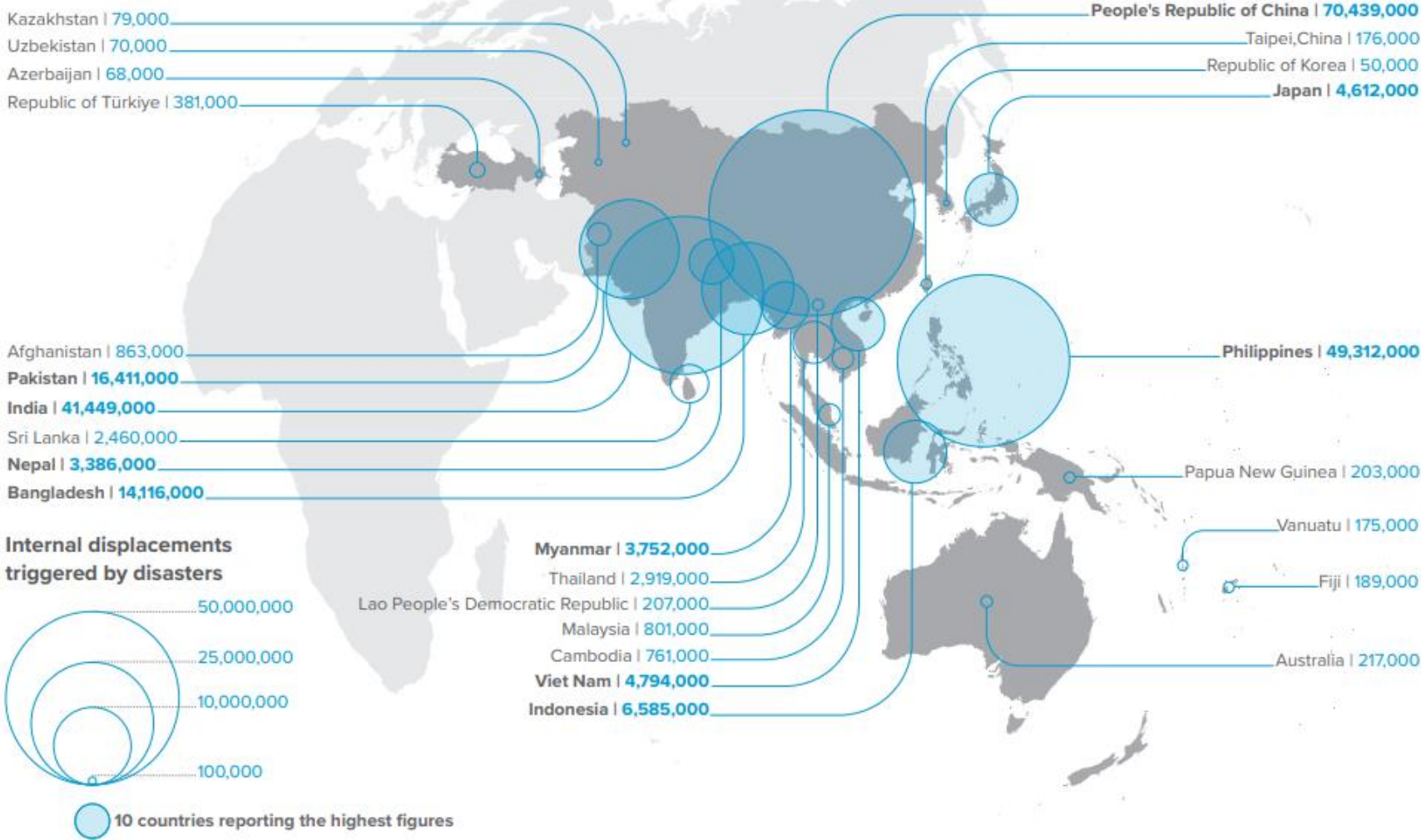
Asia and the Pacific is the region most affected by disaster displacement worldwide.

