



Solomon Islands Government



# Planned Relocation Guidelines

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## 2022



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- Georgetown University, the Brookings Institution, and UNHCR (2015) *Guidance on Protecting People from Disasters and Environmental Change through Planned Relocation* Washington, DC
- Georgetown University, IOM, UNHCR (2017) *A Toolbox: Planning Relocations to Protect People from Disasters and Environmental Change* Washington DC

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# 1. Preamble

Solomon Islands is prone to hazards such as cyclones, earthquakes, king tides and floods, and is also highly exposed to slow onset disasters such as sea level rise. Solomon Islands, like other Pacific Island Countries, has a negligible climate footprint but disproportionately suffers from the adverse effects of climate change which is primarily caused by emissions from large advanced and emerging market economies. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognises that countries in the Least Developed Country category, which includes Solomon Islands, are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Solomon Islanders are already experiencing these impacts as more frequent and intense weather events associated with climate change endanger lives, destroy homes, destroy crops and the soil, and pose an existential challenge to people who understand themselves by reference to their ancestral lands.

The Solomon Islands *National Adaptation Programmes of Action (2008)* states that climate change is the “most important environmental and developmental issue for Solomon Islands” and that adaptation measures need to be implemented with “some urgency”. In a similar vein, the *National Climate Change Policy (2012-2017)* recognises that climate change will threaten the achievement of Solomon Islands national development goals and will place added burden on government resources. Furthermore, the country's *National Security Strategy (2020)* recognizes climate change as “the number one global security risk facing Solomon Islands”. The severity of climate change impacts and the urgency required in addressing them is also recognised at the regional level where the Pacific Islands Forum has affirmed in the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* and the *Kainaiki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Action Now* that climate change is the single biggest threat facing the region.

Climate-driven relocation is already occurring in Solomon Islands and more communities are expected to need to relocate in the future. The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) has already identified several communities that may benefit from Planned Relocation, such as Choiseul

Province's capital, Taro. There are also documented instances of communities conducting community-driven relocations following accepted traditional protocols. Against this backdrop, the SIG has developed these Guidelines for voluntary, planned and coordinated relocation of communities as a strategy of last resort in the context of slow onset changes to the environment as well as sudden onset disasters. Implementation of these guidelines requires a multi-sectoral, whole of government approach led by the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC).

The Guidelines are aligned with the *National Development Strategy 2016-2035*, the *National Climate Change Policy 2012-2017*, and the *National Disaster Management Plan 2018*. These frameworks and several existing instruments mentioned throughout these Guidelines draw the national, provincial and village level together to enable a multi-sectoral, collaborative approach and local determination of actions under a unified structure.

The Guidelines set out requirements for people-centred, participatory and inclusive dialogue and decision-making at all stages of the relocation. Ensuring ownership by Affected Communities is necessary to facilitate the protection of the rights and dignity of all people involved in relocation, and is essential for durable solutions. Solomon Islands is geographically, culturally and linguistically diverse. Its systems of land tenure, marine tenure and governance vary across the country, and this necessarily means that the stakeholders and processes for each relocation will vary. The Guidelines affirm the importance of acknowledging and sustaining this diversity while also providing certainty as to the broad process to be followed and the standards to be met.

The Guidelines also acknowledge that definitions of ‘community’ may be diverse and dynamic in any one place, and that attempts to define the social and territorial boundaries of communities may be a source of social tension and conflict. The Guidelines do not presuppose a definition

of community but allow the relevant social groups to emerge through consultations and the relocation itself, with all people affected by a relocation to be included in these processes.

Solomon Islands already has a history of diverse forms of migration and mobility. This includes state-led resettlements during the colonial period, and ongoing, voluntary internal migration as people move to urban, peri-urban and rural areas for a variety of reasons including environmental change and better access to government services, employment, and livelihood opportunities. The experiences of existing relocations provide important lessons to inform future relocations, and these Guidelines provide for ongoing monitoring of experiences of relocation.

Solomon Islands is a complex context for Planned Relocation due to the extent of customary and marine tenure, the persistence of customary claims to alienated land, the widespread authority and legitimacy of non-state actors including churches and customary leaders, the constrained capacity of national and provincial governments, and the country's social, linguistic and ethnic diversity. Within this complex environment, the SIG bears primary responsibility under international law to respect, promote, and fulfil the human rights of Solomon Islanders. This includes the obligation to take preventative as well as remedial action to uphold such rights and to assist those whose rights have been violated. The SIG also has the primary role of receiving and managing climate finance and authorising, directing and coordinating the provision of humanitarian and development assistance to communities in need. As part of these obligations, and particularly in recognition of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and the historic injustice of colonial land dispossession, there must be a compelling reason, robust evidence, sound legal basis and adequate resourcing for undertaking Planned Relocation when all other risk reduction and adaptation options have been considered and reasonably exhausted.

## 1.1 A Living Document

These Guidelines are necessarily a living document. They are designed to be agile and will evolve with time and needs. Primary responsibility for these Guidelines is with the OPMC and they will be reviewed and updated following consultations with key stakeholders every five (5) years. This will be informed by ongoing risk mapping and vulnerability assessments of all Affected Communities, as well as information gathering and monitoring of needs, preferences, locations and mobility patterns of those displaced, or likely to be displaced.

Climate change will increasingly threaten and disrupt some communities, render some places uninhabitable, and drive climate migration. However, there are numerous uncertainties as to when, and how, this will happen. Climate migration will intersect, sometimes in unpredictable ways, with other pressures in Solomon Islands such as population growth, rural-urban migration, limited availability of affordable non-customary land, and the concentration of infrastructure, education and employment opportunities in a limited number of urban centres. Planned Relocations will also intersect with other forms of human mobility, some of which are novel but others which are very long-standing.

The ability of Solomon Islanders to adapt to a climate-affected future will depend on both clear systems and frameworks for relocation, as well as sufficient flexibility within those frameworks to allow for diverse needs, forms of movement and mechanisms for relocation. These Guidelines identify several measures that are necessary to support increased public awareness of the possibility of relocation becoming necessary. Acknowledging that successful relocation may require consultations over generations, the Guidelines set out requirements for increased emphasis on climate change education in schools, and increased efforts by Government and other key stakeholders to raise awareness of the potential need for relocation among communities that are identified as particularly vulnerable to climate-induced and slow onset disasters.

