

**PCCB Capacity Building Hub – 16 November 2024
COP 29**

Integrating human rights into action on climate-related human mobility

Scenario on Planned Relocation

Acknowledging the risk of recurrent floods in the context of climate change, and needing to find a durable solution to the predicament of the people displaced in the context of a recent flood, the local authorities in Syabru Bensi township designated the riverbank a ‘no build zone’ and notified people who remained on the displaced person register that they would be moved to new accommodation at ‘New Township’. The site was located 20 km from Syabru Bensi township on a hillside that had recently been cleared by commercial logging. Plots had been designated by stakes and ‘beneficiaries’ were told that they would be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Beneficiaries would have to cover the costs of building homes on the plots, which the government would support with a durable solutions grant of US100. Although the land belonged to the government, it had not been zoned and therefore no legal title could be granted to people claiming the plots. However, the government assured people that this process would commence shortly, and that a procedure for purchasing title would be developed, in which relocated people would have priority to purchase the plots they occupied.

A new fence was built around the school and people who had been camped there since the floods were evicted.

Around 200 people arrived in New Township on transport provided by the government. However, many were disappointed by the location, which appeared highly exposed to landslide risk owing to the steep slopes and lack of trees to bind the soil. Accessing the plots required people to walk the final 2km from the road, where the closest water point was also located. Busses pass once per day and it takes 90 minutes to reach the centre of New Township, owing to the poor conditions on the road, which is often potholed and washed out due to heavy rains. There is no electricity at the site of New Township.

Six months after the relocation, New Township consisted mostly of makeshift shacks, with a few showing some signs of more permanent construction materials, like bricks and concrete. Meanwhile, many people had moved back to the riverbanks at Syabru Bensi township, citing the lack of livelihoods, difficulty accessing clean water, and exposure to landslide risk as among some of the reasons why they preferred to live by the river. The local government lacked the resources or political will to evict people, and the informal settlement was larger than it had been before the flood. Indeed, it continued to grow as more people moved to Syabru Bensi township from surrounding areas.

Framework for Integrating Rights and Equality (FIRE)



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