



50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

Discussion Paper

Development approaches to displacement

May 2016

United Nations Development Programme



UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

Copyright © 2016 United Nations Development Programme. All rights reserved.

United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY, 10017 USA

www.undp.org

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or the UN Member States.

Cover photo: A Syrian female farmer plants seeds in a UNDP-supported farmer cooperative nursery in the village of Tal Abbas in Akkar, Lebanon. Photo: Dalia Khamissy/UNDP



United Nations Development Programme

Development approaches to displacement

I. Introduction

Forced displacement presently affects over 60 million people worldwide, of which over 38 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs).¹ Current data suggests that women living in protracted displacement² slightly outnumber men, and given the difficulty in accessing female IDPs in many contexts, it is likely that their number is underestimated.³ The number of refugees and IDPs continues to grow and the length of stay in host countries has been on the rise in recent decades.⁴ More than 45 percent of refugees live in a state of protracted displacement lasting for more than five years while about 50 percent of IDPs have been displaced for more than three years.⁵ They live in ‘second exile’, caught between the inability to return to their homes and the lack of durable solutions⁶ elsewhere. While the average duration of 33 current protracted refugee situations at the end of 2014 is estimated at 25 years, most of the situations (24) have lasted for more than 20 years.⁷

This paper is developed as a reference document. Its objective is to provide a broad overview of UNDP’s offer of support with respect to protracted displacement. The document underlines the importance of investing in development approaches to displacement, providing a number of concrete examples from current and past programmes. This paper complements a series of country notes with programme examples across all regions.

II. Root causes of displacement

- **Poverty and lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities**

An estimated 600 million jobs are needed in the next decade to sustain growth and social cohesion worldwide. In a significant number of countries, rising unemployment is fueling social unrest and leading to forced displacement (to be distinguished from economic or labour migration). More than 200 million people globally are unemployed, with 74 million young people (aged 15–24) looking for work in 2014⁸ and an estimated one billion likely to join the labour market between 2012 and 2020. While in some developed countries youth unemployment has reached disturbingly high levels, as many as two thirds of youth in

1. For refugees, see UNHCR, ‘Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014’, 2015. For IDPs, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), ‘Global Estimates 2015’, 2015. For people displaced by disasters, visit www.internal-displacement.org/global-estimates.

² Protracted displacement is generally defined as refugee situations where more than 25,000 refugees have been in exile for more than five years and other displacements (including internal) for which there are no solutions in sight.

³ Norwegian Refugee Council and IDMC, ‘Global Overview 2015: People internally displaced by conflict and violence’, Geneva, 2015.

⁴ Globally, this is 13.9 million more persons newly displaced by conflict than the year before, including 2.9 million new refugees. See UNHCR, Note 2015.

⁵ UNHCR, ‘World at War: Global Trends - Forced Displacement in 2014’, 2015.

⁶ Durable solutions refer to solutions that will allow refugees to rebuild their lives in dignity and peace, including voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country in situations where it is impossible for a person to go back home or remain in the host country.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ International Labor Organization, ‘World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2015’, 2015, at http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/2015/WCMS_337069/lang--en/index.htm.

developing economies are either without work, not studying or engaged in irregular informal employment.⁹

Employment opportunities, in particular, remain distributed unevenly between, as well as within, countries. The absence of social protection mechanisms, which can help protect against economic and environmental shocks (whether sudden onset or slow, such as drought and limited access to arable land) exacerbates these tensions and increases forced displacement.



Microdams created with UNDP support to secure pastoral livelihoods. Photo: UNDP Ethiopia.

- **Protracted conflicts and violent extremism**

From 2007 to 2014, the number of active conflicts almost tripled, from four to eleven. The number of protracted conflicts also increased, as evidenced in, amongst others, Central African Republic, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine. In many fragile situations, the 'rule of force' applies, not the rule of law, including weak enforcement of justice frameworks and lack of accountability. This includes violations of international and domestic law, injustices and insecurity, which dominate the lives of millions of people living in fear, or forced to flee their homes and communities.