## 1.2 Scope and Purpose of the Guidelines

These Guidelines provide for the voluntary, planned and coordinated movement of people to suitable locations, away from risk-prone areas, where they can enjoy their rights under customary, national and international law, fulfilment of which is necessary for relocation to be durable. The Guidelines establish a framework for decision-making, planning and undertaking relocation in accordance with the principles in key regional and international frameworks that provide guidance for relocation, as applicable to the context of Solomon Islands.

Specifically, the purpose of these Guidelines is to:

- **Set out an inclusive, consultative and participatory process to ensure community engagement in and ownership of the relocation process.** The Guidelines acknowledge the fundamental roles that must be played by communities who need to relocate, as well as the communities who enable and welcome people who are relocating. The rights, interests and needs of communities are central to relocation and this means that community engagement in, and direction and ownership of, the relocation process is central to Indigenous self-determination. The Guidelines aim to ensure that all communities have a central role in outlining their future needs and aspirations with respect to relocation, climate adaptation and sustainable development, and are able to direct the relocation process before, during and after the relocation itself. The Guidelines also deliberately leave ‘community’ undefined, acknowledging the diverse and dynamic definitions of ‘community’ that may exist in any one place and the need for these definitions to emerge through consultations and relocation itself.
- **Contribute to existing social safeguards to prevent, reduce, mitigate and/or compensate for the unintended negative impacts of relocation.** Noting that relocation processes can entail certain risks that might impact specific groups within the affected population, the Guidelines provide guidance and require the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures for the prioritisation of particular groups – including but not limited to women, youth and persons with disabilities – and the collection of data disaggregated by gender, disability status, age and other factors of importance in Solomon Islands.

- **Provide a coordination mechanism to ensure a multi-sectoral approach and collaboration of all stakeholders.** Key stakeholders will include Affected Communities, SIG ministries and agencies, provincial governments, intergovernmental organisations, regional and international organisations, faith-based organisations and networks, women’s organisations, academia and the private sector. It is expected that donor and international partners will work within the structure of these guidelines and other relevant policies, coordinated through the OPMC.
- **Establish clear and inclusive procedures that retain the flexibility required in the context of Solomon Islands.** The Guidelines set out clear procedures that provide certainty to key stakeholders, including Affected Communities, while also allowing for diverse models and pathways into the relocation process. The Guidelines recognise that climate adaptation must be founded in, and support the maintenance of, indigenous knowledge, practices, and forms of governance.

## 1.3 Definitions

**Affected Communities** means all people affected by a relocation including those residing in Communities in Close Proximity, in Host Communities, and in Relocating Communities. It includes People Who Choose Not to Participate in a Planned Relocation.

**CCA** means Climate Change Adaptation, that is, the reduction of vulnerability to the increasing risks of climate change and climate variability through adaptation processes and strengthening human and institutional capacities to assess, plan and respond to challenges.

**Communities in Close Proximity** means people who live in and around the areas the Relocating Community moves to, and whose lives are affected by a Planned Relocation, but who are not a Host Community.

**Coordinating Ministry** means the SIG ministry that will assume overall leadership for Planned Relocation in accordance with these Guidelines.

**DRR** means Disaster Risk Reduction, that is, supporting communities to understand and manage hazards and disasters for safeguarding lives, property and livelihoods.

**Host Community or Communities** means people living in areas where Relocated People settle, or it is proposed they settle.

**Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment**

is a key instrument already in existence to identify and prepare the nation and its people to the risks posed by climate change and disaster. It is an integrated, holistic, country-wide approach that includes a wide range of key partners essential to successful relocation.

**Landholding Communities** refers to those communities from whom land is acquired for the purpose of relocation.

**MECDM** refers to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology.

**MLHS** refers to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey.

**National DM Plan** refers to the *National Disaster Management Plan 2018*.

**N-CRR Committee** refers to the National Climate Risk Resilience Committee established under the auspices of the National DM Plan.

**Ombudsman** means the Office of the Ombudsman of Solomon Islands, which has authority under the Constitution and the Ombudsman Act 2017 to enquire into the administrative conduct of public bodies, assist in improvement of practices and procedures of public bodies, and ensure the elimination of arbitrary and unfair decisions.

**OPMC** means the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

**Original Site** refers to the geographical location from which a Relocating Community is relocating.

**Other Stakeholders.** Noting that the Ward and Village DR Committees provide for participation by a range of stakeholders, this term refers to stakeholders who are not incorporated elsewhere, for example the private sector.

**P-CRR Committee** refers to Provincial Climate Risk Resilience Committees established under the auspices of the National DM Plan.

**People Who Choose Not to Participate in Planned Relocation** means people who are eligible to take part in a Planned Relocation (for example they are part of the Relocating Community) but who choose not to do so.

**Planned Relocation** is distinguished from **evacuation** and **displacement**. It means voluntary, planned, and coordinated movement of a group of people who self-identify as a community from one location to another, with involvement by the State. It is undertaken to protect people from risks and impacts associated with natural hazards, disasters and environmental change, including the effects of climate change. In Solomon Islands, it may include relocation within the territory already held by a group; from coastal areas to inland areas nearby; from one island to another; and possibly from one province to another.

**Relocating Community** means the group of people who participate in a Planned Relocation or who have agreed to participate in a Planned Relocation.

**Relocating Persons** means a member or resident of a Relocating Community.

**Relocation Site** refers to the geographical location to which a Relocating Community is relocating.

**SIG** refers to the Solomon Islands Government.

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** means the prescribed arrangements, processes and actions to be followed by actors during a Planned Relocation.

**State** means national, provincial or other levels of public authority and public institutions.

**Ward DR Committee** refers to Ward Disaster Risk Committees established under the auspices of the National DM Plan.

**Village DR Committee** refers to Village Disaster Risk Committees established under the auspices of the National DM Plan.