An estimated **225.3 million** internal displacements—or forced movements—were recorded during 2010-2021.

**78%** of the global total during this period



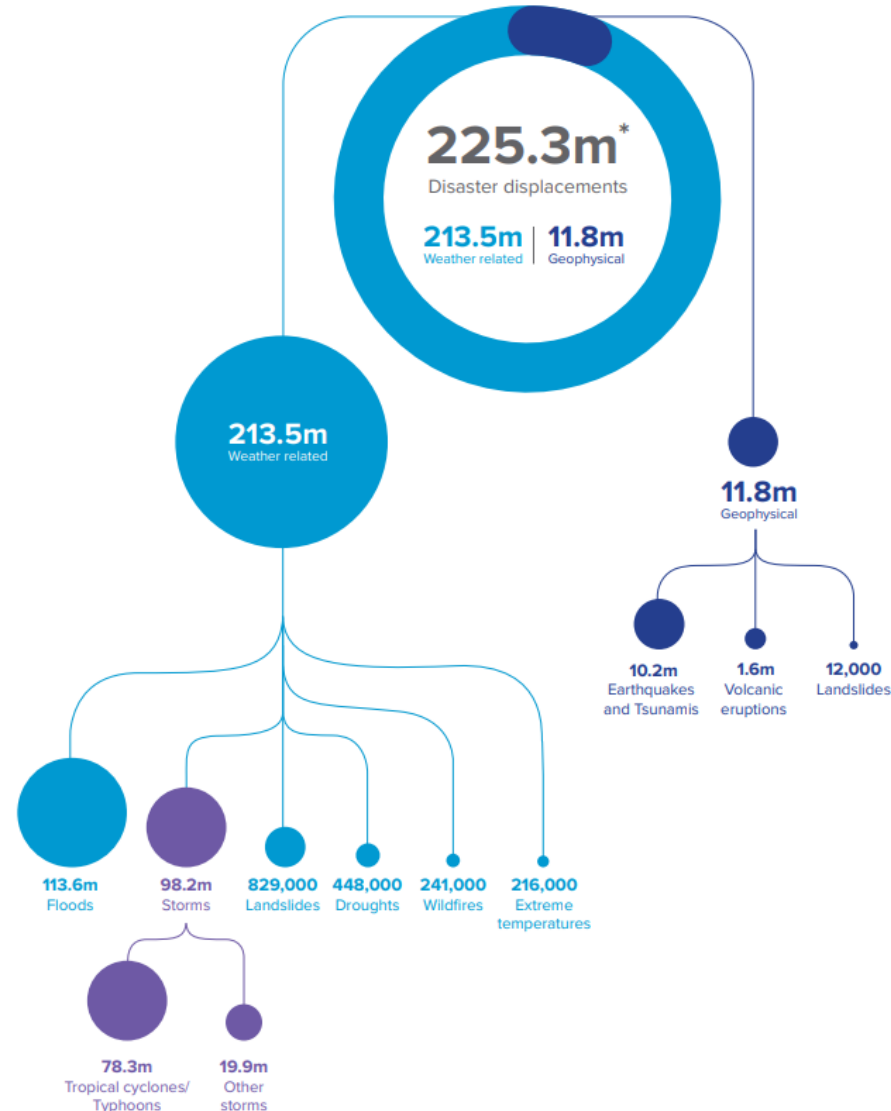
# The footprint of disaster displacement in Asia and Pacific



# Displacement by hazard type

**Weather-related hazards**, such as monsoon rains, floods, storms, and cyclones, were responsible for **95%** of all disaster displacements.

Although less frequent, **geophysical events** such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions triggered an estimated **11.8 million** internal displacements, equivalent to 5.2% of the total.



# Floods

Floods have been the hazard triggering most disaster displacements in Asia and the Pacific since 2010, with **113.6 million**, or **50%** of the total.

