



CENTRE FOR DISASTER PROTECTION STRATEGY 2025-2030

ABOUT US

The Centre for Disaster Protection (the Centre) is a technical and policy advisory organisation focused on improving how the world plans and pays for disasters. Established in 2017 and combining advisory, training and learning services with rigorous research and global influencing, we work to ensure disaster risk management and risk financing are more proactive, evidence-based, impactful and leave no one behind. The Centre is funded with UK Aid through the UK government.



Centre colleagues, May 2025

ABOUT THIS STRATEGY

This document presents the Centre's organisational strategy for the next five years, from 2025 to 2030. It sets out a clear strategic direction and ambition that builds on the strong foundations of the organisation and progress made during the previous five years.

Since the launch of the Centre's last strategy in 2022, the global context for disaster risk financing has shifted significantly. In particular:

- The number of people in extreme poverty has stagnated, with 1 in 5 now exposed to extreme weather events they would struggle to recover from.
- Pre-arranged financing remains underused, with only 2% of international crisis finance arranged in advance.
- Finance ministries around the world are increasingly acknowledging climate risks as fiscal risks and taking steps to prepare.
- New initiatives such as the Loss and Damage Fund, the Global Shield, and reforms by multilateral development banks are reshaping the finance landscape.

This strategy responds to the growing need for more effective and equitable disaster risk financing solutions, alongside rising recognition that the international crisis finance system can do more. This shifting landscape creates both urgency and opportunity for the Centre over the next five years to ensure disaster financing delivers fair and effective protection for people at risk

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Our vision and mission remain unchanged. If anything, we find them more relevant and motivating than ever before. At our core, the Centre is driven by our commitment to preventing human suffering and loss.

That north star still holds.



OUR VISION

A world where disasters do not devastate lives.



OUR MISSION

We prevent disasters devastating lives, by helping people, countries, and organisations change how they plan and pay for disasters.

Young women at a lookout post in Mogadishu, Somalia (Ed Ram / Getty Images)



OUR VALUES

This strategy restates the Centre's four bedrock values – impartiality, quality, challenge and creativity. While all are important, urgent demands have sometimes crowded out the space for creativity. We aim to restore that space and push it further; it is essential to helping countries, partners, and the wider system reimagine and deliver better ways to plan and pay for disasters. In doing so, the Centre will keep providing impartial expert advice and global public goods, while prioritising work that has the greatest relevance and impact.



Impartiality

We offer opinions that are based on objective criteria, unbiased by personal or organisational interests or advantage.



Quality

We strive for quality and operate to high standards to be a recognised, reliable, trusted, and authoritative voice in disaster risk financing.



