

PROGRESS 2023

Periodic Global Report on the State of
Solutions to Internal Displacement



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Required citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), November 2023. *Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS)*. IOM, Geneva.

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PROGRESS 2023

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Solutions to Internal Displacement

November 2023

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In three villages located within Moyale district and Borena zone in Ethiopia, IOM is constructing, repairing, and maintaining household and communal shelters to help the community cope with the extreme temperatures in addition to providing non-food household items including blankets, water buckets, and basic household needs like cooking materials, to the crisis-affected populations across these drought-affected regions

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FOREWORD

Over the past 10 years, the number of internally displaced people (IDP) has more than doubled, from 33 million to 71 million. They are now in half of all the countries in the world, often driven to move because of the impact of climate change, conflict and other disruptions and hardships.

Many of these internally displaced people have been displaced for prolonged periods of time. The increasing number of IDPs and the longer duration of displacement led the UN Secretary General to create an Action Agenda designed to push for sustainable and climate-resilient solutions. Anticipating potential displacement is a key aspect of preventing it, and doing so is a top priority for IOM.



This inaugural (PROGRESS) initiative is intended to contribute to a people-centered, data-driven foundation for IOM's work. We created this report in consultation with host communities, academia, international partners, governments, and most importantly, directly with people who have been displaced. We hope it will be insightful and useful for everyone working to drive solutions to displacement at scale, so we leave no one behind.

At the core of this report, and at center of IOM's strategy, is data. For this report, IOM's Global Data Institute and the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University pulled data from 15 countries, which, together, have over half of all IDPs worldwide. The information and experiences illuminated in the data analysis provide a springboard for decision makers. Through this data, they can examine patterns and dynamics of displacement, pinpoint obstacles and identify promising potential solutions.

To develop services that integrate internally displaced people into new settlements, that reduce their vulnerability, and improve social cohesion, national governments and local authorities need data. To address these needs, this inaugural PROGRESS report advances the Action Agenda's call for a fresh, evidence-based approach. The report:

- Identifies the vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons that need to be addressed in order to develop durable solutions to their displacement.
- Reveals the challenges to moving people from displacement onto a pathway for their greater development, and practical solutions to those challenges.
- Uses existing data to document what was learned in producing the report, and charts out the next steps needed to get deeper, richer data that can help produce even solutions for internally displaced persons.

We are grateful to all our partners for their invaluable contributions in supporting the PROGRESS initiative. Future iterations of this report will focus on specific critical issues, such as climate change, where the potential for proactive work can be augmented through data and data analysis.

Amy Pope

IOM Director General

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Pope". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Since 2019, IOM in West and Central Africa has used street art to engage local communities. Amid COVID-19, the initiative expands in Senegal, Ghana, and Niger to foster community relations and combat misinformation and xenophobia.

© IOM Niger 2023/Monica Chiriac

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are grateful to IOM's leadership, Director General Amy Pope and the Deputy Director General for Operations, Ugochi Daniels, for their vision, guidance, and support during the process. We would also like to extend our warm thanks to the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Robert Piper and his team for their regular feedback and engagement with us while creating this first PROGRESS report.

Special thanks to the numerous data and research focal points in IOM field missions in Afghanistan, Chad, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Vanuatu and Yemen, and respective IOM Regional Offices and Data Hubs in Buenos Aires, Dakar, Cairo, Nairobi, Pretoria, and Bangkok for their technical expertise, valuable contextual insights and exceptional operational performance in engaging communities through focus group discussions.

The Global Data Institute and Georgetown University are grateful to IOM's technical experts from various departments for their feedback and collaboration, especially the Executive Office and the Senior Advisor on Internal Displacement, the Department of Peace and Development Cooperation, the Department of Operations and Emergencies, the Department of Policy and Research and the Department of Programme Support and Migration Management.

PROGRESS would not be possible without our partners and their invaluable contributions. We are grateful for their time, rigorous feedback and support throughout the process. Our partners include the Expert Group on Refugee, IDPs and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Joint IDP Profiling Services (JIPS), the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), REACH Impact Initiatives, UN Development Program (UNDP), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), UN International Children's and Education Fund (UNICEF), and UN World Food Programme (WFP).

We would also like to acknowledge the Government of Germany for their generous support of this first PROGRESS report. We acknowledge the Government of the United States of America, the Government of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Canada, the Government of Japan, the European Union and the country humanitarian funds (Ethiopia, Central African Republic) for their generous contribution to DTM activities that facilitated the realization of this report.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAR	Central African Republic
DSID	Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Task Force
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EGRIS	Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FACA	Central African Armed Forces
FGDs	Focus group discussions
GDI	Global Data Institute
IASC	Inter-agency Standing Committee's Framework for Durable Solutions
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRIS	International Recommendations on IDP Statistics
ISIM	Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration
JIPS	Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service
PROGRESS	Periodic Global Reports on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement
ReDSS	Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Climate Change Task Force on Displacement
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WFP	World Food Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Collective efforts and coordinated action to find solutions to the 70+ million internally displaced globally is urgent. PROGRESS analyses data, amplifies voices and experiences of IDPs, returnees and host communities, and asks new questions to find solutions to prolonged internal displacement.

The most recent figures from 2022 show that 71.1 million Internally Displaced Persons live in 110 countries and territories, and of these, about 37.5 million IDPs live in only 15 countries.¹ Mounting humanitarian disasters threaten to unravel decades of development efforts. The World Bank estimated that the global displacement figure may almost triple in the coming decades in the face of climate change impacts.²

Given the rising number of IDPs in the world and the increase in protracted displacement, it is critical for the international community to harness its collective efforts to support solutions for the world's more than 70 million IDPs. The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the subsequent Action Agenda on Internal Displacement,³ and the ongoing independent review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement,⁴ have re-focused attention on IDPs and many international actors are working hard to tackle the vexing challenge of finding solutions to internal displacement. On the data front in particular, the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Task Force, established in 2021, made significant contribution to elucidate the extent to which IDPs are moving toward solutions.

Prolonged displacement and dependence on humanitarian assistance has far-reaching consequences, impacting multiple generations of IDPs, returnees and host communities who are some of the most vulnerable people in the world.⁵ The data and analysis in this report, and experiences of IDPs, returnees, and host communities suggest that finding solutions to displacement involves asking new questions about when and under what circumstances solutions to displacement begin.

Summary of PROGRESS data analysis

Analyzing vulnerabilities of IDPs in comparison to host communities provides evidence for understanding solutions;⁶ the smaller the gap between IDPs and host communities, the closer IDPs are to finding solutions. The findings below – from this first Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS) – provide a comparative overview across both population categories.

1 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) global consolidation figures as of December 2022 ; IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2023/>

2 The World Bank, Climate Migration – deepening our solutions, March 2022. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/climate-migration-deepening-our-solutions#:~:text=The%20authors%20find%20that%2C%20as,within%20their%20countries%20by%202050>

3 UN Secretary-General. Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. 2022. https://www.un.org/en/content/action-agenda-on-internal-displacement/assets/pdf/Action-Agenda-on-Internal-Displacement_EN.pdf

4 IASC Standing Committee, Independent Review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement, January 2023. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2023-01/Background%20Note%20on%20Independent%20Review%20of%20Humanitarian%20Response%20to%20Internal%20Displacement.pdf>

5 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1997. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G98/104/93/PDF/G9810493.pdf?OpenElement>

6 The International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) stipulate that an IDP is deemed to have overcome displacement-related vulnerabilities when the household that they belong to performs on par, or better than, the national average or local host/resident populations across five of the eight IASC criteria.

Solutions require a shift from focusing on “when displacement ends” to “when solutions start.”

When peoples’ lives are disrupted, often the best results come when solutions are initiated as early as possible. This assessment hinges on solutions criteria, many of which can start soon after displacement has occurred such as provision of adequate housing that provides a basis for employment and access to services, or facilitation of replacement of documentation that can help reunite families as well as people with their property. These elements are crucial for overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities⁷ and, subsequently, for IDPs to reach a “level playing field” with those from and in the communities in which they live in.⁸ From the data analysed in this report, we learned that:

- **The length of displacement affects possible solutions.** Analysis of datasets with information on length of displacement showed that the longer IDPs are displaced, the more likely they are to prefer local integration or settlement elsewhere rather than return. However, there are important variations depending on displacement trigger (conflict or natural hazard), setting (camp vs. non-camp), age and gender.
- **Adequate housing is related to stable income and less reliance on humanitarian assistance.** We hypothesized that having adequate housing would be associated with having a stable source of income. The analysis showed that while there is a strong relationship between adequate housing and stable income, this does not indicate causality. It may be that people with adequate housing are more likely to find jobs than those without stable housing. It also may be that IDPs with stable income are more likely to find adequate housing than those without stable incomes. In either case, this finding about housing is important, equally as the status of the land it occupies. Our data show that IDPs living in suitable shelters are twice as likely to achieve financial stability. For example, IDPs living with adequate shelter (34.4%) are two times more likely to report stable income source when compared to those living in inadequate shelters (17.1%). In terms of differences between those living in camps and those living elsewhere, IDPs living in camps are more likely to receive humanitarian assistance than

7 IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2021-03/IASC%20Framework%20on%20Durable%20Solutions%20for%20Internally%20Displaced%20Persons%2C%20April%202020.pdf>

8 The World Bank, A Development Approach to Conflict-Induced Internal Displacement. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/826251618911522691/pdf/A-Development-Approach-to-Conflict-Induced-Internal-Displacement.pdf>

IDP households are less likely to report having adequate shelter

85.4%

HOST COMMUNITY
HOUSEHOLDS IN
ADEQUATE SHELTER

61.5%

IDP HOUSEHOLDS IN
ADEQUATE SHELTER



Water trucking activity in Dollow IDP site.

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those living outside of camps. For governments, and humanitarian and development actors, securing adequate housing for IDPs is a key step in reducing disparities between host and displaced communities, resolving displacement.

Solutions must be people-centered and operationally relevant.

From the millions of people addressed by displacement data and the hundreds of IDPs consulted for PROGRESS, there is a clear message about what solutions look like for them: adequate accommodation, jobs, security and a sense of belonging in their communities. These require long-term strategies that help IDPs transition quickly to rebuild their lives. Our findings emphasize the significance of integrating displaced individuals into their host communities as fostering a sense of belonging and participation allows IDPs to contribute to their host communities in ways that build self-reliance. Local integration is instrumental, not only in the context of displacement but also in cases of return and settlement elsewhere. The analysis showed that:

- **IDPs tend to be more vulnerable than their host communities.** As might be expected, IDPs exhibit more vulnerability than host community households on most – though not all – indicators. IDPs report having more serious security concerns and relying more on humanitarian assistance than host households. Also, IDP households are less likely to enroll their children in school and more likely to report facing barriers accessing health care.
- **Gender⁹ matters.** We found significant disparities between female- and male-headed households in terms of both adequate shelter and a stable income source. Among IDPs, more female-headed households report relying on humanitarian assistance and not having a stable income. In addition, more female-headed households report having inadequate shelter compared to male-headed households. And when it comes to security and perceptions of security, many IDP respondents perceive women and girls face greater risks in a wide variety of settings. IDPs perceive more safety concerns and threats related to women and girls than host households. More IDPs in camps perceive safety concerns and threats related to women and girls than IDPs not living in camps. The focus group discussions (FGD) emphasized the importance of safety; in some cases, the lack of safety in camps provided a further impetus to return. In others, the perceived lack of safety in

the community of origin was a factor preventing the return of IDPs. Country level analysis showed that gender and age can play a role in shaping intentions and preferred solutions options, where in some instances youth and women might be more likely to prefer local integration rather than return.

Sustainable solutions require inclusive development finance

When asked where they want to be in 5-10 years, IDPs pointed towards microfinance and other support to start small businesses and build skills to diversify their livelihoods. Increasing support for cash-based initiatives is a step in the right direction. Empowering IDPs can also help host communities when appropriately structured. For example, in Afghanistan, we've seen struggling communities benefit because of the arrival of IDPs and returnees who brought skills and knowledge, and established businesses in various sectors. These investments enable resilience. The reform of multilateral development banks is also essential, to create the fiscal space that governments need to take the lead investing in pathways that bring all citizens — displaced and otherwise — to improve well-being, social cohesion, and safety that almost always accompany effective public investments.

Economic security is key to both well-being in displacement and to solutions. Focus group discussions with IDPs (31 FGDs in 10 countries) noted that displacement negatively affected economic situations, as it led to the loss of homes, livelihoods, assets, land and jobs or businesses. In discussing possible solutions to displacement, the security situation in the area of origin was the primary concern about return, but economic issues were almost as important – particularly the need for livelihoods and recovery or rehabilitation of housing.

Looking at the sustainability of returns – how long returnees remain in their communities of habitual residence after returning – data from Nigeria, South Sudan and Central African Republic suggest that more than 50 per cent of returnees had remained in their community of habitual residence for more than two years. Nevertheless, many returnees remain vulnerable. More than 25 per cent of returnees in North-East Nigeria reside in fully or partially damaged shelters, while in South Sudan, many reported challenges in obtaining documentation and land paperwork.

The sustainability of returns is further affected by various drivers. For some, return is not a voluntary option but a

⁹ It is important to note that per IOM guidance, it is recommended to use sex rather than gender when referring to sex designations such as male and female. However, in this report gender is used to refer to males and females. We do not however, seem to suggest the two are interchangeable.

necessity. Approximately 28 per cent of Afghan IDPs who returned home in 2021 and 2022 reported that the main reason for return was they could not afford to remain in displacement. In southern South Sudan, the main drivers for return are a reduction of aid and friction with the host community. In contrast, in Yemen, drivers such as improved conditions in the place of origin play a more prominent role in the decision to return.

The household survey in southern South Sudan reports that 97 per cent of returned households stated they returned without any support from humanitarian actors or the government; they relied on family and friends.

Solutions must enable governments to bolster the resilience of IDPs and host communities at the frontlines of climate change. At the time of writing, the El Niño is breaking records — for sea surface temperatures that decimate fisheries as fish migrate elsewhere, for flooding that wrecks city infrastructure, and for heat waves that destroy lives, animal herds, and crops — and is likely to show its biggest effects in the first quarter of

2024. Governments will be required to push past thinking about population well-being in terms of national averages, to targeting affected communities — those displaced and those offering shelter. The help needed from governments should shift from reactive assistance over long periods to beginning solutions pathways early in the displacement experience, especially in the face of destabilizing forces like conflict and climate change.