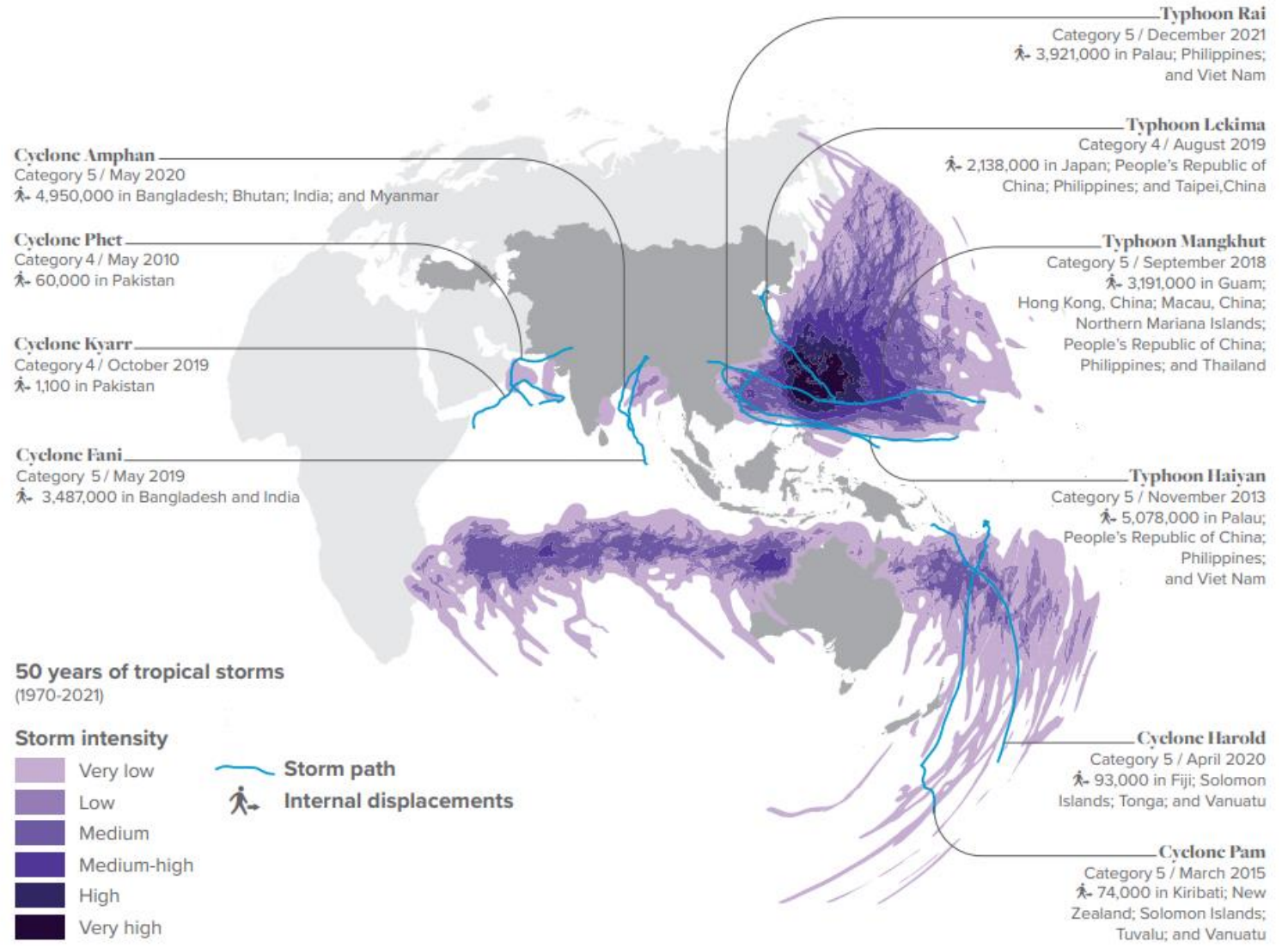




# Storms

Storms triggered **98.2 million** internal displacements in the region during 2010–2021.