## 2. Overarching Principles

The following overarching principles should be applied at all phases of relocation:

- **A people-centred, inclusive, and participatory approach:** it is vital to ensure the active participation and contributions of the whole population of an area, at all phases of relocation. This should include specific consideration for more vulnerable populations including women, children, persons with disabilities and older people, and other people who might experience discrimination and exclusion based on gender, sexuality, ethnicity and place of origin. Planned Relocation involves land tenure but is also broader, and should be addressed as a question of livelihoods and wellbeing (including considerations of marine tenure and culture, social cohesion and connection) in which all people living in an area have an interest, knowledge, experience and expertise.
- **A developmental and livelihoods-based approach:** Relocating Communities, Host Communities and Communities in Close Proximity should not be negatively affected, and the relocation should contribute to 'migration as adaptation'. Relocation should restore a person's livelihood to at least the standard enjoyed before relocation took place. This requires sensitivity and a context-specific approach to identifying and understanding the needs of individuals, households and communities. Planned Relocation should provide opportunities and conditions to enable all Affected Communities to improve or, at a minimum, maintain their living standards and mitigate adverse impacts of the Planned Relocation.
- **An approach that ensures realistic time frames and adequate consultation:** all stakeholders should ensure that there is adequate time to undertake an inclusive and comprehensive decision-making, planning and implementation process. Processes of discussion and decision-making in Solomon Islands often require extensive periods of time that do not always fit with the timelines of external stakeholders. The Guidelines establish a process for consensus-building prior to the final decision to relocate, and it is anticipated that unexpected issues may emerge during decision-making, planning, implementation and after relocation.
- **An approach that recognises, affirms and protects customary, traditional and place-based knowledge and practices:** custom, culture and community sustain life in Solomon Islands and respect for the different customs, laws and practices of each place should underpin relocation. Traditional knowledge, including that relating to land, sea, water, ecology, agriculture, language, ritual and the arts are central to Solomon Islander identities, vital to livelihoods and climate resilience, and may also be a resource to assist communities to mitigate and cope with relocation. Such knowledge should be valued and protected to minimise the negative impacts of displacement.
- **A transparent and accountable approach:** there should be clearly-defined and implemented mechanisms to ensure accountability to all Affected Communities and Other Stakeholders, and to ensure that all steps involved in relocation are understood by all key stakeholders including groups that may be otherwise be vulnerable, marginalised or excluded from consultation and information sharing.
- **A multi-agency, multi-sectoral approach that works** to ensure collaboration and minimal duplication and wastage.
- **A flexible, adaptive approach** that responds to variation and changes in circumstances.



Credit: Solomon Islands  
Ministry of Environment,  
Climate Change, Disaster  
Management and Meteorology.

## 3. Cross-Cutting Issues

### 3.1 Education, Information, Consultation and Participation

Climate change will increasingly threaten and disrupt some communities, and render some places unviable for occupation or livelihoods, at least on a sustained, ongoing basis. Communities across Solomon Islands are very aware that they are experiencing changes in the environments that they depend upon, as they are witnessing first-hand the changes to coastlines, weather patterns, soils, crops, fishing grounds and more. However, not all people are aware of the outcomes and findings of formal, official studies, such as those from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the likely implications for their circumstances, such as the projections for Sea Level Rise. Not all people and communities are well-connected to provincial and national government agencies, and able to request assistance from government, development partners and NGOs. Furthermore, many people, particularly older generations, are likely to be extremely reluctant to consider relocating. Planned Relocation is likely to be an intergenerational issue, taking significant periods of time and with younger people ultimately bearing the brunt of climate change and more likely to relocate.

There is an urgent need for up-to-date information and increased awareness of the likely impacts of climate change, and increased engagement between communities, provincial and national agencies, as well as Other Stakeholders. National and provincial authorities must, as a matter of urgency:

- Undertake a comprehensive risk management and vulnerability assessment of the country to determine the most exposed communities and/or consolidate existing assessments
- Prioritise the most exposed or vulnerable communities for Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments
- Prioritise the most exposed or vulnerable communities for the establishment of Ward or Village Disaster Risk Committees under the National Disaster Management (DM) Plan 2018
- Establish a program of action with clear milestones and targets for mainstreaming climate and disaster risk management to promote adaptation, sustainability, and inclusion/equity as set out under the Education Strategic Framework 2016-2030.

At all stages of the relocation process, Affected Communities should be kept informed of:

- The communication channels through which communities may receive and provide information;
- The schedule of dates, times and locations for meetings; and
- The activities and studies to be carried out as part of the relocation program, the objective of these activities, the type of information that will be compiled and its purpose, and the timetable envisaged.

Standard Operating Procedures should be developed which outline how information sharing, consultation and participation for diverse groups (including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons) will be conducted. This must include making information available in appropriate languages and in ways that are accessible and culturally appropriate, taking into account groups that may have specific needs based on aspects such as disability and literacy. Communication must take into consideration the channels that are used by the Affected Communities, including radio and social media.

### 3.2 Needs of, and Impacts on, Affected Populations

These Guidelines refer to Planned Relocation but acknowledge that people who live physically close to one another may not be socially cohesive. Collective relocation is not always the best option for existing communities. Extensive consultations with, and participation by, community members increases the likelihood that all stakeholders have an awareness of factors such as social, cultural, faith-based and livelihood networks, levels of social cohesion or conflict, sense of collective identity, and the extent to which people self-identify as a member of the community. Planned Relocation may involve cohesive communities, groups of people living in physical proximity to one another who do not have an overarching collective identity, and/or groups who would like to distinguish themselves and establish distinct communities as part of the relocation process.

In many instances, relocation in Solomon Islands will entail aspects of all of these possibilities. People who are relocating may wish to reorganise themselves in the new site to express both their differences and their sense of community identity.

Wherever possible, Relocating Communities should be relocated to sites where they share similarities with other Affected Communities in terms of their social, linguistic, cultural, religious, political and livelihood characteristics. Relocation is more likely to be successful where there is a history of positive interaction or the potential to build relationships, for example through common church, trade or marriage networks.

Vulnerability assessments and social impact assessments must consider a range of data including the following:

- Key demographic, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of all Affected Communities
- The extent of cohesion within Relocating Communities, and the extent of commonality in their internal social, cultural, political and economic characteristics and structures, as well as commonality with Host Communities and Communities in Close Proximity
- Political organisation, including customary and church-based authority for all Affected Communities
- Productive activities, including subsistence livelihoods and sources of incomes for people in Affected Communities
- Existing services for all Affected Communities, including schools, health centres, water sources
- The potential impact of relocation on Indigenous knowledge, practices, and artefacts
- Past experience with community projects and the ways in which the community (or communities) manage labour, cash and materials.

Where such data is not available, ensuring that it is collected before, during and after a relocation is essential.

As part of these measures, the MLHS should undertake ongoing mapping of land that is safe, suitable and available for Planned Relocation, taking account of multi-hazards national risk mapping including Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments, and broader infrastructure and environmental planning controls.

The Guidelines also build on existing arrangements for assessing vulnerability, notably the Solomon Islands Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment.