Examining IOM datasets on IDP returns in individual countries yielded compelling findings. For example, a comparison of drought-displaced and conflict-displaced IDPs in Ethiopia found that a much higher percentage of conflict-displaced IDPs returned to their communities of origin than those displaced by drought. This may reflect the fact that IDPs are reluctant to return to areas affected by drought for fear that droughts may recur in the same area, provoking further hardship and displacement. Also using data from Ethiopia, it was found that IDP returns decline with longer durations of displacement.

Objectives, Approach and Limitations

As part of its contribution to the challenge of finding solutions to displacement, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Global Data Institute (GDI) and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), have collaborated to produce **Periodic Global Reports on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS)**. This PROGRESS initiative is intended to offer people-

centred and operationally relevant in offering evidence-based analysis of factors most conducive to enabling IDPs to move toward – and eventually achieve – durable solutions. It is directed toward governments, development and humanitarian actors and IDPs themselves and suggests concrete steps that can be taken to increase opportunities to move closer to finding solutions.



Fear has dominated us: fear of being evicted, fear of losing our jobs, fear for our children and ourselves. Returning has instilled a sense of beautiful stability and security. Being in our own homes has provided a feeling of comfort and familiarity, a stark contrast to the alienation we experienced during displacement.

Focus group discussion with female returnees, Kirkuk Governorate, Iraq, August 2023.

The objectives of PROGRESS

■ Assess the status of progress towards solutions to support efforts by governments and other stakeholders to end displacement.

- Review existing datasets to determine their utility in measuring progress toward solutions for IDPs;
- Test a limited number of hypotheses about factors that may affect solutions for IDPs based on existing humanitarian datasets on IDPs, returnees and host communities;
- Provide initial evidence to national authorities and other stakeholders on steps they can take to effectively support solutions.

■ Identify key gaps in data needed to measure progress toward solutions and develop ways of addressing these gaps.

- Operationalize the robust sets of indicators for solutions, particularly those used in International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) and seek ways to implement them in future data collection initiatives;
- Set out a plan for future PROGRESS reports that addresses some of the shortcomings in existing data.

■ Provide evidence to engage national governments and UN system actors to outline next steps on solutions programming.

- Contribute to the understanding of how, where, and when solutions to displacement can begin.

The PROGRESS initiative ultimately seeks to advance some overarching objectives outlined in the Action Agenda (Durable Solutions, Protection & Assistance and Prevention). This includes moving away from returns bias by building evidence on local integration and settlement elsewhere; drawing attention to urban internal displacement, as well as using data and evidence to include IDPs in development initiatives and activities and structures to incorporate and build for IDPs.

Approach to data and analysis

The 2023 edition of the PROGRESS report focuses on the 15 countries selected as pilots by the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, namely Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Vanuatu and Yemen.

To supplement existing datasets, 74 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with IDPs, returnees, and host communities across 10 countries to see what displacement-affected communities themselves think are the barriers to finding solutions, and the ways of overcoming them (a summary of the FGDs is presented in Chapter 6).

This PROGRESS report focuses on unpacking the steps toward solutions to internal displacement – or solutions pathway, by drawing together existing datasets to assess factors that affect IDPs in making progress toward finding long-term solutions to internal displacement. This analysis can help governments and other stakeholders understand relevant factors that affect progress toward solutions. This approach can help them develop targeted strategies and render the task of finding solutions more manageable.

Limitations

The findings and analysis for PROGRESS are based on datasets produced by humanitarian actors to support operational decisions.

The datasets on IDPs include data on people who are presently displaced rather than those who have found solutions or are, on what DSID calls, the solutions pathway. In addition, some data on host communities and returnees were referenced. Unfortunately, there is no single comprehensive dataset assessing solutions for the world's 70+ million IDPs. Nor, as the DSID Task Force has signalled, is there a standardized methodology, practice, or a globally common framework for measuring progress toward solutions. Rather there are some datasets for specific countries or for subregions of countries, each of which has data on different durable solutions indicators, collected at different points in time, and often based on different sampling techniques and methodologies.

Although these findings indicate areas where further analysis is needed, they also indicate serious shortcomings in the data available.

- Data need to be collected on different indicators related to long-term development. In line with the IRIS Framework and DSID, data needed are those that compare IDPs and national populations along IASC and IRIS indicators – such as income, access to education, livelihood conditions, and food security. This would enable tracking whether IDPs continue to have displacement-related vulnerabilities.
- More longitudinal studies are urgently needed which would enable us to understand the dynamics of displacement and when durable solutions might be

most feasible.

- On a technical level, consistency in defining and coding solutions indicators and population categories is also needed to facilitate comparisons between communities and across time.
- Gaps in systematic and comparable data collection on the stocks and profiles of returnees, and particularly locally integrated and IDPs who settled elsewhere. Finally, better data are needed on the impact of climate change on the sustainability of returns and indeed of integration in local host communities.
- These limitations make comparisons and generalizations difficult. Insights and feedback on this first PROGRESS will be used to inform and improve data collection and analysis in the future, such that they can be used to inform policies and responses to resolving displacement.

Background, situating PROGRESS in the wider landscape

The three recognized solutions for internal displacement within the Framework on Durable Solutions are: return and sustainable reintegration in the community of origin (return) or integration in areas where IDPs take refuge (local integration) into local communities or sustainable integration into another part of the country (settlement elsewhere). While local integration is considered as one of the three solutions (along with return and settlement elsewhere), it is in fact key to all three solutions, or in the case of return, it is re-integration. For IDPs, local integration refers to the inclusion and participation of displaced persons into their host communities.

The DSID and this PROGRESS initiative complement the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions and the output of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) – the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) Framework – that, while emphasizing that the search for durable solutions is a process, provides a first-of-its-kind-toolbox that enables actors to capture, compare, monitor, and analyze the data needed to measure progress toward durable solutions and, ultimately, demonstrate IDPs' achievement of a solution.¹⁰ At the same time, the DSID introduces the concept of a “solutions pathway” that “begins

when an IDP is no longer in displacement, either due to moving to a location of solution (return or other settlement locations), or has decided to locally integrate in the area of displacement (local integration), however, has not yet overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities.”¹¹

Empowering IDPs towards solutions

Perhaps because durable solutions have been difficult to achieve, attention has turned to supporting IDPs to exercise their rights during displacement and to become self-reliant. Self-reliance is defined as “the social and economic ability of an individual, a household or a community to meet its essential needs in a sustainable manner.”¹² Being able to work and support oneself is key to well-being, dignity, protection, and integration of IDPs. Having personal documentation and being employed tends to increase access to social services and children's access to education. Securing livelihoods is also a key component of protection. When displaced persons are unable to find work, they are more at risk of exploitation by both employers and criminal elements. Dependence on humanitarian assistance for long periods of time has negative consequences for the self-esteem of displaced populations, for host community perceptions of them, and for the international community. Thus, enabling IDPs to be self-reliant is in the interests of IDPs, the host community and government, and has implications for international humanitarian and development actors.

IDP self reliance can support IDPs during displacement and contribute to all three durable solutions: return to the community of origin, local integration and settlement elsewhere. Humanitarian aid is usually critical for newly displaced persons. In fragile settings where the provision of basic services is led by humanitarian actors, the availability of humanitarian assistance and geographical presence of aid actors can affect the movement of internally displaced communities.¹³ However, IDPs eventually want to provide for their families and diminish reliance on aid, which is rarely sufficient and often uncertain. Support for livelihoods – key to capability-building initiatives – has become increasingly central in humanitarian response and offers many of opportunities for development actors to take the lead.

¹⁰ As noted in the partner contribution chapter, EGRIS Subgroup 2 on Methodological Research and Guidance Development is conducting a research to help complete the statistical measure for comparison of conditions of IDPs and non-displaced persons. <https://egrisstats.org/about/subgroups/subgroup-2-methodological-research-and-guidance-development>

¹¹ DSID Task Force, *Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Displacement*. June 2023, pp. 11.

¹² Kellie Leeson and Ilana Seff. Refugee self-reliance: are we headed there and how do we know? Refugee Point, 2019. <https://www.refugeepoint.org/developing-the-self-reliance-index/>

¹³ IOM DTM Understanding the key drivers of displacement in Somalia, during the 2021/22 drought (September 2022). <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/understanding-key-drivers-displacement-somalia-during-202122-drought?close=true>



Prior to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, Kobe was a village in El Fasher, North Darfur, is a settlements where formerly internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan's Darfur region have returned. IOM is among the agencies that have supported the return with infrastructure such as water facilities. © IOM 2023/Muse Mohammed

Chapter

01



INTRODUCTION:
AN OVERVIEW OF
PROGRESS

1. INTRODUCTION: AN OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world continues to increase; according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, in 2022 the number of displacements increased by 60 per cent.¹⁴ The displacement is increasingly protracted, with some 50 countries reporting internal displacement lasting more than ten years.¹⁵ With climate change expected drive mass displacement in the coming decades,¹⁶ the issue of finding solutions and preventing displacement is an urgent one. On the human level, internal displacement causes pain and suffering for families uprooted from their communities. For governments, internal displacement threatens the achievement of sustainable development

goals. Development actors are called to step up their efforts not only to include IDPs in development programs, but to take steps to find solutions to displacement. As the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda¹⁷ on Internal Displacement emphatically states, resolving displacement is as much a development issue as it is a humanitarian one. At the same time, humanitarian agencies are challenged to ensure that their assistance programs not only meet immediate needs but also lay the essential foundation for longer-term efforts to find solutions to displacement. Humanitarian agencies are also challenged to identify when they should hand over IDP caseloads to the state and to development actors.

Periodic Global Reports on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS)

As part of its contribution to the challenge of finding solutions to displacement, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Global Data Institute (GDI) and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), are collaborating to produce Periodic Global Reports on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS). PROGRESS is intended to be people-centred and operationally relevant in offering evidence-based analysis of factors most conducive for enabling IDPs to move toward – and eventually achieve – durable solutions. It is directed toward governments, development and humanitarian actors and IDPs themselves and suggests concrete steps that can be taken to increase realistic opportunities to move closer to finding solutions. Given the global momentum for solutions to internal displacement, it is critical for the international community to harness its collective efforts in support of solutions for the world's 70+ million IDPs, most of

whom have been displaced for years. The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement¹⁸ and the ongoing independent review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement,¹⁹ have re-focused attention on IDPs. Many international actors are working hard to tackle the vexing challenge of finding solutions to internal displacement. On the data front in particular, the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Task Force, established in 2021, made significant contribution to elucidate the extent to which IDPs are moving toward solutions. Both DSID and PROGRESS complement the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions²⁰ and the work of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) in emphasizing that the search for durable solutions is a process, rather than an end state, and that data can be used to measure progress toward durable solutions.²¹

14 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Global Report on Internal Displacement. 2023. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2023/>

15 The World Bank. Forcibly Displaced: Toward a Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and their Hosts. Washington, DC: The World Bank. 2017. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/a4bdb82b-01e7-5e8f-8b75-6dc1591d9da1>

16 Clement, Viviane et al. Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration. Washington, DC: The World Bank. 2021. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/2c9150df-52c3-58ed-9075-d78ea56c3267>

17 UN Secretary-General. Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. 2022. https://www.un.org/en/content/action-agenda-on-internal-displacement/assets/pdf/Action-Agenda-on-Internal-Displacement_EN.pdf

18 The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement was established by the UN Secretary-General in 2019 to identify concrete recommendations on how to better prevent, respond and achieve solutions to the global internal displacement crisis. For more information see <https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/>

19 IASC Standing Committee, Independent Review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement, January 2023. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2023-01/Background%20Note%20on%20Independent%20Review%20of%20Humanitarian%20Response%20to%20Internal%20Displacement.pdf>

20 For more information on the IASC Durable Solutions Framework see <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-person>. As noted in the partner contribution chapter, EGRIS Subgroup 2 on Methodological Research and Guidance Development is conducting a research to help complete the statistical measure for comparison of conditions of IDPs and non-displaced persons. <https://egrisstats.org/about/subgroups/subgroup-2-methodological-research-and-guidance-development>

21 For more information on EGRIS see <https://egrisstats.org/>

Objectives of PROGRESS

PROGRESS explores the steps toward solutions to internal displacement – or solutions pathway – by analyzing existing datasets for insights into factors related to solutions pathways and later collecting additional data and analyzing the results. If governments and other stakeholders had the means for measuring progress toward solutions, they would be in a better position to develop strategies to support these interim solutions and the task of finding solutions would appear less insurmountable and more manageable.

I Assess status of progress

towards solutions to support efforts by governments and other stakeholders to end displacement

- Review existing datasets to determine their utility in measuring progress toward solutions for IDPs
- Test a limited number of hypotheses about the dynamics of internal displacement, based on existing datasets on IDPs, returnees and host communities
- Provide initial evidence to national authorities and other stakeholders on how to effectively support solutions

II Identify key gaps in data

needed to measure progress toward solutions and develop ways of addressing these gaps

- Operationalize the robust sets of indicators for solutions, particularly those used in IRIS and DSID and seek ways to implement them in future data collection initiatives
- Set out a plan for future PROGRESS reports that addresses some of the shortcomings in existing data.

III Engage national governments and UN system actors

to outline next steps on solutions programming

- Contribute to better understanding of how, where, and when displacement ends

The above objectives of the PROGRESS initiative seek to advance some overarching objectives outlined in the Action Agenda. This includes moving away from returns bias by building evidence on local integration and resettlement; drawing attention to urban internal displacement, as well as using data and evidence to include IDPs in development initiatives and activities and structures to incorporate and build for IDPs.

As discussed in chapter 2, resolving internal displacement is a process and understanding how to resolve it allows national governments and other stakeholders to take actions to support solutions from an early stage and assess their progress with respect to solutions over time. The UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement is an urgent call for new ways of acting to help IDPs find solutions to their displacement. This includes stepped-up engagement of development actors and working to support nationally and locally owned solutions as part of a renewed social contract between IDPs and their governments.



A truck carrying the personal belongings of displaced persons from Sudan.