9. International Labor Organization, 'Global Employment Trends 2013: Recovering from a second jobs dip', Geneva, 2013.

More than 30 countries across all regions are now fighting violent extremist groups. In 2014, the five countries with the highest levels of violent extremist attacks generated over 16 million refugees and IDPs.¹⁰ In Iraq alone, ongoing violence, much of which is associated with the Islamic State (IS), displaced 2.2 million in 2014, while many more are being forcefully displaced by IS within the region, and by other related groups in Syria. The prevailing violent extremism by Boko Haram and the government-led counterinsurgency operations against the group, ongoing inter-communal clashes and natural disasters together have led to the internal displacement of over 2.15 million people in Nigeria.¹¹ It has also resulted in large movements into neighbouring countries, including more than 120,000 refugees and 40,000 asylum seekers.¹²

- **Natural and man-made disasters**

Between 2008 and 2013, on average 27.5 million people annually were displaced by disasters, most of them in Asia and Africa and in countries that are fragile and conflict-affected.¹³ While displacement in the context of a sudden onset event such as a hurricane or tsunami is directly attributable, slow-onset disasters such as desertification and drought (including El Niño) are likely to have a larger, but more hidden impact on displacement. Climate change effects and poor natural resource management, leading to environmental degradation and the erosion of livelihoods are driving the movement from rural to urban areas, where people often settle in unsafe, hazard-prone locations as well. The Humanitarian Financing Panel recently pointed to wrong-headed funding priorities as another factor, noting that “12 out of a group of 23 low-income countries received less than US\$10 million for Disaster Risk Reduction over 20 years while receiving US\$5.6 billion in disaster response funding.”¹⁴

- **Poor governance**

Endemic political exclusion, marginalization, discrimination and oppressive political environments combined with frequent human rights violations are also key push factors for displacement. Many flee forced labour and/or military conscription, arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as degrading treatment and torture. Poor governance and corruption also provide a breeding ground for organized crime. In Central America, high levels of crime and related violence have driven mostly young people to make the extremely dangerous journey through Mexico to the United States.

10. UNDP, ‘Preventing Violent Extremism through Inclusive Development and the Promotion of Tolerance and Respect for Diversity’, Policy Note, December 2015.

11. See <http://www.internal-displacement.org/sub-saharan-africa/nigeria/figures-analysis>. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) set up a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in July 2014 to support the Government in collecting and disseminating data on IDPs. As of December 2015, DTM assessments identified 2,151,979 IDPs.

12. See https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/system/files/documents/files/NGA_SRP_150323_EN.pdf.

13. 2014 Human Development Report.

14. High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, ‘Report to the Secretary-General’, 17 January 2016.

Addressing root causes: Preventing and responding to violent extremism in Africa

The growth of violent extremism and the devastating impact of groups embracing violent ideologies is not only undermining past development gains, but also threatens to halt prospects for decades to come. Following the increasing number of attacks by Boko Haram, for instance, foreign investment in Nigeria has declined by 30 percent, leading to even more worrying levels of unemployment. High levels of violence and insecurity prevent many children and students across Africa from attending school or university, impacting their quality of life now and in the future.

Extremist violence also has direct impacts on displacement and mobility in the region: The presence and operations of Boko Haram alone have displaced an estimated 2.1 million people internally, and forced more than 160,000 Nigerians to flee to Cameroon, Chad and Niger (UNHCR, December 2015). These movements often exacerbate pre-existing conflicts and dynamics of displacement amongst pastoralists. Increasing levels of insecurity forced Cameroon to close its border with Nigeria, hitting hardest those whose livelihoods depend on cross-border informal trade.

UNDP is launching a new four-year regional initiative to prevent and address the growth of violent extremism in Africa, with a particular focus on violent extremism tied to the politicization and manipulation of religion. The project will be implemented in three groups of countries, including 'epicentre countries' such as Nigeria, Mali and Somalia; 'spill-over countries', including Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Mauritania and Niger; and 'at risk' countries, including Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The project focuses on interventions in six key areas: socio-economic development; rule of law and security; disengagement and reintegration of members of extremist groups; media and technology; community resilience and gender-specific initiatives. Programming in these areas is supported by two cross-cutting initiatives on research, policy and advocacy, and capacity-building for regional and sub-regional organizations.