### 3.3 Gender and Social Inclusion

Planned Relocation must advance gender equality and social inclusion in accordance with strategies set out in the *National Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy 2016-2020*, the *National Policy to Eliminate Violence Against Women 2016-2020*, the *Solomon Islands National Youth Policy 2017-2030* and other relevant gender and social inclusion policies. These Guidelines require the involvement of women, youth, persons with disabilities and all people who might otherwise be marginalised from national, provincial and community initiatives in all phases of Planned Relocations and at all levels. There must be at least 30 percent representation of women in each committee or team established under these Guidelines, as well as at least one youth representative of the age stated in the National Youth Policy. SOPs should provide for the effective involvement of women, youth and persons with disabilities in all operational processes and decision-making.

### 3.4 Resource Tenure and Relocation in Solomon Islands

The 1978 Constitution provides that only a Solomon Islander or other people prescribed by parliament may hold a perpetual interest in land. Most land in Solomon Islands is customary land which is held according to 'current customary usage'. This definition acknowledges that customary tenure may change, and the applicable custom does not always have to have existed. The Constitution provides the national government with the power to compulsorily acquire land, but this is utilised only as a last resort, when all avenues for securing voluntary agreements have failed.

Land and sea is the foundation of all life in Solomon Islands. It provides the basis for history, belonging, and connects people across the country. Solomon Islanders have always been mobile, and many people have connections to communities and places in different parts of the country. Customary tenure has ensured that most people may build secure homes and livelihoods. The maintenance of customary land and marine tenure is vital to ensuring Solomon Islanders can face a climate-affected future.

Customary tenure and systems of community governance vary widely across the country, meaning that diverse approaches will be required for the relocation of different communities. In all instances in which relocation is being explored, considered, or undertaken, the Affected Communities – Relocating Communities, Host Communities, and Communities in Close Proximity – must be extensively

consulted with respect to all aspects of relocation and particularly in relation to land issues and access to coastal and marine areas. Discussions between these communities must be facilitated and supported by the SIG with the support of local leaders including Houses or Councils of Chiefs, churches and elders, and where possible, building on existing community, church and NGO connections.

Relocation may take the form of:

- Groups moving within their own territories, that is, on their own customary land, which will be the least disruptive to their claims to land and marine areas and may or may not be registered or recorded as part of the relocation process.
- Groups relocating from their own customary land on to customary land associated with other groups, which may or may not become registered or recorded as part of the relocation process. In many instances such relocations will occur between neighbouring groups, lessening the impact on the relocating group's access to coastal and marine areas.
- Groups relocating from their own customary land onto land that is already alienated or registered. This may occur over larger distances, displacing the group from ready access to their coastal and marine areas.
- Groups relocating from land that is already alienated or registered, whether or not they hold formal legal title to the land, onto land that is already alienated and registered (most likely to arise in the case of relocation of existing urban communities and/or communities who have previously been relocated). The extent of impact on access to coastal and marine claims will vary depending on the site.

These Guidelines affirm the need to promote community-led processes for negotiating new land arrangements (including access to coastal and marine areas), supported by provincial and national government. The Guidelines establish a set of measures to be undertaken Prior to Relocation that provide a process of consensus-building over time, to ensure cohesion within and between Affected Communities with respect to the relocation process.

As part of the relocation process, a process of awareness-raising and consultation will be undertaken to enable the community to determine the most appropriate form of landholding. Options to be canvassed include:

- Land recording under the Customary Land Recording Act;
- Registration under the Land and Titles Act;
- Preferences for the issue of titles, which will often include a combination of community-held and individually-held titles, with community land held on trust, or by a cooperative or community company.

Land tenure will be one of the key challenges for successful relocation. All land matters will need to be dealt with in a sensitive manner that acknowledges local leadership models with respect to land while also ensuring appropriate inclusion for women and other vulnerable or marginalised groups. SOPs should be established to guide the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey (MLHS) and Other Stakeholders in acquiring, recording and registering land. SOPs should set out a process for the MLHS to give full consideration to the following:

- Mandating inclusion of women representatives as signatories to land agreements
- Mandating equal legal ownership of land
- Mandating reserved places for women as trustees or on boards of community companies.

### 3.5 Monitoring, Evaluation, Transparency and Accountability

Multi-dimensional baselines including environmental, economic and social assessments must be undertaken prior to a final decision being made regarding relocation. Mechanisms must also be established from the outset for monitoring, evaluation and accountability. This enables the SIG, Affected Communities and all Other Stakeholders to monitor progress and make necessary adjustments during the Planned Relocation, enhances accountability, and allows for lessons to be learned for future relocations.

Standard Operating Procedures should be developed which establish monitoring, evaluation and accountability measures including:

- Timelines and minimum standards for environmental, economic and social assessments
- The development of key indicators to ensure ongoing monitoring and timelines for periodic assessment
- Mechanisms for the participation of all Affected Communities
- Clear communication channels so that findings from on-going monitoring and evaluation may be shared with all stakeholders.

### 3.6 Financing for Planned Relocations

The cost of Planned Relocations will necessarily be substantial. National and provincial budgets for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and development planning are likely to be insufficient for the relocation of large numbers of people. Relocation is likely to require labour, cash, materials and other contributions from Affected Communities. The Solomon Islands Government will need to consider special budgetary allocations and will need to seek specific international donor assistance to secure the technical support and financing necessary for Planned Relocation.

## 4. Institutional Arrangements for Planned Relocation

### 4.1 Climate and Risk Resilience (CRR) Committees

The National DM Plan provides for the establishment of National and Provincial Climate and Risk Resilience (CRR) Committees.

Under the National DM Plan, the National CRR (N-CRR) Committee is responsible for:

- Coordinating the activities of hazards agencies for disaster and climate risk purposes
- Cross-sector coordination of policy development
- Management of programs for resilient development and disaster and climate risk.

Under the National DM Plan, the Provincial Climate and Risk Resilience (P-CRR) Committee is responsible for similar matters at the Provincial level.

In accordance with these obligations under the National DM Plan, the National CRR Committee and Provincial CRR Committees will be responsible for implementing these Guidelines and coordinating activities under them.

### 4.2 Ward and Village Arrangements

The impacts of Planned Relocation will be felt primarily at the community level. Communities have a role in identifying the environmental, disaster and climate hazards they face and in deciding upon and implementing initiatives to reduce their risk including addressing their land use, access to coastal and marine areas, and livelihood practices where appropriate.

Under the National DM Plan, the P-CRR are to work with ward and village groupings to establish Ward Disaster Risk (DR) Committees and Village Disaster Risk (DR) Committees.