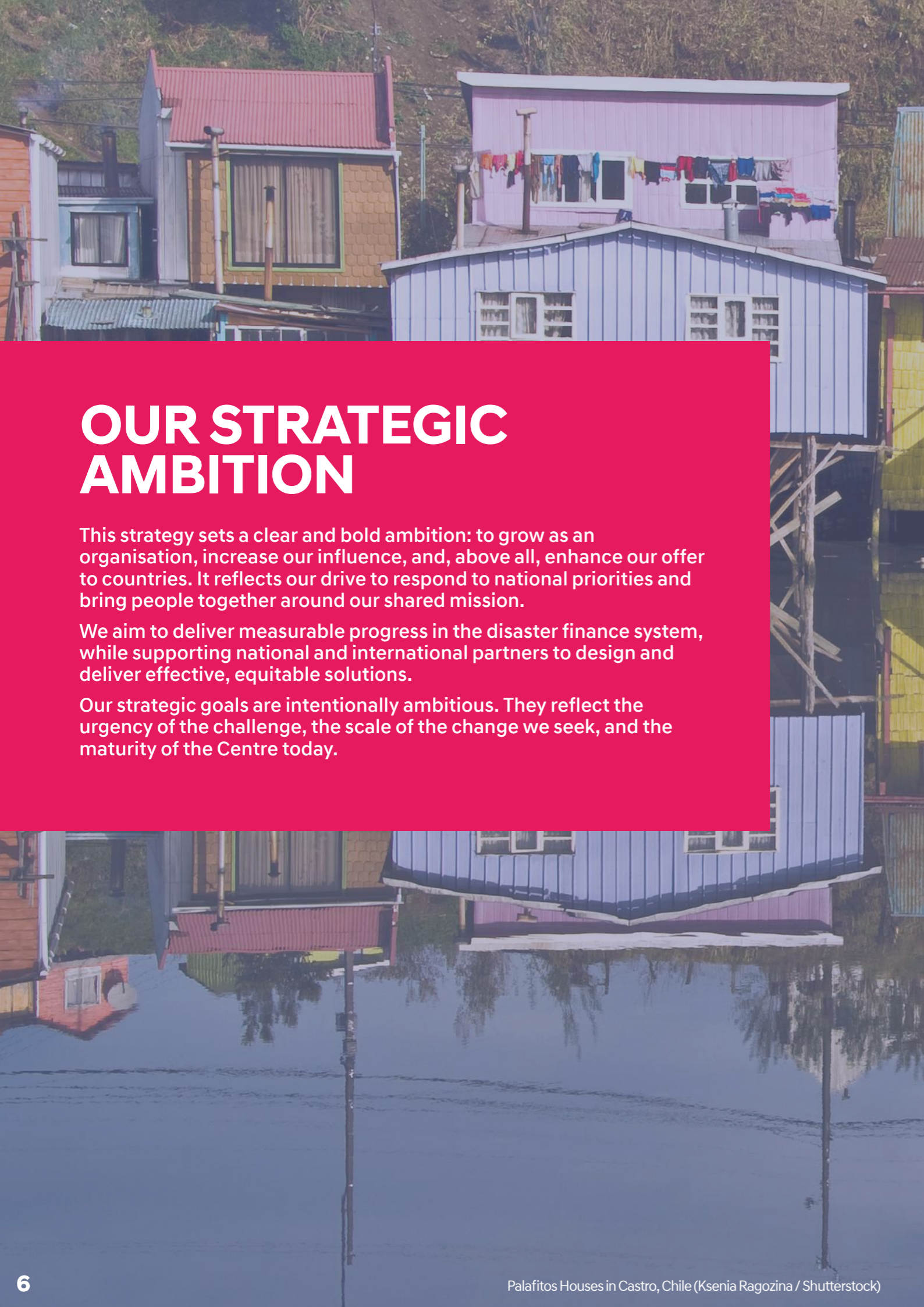
Challenge

We bring together diverse teams where everyone feels supported to contribute, learn and share their views. We challenge ourselves to promote inclusive dialogue and to listen to underrepresented voices. We seek to be a critical friend and a positive disruptor.



Creativity

We aim to bypass the boundaries of traditional thinking and practice to challenge the status quo.



OUR STRATEGIC AMBITION

This strategy sets a clear and bold ambition: to grow as an organisation, increase our influence, and, above all, enhance our offer to countries. It reflects our drive to respond to national priorities and bring people together around our shared mission.

We aim to deliver measurable progress in the disaster finance system, while supporting national and international partners to design and deliver effective, equitable solutions.

Our strategic goals are intentionally ambitious. They reflect the urgency of the challenge, the scale of the change we seek, and the maturity of the Centre today.

OUR GOALS

We have defined three strategic goals that set out the changes the Centre aims to achieve.



GOAL 1

COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS BETTER PLAN AND PAY FOR DISASTERS.

Too often, financing for disasters does not provide effective and equitable protection for people most at risk. The Centre will help countries and organisations make better decisions about planning and paying for disasters by providing demand-driven technical advice and tailored training, by investing in global public good tools and evidence, and by bringing people together to find common ground and develop creative solutions. At the heart of our approach is a belief that closing the crisis protection gap takes both political leadership and the involvement of people most at risk. We'll focus our efforts where there is political leadership while also helping to grow demand for change by listening to those affected by disasters and those working on the frontline.