Chapter 02

CONCEPTUAL
UNDERPINNINGS AND
EFFORTS TO APPLY
THEM IN SUPPORT OF
SOLUTIONS FOR IDPS

2. CONCEPTUAL UNDERPINNINGS AND EFFORTS TO APPLY THEM IN SUPPORT OF SOLUTIONS FOR IDPS

In a context where there are more IDPs worldwide, and displacement is increasingly protracted, encouraging IDP self-reliance can support IDPs during displacement and contribute to durable solutions: return to the community of origin, local integration and settlement elsewhere.

We use the definition of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: “persons or groups of persons who have been obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border.”²²

People are displaced for many reasons, principally by conflict, disasters, or the combination of the two. As the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement points out, climate change acts as both a driver of displacement and a risk multiplier. IDPs seek protection in other parts of the country, sometimes living in camps or settlements, but increasingly living among host communities and usually in urban areas. The three recognized locations where solutions for internal displacement occur are:

- Place of Origin: return and sustainable re-integration in the community of origin;
- Local integration where IDPs currently reside: integration) into local communities;
- A new location through relocation: sustainable integration into another part of the country (settlement elsewhere).

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the principle normative framework for IDPs, do not use the term durable solutions. Instead, in line with the concept of sovereignty as responsibility, it emphasize that “the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country lies with the authorities of affected countries.”²³ In other words, national authorities are responsible for both establishing conditions and providing the means for IDPs to either return to their homes or settle elsewhere in the country. The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, known as the Kampala Convention,²⁴ the only legally binding regional treaty on IDPs, goes further. Its Article 11 spells out the obligation of States Parties to “seek lasting solutions” through “voluntary return, local integration or relocation on a sustainable basis and in circumstances of safety and dignity.” It also highlights the obligation of States to “enable internally displaced persons to make a free and informed choice on whether to return, integrate locally or relocate by consulting them on these and other options and ensuring their participation in finding sustainable solutions.”

²² UNOCHA. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G98/104/93/PDF/G9810493.pdf?OpenElement>

²³ UNOCHA. *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. 1998. Principle 28. <https://www.unhcr.org/us/media/guiding-principles-internal-displacement>

²⁴ Africa Union. *Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention)*. 2009. <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-protection-and-assistance-internally-displaced-persons-africa> The Kampala Convention entered in to force in 2012.

In 2010, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee adopted the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons,²⁵ which provides a better understanding of each durable solution, further details the process and conditions necessary for achieving a durable solution. The IASC framework sets criteria to determine to what extent a durable solution has been achieved.

While there are other relevant documents that offer insights into durable solutions for displacement, such as the Pinheiro Principles,²⁶ the Framework for Durable Solutions remains the principal point of reference for understanding the process of achieving durable solutions. The Framework was developed by humanitarian agencies, and it is now recognized that finding solutions to displacement requires the engagement of not only the governments concerned but also development actors. Since the IASC Framework was well over a decade ago, international organizations have used it to increase understanding of durable solutions while developing additional guidance for finding solutions in specific displacement situations. The International Organization for Migration developed a progressive framework,²⁷ stressing the importance of mobility in contributing to solutions. In 2015, UN OCHA commissioned a major study on reducing protracted displacement through collective outcomes and has compiled useful case studies.²⁸ In 2020, GP20, a multistakeholder platform,²⁹ In November 2022, UNDP published *Turning the Tide on Internal Displacement*³⁰

Since its establishment in 2009, the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS)³¹ has carried out profiling activities in several countries, intended to support governments in finding durable solutions for IDPs.

In 2015, JIPS began a project to operationalize the key elements of the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions and has developed methods and tools to durable solutions analyses in internal displacement contexts. More recently, it has developed a Durable Solutions Question Bank with sample questions for household surveys that should provide increased interoperability between datasets.³² Building on the IRIS criteria, IOM developed the Solutions & Mobility Index (SMI). Introduced at the World Bank Fragility Forum in March 2022, the tool has already been implemented in over 10 countries³³ providing data on stability, peace, development, recovery, and reintegration dynamics to inform solutions programming.

There have also been efforts by governments to incorporate the Framework for Durable Solutions in their own laws and policies, including Niger, Afghanistan, Kenya, Sri Lanka and South Sudan. And inter-agency working groups on IDP solutions have been established in many countries as part of efforts to apply these frameworks to resolving displacement.

There have also been regional efforts to operationalize the Framework for Durable Solutions and adapt it to the particular needs of countries within a given region. For example, the Regional Durable Solutions (ReDSS), established in 2015 to support solutions for both refugees and IDPs in 11 countries in East Africa and the Horn of Africa, uses 28 indicators to measure progress and support governments and other actors to find solutions for IDPs in Somalia.³⁴ Finally, there is rich research literature looking at the relationship between durable solutions, peace processes and transitional justice,³⁵ the use of microdata to support solutions in particular countries,³⁶ durable solutions for those displaced by disasters,³⁷ settlement

25 IASC. *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*. 2010. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

26 UN Sub commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. *Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons (the Pinheiro Principles)*. June 2005. <https://www.unhcr.org/media/principles-housing-and-property-restitution-refugees-and-displaced-persons-pinheiro>

27 International Organization for Migration. *IOM Framework: Progressive Framework for Resolution of Internal Displacement Situations*. 2018. <https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/2018-07/IOM-PRDS-Framework.pdf>

28 Walter Kaelin and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, *Breaking the Impasse: Reducing Protracted Internal Displacement as a Collective Outcome*. UNOCHA. 2017. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/breaking-impasse-reducing-protracted-internal-displacement-collective-outcome-enruuk>. Also see UNOCHA, *Reducing Protracted Internal Displacement: A Snapshot of Successful Humanitarian Development Initiatives*. UNOCHA. 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/reducing-protracted-internal-displacement-snapshot-successful-humanitarian-development>

29 GP 20, *Working together Better to Prevent, Address and Find Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement: GP 20 Compilation of National Practices*. November 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/working-together-better-prevent-address-and-find-durable-solutions-internal>

30 UN Development Programme. *Turning the Tide on Internal Displacement: a Development Approach to Solutions 2022*. <https://www.undp.org/publications/turning-tide-internal-displacement-development-approach-solutions>

31 <https://www.jips.org/>

32 See Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service, *Interagency indicator library, Analysis Guide and Question Bank*. <https://www.jips.org/tools-and-guidance/durable-solutions-indicators-guide/>

33 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) – Solutions & Mobility Index (SMI). <https://dtm.iom.int/solutions>

34 Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS). *Solutions Framework Tools*. 2018. <https://regionaldss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ReDSS-Solutions-Framework-guidance-manual.pdf>

35 See for example, Roger Duthie, *Contributing to Durable Solutions: Transitional Justice and the Integration and Reintegration of Displaced Persons*. International Center for Transitional Justice and the Brookings Project on Internal Displacement. 2013. <https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/ICTJ-Research-Brief-Displacement-Solutions-Duthie.pdf>

36 Andrea Pellandra and Lauren Herby. *Advancing UNHCR's open data vision: the new Microdata Library*. 2020. <https://www.unhcr.org/blogs/advancing-unhcrs-open-data-vision-the-new-microdata-library/>

37 See for example, Minh Tran and Reina Bermudez, *Durable solutions for people displaced by Typhoon Haiyan, Tacloban, Philippines*. Stockholm Environmental Institute. 2022. <https://www.sei.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/durable-solutions-typhoon-haiyan-sei2022.050.pdf>

elsewhere, and other issues. The Internal Displacement Research Programme of the University of London, established in 2020 and its regional IDP research networks provide a useful repository of academic research on IDPs.

Although the sections above provide a broad overview of global work on durable solutions, the following section focuses on the concepts of integration and self-reliance. Local integration, as noted above, is considered as one of the three solutions (along with return and settlement elsewhere), and is in fact also key to return, relocation or local integration. For internally displaced persons, local integration refers to the inclusion and participation

of displaced persons into their host communities. Like durable solutions generally, integration is a process that develops over a period of years. IDPs may not immediately feel that they “belong” after they have physically moved to a new community and, in fact, they may move several times before they settle down. Integration is crucial to ensuring the durability of solutions. If people do not perceive that they belong, if they cannot access services on a par with the non-displaced, or seek redress from discrimination because of their displacement they cannot be said to have found a solution to their displacement.

2.1. Local Integration and Self-Reliance

Local integration into host communities has long been recognized as one of the three solutions for IDPs. There is an extensive literature on refugee integration – what it means, how it is conceptualized and how it is measured.³⁸ However, the situation is completely different for IDPs as they are almost always citizens of the country in which they are displaced and, as citizens, are entitled to all the rights of citizens who have not been displaced.³⁹ In comparison with the literature on refugee integration, there are relatively few studies focusing on the integration of IDPs or the re-integration of IDP returnees.⁴⁰ The World Bank’s 2022 collection of studies on social cohesion and forced displacement (both refugees and IDPs) concludes that while displacement can exacerbate tensions between IDPs and host communities, there are also possibilities for strengthening social cohesion and solidarity.⁴¹ In contrast, some research and datasets indicate that IDPs may experience stigma and discrimination after being displaced and that tensions between IDPs and host communities or between returnees and host communities are not uncommon.⁴²

Integration is a complex process and there are many examples worldwide where it has not, or cannot, be achieved. As integration is a high bar to achieve, attention

has turned to supporting IDPs to utilize their rights during displacement and to become self-reliant. Self-reliance is defined as “the social and economic ability of an individual, a household or a community to meet its essential needs in a sustainable manner.”⁴³ In certain circumstances, self-reliance is the key determinant as to whether or not a solution, initially provided through the support from multiple stakeholders, will be enduring, sustainable, and will ensure that the displacement has been adequately resolved.

Livelihood and source of income is key to well-being, dignity, protection, and integration of internally displaced people. Having personal documentation and being employed tends to increase access to social services and children’s access to education. Securing livelihoods is also a key component of protection. When displaced persons are unable to find work, they are more at risk of exploitation by both employers and criminal elements. Land tenure, or, at a minimum, at least a clear understanding about the status of the land upon which a person resides, also promotes self-sufficiency. Dependence on humanitarian assistance for long periods of time has negative consequences for the self-esteem of displaced populations, for host community perceptions of

38 Work by Ager and Stangor is the basis for many empirical studies that examine the extent to which refugees achieve integration. Their Social Integration Model includes ten core domains divided into four categories, each having their own policy indicators (in parentheses): foundation (rights and citizenship), facilitators (language/cultural knowledge; safety/stability), social connection (social bonds, bridges, and links), and markers and means (education, housing, employment, health). Alistair Ager and Alison Strang. Understanding integration: a conceptual framework. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 21 (2) June 2008. <https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article/21/2/166/1621262> Also see Katharine Donato and Elizabeth Ferris Refugee integration in Canada, Europe and the United States: perspectives from research. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 690(1) 2020. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0002716220943169>

39 IDPs include individuals who are stateless as well as long-standing foreign residents. One main exception is voting rights where in many countries, the right to participate politically requires residence in a particular jurisdiction.

40 See Brookings Project on Internal Displacement, IDMC and Norwegian Refugee Council. IDPs in Protracted Situations: is local integration the answer? Brookings Project on Internal Displacement, IDMC and Norwegian Refugee Council. 2011. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/201106-IDPs-in-protracted-displacement-ls-local-integration-a-solution-thematic-en.pdf>

41 The World Bank. Social Cohesion and Forced Displacement: A Synthesis of New Research. UK Aid, UNHCR and World Bank. 2022. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/96b682aa-c330-518e-ab56-7ad0cadabb0e/content>

42 Nunez-Ferrera Isis et al. IDPs in Towns and Cities - working with the realities of internal displacement in an urban world. Submission to the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on Internal Displacement by International Institute for Environment and Development, JIPS and UN Habitat. 2020. https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/sites/www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/files/published_jied_jips_unh_submission.pdf

43 Kellie Leeson and Ilana Seff. Refugee self-reliance: are we headed there and how do we know? *Refuge Point*, 2019. <https://www.refugepoint.org/developing-the-self-reliance-index/>

them, and for the international community. For example, the international community and host government can provide a housing solution but, in the absence of sense of ownership and agency regarding the structure, adequate levels of preventative maintenance may not occur. Thus, enabling IDPs to be self-reliant is in the interests of IDPs, the host community and government, and has implications for international humanitarian and development actors.

In a context where there are more IDPs worldwide, and displacement is increasingly protracted, encouraging

IDP self-reliance can support IDPs during displacement and contribute to all three locations where durable solutions can occur: return to the community of origin, local integration and settlement elsewhere. Although humanitarian aid is usually critical for newly displaced persons, IDPs eventually want to provide for their families without relying on this aid (which in any event is rarely sufficient and often uncertain). Support for livelihoods – key to self-reliance initiatives – has become increasingly central in humanitarian response and offers plenty of opportunities for development actors to take the lead.



IOM camp management staff work in some of the biggest camps for displaced persons in Somalia. They help residents access information and services as well as work with community leaders and authorities to improve people's living conditions.

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Aerial views of Bohol Garas village, Luuq, Jubbaland state, Somalia.
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Chapter
03

SOLUTIONS PATHWAY:
MEASURING PROGRESS
OF IDPS

3. SOLUTIONS PATHWAY: MEASURING PROGRESS OF IDPS

Solutions bring an end to internal displacement, and this end has to be measured. Measuring the end of displacement is essential to ensure that displacement related vulnerabilities are addressed. International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) provide frameworks to authoritatively measure the end of displacement and progress toward solutions.

There is a consensus that resolving displacement is a process rather than occurring at a particular point in time. An integrated comprehensive approach is needed. Solutions need to be tailored to the specific context while being flexible enough to adapt to changes over time. In looking at that process, both DSID and IRIS have moved in the direction of looking at solutions pathway – when IDPs have activated their solutions pathway, i.e., may have moved to locations of solutions – return, local integration or resettlement – and still continue to have vulnerabilities associated with their displacement.

We also know that internal displacement is not static and that IDPs may move multiple times, sometimes in search of safety (as is the case in El Salvador, Yemen), or to join family members living elsewhere (Colombia, Poland), or to study or pursue employment opportunities (northern Iraq). The IOM-Georgetown research on IDPs in northern Iraq, for example is one of the few longitudinal studies that tracked IDPs over time and found, among other things,

that IDPs moved closer to their communities of origin. Although not yet having attained a durable solution, this may be considered as progress toward durable solutions as IDPs moved first to their governorate of origin, then to their district of origin, and then to their neighbourhoods, unable to take that final step of returning to their homes until their houses had been reconstructed. This was clearly progress toward ending displacement but traditional means of collecting data on IDPs – which distinguish simply between IDPs and non-displaced – do not capture these gains, because it does not provide information about the general population against which progress toward solutions should be measured. EGRIS has suggested a methodology for measuring progress toward solutions by measuring the extent to which IDPs have overcome displacement-related vulnerabilities and an EGRIS Sub-group is working on some of the technical issues to come up with standard measures that can be widely used.