Tropical cyclones—also referred to in the region as typhoons—account for **80%** of the total storm-related displacement.



# Earthquakes and tsunamis

**90%** of the earthquakes globally take place in the region.

Although less frequent than tropical cyclones or floods, the impacts of earthquakes and tsunamis can be devastating. Combined, they triggered **10.2 million** internal displacements during 2010–2021.





# Volcanic activity

The Asia and Pacific region has **75%** of all active volcanoes in the world.

Since 2010, there have been **1.6 million** internal displacements triggered by volcanic activity across 6 countries (Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Vanuatu).





# Slow-onset hazards

During 2010–2021, at least

**760,000**

internal displacements triggered by slow-onset hazards were identified in 17 countries and territories across the Asia and Pacific region.

It remains difficult to paint a consistent picture of displacement associated with slow-onset events.





# Sub-regional overviews



**East Asia**  
(33.7% of the regional total)



**Southeast Asia**  
(30.7%)



**South Asia**  
(27.3%)



**Central and West Asia**  
(8%)



**The Pacific**  
(0.4%)

# The seasonal nature of disasters and displacement

**90%** of the displacements triggered by floods took place between May and August.

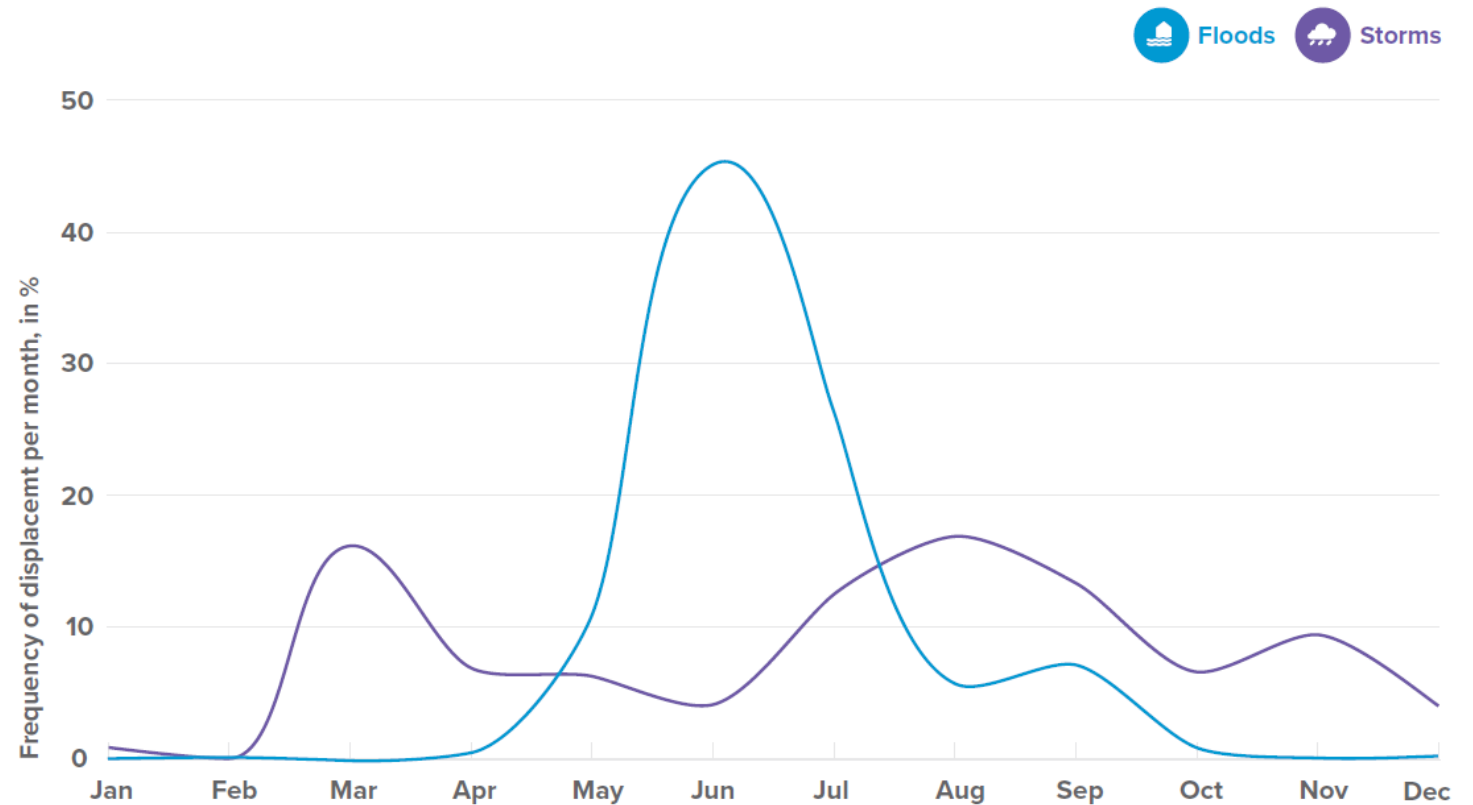


Figure 26: Frequency of Flood and Storm-related Displacement per Month in the Asia and Pacific Region (1990–2021)



# What next? The role of urbanization and climate change in driving disaster displacement

- Climate change is projected to increase displacement, but the phenomenon is highly complex, making it difficult to draw causal relationships.
- In the world's most rapidly urbanizing region, the role of urbanization in shaping displacement risk will be critical, as it contributes significantly to increasing the exposure of people to hazards.



# Social and economic impacts of disaster displacement





# Short and long-term economic impacts

The economic impact of internal displacement worldwide was more than **\$21 billion** in 2021.

