

## Introduction to Displacement in Disaster and Climate Change

The Asia and Pacific region faces significant challenges related to natural disaster, that when coupled with ongoing climate change events results in significant instances of population displacement – or *people on the move*. Through its Regional Asia and Pacific Programme (RAPP) the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) is implementing activities with a specific focus towards this issue, with the overall aim to improve human rights outcomes for people displaced due to disaster and a changing climate.

## Strategic Research

Strong research outcomes form the overall foundation for RWI's human rights-based work for displaced communities due to disaster and climate change. Through previous research findings and current research activities, RWI continues to strengthen the understanding, application and development of human rights approaches for disaster risk reduction (DRR) within the Asia and Pacific regions. RWI's strategic research is consistently utilised to inform relevant learning and practical activities within the disaster management sector. These research activities also add to the breadth of international information related specifically to human rights for people displaced due to disaster and climate change. Some examples of recent activities include:

- *Protecting Persons Displaced in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in Asia Pacific: A Human Rights-Based Approach to Law, Policy and Practice in Ten Countries* stands as RWI's key regional thematic study on displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. This study has gone on to form a bedrock for the development and delivery of related activities, trainings and other practical outcomes, and stands as a strong example of the importance of applying the findings of strategic research to practical and beneficial activities implemented across Asia and the Pacific.
- Country Brief Series – formed from the above academic paper, these briefs provide specific insights into displacement within the disaster and climate change context for 10 unique countries across the region. They are developed from a more *programmatic* approach in order to support practical understanding and application.

## Networking and Knowledge Sharing

Human rights for people displaced due to disaster and climate change requires increased sharing of knowledge, experience and ideas to ensure better human rights outcomes for affected communities. Engaging and sharing information across borders, sectors and backgrounds is central to overall improvement, and therefore RWI aims to increase networking and knowledge sharing both within the academic sector and outside. To do this, RWI utilises the following approaches:

- Establishing and facilitating an academic network across the Asia Pacific region that aims to shape and evolve the discourse on human rights and environmental SDG implementation. Networks such as this form a key method for regional change, with results that include the submission of recommendations to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment.
- Works with other key stakeholders – such as universities, governments and civil society organisations to explore new concepts, methods and strategies that can further develop dialogue, increase discourse, and raise awareness on the importance of human rights considerations within disaster response and preparedness activities.

## Capacity Development and Training

RWI continues to develop and implement activities aimed to increase the practical capacity and skills of disaster management stakeholders in relation to human rights for displaced people within the disaster and climate change context. This includes a pivot to more innovative and accessible training through digital platforms that ensure a broader reach for capacity development activities across the region. To do this, RWI has::

- Co-developed innovative Blended Learning Courses with 6 universities/ academic institutions in four Asian countries, that take advantage of the knowledge and skills of academic leaders and sector specialists in content development for the region's disaster management sector. These courses will be delivered through a mix of online and offline environments, increasing access and engagement of audiences who learn about the application of human rights and gender-based approaches for displacement within the disaster and climate change context.



Tikung, East Java, Indonesia

- Incorporated these Blended Learning Courses into a wider comprehensive set of training modules and manuals, aimed to increase capacity related to human rights for regional stakeholders. A key focus of the module development has been ensuring regional context is applied to international knowledge and practices, that will allow for ease of application within the diverse Asia-Pacific region.

## About RWI

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) is an independent academic institution established in Sweden, with a mission to promote universal respect for human rights and humanitarian law through research, academic education and institutional development programmes. Engaged in Asia for over 25 years, RWI forms a constructive and credible long-term partner for governments, institutes and rights-based community groups, implementing activities focused towards research, capacity development and overall human rights dialogue throughout the region.

RWI is committed to making its research free and publicly available. For a more comprehensive list, please visit RWI's webpage and the publications section (please scan QR code):



Supported by:



*For more information on the Institute's programmes and activities in the Asia Pacific region contact RWI's coordinating office in Jakarta:*

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