In its focus on the immediate causes of violent extremism, the project complements UNDP's core programming, which addresses many of the underlying causes, including weak state capacity, poor service delivery, endemic marginalization and poverty, and the lack of a coordinated regional approach. #

III. Displacement: A development challenge

Displacement arises from and poses a combination of challenges that require effective development approaches. The above identified root causes of displacement tend to come together in a mutually reinforcing manner in many countries and regions, creating hotspots of vulnerability. The growing consensus on the need for development approaches is informed by the confluence of several factors discussed below.

- **Fragility of development gains**

Many countries have made impressive human development gains since the 1990s. Yet, progress remains uneven and precarious and can quickly be undermined by natural disasters, economic downturns, pandemic outbreaks, and organized crime and violent conflict including violent extremism, all of which act as drivers of displacement.¹⁵ Addressing vulnerability and building

15. UNDP, 'Human Development Report 2014: Sustaining Human Progress - Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience', <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2014>.

resilience is critical to increasing the self-reliance of displaced persons, securing development gains and tackling the root causes of displacement. Vulnerability depends on risk exposure and, critically, on coping capacity. Where the latter is already low, the impact of a crisis will be more severely felt.

Vulnerability is also becoming increasingly concentrated: People living in extreme poverty and deprivation are among the most vulnerable. At the same time, we find vulnerable societies concentrated in countries emerging from long periods of conflict or still confronting armed violence, which rank at the bottom of the Human Development Index. More than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by conflict — about a fifth of the world's population. Between 2000 and 2012, more than 200 million people, most of them in developing countries, were hit by natural disasters every year, especially by floods and droughts.¹⁶ While climate change poses grave risks to all people and all countries, it is the world's poorest communities that are the most vulnerable to its consequences such as rising temperatures, droughts and floods.

In addition, lack of access to justice and security, exclusion from structures such as those dealing with civil registration and property, and the creation of parallel services all reinforce the isolation of displaced communities and increase their vulnerability to human rights violations.

- **The scale and concentration of displacement**

In addition to displacement reaching a historic high, the majority of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs come from and stay in developing countries. Their origins and presence are highly concentrated: While more than 160 countries hosted displaced people in 2014, about half of all IDPs are located in only four countries: Colombia, Iraq, Sudan and Syria. Over half of the world's refugees worldwide come from three countries: Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria. Other countries that account for large numbers are the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Iraq, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Sudan and Sudan. The overwhelming majority of refugees are hosted in neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey.¹⁷

Within countries, there is an increasing tendency for refugees and IDPs to join the tide towards urbanization: Approximately half of the world's estimated 16.7 million refugees and at least 33.3 million IDPs are thought to live in urban areas.¹⁸ For many, this means violating encampment policies and thus losing access not just to humanitarian assistance, but to rights and services. Displaced people thus join the growing ranks of the urban poor who rely on the informal economy for survival.

The concentration of displaced people in particular areas or communities may impact social cohesion. Surveys among host communities suggest that negative perceptions of the displaced are particularly prevalent among already vulnerable members of the host community. A 2015 UNDP study in Iraq, for instance, indicates that households who cannot afford basic needs are twice as likely as the average household (16 percent) to have poor relations with displaced individuals. For food needs specifically, this increases to 25.2 percent: Individuals who cannot afford food are much more likely to be frustrated and attribute their grievances to IDPs. Populations who state that they

16. Ibid.

17. Ibid.

18. UNHCR 2013; Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), 2014.

experience 'bad' or 'very bad' service provision from the government are five times more likely (9.8 percent) to have tense relations with IDPs. This figure triples to 33 percent for those individuals who cite increased competition as a reason for poor service provision.

- **The increasingly protracted nature of displacement**

The duration of displacement has increased significantly in recent decades to an average of 17 years. Only 126,800 refugees were able to return to their home countries in 2014 — the lowest number in 31 years. For many young people, the lack of a stake in the development gains of their country or region, including limited prospects for access to jobs and livelihoods, is a key factor in their decision to leave. In addition, their increased vulnerability puts them at risk of abuse, arbitrary detention, trafficking and recruitment by armed groups or engagement in violent extremism. Importantly, a large proportion of those leaving their home country are able, often educated youth, which can slow down local economic growth in countries of origin.

