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## Preparing for planned relocation

Governments will increasingly need to consider relocating communities in order to protect them from the adverse effects of climate change, exercising the state's duty to move populations out of harm's way in the face of foreseeable hazards. Planning for relocation is essential and requires the creation of an enabling environment, including a legal basis for undertaking planned relocation, capacity building and a whole-of-government approach. It involves risk assessments and consultation with, and the active participation of, affected communities – those to be relocated, those left behind and host communities. Focusing on the human dimensions includes systematic efforts to allow people to maintain their identity, ties, and connections to land and traditional ways of life.

Relocating communities is a complex and difficult undertaking and there is a need for cross-pollination of expertise, ideas and action among a variety of experts and institutions, including development, humanitarian assistance, human rights, disaster risk management, environment and climate change, and

urban and regional planning. Lessons, experience and existing guidance from existing guidelines and experiences in other contexts could usefully be extrapolated to planned relocation in the context of disasters and climate change. Especially needed now are practical tools and action plans to assist national and local authorities and those who support them in undertaking planned relocation.

Finally, independent, short- and long-term, quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation systems should be created to assess the impacts and outcomes of planned relocation, and mechanisms should be established to ensure accountability and to provide remedies to affected populations.

For preliminary guidance and further information, see *Planned Relocation, Disasters and Climate Change: Consolidating Good Practices and Preparing for the Future*, report from expert consultation in Sanremo, Italy, 12-14 March 2014 [www.unhcr.org/54082cc69.html](http://www.unhcr.org/54082cc69.html)