The National DM Plan provides that these Committees should be based on established groups willing to take on the role. They are to accommodate local leadership models and build on existing community, church and NGO connections in accordance with the National DM Plan as well as other policies and frameworks including *The Solomon Islands National Peacebuilding Policy* and the *Solomon Islands Government and Solomon Islands Ecclesiastical Institutions Strategic Partnership Framework 2021-2025*. The National DM Plan also includes requirements for the involvement of women, youth and persons with disabilities in these arrangements.

The current responsibilities of Ward DR Committees include:

- Facilitating and supporting Village DR Committees in climate risk reduction
- Providing a connection between village initiatives and provincial planning and budgeting processes.

The current responsibilities of Village DR Committees include:

- Planning for climate risk reduction, including the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups
- Undertake DRR and CCA activities including vulnerability assessments and implementation of risk reduction and mitigation initiatives.

The Village DR Committee, or other appropriate local authority, will lead the process for the Relocating Community at the local level, with support from the P-CRR Committee, and from the Ward DR Committee as necessary.

### 4.3 External Support

The SIG is expected to need support and assistance from external agencies and actors throughout a Planned Relocation. Support may be sought from regional bodies, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, development partners, the private sector, and academic experts. External agencies and actors must connect with and where necessary build the capacity of the N-CRR and other SIG agencies when providing support and assistance to villages and communities.

Acknowledging the existing constraints on the SIG, it must take all appropriate measures to ensure access to basic human rights for all Affected Communities. Other Stakeholders must collaborate with government to support achievements of basic rights including through financing and external support to build capacity of national stakeholders with respect to gender mainstreaming, social inclusion and a rights-based approach.

### 4.4 Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

A range of disputes may arise throughout the relocation process.

In many instances, existing legal systems – both formal and informal or a combination thereof – provide for disputes that may arise during the relocation process (such as land disputes). Where this is not the case:

- Disputes within the Relocating Community should be canvassed at the local level at first instance, for example through Ward and Village DR Committees with support from the P-CRR
- Where the dispute is between Relocated Persons and the entities in charge of Relocation Planning, such as the N-CRR, P-CRR, Ward or Village DR Committees, then a complaint may be made to the Ombudsman.

Relocation Planning must include a strategy for disseminating information to Affected Communities regarding complaints mechanisms and the means by which they can access them.



Credit: Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology.

## 5. Prior to Relocation

This phase of the (potential) relocation includes:

- Making the decision that a Planned Relocation is necessary. This will include establishing communication channels and institutional arrangements, undertaking comprehensive vulnerability and risk assessments, and ensuring adequate research, consultation and planning with Affected Communities and Other Stakeholders
- If Planned Relocation is decided upon, preparing and developing a plan for relocation is necessary. This will include further and more comprehensive social, economic and environmental impact assessments; land investigations and acquisition; development site plans and establishing initial infrastructure.

This phase will not be linear. In most instances the decision to relocate, planning to relocate, and identification of the relocation site will occur simultaneously and over an extended period of time. This part establishes a set of measures that ensure a process of consensus-building among all stakeholders, which also contributes to cohesion within and between Affected Communities with respect to the relocation process.

### 5.1 Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment of Affected Populations

Planned Relocation must be taken as a last resort, after other measures to facilitate adequate adaptation have been exhausted. This includes strategies set out in the *National Climate Change Policy 2012-2017*, the *National Development Strategy 2016-2035* and the *National Disaster Management Plan 2018*.

In order to determine whether or not to undertake a relocation, all potential Affected Communities must have been the subject of an Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment that collects baseline data to inform planning, monitor change, and measure impacts of adaptation action areas.

Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments must include data on:

- Whether a smaller population may continue to reside in the area (whether permanently or temporarily);
- Time frames for various risks.

This base line data must be updated a maximum of five (5) years prior to the determination that relocation is necessary.

In discussing the risks identified through the Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment, alternatives to Planned Relocation must be considered, including risk reduction measures. A preliminary assessment of possible sites for Planned Relocation must also be undertaken and the potential Relocating Community informed of possible sites.

Village DR Committees or other established groups including NGOs, churches and other village committees may request the MECDM to undertake an Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment.

### 5.2 Financing

Planned Relocation is costly, and a preliminary budget must be prepared to understand the potential costs of undertaking a relocation. Issues to consider include:

- Whether existing national and provincial budgets for disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, or development planning are available to fund the relocation
- The forms of community contribution that can be expected including cash, labour and materials
- The forms of international financial support available to support a Planned Relocation
- If loans to Relocated Persons are to be considered for financing all or part of the costs of the Relocation, significant consideration must be given to the impact of debt on Relocated Persons
- Whether the necessary funds are available to support the Planned Relocation, and whether the necessary mechanisms to disburse funds have been established.

Other Stakeholders should support the SIG's efforts to ensure a clear and transparent budget allocation, related to all costs of the relocation planning.

### 5.3 Deciding to Relocate

In some cases, people or groups will determine that the risk of remaining in their current location is unacceptably high, and will approach government agencies or Other Stakeholders (such as faith-based and non-government organisations) to support them in their relocation efforts. In this instance, the Village DR Committee or other appropriate local authority should approach the N-CRR with a formal request to relocate.

In some cases, the N-CRR will initiate the process in consultation with the relevant P-CRR after determining that the population should be relocated because Integrated Vulnerability and Adaption Assessment demonstrates that it is unsafe for them to remain where they are, and the ongoing risk to occupants is unacceptably high.

The decision to undertake a Planned Relocation must be determined by the N-CRR, P-CRR and Village DR Committee in consultation. In deciding whether a Planned Relocation is necessary, the factors to be considered by the N-CRR and Village DR Committee or other appropriate local authority include:

- Existing and anticipated levels of risks and timelines for those risks based on an Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment
- The availability, feasibility and likely success of risk reduction and adaptation measures in the Original Site
- The threshold of risk acceptable to persons or groups of persons in the Relocating Community, including timelines by which those thresholds may be breached
- The availability, feasibility and likely success of options for Planned Relocation, in particular potential Relocation Sites
- The expected direct and indirect environmental, socio-cultural, and economic/livelihood costs of, and risks involved in, a Planned Relocation.

Other Affected Communities (i.e. Host Communities, and Communities in Close Proximity) will be led by their Village DR Committee or alternatively, another established group within the area willing to undertake the role. These Committees must accommodate local leadership models including Houses or Councils of Chiefs, churches, elders or other appropriate community mechanisms and build on existing community, church and NGO connections.