Areas that receive sudden and/or large influxes of displaced populations often face significant challenges, especially if there are pre-existing vulnerabilities. For local host communities, a sudden and significant increase in the population can put strains on the existing infrastructure and services, and create competition for limited jobs and natural resources. In Jordan, 84 percent of Syrian refugees live outside camps within local communities, which has led to real and sometimes perceived competition over access to employment opportunities. However, the overall economic impact of Syrian refugees is much smaller and more positive than public opinion would suggest.¹⁹



An internally displaced woman sewing as part of a cash for work opportunity provided to her by UNDP in Homs. Photo: UNDP Syria.

19. See <http://carnegieendowment.org/2015/09/21/jordan-s-refugee-crisis/ihwc>.

- **The development impacts of displacement**

While human mobility is an age-old coping strategy in the face of crises, the development impacts of such movements remain understudied and often misperceived. The scale, concentration and duration of today's displacement have brought its development effects, both positive and negative, at the household, community and national levels, into sharper focus.

Displacement affects first and foremost those who move. Where slow-onset crises tend to allow people time to plan their move and protect their assets, sudden-onset events leave those fleeing with a more limited degree of agency and choice, often with very limited assets.²⁰ The most vulnerable may be those who are unable to move out of harm's way altogether. Displacement is therefore likely to sap communities of their most able and better off members.

For those who manage to flee, the development impacts of their displacement differ depending on the time spent in exile and whether they are housed in camps or live in rural or urban communities. A 2013 assessment in the Sahel, where most refugees and IDPs live in host communities, found prospects for the displaced to be bleak, noting that "refugees and IDPs are on a pathway into deeper poverty, they have lost livestock, livelihoods and access to services."²¹ A 2001 study of urban IDPs in Afghanistan found them to be systematically disadvantaged vis-a-vis the urban poor. For example, over 70 percent of IDPs did not have access to electricity, compared to 18 percent of the urban poor; 85 percent of IDPs lacked secure tenure as opposed to 75 percent of the urban poor. Levels of education and literacy and thus work opportunities and income also differed.²² For displaced women and girls, vulnerabilities are often more pronounced because of discriminatory social and gender norms and the high risk of falling victim to gender-based violence and abuse. Yet, despite the vulnerabilities that urban based refugees and IDPs undeniably face, evidence also suggests that many are extremely resourceful and contribute to the economic and social development of their host cities by expanding markets, importing new skills, creating transnational linkages and rejuvenating communities. Women can benefit by gaining better income and more financial independence in urban areas.²³

There is increasing evidence that beyond short-term costs and negative impacts, displaced populations also bring benefits and longer term gains to their host communities and states, if managed well. In Jordan, the growth in population due to the influx of Syrian refugees and increase in private consumption, combined with increases in foreign direct investment, foreign aid flows and the relocation of Syrian business to Jordan, have led to a real GDP growth by 2.8 percent in 2013 and 3.1 percent in 2014.²⁴ Studies on the local impacts of refugees and IDPs in different African

20. See, for example, UK Government Office for Science, foresight report, 'Migration and global environmental change: future challenges and opportunities', 2011, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-and-global-environmental-change-future-challenges-and-opportunities>.

21. World Bank/UNHCR, 'Forced Displacement of and Potential Solutions for IDPs and Refugees in the Sahel: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger', 2014, at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/19975>.

22. World Bank/UNHCR, 'Research study on IDPs in urban settings – Afghanistan', Kabul, May 2011, at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/Resources/244362-1265299949041/6766328-1265299960363/WB-UNHCR-IDP_Full-Report.pdf.

23. Roger Zetter, 'Reframing Displacement Crises as Development Opportunities', Working paper for the Solutions Alliance Roundtable on Solutions, Copenhagen, April 2014, at <http://www.endingdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Main-conference-paper.pdf>.