3.1. International Frameworks

There have been many efforts to develop indicators of solutions to internal displacement, most of which are based on the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions.

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions states that “a durable solution is achieved when IDPs no longer have any specific protection and assistance needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights

without discrimination on account of their displacement.” It identifies eight criteria which can be used to determine whether an IDP has found a durable solution, the first four are considered necessary in all situations of displacement and the remaining four are often needed to achieve a durable solution with the addition of the fifth (where possible), given the variety of challenges linked to the lack of documentation.

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions states that

“A durable solution is achieved when IDPs no longer have any specific protection and assistance needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.”

Table 1. IASC durable solutions criteria and identified IRIS sub-criteria

IASC CRITERIA	IRIS SUB-CRITERIA
Safety and security	Victims of violence
	Freedom of movement
	Protection mechanisms
	Disaster risk reduction
Adequate standard of living	Food security
	Shelter and housing
	Medical services
	Education
Access to livelihoods	Employment and livelihoods
	Economic security
Restoration of housing, land and property	Property restitution and compensation
Access to documentation	Documentation
Family reunification	Voluntary reunification
	Reunification and tracing services
Participation in public affairs	Public affairs
	Right to vote
	Right to engage in public service
Access to effective remedies and justice	Remedies and justice

3.1.1 International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)

IRIS seeks to offer definitive guidance of when solutions for IDPs have been found and individuals can be considered to no longer be displaced. It also seeks to offer guidance in measuring progress toward solutions. In this regard, IRIS suggests breaking down the first five of the Framework on Durable Solution’s criteria into 10 sub-criteria with indicators developed for each (see Table 1).

Comparing IDPs with other population groups in a country along these criteria can then assess the extent to which the vulnerabilities experienced by IDPs are related to their displacement. In drawing these comparisons, IRIS further suggests that national-level data for the country as a whole – rather than data on host communities – be used in comparisons with IDPs, noting there are differences due to the varying definitions of “host community.” For example, typically host community⁴⁴ or resident population refers to non-displaced persons living in geographic proximity to IDPs. Sometimes, it may refer to those who are hosting IDPs in their homes. However, this requires further analysis given that national-level population data are likely skewed toward urban populations who have very different characteristics than IDPs living in rural settings. IRIS further suggests that data on progress toward durable solutions be collected from IDPs living in areas of displacement, areas of return and IDPs living in other areas, disaggregating it by age and sex and, where feasible, analyzing the data in relation to urban/rural, camp vs non-camp settings ethnicity, religion, disability and education.⁴⁵ This comparison is critical to evaluate the levelness of the “playing field” with host community/resident population.⁴⁶

IRIS has not yet developed indicators for the sub-criteria and data to assess progress toward solutions are uneven, making it difficult to effectively compare IDPs and national populations. This presents an important window for solutions actors to convene and formulate baseline metrics that offer an operational comparator between IDPs and non-displaced for the displacement related vulnerabilities that must be overcome. There may also be limitations in using data for national populations on the five criteria in that national-level data tend to be collected at regular intervals. For example, census data is usually collected every 5 or 10 years while displacement is

44 Per the IOM Glossary, host community refers to a national or local community in which displaced persons temporarily reside.

45 EGRIS, International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), p. 50, available at <https://egrisstats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/The-International-Recommendations-on-IDP-Statistics.pdf>.

46 The World Bank, A Development Approach to Conflict-Induced Internal Displacement, January 2021. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/826251618911522691/pdf/A-Development-Approach-to-Conflict-Induced-Internal-Displacement.pdf>

ongoing. Comparing IDPs' access to housing, for example, at a particular point in time with national-level data on housing access five years earlier may not be a useful comparison.

3.1.2 Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID)

The Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Task Force was established in 2021 in response to the Secretary-General's Action Agenda to a) improve data availability, quality, relevance, and interoperability and standardize the analysis of data for solutions; and b) strengthen national ownership of solutions and underlying data management systems.⁴⁷ DSID introduces the concept of a "solutions pathway" which "begins when an IDP is no longer in displacement, either due to moving to a location of solution (return or resettlement locations), or has decided to locally integrate in the area of displacement (local integration⁴⁸), however has not yet overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities."⁴⁹

In order to measure this, the Task Force supports the "IRIS-recommended measures of: the IDP Stock (total number of IDPs), the progress measure (measuring progress toward solutions), and the composite measure (measuring the number of IDPs that have achieved solutions) for policy decision-making and statistical comparability between countries."⁵⁰ Data review conducted for this report shows that while data on IDP stocks (humanitarian) are available, the availability of data for the solutions pathway stock is missing, particularly when it comes to IDPs in other

settlements (relocated) and IDPs who integrated locally.

Thus, while it is relatively clear what data are needed to identify numbers and locations of IDPs on solutions pathway, concerted efforts are needed to ensure the operationalization of the solutions pathway in countries. While an impressive array of datasets on internal displacement are available, there is little consistency with respect to the information gathered, which limits the usefulness of such data. Most datasets are based on stock figures – how many IDPs exist at a particular moment in time. Intentions surveys of IDP households are rich with insights but are rarely comparable with one another and are often conducted in an ad-hoc manner. Age- and sex-disaggregated data are still hard to find in many datasets. Yet as EGRIS recognizes, data at the community level, often generated through key informants, can be a valuable step in the transition to a fully comparable solutions measure.⁵¹

In support of existing efforts to measure progress towards durable solutions, PROGRESS seeks to contribute to these efforts by using 21 existing datasets⁵² to test various hypotheses about factors that may be associated with progress toward durable solutions, including length of displacement, access to adequate housing and stable income, personal documentation, economic security and perceptions of security. The results of this preliminary analysis are presented in the subsequent sections. It is important to underscore, however, that there are limitations to the available datasets.

47 Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Task Force, *Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Displacement*. June 2023.

48 The IRIS does not propose a sub-stock figure for IDPs in locations of local integration, instead grouping this critical sub-stock with IDPs still in displacement. This is attributable to the technical challenges of defining an approach and metrics that will enable capture of the local integration sub-stock, something that can be addressed through coordination and collaboration by data experts at national or sub-national level.

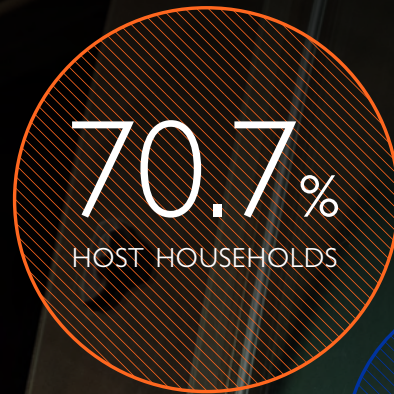
49 DSID Task Force, *Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Displacement*. June 2023, pp. 9-10.

50 Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Task Force, *Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Displacement*. June 2023, p. 4.

51 To better understand the differences between data at individual and community level, Please see EGRIS. Methodological Paper 2 on a Harmonized Statistical Measure for Exits from the Stock of IDPs. August 2023. <https://egrisstats.org/resource/methodological-paper-on-a-harmonized-statistical-measure-for-exits-from-the-stock-of-internally-displaced-persons/>

52 Datasets are from IOM, REACH and IDMC

Fewer IDP households have kids aged 6 - 17 in school



Refugees prepare to depart from the IOM transit centre in Addis Ababa to the airport where they will embark on their new journey.
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The Emergency Shelter team fixes a roof at Wau POC Camp.
© IOM South Sudan 2020



Chapter

04

| METHODOLOGY AND
LIMITATIONS

4. METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Global overview on the state of solutions for internally displaced persons does not exist. PROGRESS is the first. The analysis uses quantitative analysis and statistical testing, and qualitative focus group discussions to assess factors that affect solutions pathway of IDPs, Returnees and Host communities.

As a first step, a literature review was conducted to provide an overview of the key frameworks and initiatives that have shaped the solutions landscape. It summarises what some practitioners and researchers have learned about the process of finding solutions for IDPs in recent years. In this process, we found particularly intriguing the work on self-reliance as a step toward solutions (or what the DSID Task force calls “solution pathway”). We conducted 74 focus group discussions (FGDs) with IDPs, returnees, and host communities across 10 countries to see what displacement-affected communities themselves think are the barriers to finding solutions, and ways of overcoming them (a summary of the FGDs is presented in Chapter 6).

Following the literature review, we developed 12 general hypotheses. We reviewed existing datasets from IOM and REACH to determine the availability of data to test these hypotheses, understanding that these are all very abstract and do not capture the nuances and contexts of different displacement situations. Due to the limited availability of data, it was not possible to provide a comprehensive analysis for each of the hypotheses. Hence, the findings in this report focus only on variables for which we found sufficient evidence across different population categories (IDPs, returnees, host communities). These include multi-sectoral needs overview, length of displacement, economic security, housing status, income stability, reliance on humanitarian aid, and the role of gender.

List of hypotheses

1. The longer people have been displaced, the less likely they will be to return to their community of origin.
2. The longer people have been displaced, the more likely they will be to integrate locally.
3. IDPs who feel safe where they are and who feel accepted by the community are more likely to locally integrate.
4. The greater the gap in vulnerability indicators for IDPs and the host community, the more difficult for IDPs to achieve integration.
5. IDPs with stable housing are more likely to find employment.
6. IDPs who are living with their families are more likely to locally integrate.
7. IDPs with documentation are more likely to be able to access services.
8. IDPs with stable employment are more likely to access services and less likely to need humanitarian aid.
9. IDPs with financial resources (savings, not much debt) are more likely to have stable housing.
10. IDPs with strong social networks are more likely to find employment and less likely to need humanitarian assistance.
11. IDPs who feel that they are moving toward a solution – whether return or integration – are more likely to feel content with their situation.
12. IDPs living in protracted displacement who become self-reliant (which may be thought of as an interim solution) are likely to be more satisfied with their situations.

Results of the preliminary statistical analyses reveal support for some hypotheses but not others, reflecting vast differences in both contexts and datasets and indicating that more work is needed. There is not a single tried-and-true approach to solutions.

4.1 Limitations

All of the datasets used were produced by humanitarian actors to support operational decisions. The datasets on IDPs include data on people who are presently displaced rather than those who have found solutions. In terms of what DSID calls the solution pathway, some data is available on IDP returnees in the 13 out of 15 countries, and to a much lesser extent, on IDPs who have chosen to locally integrate or resettle. In addition, there is some data on host communities and returnees for 11 out of 15 countries where Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments were conducted. Unfortunately, there is no single dataset of comprehensive data assessing solutions for the world's more than 70 million IDPs. Nor, as the DSID Task Force has

Annex I provides a discussion of the methodology used in preparing this first PROGRESS report, with a particular focus on the datasets used, sampling techniques, and specific hypotheses tested.

signalled, is there a standardized methodology, practice, or a globally common framework for measuring progress toward solutions. Rather, there are some datasets for specific countries or for subregions of countries, each of which has data on different indicators, collected at different points in time, and often based on different sampling techniques and methodologies. This makes comparisons and generalizations difficult. Nonetheless, insights and feedback from this first PROGRESS will be used to inform and improve data collection in the future, such that they can be used to inform policies and responses to resolving displacement.





People arriving in South Sudan through the Juba entry point, await to load their luggage onto IOM trucks to support their transportation home.
© IOM Sudan 2023



Chapter 05

OVERVIEW OF INTERNAL
DISPLACEMENT IN THE UN
ACTION AGENDA PILOT
COUNTRIES

5. OVERVIEW OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE 15 UN ACTION AGENDA PILOT COUNTRIES

Global displacement is on rise, and internally displaced remain more vulnerable than their host communities. IDPs’ path toward solutions is affected by the duration of displacement, displacement setting, with significant differences between female and male-headed households.

This section begins with a short overview of trends in internal displacement, highlighting different patterns of displacement caused by disasters and conflict as well

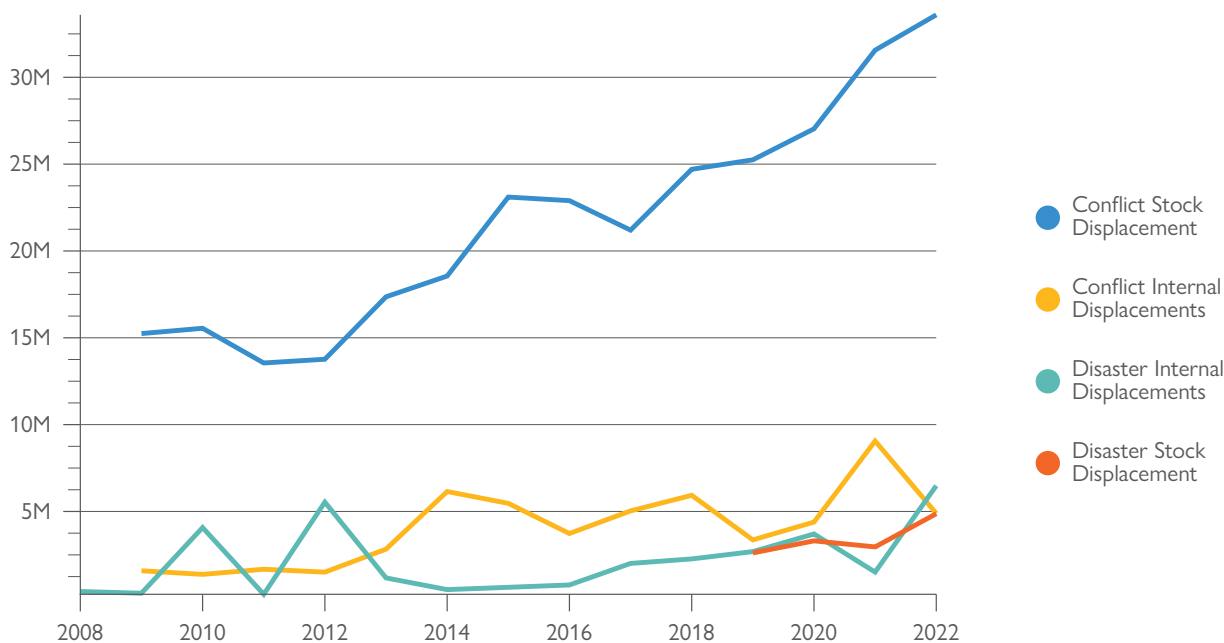
as different dynamics of IDP returns, followed by an analysis of factors associated with potential solutions to displacement.