SOPs should be established for the following:

- Village DR Committees. SOPs established under these Guidelines should complement their existing SOPs under the National DM Plan, and provide additional requirements necessary for implementation of these Guidelines.

- Minimum standards for involvement by more vulnerable or marginalised populations including women, youth and children, persons with disabilities, older people, and other people who might experience discrimination and exclusion based on gender, sexuality, ethnicity and place of origin.
- Minimum standards for Free, Prior and Informed Consent. People and groups within potential Relocating Communities must be provided with sufficient time to make an informed decision about their options and whether to take part in the Planned Relocation. They must also be provided with adequate time and opportunity to propose alternative options, and these options must be considered by the Village DR Committee or other appropriate local authority, P-CRR Committee and N-CRR Committee.
- Assessment of Indigenous knowledge of hazards and risks of remaining in the area. This must include a comparison of the assessment of risk among youth and children as compared to elders in leadership positions.
- Assessment of the potential impact of relocation on Indigenous knowledge, practices, and artefacts. SOPs should include measures to ensure that diverse perspectives of Indigenous knowledge and practices are considered including those of women.

### 5.4 Identification of Relocation Site

Land identification must be part of the decision-making and planning process and include participation by, and consent from the individuals, households and communities who will relocate.

The MLHS in collaboration with the MECDM and the OPMC and in consultation with the Relocating Community and other Affected Communities, must identify at least two (2) potential relocation sites.

In the context of Solomon Islands, relocation to existing alienated land is likely to be preferred. Where relocation to customary land is under consideration, the MLHS must make every effort to:

- Promote community-led processes for negotiating new land arrangements
- Sensitively explore land acquisition options with custom landholders, with an emphasis on voluntary agreements rather than compulsory acquisition
- Ensure that questions of access to coastal and marine areas are considered and addressed.

An SOP should be established addressing the following:

- The necessary environmental, social and economic assessments to be undertaken of potential Relocation Sites. This process should prioritise sites that will facilitate and support shared social, cultural, faith-based and livelihood networks among all Affected Communities. Land that is identified as environmentally-sensitive must be protected under the Protected Areas Act 2010 in order to limit degradation of ecosystems.
- Mechanisms for consultation with communities and identification of the preferred Relocation Site.
- Minimum requirements for initiating discussions with Relocating Communities, Landholding Communities and other potential Affected Communities (for example, communities living on customary land in the vicinity of alienated land considered for relocation). Where possible, identification of potential relocation sites should involve Village DR Committees or other appropriate local authority in order to ensure a multi-sectoral, holistic approach to discussion of relocations.
- A Full Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment should be undertaken of the most likely Relocation Site, and preferably also alternative sites
- Mechanisms for ensuring that communities are provided with all findings of environmental, social and economic assessments of potential Relocation Sites.
- Key issues to which consideration must be given including the preferences of the Relocating Community; proximity to their Original Site; access to natural resources including coastal and marine areas; sources of traditional livelihoods including fishing and gardening; accessibility of water, sanitation, electricity, transportation, education and health services, and markets.
- Mechanisms for a final process of decision-making by the community as to the Relocation Site.

## 5.5 Determining Landholding Arrangements in the Relocation Site

Determining appropriate landholding arrangements in the Relocation Site will be a key part of the decision-making and planning process. It will require participation by, and consent from the individuals, households and communities who will relocate.

Relocation may occur on to Relocation Sites that are customary land, or alternatively land that is already alienated.

An SOP should be established addressing the following:

- Potential models for landholding including customary land holding with recording under the Customary Land Recording Act or registration under the Land and Titles Act or a combination of both
- Options for the issue of formal titles including cooperatives or community companies, the key features of each option and the possible advantages or disadvantages
- The requirement that communities be provided with extensive information and awareness-raising as to the potential models for landholding, their key features, and the possible advantages or disadvantages
- Minimum standards for inclusiveness, including gender equitable titling.

There is to be a strong preference for forms of collective landholding in order to ensure the ongoing security of Relocating Communities.

## 5.6 Landholding in the Original Site, Mobility, and People Who Choose Not to Participate in Planned Relocation

In Solomon Islands, people who belong to a Relocating Community are likely to maintain connections and continue to access the Original Site.

An SOP should be established addressing the needs, rights and obligations of Relocating Communities that are relocating from alienated land. Relocating Communities will receive a Fixed Term Estate in their relocation site, and in some instances may be prohibited from resettling or maintaining a business in the previous site which has been deemed unsafe.

Communities occupying customary land will not be required to relinquish their claims to the previous site, and will retain the ability to return to those sites periodically.

## 6. Developing a Relocation Plan

The N-CRR Committee will lead the development of a Relocation Plan. This must be developed in consultation with the P-CRR Committee and Village DR Committee, or other appropriate local authority, with input as appropriate from:

- Ward DR Committee
- Village DR Committee or other established groups belonging to other Affected Communities
- Houses or Councils of Chiefs
- Women's groups
- Youth representatives including Provincial Youth Representatives and the National Youth Congress
- People with Disability Solomon Islands
- Other community, church and NGO organisations and networks.

The plan must be developed with input from experts from relevant disciplines and relevant ministries for example:

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Land and property
- Fisheries and marine resources
- Urban planning
- Health
- Education
- Social protection and social welfare
- Provincial government (already provided for).

Full legal analysis should be undertaken to ensure that the relocation is in accordance with all other Solomon Islands laws and policies, including but not limited to human rights law, development policies, and environmental and climate change policies.

The Relocation Plan must be publicly available and readily accessible via communication channels that are used by the Affected Communities, including hard copies to be available in public places in villages (for example through the church or meeting houses), radio, and social media.

The Relocation Plan must:

- Specify the phases of the Planned Relocation and timeline, including for relocation of different groups of people and the establishment of shelter, livelihoods, transportation, basic infrastructure, access to markets and services including education and health in the relocation site
- Include a clear plan and budget for ongoing consultation with and participation by the Relocating Community and other Affected Communities, including finance for measures ensuring inclusion of identified vulnerable and marginalised groups
- Identify constraints that may inhibit persons and groups of persons from accessing and engaging in information dissemination, consultation, and participation mechanisms, and measures (including budgets) to specifically address these constraints
- Articulate measures to specifically address the particular needs of identifiable vulnerable or marginalised groups, ensure their inclusion and protect their rights and dignity
- Be sufficiently flexible to accommodate changing needs and respond to findings from ongoing monitoring and evaluation, and feedback from Affected Communities
- Include a minimum budget providing sufficient and sustainable funding for all phases of the Planned Relocation
- Include a full, proposed site plan, developed in consultation with the relevant Village DR Committee and the Relocating Community more broadly
- Specify measures to prevent or mitigate (to the extent feasible) adverse environmental, socio-cultural, economic and other impacts on Relocating Communities and other Affected Communities
- Specify monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and establish a complaints process for people resident in Relocating Communities and other Affected Communities.