24. Ibid.

countries also suggest that positive impacts for host community households arise as the displaced serve as a market for animal products and home produced agricultural products, and increase the availability of labour, especially for local agricultural production. The presence of refugees also tends to come with benefits in terms of aid inflows and infrastructure investments.²⁵ Surveys in Iraq in 2015 echo these findings, showing a positive impact of IDPs on local businesses. On average (in the areas surveyed in Kurdistan), businesses in host communities with IDPs have grown from 72 to 93 workers; Small and Medium Enterprises(SMEs) have observed a similar growth from an average 2.5 workers to 2.64 workers.

Much depends, however, on the conditions under which displaced persons are being received: For instance, whether they have freedom of movement and access to markets and inclusion in the host society. Existing case studies suggest that the benefits of hosting the displaced can actually outweigh the costs, but both will often be unevenly distributed²⁶: The public sector is likely to shoulder much of the burden in terms of additional demand on infrastructure, utilities and services, while the expansion of consumer demand and labour benefits employers, homeowners and local trade. Experience thus far suggests that denying displaced access to the formal labour markets and services might increase competition between local marginalized groups in the informal market, as they are often able to offer labor below the minimum price. Understanding these dynamics is critical to promoting better outcomes for the displaced and host communities alike.

Migration and displacement are therefore not short-term issues, but long-term global trends. A development approach is needed and is particularly urgent given today's large and irregular movements of refugees and migrants. A development approach involves the following:

- Support to host countries and communities which are providing a global public good, and to national and local authorities. They need support to better cope, sustain and recover from the impact of displacement, maintaining development gains;
- Support from the international community to both migrants and refugees alike, regardless of their migration status;
- Continued support for the needs of IDPs;
- Collective investment in expanding UNDP's evidence base;
- Addressing drivers of migration and root causes of displacement. The UN Secretary General's report on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants urges "investments in sustainable development and conflict-prevention, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is more cost-effective than mobilizing a response to large movements";
- Support to orderly, safe and legal migration, in order to manage the positive development benefits and mitigate the negative impacts;
- Joint approaches by development and humanitarian actors to create effective and sustainable solutions.

25. UNHCR/World Bank Group, 'Forced Displacement and Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa', June 2015; Kathrine Starup, 'Key Drivers for Displacement Solutions', background paper for the Roundtable on Solutions, April 2014, at <http://www.endingdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Key-Drivers1.pdf>.

26. See <http://www.endingdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Key-Drivers1.pdf>.

IV. Global policy frameworks

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have put displacement for the first time squarely on the global development agenda. In the declaration, Member States commit “to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. Such cooperation should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries.” The SDGs also underscore the importance of development investments in preventing and resolving protracted displacement and identifying joint solutions with humanitarian actors that strengthen resilience and minimize dependency.



Women participating in UNDP's cash for work programmes after the Nepal earthquake. Photo: UNDP Nepal.

Combined with the pledge to ‘leave no one behind’ which applies across goals and targets, and an overarching focus on the needs of populations ‘furthest behind’, who are affected by complex humanitarian emergencies, including refugees, IDPs and host communities, these commitments provide a strong call for joint approaches and for scaling up UNDP engagement as a development actor.²⁷

27. Moreover, a number of migration-related targets are of direct relevance to displaced persons as a sub-category of migrants. These include target 10.7 on planned and well-managed migration policies; target 10.c on reducing the transaction costs of migrant remittances; target 16.2 on ending human trafficking; and target 17.18 on producing high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated, among others, by race, ethnicity and migratory status.

On May 9, the UN Secretary General issued a new report: *"In Safety and Dignity: addressing large movements of migrants and refugees"*. While the report recognizes that migration has many positive benefits, and affirms General Assembly commitments to facilitate 'regular, safe and orderly migration', its focus is on large cross-border movements of people which are not regular, safe or orderly; the serious problems which cause large numbers of children, women and men to leave their communities, and necessitate collective solutions; and how to respond to large-scale movements when they do occur.