5.1. An Overview: Internal Displacement Trends

Figure 1 below, compiled by IOM based on data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), provides an overview of IDP trends in the 15 countries⁵³

selected as pilots by the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, which are the focus of this report.

Figure 1. End of 2022 IDP stock (cumulative) by country and annual displacements by type of displacement, 2008-2022



53 Afghanistan, Chad, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Vanuatu, Yemen.

IDP stocks and flows for the 15 priority Action Agenda countries are grouped by reason for displacement: conflict or disaster, based on IDMC data. Although data on disaster IDP stocks do not exist prior to 2019, estimates of conflict IDP stocks reveal a strong upward trend between 2012 and 2022.⁵⁴

The overall displacement dynamics across the 15 countries selected as pilot for the Action Agenda on Internal Displacement corroborate such findings. The number of those displaced by conflict in these countries increased by 41 per cent over the last 10 years and on average 7 million people were displaced by disasters and environmental hazards every year. According to available data from IDMC, in 2022 global displacement in the 15 countries caused by disasters (an estimated 11.7 million) was three times higher than displacements due to violence. Moreover, the number of displaced due to disasters in 2022 was the highest recorded since 2008. In terms of geographic context, IOM DTM data compiled for this report show that overall, across the 15 countries, 43 per cent of IDPs are in urban areas, and 57 per cent are in rural ones. Furthermore, 51 per cent of IDPs reside within displacement sites (including collective centres, planned and makeshift camps) while 49 per cent reside in communities, alongside resident population. Where IDPs are living in displacement has implications for solutions to displacement as discussed further below.

Over the last two years, conflict-related displacement stocks in Iraq, Colombia, Chad, Central African Republic (CAR), and Libya, have declined. Nevertheless,

displacement dynamics vary at the country level. For example, Iraq has noted a fairly steady decrease in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) since 2015. Despite political and economic challenges, the formal end to the conflict with ISIL and collaboration between government and international partners have played a role in helping communities on their pathway to solutions. In contrast, in the Central African Republic, the 2013 coup and the institutional collapse of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) have caused long-term instability. As a significant proportion of the country remains outside government control, multiple armed actors continue causing insecurity and perpetual waves of displacement, particularly in 2017 and 2021.⁵⁵ Although the conflict continues, there are still opportunities to support durable solutions for IDPs.⁵⁶

Notably, almost all countries included in this report experience a combination of disasters/hazards and conflict-triggered displacement. The East and Horn of Africa, Southern Africa and Asia and Pacific are the most affected by sudden and slow onset weather events, the former by drought, and the latter by seasonal typhoons, hurricanes, floods and overall rise in sea level. Drought has already affected 36.5 million people in predominantly agro-pastoralist communities; among them, more than half a million people were displaced in Ethiopia and over 1.17 million people were displaced in Somalia.⁵⁷ Sudden-onset weather events continue to cause displacement in Vanuatu, with an annual average of 19,000 displaced over the last ten years.

5.2 Key Findings – Factors Associated with Solutions to Displacement

Against this backdrop, the analysis below is based on datasets from IOM and REACH. Variables that are relevant to assess durable solutions, particularly local integration, were harmonized across datasets for as many countries as possible (see Annex I for a description of the methodology and datasets used). Using the harmonized data, aggregated results were produced to reveal important broad trends pertaining to the status of IDP households. Findings from the analysis identify several factors that are important in identifying solutions for IDPs. Generally, they point to greater vulnerability among IDP versus host households,

and among IDP households. Economic security and adequate housing appear important to achieve durable solutions.

5.2.1. IDPs tend to be more vulnerable than their host communities.

As might be expected, IDPs exhibit more vulnerability than host community households, at least on most – though not all – indicators. Figure 1 shows more IDPs report having serious security concerns and relying on

⁵⁴ For more information about IDMC methodology for the global collation of displacement data, please see IDMC. Global Internal Displacement Database. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/methodology>.

⁵⁵ Enrica Picco. Where does the Central African Republic (CAR) stand, ten years after Seleka's coup? International Crisis Group. 2023. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/central-african-republic>

⁵⁶ UNOCHA, Central African Republic: finding durable solutions to displacement. 2022. <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/car/card/PEw423vgkl/>

⁵⁷ https://crisisresponse.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11481/files/appeal/documents/IOM%20EHOA_Drought%20Response_final_16Nov22%20%281%29.pdf

humanitarian assistance more than host households. IDP households are also less likely to have children in school and more likely to face barriers accessing health services. Relative to host households, fewer IDP households report having adequate shelter (61.5% vs. 85.4%, respectively) or a stable income source (28.1% vs. 39.1% respectively).

For documentation, there is no difference in reporting about having documents, and it remains a challenge for both population categories, considering that only 53.3% possess identification documents, essential for enacting their citizens' rights.

Figure 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF HOST- AND IDP-HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS COUNTRIES (Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Niger, Somalia, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria, source: IOM & REACH)



Why this is important

“IRIS stipulates that an IDP is deemed to have overcome displacement-related vulnerabilities when the household that they belong to performs on par, or better than, the national average or local host/resident populations across five of the eight IASC criteria.”⁵⁸ The composite measure for overcoming key displacement related vulnerabilities should include the following criteria: safety and security, adequate standard of living, access to livelihoods, restoration of housing land and property and access to documentation.⁵⁹ As a result, analyzing vulnerabilities of IDPs – in comparison to the host community – is critical to understanding how close the gap is to overcome displacement related vulnerabilities. The smaller the gap between IDPs and host community (which serves as a proxy for the general population), the closer IDPs are to finding solutions. However, this does not consider the solutions preferences of IDPs nor situations where host communities are themselves vulnerable.

Next steps

While these initial findings are helpful, the data do not correspond exactly to the five IASC criteria. Access to secure housing might be a proxy for “housing, land and property,” but other indicators are needed. Having a stable income source may indicate “employment and livelihoods,” but is not an exact measure. Collecting core solutions-focused data on the indicators and sub-indicators in the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for host and IDP households would be an obvious next step.

Gathering appropriate and sufficient data from both host and IDP households in a range of IDP situations, would enable a system for measuring progress toward solutions or solutions pathways. Such data would include IDPs’ assessments of their desired solutions. This analysis could support national governments and other stakeholders in identifying where investments can make the biggest impact, in terms of IDPs progress towards solutions. National governments might use the data to prioritize needed actions in their National Development planning processes or the private sector or international financial institutions (IFI) could directly fund specific sectors found to support solutions. For example, country X may be narrowing the gap on access to economic opportunities and livelihoods but there is still a gap in IDPs obtaining personal documentation to access public benefits. This

finding can support the government of country X to prioritize investing in improving IDPs access to personal documentation. Resolving this issue is particularly crucial for IDPs living outside of camps where local integration is the preferred solution.

5.2.2 The length of displacement affects possible solutions

In IOM datasets with information on length of displacement, it was found that the longer IDPs are displaced, the more likely they are to prefer local integration or settlement elsewhere rather than return. However, there are important variations depending on whether displacement is caused by conflict or disaster and whether IDPs are living in camps or communities. Though camps are meant as the last resort in the search for durable solutions,⁶⁰ they often provide refuge to those most vulnerable, and particularly in conflict settings, camps can be a safety zone for certain ethnic groups with limited access to services used by the host community. As shown further below, the presence of humanitarian actors enables access to various services (such as health and education) which might not be available in their areas of origin; even in circumstances where safety and security is below standard in the camp, IDPs might not have alternatives such as return or local integration. In the case of Iraq, perceived progress toward solutions is also significant as shown by an IOM study that found that the majority of those indicating low progress on solutions prefer either to return (55%), move abroad (9%) or cannot decide (9%) while four in five households indicating high progress toward solutions prefer to stay, with a minority stating an intention to return or move abroad (7%).⁶¹

The section on returns below provides data for specific countries on the relationship between length of displacement and return intentions, finding that at least in some cases IDPs displaced by conflict are more likely to return than those displaced by environmental factors, such as drought.

Why this is important?

Shortening the time that people are internally displaced is likely to encourage returns. In conflict situations, reducing the time that people are displaced requires resolving conflict through diplomacy and community-level conflict resolution and peacebuilding. But conflict often

58 “The IRIS proposes that the target population to be used as a baseline for comparison of needs, vulnerability and socio-economic indicators is the average situation of the general/national population at a given time, or a subset of the general population who live in the same geographic areas as the displaced.” DSID task force, p. 1

59 International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), page 45. <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-idp-statistics-iris/>

60 Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) strategy, 2021 – 2023. https://www.cccmcluster.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/Global%20CCCM%20Cluster%20Strategy%202021-2023_0.pdf

61 IOM. Displacement Tracking Matrix. Progress toward Durable Solutions in Iraq: A Pilot Project in Ninewa Governorate. August 2023. https://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/HH-Reintegration/2023829725433_Progress%20Towards%20Durable%20Solutions%20-%20Ninewa%20Report.pdf

causes massive housing and infrastructure destruction, which can be the primary reason that IDPs do not return to their area of origin and may take years after the conflict is resolved to rebuild.⁶² Weakened rule of law and interrupted governance structures associated with conflict create environments in which non-state armed groups can thrive, sometimes also interlinked with inter-regional inequalities and availability of natural resources, as was the case in Mozambique, according to the Institute of Security Studies.⁶³ In situations where environmental hazards drive displacement, the option to return may not be available as the community and/or location of origin may be uninhabitable. As a result, steps should be immediately taken to either promote local integration or to provide IDPs with the option of settling elsewhere in the country. Given the likelihood that climate change will displace many more people in the future and that some IDPs will not be able to return to their origin communities due to environmental damages, it would be prudent for governments, as part of their disaster preparedness and development plans, to consider options for where people can stay – or go to – in the event of further environmental displacement. This should go hand in hand with regulatory measures, policies and leveraging technology and science to prevent people from settling in areas at high risk of displacement from disasters in the first place. This is also a consideration for donor governments. It is estimated that internal displacement costs countries at least USD 20\$ billion per year.⁶⁴ With the growing needs, and anticipated decrease in funding for⁶⁵ that many IDPs are reliant on, there is an urgent need for diversification of programs and funding streams that support holistic and inclusive approach for addressing consequences of internal displacement on affected communities.⁶⁶

Next steps

More data on the length of displacement is needed as well as disaggregated data on conflict- and climate-induced displacement. According to IDMC, displacement from floods and storms is likely to be shorter term than displacement caused by drought.⁶⁷ After the floodwaters recede, people are more likely to return than in situations of recurrent drought, which leads people to give up hope that they will be able to prosper in their communities of origin. Having data on the length of displacement at

national or sub-national levels could enable governments to take measures both to prevent displacement in the first place and to resolve displacement quickly when it does take place. However, weather changes, particularly in Southern Africa, have led to increasingly frequent and recurring hazards that contribute to pendular displacements from the same areas of origin, which, over time, diminish people's resilience and hampers their ability to find sustainable solutions. This calls for a scale-up in preventive measures, which is identified as one of the priorities within the Action Agenda, and more anticipatory action based on forecasting and predictive analytics.⁶⁸

5.2.3. Economic security is key to both well-being in displacement and to solutions

Focus group discussions (FGDs) with IDPs (31 FGDs in 10 countries) noted that displacement affected economic situations negatively, as it led to the loss of homes, livelihoods, assets and jobs or businesses. In considering possible solutions to displacement, the security situation in the area of origin was the primary concern surrounding return, but economic issues were just as important – particularly the need for livelihoods and recovery or rehabilitation of housing. When asked where they wanted to be in 5-10 years, responses differed but a common thread was the need for economic support to start small businesses, to be self-reliant, and to have access to farmland or microfinance. Training and re-skilling may also be important factors in economic security for IDPs.

Focus group discussions with host communities (23 FGDs in 9 countries) found that they perceived both positive benefits from the presence of IDPs (new infrastructure, location receiving aid, more demand for host community-owned goods and services) and negative effects (deterioration of basic services, overcrowding, inflated prices, downward pressure on wages). Economic security during displacement may make solutions easier. When displaced people are more economically secure – more self-reliant, less dependent on humanitarian assistance – it is easier for them to integrate into host communities and to access public services and secure stable housing (see below for more on housing). It is also likely easier for them to re-integrate after return when they are economically secure.

62 The World Bank, Informing Durable Solutions for Internal Displacement in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia, 2019. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/761091557465113541/pdf/Volume-A-Executive-Summary.pdf>

63 Institute for Security Studies. Violent Extremism in Mozambique: drivers and links to transnational organised crime. September 2022. <https://issafrica.org/research/southern-africa-report/violent-extremism-in-mozambique-drivers-and-links-to-transnational-organised-crime>

64 IDMC, 2021. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/media-centres/internal-displacement-costs-countries-at-least-20-billion-a-year>

65 OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview 2023, August Update. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2023-august-update-snapshot-31-august-2023#:~:text=Requirements%20for%20the%20Global%20Humanitarian,total%20funding%20required%20this%20year.>

66 The World Bank, Migrants, Refugees and Societies 2023. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2023>

67 IDMC. Synthesizing the state of knowledge to better understand displacement related to slow-onset disasters. Prepared for the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement. 2018. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WIM%20TFD%20I.2%20Output.pdf>

68 An estimated 40 percent of IDPs in Mozambique have been displaced more than once. Mozambique had faced six major hazards over the last five years. IOM Mobility Tracking Assessment, August 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-mobility-tracking-assessment-report-19-august-2023?close=true>

Why this is important

Becoming self-reliant is a step toward durable solutions – whether local integration in their place or displacement, settlement elsewhere or return. IDPs with economic capital – savings, stable employment, limited debt – have more choices than those without. They are also more resilient and more able to withstand shocks, including climate shocks, than those who are economically insecure. Pre-existing socio-economic vulnerabilities and economic security prior to displacement affect IDPs' experience of displacement (e.g. level of education is tied to employment opportunity). Many Action Agenda countries rank below 60 on the sustainable development index, which is connected to the improvement of living standards and reduction in socio-economic vulnerability.⁶⁹ This implies the usefulness of governments and both development and humanitarian actors in ensuring that IDPs have access to livelihoods in addition to humanitarian assistance during displacement. Internal displacement, as the Action Agenda on Internal Displacements emphasizes, must be seen not only as a humanitarian issue, but a development issue as well, and therefore included in development plans and relevant finance conversations between development banks and ministries of finance. On the humanitarian side, this is reflected in a growing emphasis on cash-based or cash-for-work interventions and livelihoods programming in humanitarian contexts. Cash-based interventions, promoted by the Grand Bargain,⁷⁰ can serve as a catalyst for more comprehensive and sustainable solutions by linking humanitarian cash assistance with social protection systems, livelihood, strengthening local supply chains, creation of temporary employment opportunities that in return contribute to community cohesion and improvements in local economy.⁷¹

Area-based approaches in which both IDPs and host communities in a given geographic area receive assistance are a promising step in increasing economic security of people in need and reducing the possibility of tensions between host and displaced communities. The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus also points to the importance of conflict-sensitivity programming; for

example, the Displacement Tracking Matrix in Northeast Nigeria developed a stability index to monitor pockets of stability where IDP returns would be possible.⁷²

Next steps.