For the Asia and Pacific region, annual economic losses caused by disasters amount to several **billions each year**, not accounting for the costs and losses linked with disaster displacement itself.

Modelled estimates show that, for every day IDPs are unable to work as a result of displacement, **\$275.5 million** could be lost across the region.



# Case study: Indonesia

Over **1/2** of the people who had to leave their homes in Jakarta in 2021 had been displaced more than once.

Average monthly income for displaced respondents was **1/3** of that of non-displaced respondents.

**1** in **4** respondents said they had to pay to repair their home, spending the equivalent of over a month of their average income.

Only **47%** of displaced respondents continued their income generating activity during displacement.

**10%** lost all income while they were displaced.





# Case study: Nepal

Lost economic production resulting from internal displacement following the 2015 Gorkha earthquake was estimated at **\$406 million**.

A study conducted in the Sindhupalchok District in 2022 found that:

**22%** of the displaced respondents lost all income in 2015.

**64%** of them were still unemployed 7 years later.

**44%** of the non-displaced respondents reported additional expenses after the arrival of IDPs.



# Case study: Papua New Guinea

**17%** of the people displaced by sea-level rise in Port Moresby in 2018-19 reported having lost their income entirely upon their displacement.

**88%** of them remained without income for more than 1 year.

Years later in 2022, the average value of the displaced respondents' homes remained lower compared to non-displaced respondents.





# Differentiated impacts of disaster displacement

- Displacement tends to exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities and reinforce social inequalities.
- Understanding these specificities is essential to designing inclusive and effective support.
- Displaced women, children, older people and people with disabilities are often at higher risk of neglect, abuse and violence than their non-displaced counterparts.
- Expanding the collection of disaggregated data on IDPs can assist in understanding these differences and fostering more inclusive planning and responses.