GOAL 2

SIGNIFICANTLY MORE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS FINANCING IS ARRANGED AHEAD OF DISASTERS.

Pre-arranged crisis financing has gained significant traction in recent years, but still reflects a small share of total international crisis finance, despite offering a faster, more effective and more dignified foundation for getting help where it is needed most. The Centre will help accelerate both the scale and quality of pre-arranged finance across the international system. This means engaging with countries, donors, multilateral development banks, philanthropic actors and humanitarian agencies to foster a shift towards a system where more international crisis finance is arranged in advance.



GOAL 3

THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE DRIVES BETTER PROTECTION FOR PEOPLE AT RISK.

Policies and incentives at global and regional levels often prioritise reactive approaches to crises and can even disincentivise countries and organisations from planning ahead. The Centre will invest in evidence, promote voices of communities exposed to disaster risk, and bring people together to support multilateral reform. We will also seek to influence global norms and advocate for stronger accountability to underpin effective crisis financing. Our objective is to ensure that the international financial architecture supports better approaches and incentivises countries and organisations to do the same.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our six strategic priorities help translate our three goals into action, enabling us to become more intentional and disciplined about where, how, and with whom we deliver our work in alignment with our strategic ambition. They define the core areas of focus and shifts that the Centre will make over the next five years, helping us to operate as a more coherent and effective organisation, and maximise our impact.

1 We will prioritise country-level work that directly supports institutions in crisis-vulnerable countries.

The Centre will focus on deepening our engagement with national and regional institutions in crisis-vulnerable countries. This marks a deliberate shift from engaging primarily through donors, pooled funds and humanitarian agencies, towards building long-term partnerships rooted in local needs and ownership, and understanding of the political economy. By supporting national leadership in disaster risk financing, we aim to be relevant, elevate local voices, and strengthen institutional capacity—ensuring that our work contributes to protecting those most at risk.

2 We will develop more and better strategic partnerships with national and regional actors, organisations and processes.

Recognising that no single organisation can change the international crisis financing system alone, the Centre will invest in strategic partnerships, with a focus on regional agencies, multilateral development banks, and peer knowledge institutions. By co-designing and co-delivering with trusted partners, we aim to increase our reach and influence, enhance local relevance, and reduce duplication across the disaster risk financing system.

3 We will clarify and expand our advisory, training and learning offers.

The Centre will move away from broad offers of support to a clearer, more propositional suite of products and services in advisory, training and learning. These will be tailored to client needs, and will evolve as demand shifts. This approach will make it easier for prospective clients and partners to engage with our expertise while ensuring consistent, high-quality delivery.

4 We will deliver practical and relevant evidence and thought leadership.

The Centre will focus on producing high-quality, actionable insights for those designing, delivering, and advancing disaster risk financing. By working with end users, packaging evidence for easy use, and increasing the reach of our findings, our research increases accountability and supports behaviour change. This approach will help ensure our outputs contribute directly to improved disaster risk financing policies and systems at all levels.

5 We will work to increase visibility and influence, including through a more active convening role.

The Centre will invest in clear, compelling communications that tell a sharper story about disaster risk financing, promote accountability and make the Centre the first call for governments, funders, and practitioners looking for solutions. We will also step into a convenor role. Our impartiality gives us credibility to bring the right people together at the right moment and to leverage insights in order to better engage and drive systems and process-level change.

6 Working within our mission, we will align our work with current and future funder priorities to maintain relevance and strengthen our funding position.

The Centre will engage proactively with funders—starting with the FCDO and expanding to new strategic partners—to understand and respond to their evolving priorities. To support this, we will strengthen our monitoring, evaluation and learning systems, invest in outcome-driven reporting and storytelling, and develop a compelling value proposition across our functions. The Centre seeks funders whose ambitions align with ours, and our value proposition is simple: our impact. Rigorous monitoring, outcome-focused reporting, and vivid impact stories will show exactly what donor support delivers. Throughout, we will safeguard the Centre's independence and long-term financial sustainability.



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Cover Photo: *Aerial view of Nabila, Fiji (Alec Douglas / Unsplash)*