We need better data on the effects of various interventions on IDP self-reliance at individual, household and community level. Carefully targeted interventions can support displaced communities “graduate” from reliance on humanitarian assistance and existing frameworks such as IRIS and operational recommendations from DSID can serve as a good starting point for tailoring tools that can help along the way. While much of the literature on self-reliance stems from refugee studies, demonstrating that carefully targeted interventions are vital for promoting self-reliance, the lens of self-reliance or resilience building is increasingly under consideration for IDPs in building more resilience and self-reliance.⁷³ To ensure long-term stability, acknowledging the negative impact of displacement on social cohesion, data collection should include indicators that assess safety, quality of social relations, trust between different population groups and civic participation that can contribute to rebuilding and strengthening local governance structures.⁷⁴

5.2.4 Adequate housing is related to stable income and less reliance on humanitarian assistance

We hypothesized that having adequate housing would be associated with having a stable source of income.⁷⁵ Table 1 shows that adequate housing is associated with less reliance on humanitarian aid or assistance, and a greater likelihood of having a stable income source. Differences between those with and without adequate shelter are sizable. For example, among those who report adequate shelter, only 6.9 per cent rely on humanitarian assistance compared to 23.8 per cent who describe their shelter as inadequate. Approximately 35.8 per cent of those with adequate shelter report having a stable income source compared to 19.2 per cent reporting inadequate shelter. Thus, housing quality appears strongly associated with reduced reliance on aid and having a stable income.

69 Sustainable Development Rankings. <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/rankings>

70 Grand Bargain, <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/content/grand-bargain-hosted-iasc>

71 IOM Cash-Based Interventions, Annual Report and Case Studies, 2022. <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/PUB2023-040-R-IOM-CBI-Annual-Report-2022.pdf>

72 IOM, Humanitarian-development-peace nexus INFO sheet, December 2020. <https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/documents/IOM%20-%20Humanitarian%20Development%20Peace%20Nexus%20%28HDPN%29%20Infosheet.pdf>

73 Lessons Learned: Using Self Reliance as a Bridge to Close the transition gap, IDMC 2021 <https://www.internal-displacement.org/expert-opinion/lessons-learned-using-self-reliance-as-a-bridge-to-close-the-transition-gap>

Resilience actions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in camp-like settings: a Northern Nigeria case study, Journal of Migration and Health, Vol 6. 2022. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666623522000381>

74 The World Bank, Informing Durable Solutions for Internal Displacement in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan, November 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/publication/informing-durable-solutions-for-internal-displacement>

75 The relationship between stable housing and economic security has been found to be important in non-displacement settings in both high- and low-income countries. See: <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-First-Research.pdf>

Table 2: RECEIVED AID AND INCOME SOURCE BY SHELTER ADEQUACY OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS (Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Niger, Somalia IOM: Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria, source: IOM & REACH)

VARIABLE	TYPE OF SHELTER		
	ADEQUATE	INADEQUATE	TOTAL
% Relied on humanitarian assistance⁺	6.9	23.8*	11.8
<i>Number of households</i>	12 417	5 075	17 492
% Received assistance during last month⁺⁺	23.1	27.4*	25.1
<i>Number of households</i>	12 746	11 030	23 776
% Stable income source⁺⁺⁺	35.8	19.2*	28.1
<i>Number of households</i>	14 665	12 707	27 372

⁺Excludes Colombia, Somalia, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria

⁺⁺ Excludes Libya, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria

⁺⁺⁺ Excludes Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria

Note: Categories of self-reported shelter include: adequate (e.g. improved shelter) and inadequate (e.g. unimproved or no shelter); T-tests compare variable means between households that possess adequate and inadequate shelter (*p < 0.01)

Using the same datasets, we then looked at the relationship between adequate shelter, sex⁷⁶ and stable income. Table 3 shows that female-headed households were more likely to rely on humanitarian assistance and less likely to have a stable income source than male-headed households. Both male- and female-headed households with adequate shelter were more likely to have stable income; differences along sex lines were more apparent among those with inadequate shelter.

⁷⁶ It is important to note that per IOM guidance, it is recommended to use sex rather than gender when referring to sex designations such as male and female. However, in this report gender is used to refer to males and females. We do not however, seem to suggest the two are interchangeable.

Table 3: RECEIVED AID AND INCOME SOURCE BY SHELTER ADEQUACY AND GENDER FOR IDP HOUSEHOLDS (Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Niger, Somalia, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria, source: IOM & REACH)

VARIABLE	TYPE OF SHELTER					
	ADEQUATE		INADEQUATE		TOTAL	
	MALE HEAD	FEMALE HEAD	MALE HEAD	FEMALE HEAD	MALE HEAD	FEMALE HEAD
% Relied on humanitarian assistance⁺	5.4	8.1[^]	19.7*	22.2*	8.86	12.6[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	11 184		3 983		15 167	
% Received assistance during last month⁺⁺	19.2	28.2[^]	28.4*	21.6*[^]	22.8	24.2
<i>Number of households</i>	10 910		9 780		20 690	
% Stable income source⁺⁺⁺	33.9	33.7	17.3*	13.7*[^]	27.7	21.3[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	11 582		9 733		21 315	

⁺Excludes Colombia, Somalia, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria

⁺⁺ Excludes Libya, Colombia, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria

⁺⁺⁺ Excludes Colombia, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria

Note: T-tests compare variable means between male and female headed households within households with adequate and inadequate shelter ([^]p < 0.01) and between male headed households with adequate and inadequate shelter as well as between female headed households with adequate and inadequate shelter (* < 0.01)

Additional analysis looking at differences between those living in camps and those living elsewhere with respect to adequate housing and stable income were conducted. Table 4 reveals that IDPs living in camps are much more likely to receive humanitarian assistance than those living outside of camps across the board. It also shows that households that reside in camps – whether their housing conditions are adequate or inadequate – are on average more likely to report stable income.⁷⁷

⁷⁷ Due to limited availability of comparable data across countries, this report did not include in-depth analysis of the relationship between IDPs in peri-urban and urban displacement. However, cities and urban settlements host over 50% of global internal displacement. If not properly planned and managed, displacement to cities can exacerbate vulnerabilities of IDPs and resident population (including shelter conditions, functionality of services, etc.). See more in https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/IDMC_UrbanDisplacement_Columbia_EN_final.pdf

Table 4: RECEIVED AID AND INCOME SOURCE BY SHELTER ADEQUACY AND CAMP VS NON-CAMP IDP HOUSEHOLDS (Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Niger, Somalia, Mozambique, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria, source: IOM & REACH)

VARIABLE	TYPE OF SHELTER					
	ADEQUATE		INADEQUATE		TOTAL	
	CAMP	NO CAMP	CAMP	NO CAMP	CAMP	NO CAMP
% Relied on humanitarian assistance⁺	36.3	1.9[^]	43.7*	3.6*[^]	41.3	2.1[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	8 228		3 274		11 502	
% Received assistance during last month⁺	50.9	12.2[^]	54.6	21.8*[^]	53.4	13.2[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	8 204		3 268		11 472	
% Stable income source⁺⁺	39.1	31.6[^]	32.6	24.7*[^]	34.7	30.4[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	9 508		4 917		14 425	

⁺Excludes Afghanistan, Colombia, Libya, Niger, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria

⁺⁺Excludes Afghanistan, Colombia, Libya, Niger, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Northeast Nigeria

Note: T-tests compare variable means between households in and not in camps within households with adequate and inadequate shelter ([^]p < 0.01) and between households in camps with adequate and inadequate shelter as well as between households outside of camps with adequate and inadequate shelter (* < 0.01)

Why this is important

While there is a strong relationship between adequate housing and stable income, this does not indicate causality. It may be that people with adequate housing are more likely to find jobs than those without stable housing, but it also may be that IDPs with stable income are more likely to find adequate housing than those without stable incomes. In either case, this finding about housing is important. It offers clear guidance to governments, and to humanitarian and development actors, that securing adequate housing for IDPs is a key step in reducing disparities between host and displaced communities. The significant difference between IDPs in camps and those living elsewhere in terms of adequate shelter and reliance on humanitarian aid suggests that providing adequate housing for IDPs will have far-reaching effects. Since IDPs report better housing in camps than in non-camp settings, those living in camps may find it preferable to stay in camps where they may also receive more services than to seek durable solutions elsewhere. This means thinking about and investing in housing from the beginning of a displacement situation – beyond provision of tents and tarps. It also means bringing IDPs into development plans and UN Sustainable Development Country Frameworks and Climate Change Adaptation Funds and not relying only on humanitarian actors to provide temporary shelter. Although humanitarian actors are moving away from using camps for IDPs, these findings reaffirm that establishing camps should be a last resort, although in emergency situations camps may be the only means of providing housing to IDPs. This also suggests that humanitarian agencies need to devote more resources to ensuring that IDPs living outside of camps have access to adequate housing.

This finding also underscores the importance of supporting IDPs to have stable incomes, for example through investments in livelihoods and helping IDPs access employment opportunities, which could have cascading benefits not only in housing but also in education, health and security.

Next steps

The term “adequate housing” can mean different things in different contexts. We need better data on the types and sustainability of housing for IDPs. In this respect, the Shelter Severity Classification⁷⁸ Assessment, recently developed by the Global Shelter Cluster, may be helpful. It would also be helpful to delve further into the

relationship between adequate housing and stable income to determine priorities for development interventions. It is also important to have a better understanding of the land tenure or security associated with the location upon which the housing is built. To what extent does land tenure impact the ability to access financing, assume a loan, or build equity. In the absence of any level of tenure, it is fair to assume that there is less of an incentive to improve housing, but more research needs to be conducted.

5.2.5 Gender matters

Table 3 shows significant disparities between female- and male-headed households in terms of having adequate shelter and a stable income source. Among IDPs, more female-headed households report relying on humanitarian assistance and not having a stable income. In addition, more female-headed households report having inadequate shelter compared to male-headed households. In host populations, female-headed households are also less likely than male-headed households to report adequate shelter.

In other words, IDP women are less likely to have stable incomes and less likely to have adequate shelter than their counterparts who are men. Moreover, female headed households are also more likely to earn less and experience complete food shortages than the male headed households.⁷⁹ For humanitarian and development actors, this underscores the importance of gender-sensitive programming – both to address the heightened vulnerability of different genders and to ensure that interventions do not create further inequities.

Focus group discussions emphasized the importance of safety; in some cases, the lack of safety in camps provided a further impetus to return. In others, the perceived lack of safety in the community of origin was a factor preventing the return of IDPs. In Kandahar,⁸⁰ Afghanistan, men and women who came from the same community and now were displaced had completely different opinions about whether or not to return to their place of origin versus continuing with local integration. The men, with the exception of younger men, all wanted to return to their place of origin. All of the women preferred local integration noting the availability of education and health services that were needed by the family. During focus group discussions, youth in Iraq and Libya had also emphasised that access to education in area of displacement is the main reason for delaying their return to the place of origin. The youth in host community, had also reported high concerns around youth unemployment causing increase in petty crimes

78 <https://sheltercluster.org/toolkit/shelter-severity-classification-system>

79 IOM DTM Galmadug District Profiling – Household Assessment, May 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/galmudug-district-profiling-household-assessment?close=true>

80 Findings from *IDP solutions*, inter-agency field visit to Kandahar, November 2022. Available upon request.

with the arrival of IDPs and returnees (Mozambique, South Sudan).

In terms of perceptions of security, Tables 5 and 6, IDPs perceive more safety concerns and threats related to women and girls than host households. Additionally, more IDPs in camps perceive safety concerns and threats related to women and girls than IDPs not living in camps.

TABLE 5: PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOST HOUSEHOLDS AND IDP HOUSEHOLDS (Mozambique, South Sudan, source: IOM)

WOMEN/GIRLS UNSAFE IN	HOST HH	IDP HH		
	ALL	IDP	CAMP	NO CAMP
% Areas (generally)⁺	23.7	36.4*	38.7	29.9[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	31 627	17 880	3 532	8 286
% Latrines/bathing areas	4.2	10.8*	17.7	6.2[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	8 986	6 077	2 433	3 635
% Markets/social areas	14.7	22.5*	23.8	21.7
<i>Number of households</i>	8 986	6 077	2 433	3 635
% Distribution areas	4.2	6.1*	8.6	4.5[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	8 986	6 077	2 433	3 635
% Water points	9.3	10.3	10.2	10.3
<i>Number of households</i>	8 986	6 077	2 433	3 635
% Firewood areas	15.0	21.2*	24.5	19.1[^]
<i>Number of households</i>	8 986	6 077	2 433	3 635

⁺Areas (generally) Host HH vs. IDP HH additionally include Sudan and Northeast Nigeria; IDP HH Camp vs. No Camp excludes Sudan

Note: T-tests compare variable means between Host- and IDP-households (*p < 0.01) and between IDP households living in camps and IDP households living outside of camps [^]p < 0.01).

