



# NOTE

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This is an excerpt from IDMC's 2019 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID).

## SPOTLIGHT

# FLOOD DISPLACEMENT RISK

## An urban perspective

Floods are the most common hazard to affect towns and cities around the world, which means that mitigating the risk of urban flooding would considerably reduce future disaster displacement. IDMC improved its global disaster displacement risk model for floods, and results show that around 80 per cent of the people at risk of displacement associated with riverine flooding live in urban and peri-urban areas.

By using more granular exposure data for its modelling and disaggregating the results by urban and rural locations, IDMC was able to calculate that on average 17.8 million people worldwide are at risk of being displaced by floods every year, far more than previously thought.

Eighty per cent, or 14.2 million, live in urban and peri-urban areas (see Figure 20). Flood displacement risk is highest in South Asia and East Asia and Pacific, and also high in Sub-Saharan Africa (see Figure 21).

The model also allows the assessment of displacement risk at the subnational level to reveal hotspots, which unsurprisingly are urban areas. Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh and home to more than nine million people, is traversed by six rivers that have been vital to trade, transport and livelihoods for centuries. In recent years, however, rapid urbanisation and badly managed embankment and drainage schemes have increased the risk of flooding and waterlogging.<sup>351</sup>

FIGURE 20: Global flood displacement risk

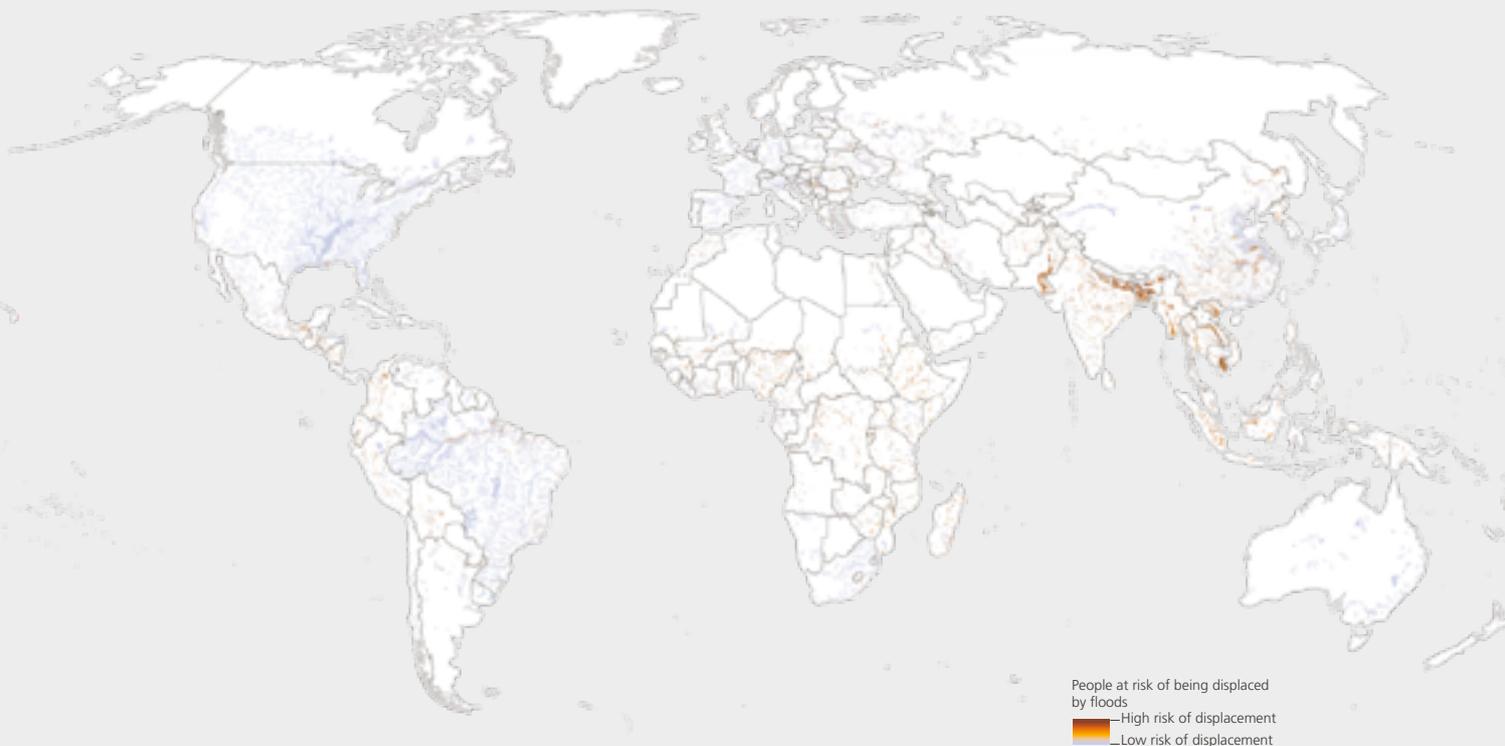
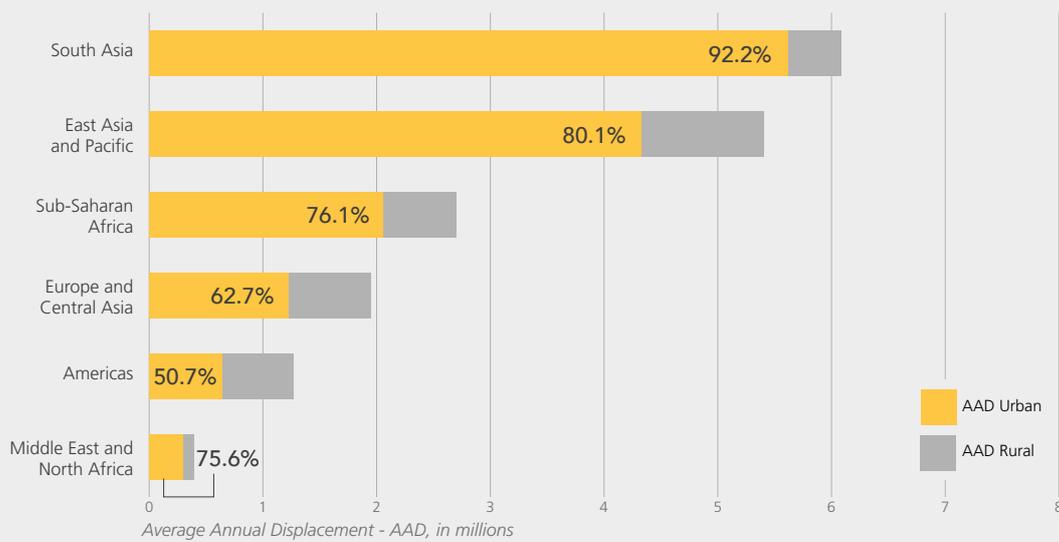


FIGURE 21: Flood displacement risk, by region



As the city continues to expand, this risk will grow with city's population unless adequate measures to reduce it are put in place. By revealing where in Dhaka flood displacement risk is concentrated, the results identify areas where interventions are most needed (see Figure 22). Such metrics are useful to decision-makers at the local, national and global level to inform planning and investments in disaster risk reduction. This in turn will help to prevent displacement and reduce its impacts.

Given that no climate change scenarios were applied to the model and that it uses current levels of exposure, future climate variations and urban growth have the potential to increase the displacement risk revealed significantly.

351. The World Bank, "IBRD, Flood Risk Management in Dhaka: A Case for Eco-Engineering Approaches and Institutional Reform", January 2015.

FIGURE 22: Flood displacement risk in Dhaka, Bangladesh