The report calls for a new comprehensive framework to address large movements of refugees and migrants, beginning with recommendations addressing the causes of large movements, protecting people compelled to undertake such journeys, preventing discrimination and countering xenophobia. The report also calls for changes in the multilateral system's response to refugees, including through adoption of a Global Compact on responsibility sharing for refugees and by setting out a comprehensive response plan for refugees to be implemented at the onset of new large-scale refugee movements. Finally, the report seeks to strengthen global governance of migration through adoption of a Global Compact for Migration, a proposal to bring the International Organization for Migration into the UN, a new state-led process to develop guidance to address the needs of migrants with particular vulnerabilities and a process to identify elements for an international cooperation framework to facilitate human mobility.

The UN General Assembly, its Third Committee and the UN Human Rights Council have all echoed the emphasis on durable solutions in their most recent resolutions on refugees and IDPs, calling for action by the international community to facilitate durable solutions for refugees and IDPs, and to support host communities and IDPs through development processes.

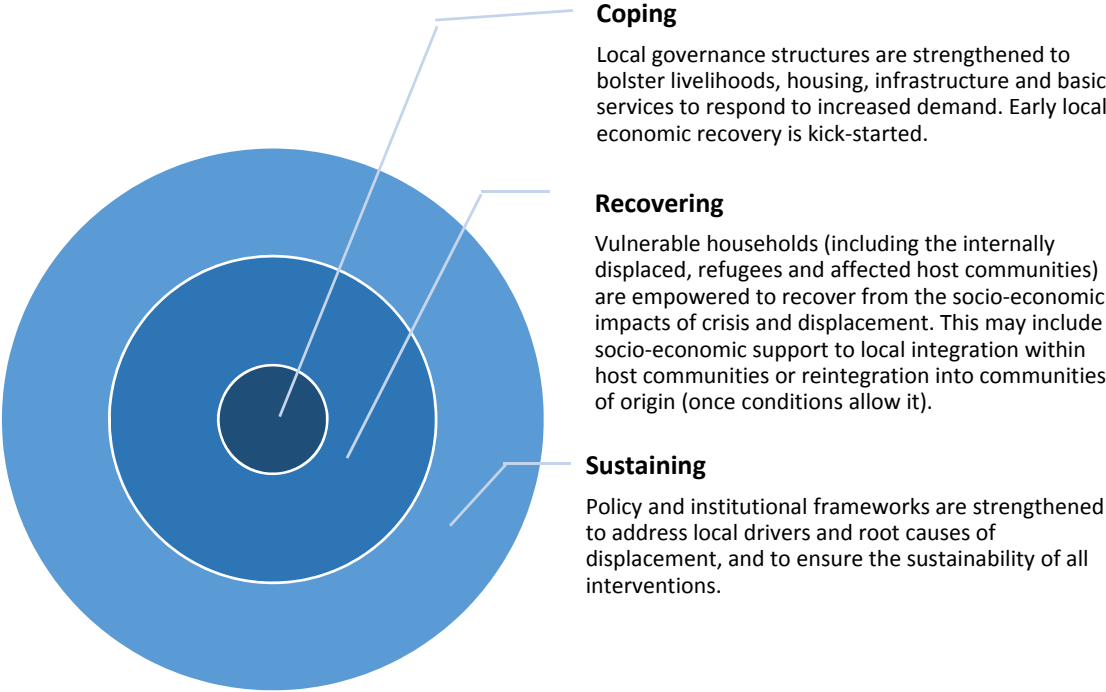
In 2011, the UN Secretary-General issued a Decision on Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict. UNDP, in its capacity as Cluster Lead of the Global Cluster on Early Recovery (GCER) under the UN's humanitarian system, leads other UN agencies and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) in the implementation of the decision, which calls on Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators to spearhead the development of durable solutions for IDPs and returning refugees at the country level. It also defines the internal division of roles among UN country team members. UNDP and UNHCR as cluster leads for early recovery and protection, respectively, are tasked with providing technical expertise to support the elaboration of country strategies on durable solutions. Both agencies also collaborated on the development of a 'Field Guide on Durable Solutions', which was finalized at the end 2015 under the auspices of the GCER-led Technical Working Group on Durable Solutions (TWG-DS).