TABLE 6: PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THREATS TO GIRLS <18: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOST HOUSEHOLDS AND IDP HOUSEHOLDS (Mozambique and Northeast Nigeria, source: IOM)

THREAT TO GIRLS <18	HOST HH	IDP HH		
	ALL	IDP	CAMP	NO CAMP
% Robbery	25.1	23.7*	31.7	20.6^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	4 916
% Violence	16.1	18.6*	25.8	16.0^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	4 916
% Kidnapping	16.0	18.7*	21.6	17.7^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	4 916
% Physical harassment/violence	7.9	9.8*	14.1	8.3^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	4 916
% Verbal harassment	4.2	5.5*	8.4	4.5^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	4 916
% Sexual harassment or violence	9.8	12.5*	16.4	11.1^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	3 635
% Discrimination or persecution	2.0	4.9*	8.5	3.6^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6720	1 804	4 916
% Being killed	8.9	11.0*	13.7	10.0^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	4 916
% Exploitation (labor/sex work)	3.8	2.7*	2.4	2.9
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	4 916
% Recruiting by armed groups	6.0	7.2*	9.5	6.4^
<i>Number of households</i>	9 024	6 720	1 804	4 916

Note: Categories of self-reported shelter include: adequate (e.g. improved shelter) and inadequate (e.g. unimproved or no shelter); T-tests compare variable means between households that possess adequate and inadequate shelter (*p < 0.01)

Why is this important?

The importance of gender in displacement for both humanitarian response and development intervention is not new. In fact, gender-sensitive policies and gender mainstreaming have become central to programming. But these results suggest that there is still important work to be done. The data indicate that perceptions of violence and insecurity of women and girls is much higher in camp versus non-camp settings, suggesting that much more needs to be done to improve security for women in camps – a challenge for humanitarian and camp management actors (and is perhaps another argument against establishment of camps). The finding that women in host communities are also perceived to face greater insecurity is a challenge for development actors.

Next steps

While some data on IDPs is disaggregated by sex, it would be helpful to have data disaggregated by age and sex across a range of variables to enable a deeper understanding of how sex affects possible solutions for IDPs. For example, do differences between female and male IDPs vary across different ages with respect to intentions to return? Do perceptions of insecurity during displacement affect preferences for return versus local integration or settlement elsewhere? We hope future editions of PROGRESSS will offer a more nuanced understanding of the role of gender among those in the solutions pathway.



In 2020, IOM Afghanistan provided aid to 21,600 vulnerable families, including shelter and winterization supplies.

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IOM's DTM team regularly consults with community leaders in Shadayee IDP settlement to assess needs and population size. Operating in all 34 Afghan provinces, DTM collaborates with over 72,000 local leaders in 12,000+ communities. © IOM Afghanistan 2021/Muse Mohammed



Chapter

06

VOICES FROM
COMMUNITIES

6. VOICES FROM COMMUNITIES

The impact of displacement can be disparate, complex and multi-layered. Understanding the nuances of how IDP returnees and host communities are directly and indirectly affected is necessary for finding solutions. Voices and experiences of displaced communities can help bring these nuances to the fore.

The focus group discussions carried out for PROGRESS included detailed from the perspectives of people who were displaced, had returned, or were part of communities that hosted IDPs. Although there are many commonalities across countries and regions – including a strong focus on economic recovery and security as fundamental to durable reintegration – the discussions also revealed the diversity of experiences within and among families, communities and country contexts. Moreover, they served as a forum to share viewpoints that are not often captured by

traditional data collection exercises, including affected communities' perceptions of cultural and gendered effects of displacement in their countries.

The findings shared below were gathered from the qualitative analysis of **74 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** conducted **from 1 to 15 August 2023** across 10 countries: **Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen**. The discussions were conducted in local languages and translated by DTM staff.

6.1 Effects of Displacement on Host Communities, Displaced People and Returnees

The state of the local economy, including access to wages or livelihoods, was overwhelmingly the top concern among all three population groups hoping to find durable solutions to displacement. For their part, host community members often reported a deterioration of the economic situation in their locations, including in Mozambique and Yemen, where it was described as very bad with unaffordable prices for goods and services. Despite deterioration, however, host community perceptions of the economic effects of displacement were sometimes mixed such as in Iraq, Libya and South Sudan; the presence of IDPs fuelled the local economy in Mozambique, benefiting some host community members who owned small businesses. Libya also saw positive effects on the productive capacity of the economy but felt that there was an unequal distribution of benefits that favoured the well-off members and exacerbated socioeconomic inequalities within the host community.

The economic experience of IDPs was more even; every discussion with IDPs included comments on the negative

consequences for their economic situations following displacement. Loss of homes, livelihoods, assets, and jobs or businesses were consistently reported as the most significant effects of displacement in seven countries. In Yemen, male IDPs underscored their desire for economic independence to ease the burden on the host community after losing their assets. Participants also highlighted the overall economic decline in their surroundings, exacerbated by income insecurity, increased unemployment, limited resources for businesses, and the resulting health and psychological consequences of economic hardship.

Given their economic insecurity, many IDPs noted they did not have the financial means to return. Among those who did return, **youth in Ethiopia effectively summarized the effects of displacement and return common in all the discussions when they described how they found agricultural land overgrown, animals lost, and no tools to reclaim their agro-livelihoods**. Infrastructure that was damaged during displacement caused difficulties for many people, who had limited access

to services following return. Water wells in Yemen and water schemes in Ethiopia were of concern, along with damaged houses, mosques, schools and health centres. Food insecurity was most often tied to lost agricultural possibilities in the place of origin, as in the cases of Iraq and Yemen. Together, these paint a clear picture of how displacement was associated with significant losses for IDPs, which return did not recoup.

In Chad and Ethiopia, returnees described significant deterioration in the economic situation of their places of origin. According to them, not only were the IDPs who returned worse off than they had been pre-displacement, but the entire area was damaged by conflict. This situation was echoed in Iraq, where houses and infrastructure in formerly self-sustaining areas were destroyed or dilapidated upon return. Similar experiences following loss of previously owned property were shared by every country that had a focus group discussion with returnees, with individuals in Sudan, South Sudan, Mozambique, the Central African Republic, and Yemen describing their losses due to displacement.

This strong focus on economic insecurity was often weighed against the risk of physical insecurity. Increased insecurity in locations of displacement and the wider political climate was reported by nine IDP focus groups in Chad, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Yemen. In addition, one respondent in Bogota, Colombia stated that she was threatened for her role as a social leader and human rights defender. Meanwhile participants in Iraq were only waiting for security clearance to return to their village of origin because they felt that the security situation in their current host community was worse.

Still, the majority of IDP discussions, across nine countries, shared that they had a good relationship with host communities. In the minority, some focus discussions held in Colombia, Libya, Mozambique and Yemen stated that the relationship was tense or occasionally tense. Host communities discussed sharing with IDPs, and many had family bonds with displaced people, but they also shared their worries surrounding the consequences that IDPs' presence could have on basic services. Among these, water shortages were a prevalent concern across host community discussions. The shortage of water raised apprehensions about its effect on sanitation facilities. On the other hand, improvements in infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, and land for markets, were noted by some communities as benefits of hosting IDPs. Hospitals and extra classrooms for schools were mentioned as areas of improvement in Mozambique while in Chad, the provision of humanitarian assistance

in some locations was seen as improving the situation since IDPs and returnees arrived. This was particularly significant in a generally fragile state like Chad, where basic services were lacking.

Adding to the mixed effects on the economy and basic services of hosting IDPs, cultural differences between displaced groups and their host communities could complicate integration. Shifting social dynamics were remarked upon, with focus group participants in Iraq perceiving a link between IDPs and higher separation and divorce rates among host community couples; they also shared a negative feeling that host community heads of households were more likely to marry IDPs. On the other hand, in CAR this marriage trend was seen as a positive where it was noted in one FGD that family links were being forged through marriage between community members and IDPs, bringing them closer together.

As returnees settled back into their places of origin, a feeling of acceptance was shared by respondents in more than half of the 15 returnee focus groups. Acceptance by the community without distinction and regardless of family presence was expressed in Chad, while in Ethiopia the sentiment was tied to all members of the return village belonging to the same ethnic group. Still, elders in Ethiopia shared their perception of a change in cultural values due to displacement; before displacement, they said, there was a strong history of resource sharing that was lost on return because the poverty of the host community kept people from these traditional sharing networks.

Moreover, elders and youth in Ethiopia both described psychological effects of trauma affecting members of the community. They described trauma and mental health effects as ongoing, with elders pointing to women as particularly affected. Women speaking for themselves in Iraq addressed trauma differently, stating that it had reduced since displacement – now that the comfort of home was regained; they said that in displacement they were constantly afraid for themselves and their families but since return they had a sense of stability and security.

Host communities in Iraq also noted significant gendered factors of displacement. They said that displaced families, especially girls, had not had access to education or were unable to complete their studies before displacement. **Moreover, in their communities, they felt that there was increased awareness that allowed girls to pursue education and careers in various fields and led to a change in the perception of women among the displaced, away from early marriage and traditional gender roles.**

6.2 Perception of Solutions Among Host Communities, Displaced People and Returnees

Just as economic fears were at the top of participants' minds following displacement, **economic security was the most common solution to displacement expressed by returnees and host communities alike.** For returnees, the chance to reclaim homes and assets, or at least to rebuild them, was seen by respondents as a way to avoid dependence on relief assistance and achieve independence. Returning home also meant avoiding prohibitively high cost of rent in places of displacement in Iraq and in Yemen.

Some host communities suggested increased job opportunities, economic support and vocational training centres would help provide a solution for IDPs to achieve economic independence. Others specified the need for jobs for host community members, especially in cases where the host community had received limited aid. Still others gave more structural recommendations, such as government investments in infrastructure and labour pathways across different sectors.

Host communities in eight countries expressed a strong desire to achieve financial independence and improve their living conditions in the next 5-10 years. The perceived effects of IDP or returnee presence on this goal was mixed. Some mentioned a general preference for displaced individuals to return to their areas of origin during this time frame. While others said that their presence was not seen as affecting host community members' ability to reach their economic security goals.

Second to economic security, an end to conflict or violence was mentioned as necessary to achieve durable solutions. In South Sudan, host community members shared that they wanted returnees to integrate and IDPs to return to their places of habitual residence following the restoration of peace. The latter was also echoed in Yemen, where the hope for restored security was accompanied by a desire for IDPs and migrants to return to their places of habitual residence.

Among IDPs themselves, however, half of the focus group discussion countries had no mention of return, and the other half were mixed on whether IDPs hoped to return or to work toward solutions in their places of displacement. They sought education and fulfilling careers, stability, economic independence, support for investments, and access to land, housing, and basic services, but did not necessarily believe these would be available upon return even if conflict or violence ceased.

Security concerns played a pivotal role in IDP and returnee decision-making. Some IDPs in Colombia, Iraq and Yemen feared risks for their families in their community of origin due to tribal tensions, family affiliations, or estrangement. In Yemen, IDPs also worried for the safety of children or for women traveling alone. Moreover, there was apprehension about detainment or arrest upon return in Yemen and about discrimination upon return due to personal status or family affiliations in Iraq.

Host community members in Mozambique categorically stated that displaced populations did not affect the realization of their progress toward solutions, but in Yemen and Libya they suggested that IDPs symbolized the persistence of conflict and so they would not consider their objectives for stability as realised until "every displaced person and immigrant has returned to his original home, and our situation and their condition has improved in all respects..." (FGD 53).

For these returnees, peace and economic stability were the most common aspirations in the next 5-10 years. Homes and infrastructure were very often shared as necessities to reach their goals of independence, but returning home was preferred partly because it was linked to reuniting with family in some places, including South Sudan. Women in Iraq also shared an emotional desire and longing for home that was a strong driver in their family's decision to return to their places of origin and to live in their own houses and returnees in Yemen described a similar feeling of nostalgia for their places of origin.

Field teams in ten country offices, consulted with IDPs, returnees and host communities



IOM's DTM team regularly consults with community leaders in Shadayee IDP settlement to assess needs and population size. Operating in all 34 Afghan provinces, DTM collaborates with over 72,000 local leaders in 12,000+ communities. © IOM Afghanistan 2021/Muse Mohammed

6.3 Action for Solutions as Seen by Host Communities, Displaced People and Returnees

Initiatives like setting up cooperatives for livelihoods, including fishing and farming, were emphasized to support IDPs in host communities. **Investments in smaller businesses and the importance of providing agricultural inputs were also seen as crucial for supporting economic self-reliance among IDPs. Meanwhile, the topmost priority for host community support was the need for improved infrastructure and access to basic services.** This included the demand for the construction and renovation of schools, hospitals, water points, health centres, and road expansion. Host community members also highlighted the pressing need for additional housing and shelter. Addressing housing shortages was seen as essential to accommodate the increasing population from displacement and relocation.

Continuing the trend of emphasis on economic issues, across all returnee focus group discussions, economic security was the most often mentioned reason for return and the most mentioned requirement to no longer be considered a returnee. In Chad, women used the term “autonomy” to describe economic security, forming an umbrella that covered repaired shelters, replacement of lost goods and assets necessary for subsistence or livelihoods, but also implying a deeper sense of freedom and regained independence. These were the same

concerns in Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Yemen. Rebuilding infrastructure and being able to reclaim assets were common needs expressed across regions. More generally, job opportunities and job creation were the most cited source of support needed by focus group participants.

But money was not the concern among returnees in South Sudan, who said that their **priority solutions were tools and training in fields such as mechanics, construction and electrical systems, tailoring, and beautician work. They were looking toward long-term livelihood solutions rather than short-term aid.** Others in South Sudan noted the need for non-governmental agency support, particularly by providing seeds to start horticulture and agriculture that would serve as lasting, stable support.