## 6.1 Shelter

Shelter at the Relocation Site must be affordable, culturally appropriate, and climate/disaster resilient. The Relocating Community must have control over the building and design of housing. Culturally appropriate and customary architecture should be supported wherever appropriate, while also improving the disaster-resilient aspects. All shelter must take into account the needs, particularly with respect to safety and dignity, of vulnerable or marginalised groups including women, persons with disabilities, and older people.

## 6.2 Health, Nutrition and Psychosocial Wellbeing

The Relocation Plan must ensure that all Affected Communities have adequate access to basic health and medical services, including nutrition advice and information; post-sexual assault treatment and counselling; and care relating to gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and chronic illness.

Where Relocating Communities are moving to a Relocation Site where health services are not available, the Relocation Plan must provide for the establishment of new health facilities and/or regular mobile health services.

Access to adequate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services (WASH) is essential for all Affected Communities. Relocation planning must include reference to the *National Water and Sanitation Implementation Plan 2017-2033* and other related policies and strategies (see also Infrastructure and Connectivity).

## 6.3 Education

Relocation may disrupt children's education. Proximity of nearby schools must be a key consideration for identifying a Relocation Site. If Relocating Communities are moving to a Relocation Site where education is not established, the Relocation Plan must provide for the establishment of new education facilities in accordance with the *Education Strategic Framework 2016-2030*. Relocation of people should not begin until access to education in the Relocation Site is established.

## 6.4 Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihoods

A majority of Solomon Islands' population depends on agricultural and fishing activities, and subsistence and smallholder farming of cash crops is important in both urban and rural areas. It is essential to ensure that food security,

livelihoods based on agriculture, and other sources of income are successfully re-established during and following relocation. In order to ensure community cohesion, and the ongoing integration of the next generation into the new location, it is also critical to ensure that youth and children are engaged in meaningful social activity, education, and livelihood activities.

Key measures to be considered as part of relocation planning include:

- Strengthening existing efforts to support climate resilient and sustainable livelihoods in partnership with humanitarian agencies, development partners, faith-based organisations and the private sector
- Strengthening efforts to connect Affected Communities with technical and vocational education training, where available and appropriate
- Exploring options for savings and loans clubs for all Affected Communities
- Exploring options for labour migration as a livelihood and adaptation option to assist some families, where appropriate, to diversify their incomes through remittances.

## 6.5 Affirming and Maintaining Traditional Knowledge, Customs and Records

Relocation can threaten the survival of traditional knowledge (including traditional ecological knowledge), custom (including practices, systems, skills that form part of the spiritual and cultural identity of a group) and records (not only on paper but also in the landscape) concerning personal identification and claims to land, sea and resources and sites in landscapes and seascapes. Relocation plans must include measures to affirm and maintain traditional knowledge, custom and records. Preserving knowledge relating to climate, agriculture, biodiversity, music, dance, medicine, fishing, warfare and spirituality may increase the resilience of Affected Communities. This may include:

- Supporting community-led plans to ensure that connections to important sacred sites, and ancestors and relatives buried in proximity to the Original Site (including coastal and marine areas) are maintained
- Investigate ways for traditional knowledge to be maintained and used in adaptation efforts
- Showcase traditional knowledge, including stories of migration.

Safeguards and SOPs should be developed to support integration of the Relocating Community with other Affected Communities. This should accommodate and build upon local leadership models and existing community, church and NGO connections. The Plan should provide for:

- A strategy for ensuring peaceful coexistence between Relocating Communities and other Affected Communities. This should include support for strengthening community, church and NGO connections and activities. Particular attention must be given to vulnerable and marginalised groups including youth and children
- A strategy to mitigate or provide redress for negative impacts on other Affected Communities.

### **6.6 Access to Justice, Safety, and Public Participation Mechanisms**

Long term safety and security is essential for relocation to provide a durable solution. Relocation is a disruptive and potentially traumatic process, and it is essential that there are mechanisms to resolve disputes concerning the relocation, and access to support services.

Relocation Planning should:

- Identify safe spaces for women and involve women's organisations to ensure that risks are identified, assessed and managed
- Develop safeguards and SOPs to ensure that Relocating Communities and other Affected Communities are provided with information regarding accessible legal support and complaints mechanisms, including a right to appeal to an independent body
- Develop safeguards to address direct economic and social losses arising from taking land and restricting access to land and marine areas, including the relocation or loss of shelter, loss of assets or access to assets, loss of cultural knowledge and networks, loss of income or means of livelihood. This applies irrespective of land tenure status
- Provide for compensation, services and/or financial assistance to support Relocating Persons. Where compensation is provided, eligibility criteria should be equitable and address barriers that might otherwise limit the ability of particular people or groups to access and receive fair compensation

- If the SIG acquires titles to land from Relocating Communities or Other Affected Communities, they must be equitably compensated for their land and any other relinquished assets relating to that land (including loss of access to coastal and marine areas). Specific and careful attention must be given to the needs of people or groups of people with informal and/or customary rights as well as those who are landless or occupying or accessing land, coastal or marine areas unlawfully.

### **6.7 Infrastructure and Connectivity**

Appropriate, accessible infrastructure is essential to establishing durable relocation. Relocation planning must provide for reliable access to adequate freshwater, sanitation facilities, energy sources, and infrastructure relevant to connectivity including transport, road access, telecommunications and ICT.

Transportation is a crucial aspect of relocation that is often overlooked. Providing transport options between the Original Site and Relocation Site may assist psychosocial and other forms of wellbeing during and following relocation. Efforts should be made to strengthen affordable transportation options to ensure that transport between the Original Site and Relocation Site is possible for as long as it is safe to do so.

### **6.8 Monitoring, Evaluation, Transparency and Accountability**

The Relocation Plan must include clear mechanisms to ensure monitoring, evaluation, transparency and accountability. There should be a timetable and budget addressing the required analysis at each stage, including the cost of human and physical resources, the services to be contracted, and a timetable and fully-costed strategy for sharing the findings with the Affected Communities and receiving feedback.