V. UNDP's resilience-based development approach

The November 2015 UNDP Guidance Note 'A Development Approach to Migration and Displacement' anchors the organization's work on migration and displacement in crises contexts in UNDP's resilience-based development approach. The model revolves around the three strategic objectives of coping, recovering and sustaining. The aim is to help countries and communities develop capacities to withstand and recover from shocks and stresses, and to adapt and rebuild in such a way that future shocks and stresses have minimal impacts on societies and households.

The resilience-based development approach brings together humanitarian and development interventions in crisis situations. It supports a continuum of both short-term response and long-term sustainable development pathways. The Syria 3RP response provides a prime example of how this approach has worked in practice with UNDP and UNHCR (alongside other partners) working side by side and in a complementary way to address the immediate needs of refugees (UNHCR) and support the resilience of host communities through livelihoods, the delivery of basic services and waste management (UNDP).

While building a foundation for resilience through immediate life-maintaining and/or life-sustaining actions, in the areas of livelihoods, youth employment, reconstruction, social cohesion and local conflict management, the resilience-based approach also includes, from the start, a longer term perspective on issues such as rule of law, good governance and disaster risk reduction.²⁸



28. UNDG, 'A Resilience-Based Development Response to the Syria Crisis', Draft Position Paper, 10 December 2013, at [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/SyriaResponse/Amman_Donor_Meeting/Position%20Paper%20-%20Resilience-Based%20Development%20Response%20to%20Syrian%20Crisis%20\(Dec%202010\).pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/SyriaResponse/Amman_Donor_Meeting/Position%20Paper%20-%20Resilience-Based%20Development%20Response%20to%20Syrian%20Crisis%20(Dec%202010).pdf).

- **Key guiding principles**

UNDP's resilience-based development approach for displacement is guided by a set of core principles:

- **Context-specific and people-centered:** The approach is based on comprehensive assessments that specify which programmes need strengthening to improve resilience.
- **Based on joint context analysis and community consultations:** Programmes are carried out jointly (or coordinated well) with other partners where possible, from planning to design and implementation.
- **Follow a holistic approach:** Programmes are based on the recognition of the multiple risks and root causes of displacement, requiring multi-sectoral, integrated programme approaches.
- **Address resilience at multiple levels:** Strengthening resilience takes place at the individual, household, community and various institutional levels (national, provincial/district).
- **Link short-, medium- and long term:** A development approach is taken right from the start, including preparedness, response, recovery and prevention, in order to achieve transformational outcomes.
- **Ensure local and national ownership:** Programmes are designed and implemented in close cooperation with national and local authorities and partners to ensure ownership and sustainability, both economically and environmentally.
- **Promote sustainability and cost-efficiency:** through responding as early as possible and investing in local capacities;
- **Based on strong partnerships, innovate as needed.** Partners include governments, other UN agencies, donors, NGOs/CSOs, private sector and communities.
- **Conflict-sensitive and risk-sensitive.** The approach recognizes drivers of conflict and contributes positively to social cohesion wherever possible.
- **Gender-sensitive.** This approach promotes the empowerment of women.

VI. UNDP's policy and programme offer

- **The scope of UNDP's displacement-related support**
 - Between 2010 and 2015, UNDP implemented 125 displacement-related initiatives, programmes and projects at the global, regional and national levels (covering 45 countries). UNDP's displacement-related funding envelope over that period, based on available information, amounts to \$1.3 billion. UNDP also co-chairs seven global displacement related initiatives and implements five multi-country initiatives.
 - UNDP's focus is on mitigating the negative and supporting the positive **development impacts of displacement** at both the community and national level. This support ranges from needs assessments and data analysis for affected (host) communities and profiling of the displaced as well as integrated programme support at the community level. An important component of this work includes helping to capacitate national governments to

address displacement: for instance, support to mainstream displacement issues into **national development strategies** and development planning. It also includes national strategy development for displacement, including UNDPs joint work with UNHCR on Durable Solutions. UNDP, in this capacity as Global Cluster lead on Early Recovery, convenes other UN agencies and organizations in the implementation of the Secretary General's Decision on Durable Solutions. UNDP and UNHCR provide joint technical expertise to support the elaboration of country strategies on durable solutions.