# Addressing disaster displacement progress in policy and the way forward





# The Sendai Framework: 7 Years On

Recent recommendations from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) for monitoring progress on implementation of the Sendai Framework highlight the importance of including indicators on displacement to complement existing indicators and support people-centered approaches to achieving the seven targets

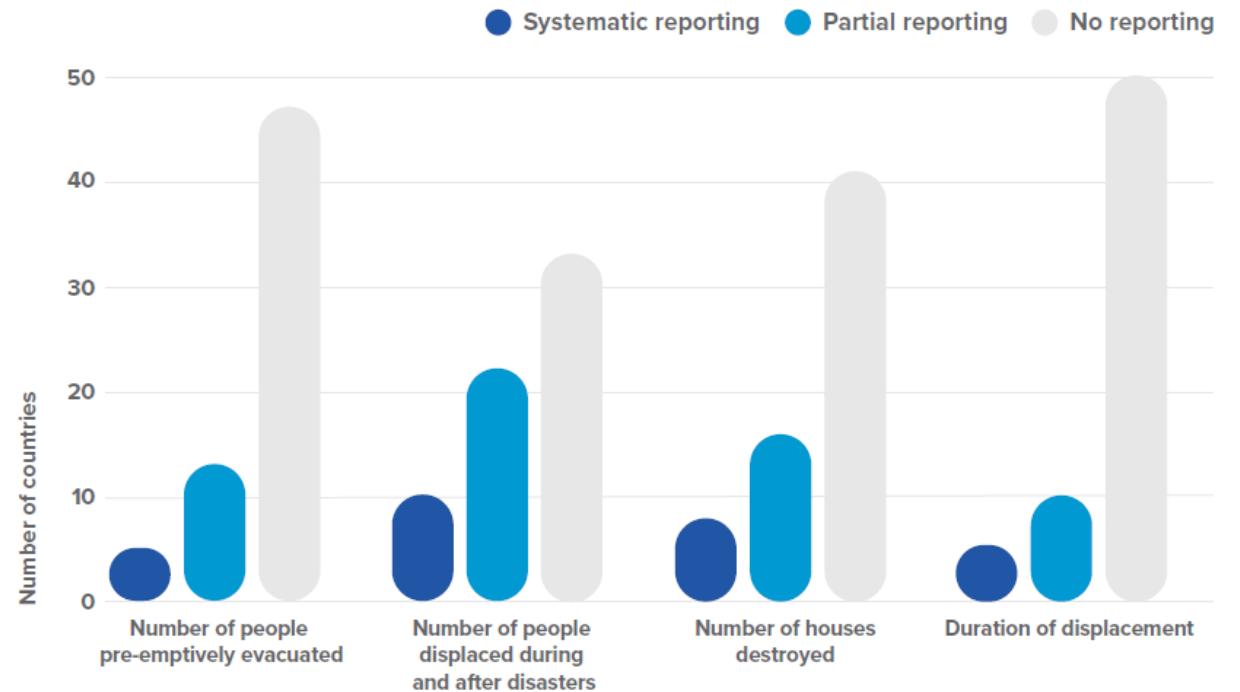


Figure 33: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-recommended Indicators Complementing the Sendai Framework for 65 countries in the Asia and Pacific Region