Credit: Solomon Islands  
Ministry of Environment,  
Climate Change, Disaster  
Management and Meteorology.

# 7. During Relocation

This period of the relocation includes:

- Phased movement to the new site
- Continued development of infrastructure on the new site
- Establishment of livelihoods and a standard of living
- Incorporation of new residents into social and economic life in the new setting.

## 7.1 Relocation to be Phased

Relocation in Solomon Islands will generally be phased, for example with younger people being more likely to move to the new site earlier than older people.

Except in circumstances of exceptional risk or evacuation, relocation to the Relocation Site should only occur once it is capable of sustaining a dignified standard of living for relocated persons. This means, at a minimum, that safe housing, suitable livelihoods, reasonable transportation, markets, basic infrastructure and services (including education and health) are available and accessible.

Establishing housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and services will require the involvement of the Relocating Community and potentially other Affected Communities. The N-CRR Committee and P-CRR Committee must ensure that Relocating Communities have access to the resources necessary to do this, for example building materials and transport between the Original Site and the Relocation Site.

The phasing of relocation should be informed by data obtained through Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments, in particular the relationship between vulnerability of the Original Site and population size, whether a smaller population can continue to reside in the Original Site (permanently or temporarily), and the time frame for risk in the Original Site.

The National Disaster Council must, in accordance with the National DM Plan, support the Village DR Committee to develop an evacuation plan for the Relocating Community and People Who Choose Not to Participate in Planned Relocation, including while they are awaiting relocation to the Relocation Site.

The N-CRR Committee, P-CRR Committee and Village DR Committee are responsible for ensuring that:

- All Affected Communities are kept informed of the timing and details of relocation to the Relocation Site
- People relocating are provided with necessary support to relocate in a safe, dignified and timely manner, with their belongings and assets, to the Relocation Site.

Where a Village DR Committee has not yet been established, the NDC must ensure that one is established or alternatively, identify another appropriate local authority or committee to fulfil these functions.

## 7.2 Ongoing Social and Environmental Monitoring

This will include ongoing monitoring, at intervals determined by key stakeholders, of:

- The needs and interests of vulnerable individuals, to ensure that they are receiving adequate attention throughout the process
- Safeguards to ensure protection and safety of at-risk groups
- Human rights standards, to ensure that they are properly respected, protected and fulfilled and that relocation is carried out in a safe, dignified and timely manner.

Monitoring mechanisms must include ongoing consultation with communities and active elicitation of feedback, including from at risk or marginalised people and groups.

Non-government stakeholders should collaborate with the SIG to ensure ongoing collection of disaggregated data and qualitative assessments of the relocation.

### 7.3 Ensure Access to an Adequate Standard of Living

Acknowledging the existing constraints on the SIG, it must take all appropriate measures to ensure access to an adequate standard of living. This includes food, water; housing, health care, educational and employment opportunities necessary to ensure that relocation provides a durable solution. Key strategic areas include:

- **Shelter:** shelter at the Relocation Site must be affordable, culturally appropriate, and climate/disaster resilient. The Relocating Community must have control over the building and design of housing, and culturally appropriate and customary architecture should be supported wherever appropriate, while also improving the disaster-resilient aspects. All shelter must take into account the needs, particularly with respect to safety and dignity, of vulnerable or marginalised groups including women, persons with disabilities, and elder people.
- **Health, nutrition and psychosocial well-being:** all Affected Communities must have adequate access to basic health and medical services, including nutrition advice and information; post-sexual assault treatment and counselling; and care relating to gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and chronic illness. Access to adequate food markets and WASH services is essential for all Affected Communities.

### 7.4 Communication, Transparency and Accountability

Ongoing communication will be necessary with all stakeholders throughout the relocation. The N-CRR and P-CRR are responsible for ensuring a flow of information to the Ward and Village DR Committees. The Ward and Village DR Committees or other nominated and appropriate local authorities should:

- Play a primary role in facilitating ongoing communication with all stakeholders throughout the relocation.
- With the support of the N-CRR and P-CRR, implement mechanisms set out in the Relocation Plan for ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the process. This must recognise that different groups may be involved in different ways, and may require resources to participate (for example, transport for less mobile groups in the population). There must be measures to facilitate communication with, and feedback from, at-risk groups.
- Ensure that logistical details regarding the destination are clearly and transparently communicated to all parties involved.
- Ensure that ongoing feedback is received from all affected persons.

Affected persons must also be able to request alternative options and modifications to the Relocation Plan during its development and implementation. Affected persons must have regular access to Ward and Village DR Committees, which are obliged to ensure that feedback reaches the P-CRR.

## 8. Following Relocation

Following the actual relocation, it will be necessary to undertake ongoing monitoring to ensure improvement in the overall standard of living of the Relocated Community, and to generate data to inform future relocations. This should continue after all people who wish to relocate have done so.

### 8.1 Ongoing Social and Environmental Monitoring

Ongoing monitoring, collection and evaluation must be undertaken by the Ward and Village DR Committees, or other appropriate local authorities, with support from the P-CRR at intervals to be determined with the Relocated Community, Host Community, Communities in Close Proximity and People Who Choose Not To Be Relocated.

Monitoring should be targeted at ensuring an appropriate and, wherever possible, improved standard of living (including psychosocial welfare), of all Affected Communities, in accordance with cultural norms and basic human rights.

Mechanisms must be established to ensure that the findings generated by monitoring can be utilised to inform, update and develop new policies from lessons learned, and to support future relocations. Findings should be published at least annually and publicly online in a manner that protects the confidentiality and privacy of Relocating Communities and the individuals therein. The reporting of findings should not identify specific individuals without their prior consent.

### 8.2 Ongoing Climate Proofing

Relocation is not an endpoint but one of many steps in strengthening climate adaptation and resilience.

The N-CRR remains responsible for supporting and facilitating new adaptation planning for the new settlement in collaboration with the relevant P-CRR, Ward and Village DR Committees. This is including but not limited to financial resources, diversification of livelihood, and new economic and educational opportunities.

### 8.3 Maintenance of Connections to At-risk Sites

Relocated Persons should be permitted wherever feasible to voluntarily return to their former homes.

This may occur where prior to or following relocation, the Relocated Community determines that it is necessary for some people to return to the Original Site to maintain their claims to their territories.