UNDP supported conflict resolution and social cohesion dialogues between rural communities in Kenya. Photo: UNDP Kenya

- UNDP works in **countries of origin** (mitigating root causes of displacement and the demographic development impact of large proportions of young, able people moving elsewhere; **transit countries** by supporting host communities and displaced as well as support to governments to cope with large influx of displaced; and **countries of destination**. An important area of work for UNDP is also support for the **return and reintegration** of displaced persons. This includes identifying the conditions that influence the decision to return by those in protracted displacement; when, why and by whom are decisions on return or other coping strategies made, and how these decisions are affected both by life in exile and by the situation in the country of origin.

- **Examples of key programme components**

In line with UNDP's 2014–2017 Strategic Plan, programmes addressing displacement often include a combination of the following components:

- Programmes and policy services based on **evidence**, within their respective country context. UNDP livelihoods and capacity needs assessment are thereby vital in informing us about the key development solutions for displacement in a specific context;
- Emergency development with a focus on jobs and livelihoods for IDPs, refugees and host community members (including **emergency employment and enterprise recovery**), setting a long-term vision for economic development;
- Fostering and **promoting inclusive growth and development** and transforming human capital and labour for jobs and livelihoods, for the benefit of both the displaced and the communities that host them;
- Support to governments to ensure **stronger systems of governance** for IDPs and returning refugees by addressing rule of law and accountability;
- Strengthening of national and local institutions to progressively deliver greater **access to basic services** for displaced populations and affected communities (an important basic service supported by UNDP is waste management);
- Support to reducing and **managing risks of conflict and natural disasters**, the major drivers of displacement;
- Strengthening national and local capacities to improve **justice and security** and to better measure and monitor living standards and vulnerability in migrant communities. This includes ensuring that mechanisms are in place to provide legal services for those displaced who have been exploited or abused or for those who have been detained due to their irregular status;
- Supporting the **police and border management** in preventing transnational crime such as human trafficking;
- Promotion of **community policing** principles as an important avenue to ensure that tension in host communities with refugees or internally displaced is defused;
- Providing legal support for administrative matters such as obtaining **identification**, civil registration and efforts to prevent statelessness.

- **Partnerships and joint programme development**

Finding effective development solutions for displacement requires a strong commitment to **partnerships** between UN agencies, governments, donors, the private sector and (international) non-government organizations (I/NGOs). It requires close collaboration between humanitarian and development actors together with host communities, the host government and displaced people.

The transnational nature of displacement, as well as of the underlying dynamics and threats to peace, security and development clearly call for more **multi-country, regional and inter-regional strategies** and approaches, going forward. As Chair of the UNDG and custodian of UN coordination at the country level, UNDP is at the forefront of this. UNDP's recent restructuring has further strengthened its ability to provide substantive leadership out of its five regional hubs.

UNDP is the leading development partner for the 3RP for the Syria Crisis Response, a core partner of the UN's Governance response under the Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, and it contributed to the Regional Refugee and Migration Response Plan that is underway in Yemen and Europe. Under the latter, UNDP will convene a conference of host community mayors along the transit route from Turkey through Greece and the Western Balkans in 2016, giving this critical constituency a voice, and local response capacities through cross-country learning and experience-sharing.



Participants in a UNDP supported recycling programme. Photo: UNDP PAPP.

UNDP is a founding member and co-chair of the **Solutions Alliance**, co-leads the Solutions Alliance working group on private sector engagement and is an active member of the national groups working on solutions for protracted displacement in Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

UNDP and UNHCR have joined forces in the implementation of the Secretary-General's **2011 Decision on Durable Solutions to Displacement**, notably in supporting country-led initiatives for durable solutions in Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire and Kyrgyzstan – the three pilot countries for the roll-out of the Decision – as well as in Myanmar, Sudan and Yemen. In Burundi, Central African Republic and DRC, early planning for joint solutions strategies are underway, though constrained by continuing conflict.

UNDP has taken strategic steps to pool its capacities across the organization to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the global displacement crisis alongside our partners. Now is the time to seize the opportunities of this year, and to end the crisis of prolonged displacement together.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*