# The Sendai Framework: 7 Years On

**Two thirds** of the governments in the countries assessed do not publish or endorse data on disaster displacement.

**Only 3** of the countries assessed collect data that is partially disaggregated by sex and age.

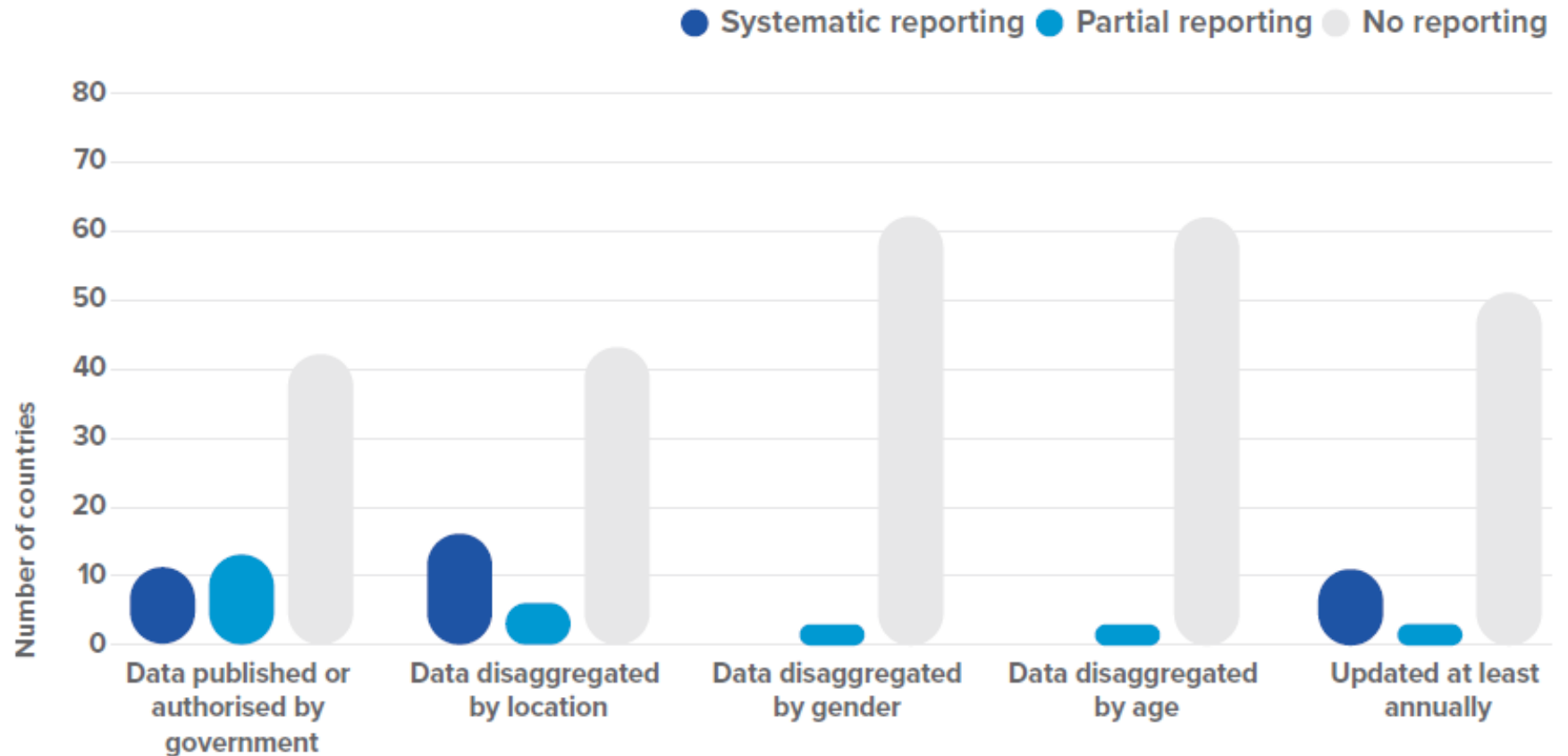


Figure 34: Internal Displacement Index Indicators on Disaster Displacement Data for 65 Countries in the Asia and Pacific Region



# Progress on policy development

Out of 23 countries analysed, **87%** recognize internal displacement caused by disasters.

**2/3** include measures to prevent future displacement and to address durable solutions.

Less than **50%** include measures to mitigate the impact of displacement on other groups, such as host communities.





# The way forward

- **Investment**

in sustainable development and early action will be less costly than humanitarian aid

- **Regional collaboration**

should be strengthened to foster knowledge sharing

- **Robust disaster displacement data**

will help disaster planning and response







Every day, people flee conflict and disasters and become displaced inside their own countries. IDMC provides data and analysis and supports partners to identify and implement solutions to internal displacement.

Join us as we work to make real and lasting change for internally displaced people in the decade ahead.