1. PDD is a state-led and non-binding platform

The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) was launched by initiative under the chairmanship of Germany and Vice-Chairmanship of Bangladesh at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 as a successor of the Nansen Initiative. It is a state-led, non-binding and multi-stakeholder driven initiative aiming at providing greater protection to people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.

At present there are 30 countries as member of PDD. Under the leadership of Member States, the multi-stakeholder Platform on Disaster Displacement is built on three pillars; i.e. a Steering Group, an Advisory Committee, and a Coordination Unit. Bangladesh is now playing the role of chair of this platform.

2. Goal of PDD

In The platform’s main goal is to help states implement the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda, which was endorsed by over 100 governmental delegations during a global consultation in October 2015.

The Protection Agenda is a toolbox for states to better prevent and prepare for displacement before a disaster strikes, as well as to better respond to situations when people are forced to find refuge, either within their own country or across an international border.

3. PDD Strategic Priorities

The PDD’s Strategic Priorities include to (i) address knowledge and data gaps, (ii) enhance the use of identified effective practices (iii) promote policy coherence and mainstreaming of human mobility challenges in and across relevant policy and action areas and (iv) promote policy and normative development in gap areas

4. PDD Working process

As a State-led process, PDD working towards better protection for disaster displaced people across borders.

a. Promote Measures by States/Institution

People who are forced to cross a border in the context of a disaster and the effects of climate change have limited protection when they arrive in another country. Managing this context, PDD supports an approach rather than calling for a new binding international convention on cross-border disaster-displacement that focuses on the integration of effective practices by states, regional and sub-regional organizations/ institutions into their own normative frameworks in accordance with their specific situations.

b. Bring together all partners

Disaster displacement is an issue that cuts across various sectors of work and policy areas and is often a reflection of development failures. That's why, PDD brings together a multiplicity of actors, including states, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia to jointly advance on addressing the
protection needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.

c. Facilitates the regional efforts

To share experiences and develop effective practices as well as normative frameworks that respond to local realities. So far, the Platform has supported such efforts in the Pacific, the Horn of Africa, South Asia, and the Americas, helping countries review and improve their national and regional responses to disaster displacement.

d. PDD aims to fill up the gaps

On disaster displacement data and knowledge. More comprehensive and systematic data collection is needed about why, where, when, and how people move in the context of disasters, particularly when they cross international borders. Advisory Committee members are advancing practices to harmonize data collection, understand how people move in response to slow-onset hazards, and make the best use of big data such as cell phone records and social media.

Beyond the PDD steering group and advisory committee, more champions from humanitarian, development, disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change action and human rights policy and action areas are needed who integrate human mobility considerations in their strategies and plans and promote it at the international level.

e. Frame and feeds Key Messages

About disaster displacement into relevant global policy processes addressing issues such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, human rights, humanitarian action, refugee protection, and migration. The Platform has facilitated increased international recognition of the challenges of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change in global policy processes, most recently the process leading to a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Ensuring that these global agreements are implemented at the regional, national and local level will be essential.

5. Major Achievement in global policy process

In 2017-2018, under the PDD made major achievements in including disaster displacement in global policy processes in the fields of migration and refugee protection, Climate Change, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

Among these achievement i. Support to adopt the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/72/132) recognizes disaster displacement and encourages States to reduce disaster displacement risks, ii. Develop the guideline titled “Words into Action Guidance” on Disaster Displacement to help States to implement the Sendai Framework on DRR, reduce risk, address impacts and strengthen resilience, iii. Contribute to the GCM final text recognizes climate change, disasters and environmental degradation as drivers of migration and States commitment to actions to minimize such drivers and to enhance availability of regular pathways for people compelled to move and vi. Support the Task Force on Displacement (TFD) to develop and submitting recommendations on how to avert, minimize and address displacement in the context of climate change under UNFCCC’s Warsaw International Mechanism were major.

PDD Advisory Committee

The PDD Advisory Committee gathers experts of international and regional organizations, research institutions, academia, private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders from the fields of humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change action and development. Advisory Committee Members include the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and its Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), among many others.

Note: COAST Trust is one of the member of this Committee