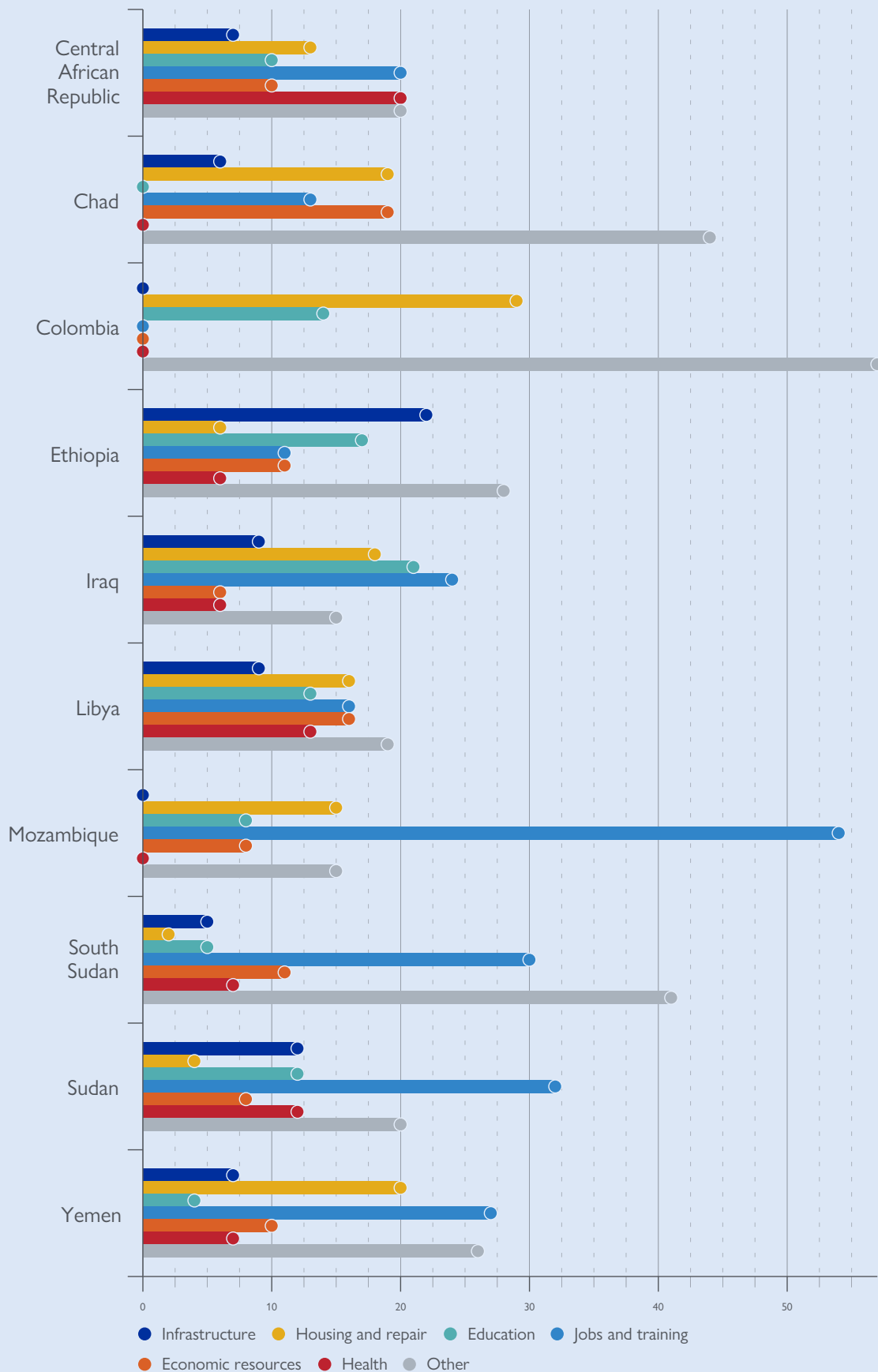
Six discussions in Libya, Mozambique, Sudan and Yemen stated that for IDPs to return to their location of origin, security in that village or location would have to be restored. Furthermore, peacebuilding was a fundamental need shared in Ethiopia, where returnees suggested community conferences, community dialogue, reconciliation, community-level negotiations, and political will as necessary steps toward durable solutions.



Kebero Meda IDP site opened in November 2020 located in the Central Gondar Zone in Ethiopia's Amhara Region, as a response to protect and provide the needs of thousands of people displaced by conflict in the Tigray Region.

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Mentions of Support Needed for Solutions by Country





As climate change strains Somalia's path to peace, communities hold the key.
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Chapter

07

| DIVING DEEPER INTO IDP
RETURNS

7. DIVING DEEPER INTO IDP RETURNS

It is easier to “count” those who have returned to their communities than to measure the integration of IDPs in host communities or areas of origin. The following chapter provides an overview of factors associated with the return such as duration of displacement, displacement trigger, drivers and needs of returnees while flagging an urgent need for better data on the other two solutions options - relocation and local integration.

In terms of durable solutions for IDPs, more attention has been devoted to returns than the other two solutions: local integration in locations of displacement or resettlement elsewhere in the country. It is also easier to “count” those who have returned to their communities than to measure the integration of IDPs in host communities. In line with the IASC criteria, the DSID Task Force suggests that displacement ends when there are no more displacement-related vulnerabilities. It further cites the International Recommendations for IDP Statistics (IRIS) that stipulate that “an IDP is assumed to have overcome displacement-related vulnerabilities when the household that they belong to performs on par or better than the national average or local host/resident population on five of the eight criteria spelled out in the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions.” This is also an ongoing challenge for development practitioners; while displacement may indeed “end” based on IDPs’ vulnerabilities compared with the host community, that host community may still be facing other significant development challenges such as poverty rates and living on less than USD 2 a day. This underlines the salience of development actors in supporting solutions, particularly when considering the impact of displacement on a community writ large.

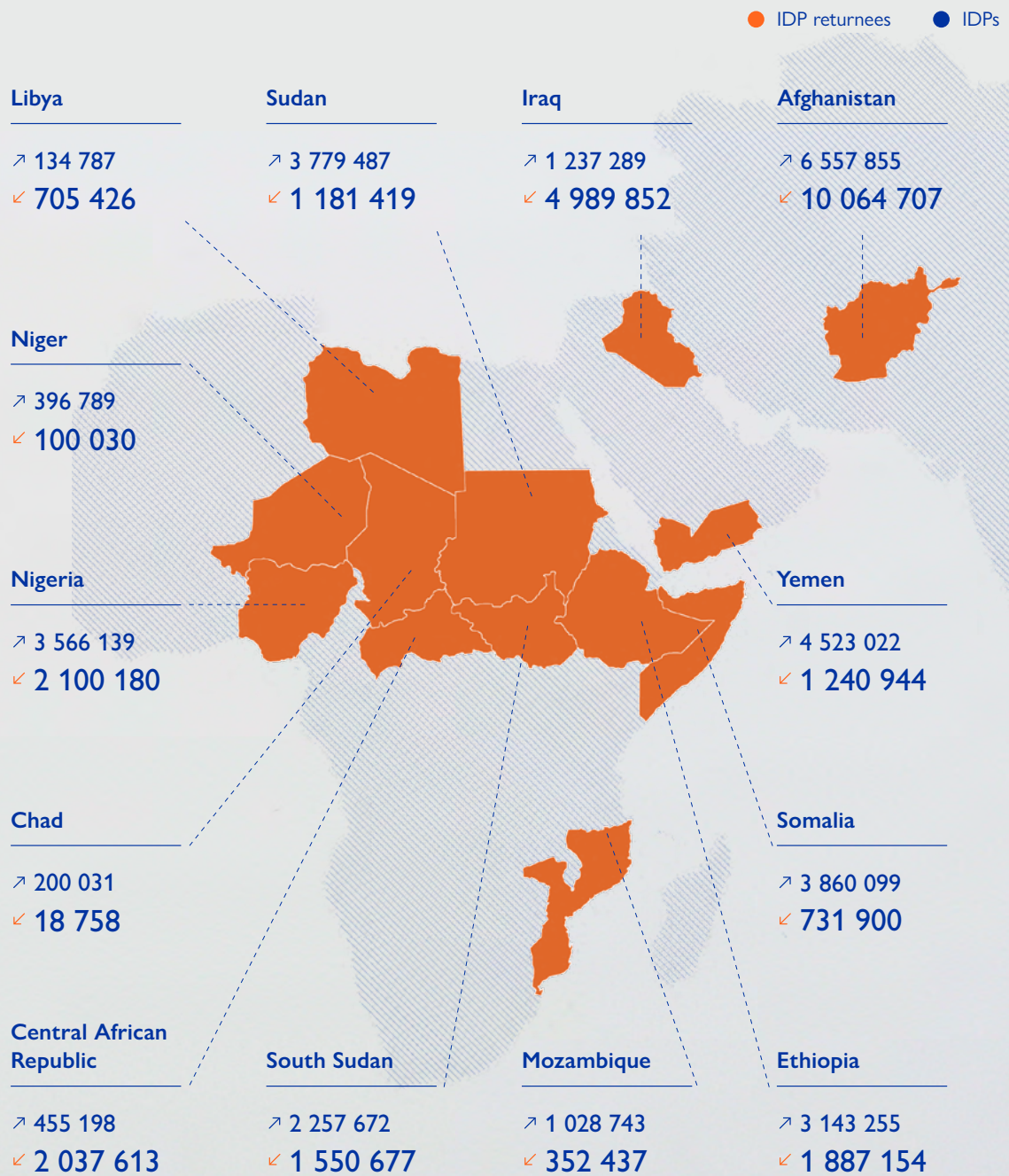
While there are data on the number and locations of IDP returnees, continued attention on assessing the durability of returns, the standard of living of returnees or whether returned IDPs remain in their communities of origin after they return is needed to monitor progress towards solutions using the IASC and IRIS criteria. Ideally, such follow-up and regular monitoring would be carried out at various intervals, including soon after returns to enable operational interventions to support re-integration into their home communities and, over the longer-term, to understand their changing needs and further mobility decisions.

Moreover, to understand the dynamics of premature returns, vulnerability assessments are necessary to account for specific needs and the inclusion of affected communities into assistance programs to mitigate the risks of secondary displacements or potential tensions with resident communities over resources. This is particularly relevant in the context of conflict where neighbouring countries receive tens of thousands of refugees and returnees within a short period of time. This was witnessed during the 2023 Sudan crisis when, in the first four months of the crisis, over 210,000 South Sudanese fled back to South Sudan – a country grappling with a large IDP population, a refugee influx, severe humanitarian needs and lack of funding.⁸¹

81 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. *Sudan Crisis: Displacement in Sudan and Mixed Cross-Border Movement Overview*. 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/node/24896>



Figure 3: Available stock estimates of IDPs and IDP returnees as of December 2022*



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM
 *The overview is for the 13 countries, excluding Vanuatu and Colombia for which IOM DTM did not have the data.



Figure 3 presents stock estimates of IDPs and IDP returnees.⁸² Estimates reflect the total number of returns or IDPs identified as of December 2022. Although the available data permit some conclusions about the dynamic of returns and the relationship between the numbers of returns and IDPs, there are limitations when looking only at stock figures. For example, these do not disentangle displacement-related vulnerabilities or allow for the comparison between vulnerability statuses of returnees and the general population (including host communities) over time, as suggested by DSID and IRIS frameworks.

Figure 4 presents IDP returnee stock estimates over time by country. In almost all countries except for Chad, the number of returnees has grown. However, the timing

of IDP returns varies across countries and depends on contextual factors. For example, the number of IDP returnees in Afghanistan rises after 2017. In Iraq, there is a steep increase in returnees between 2015 and 2018 but afterward, the number of returnees remains fairly constant. Further on, the figures are also affected by the changes in operational definitions applied in data collection. For example, the increase in the returnee stock in Ethiopia is a result of operational adjustments in June/July 2022 after which data is collected only on returns that occurred after January 2021. Similar to the displacement dynamic, the return movement is subject to changes in the conditions and political situation, where dividends from relative stability and peace can be undermined by various shocks.

82 As DTM does not have relevant data for Colombia and Vanuatu, they are not included in this overview

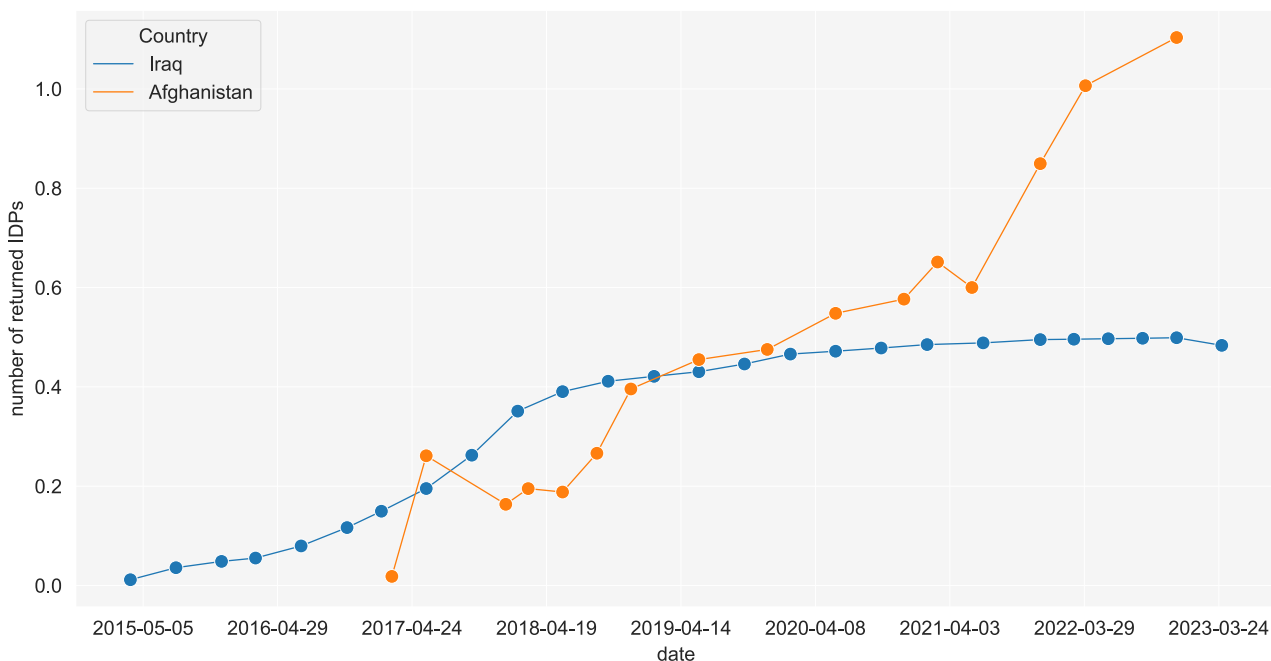


DTM team conducts an assessment in Ma'rib.
© IOM 2022/Hamzah Shaif

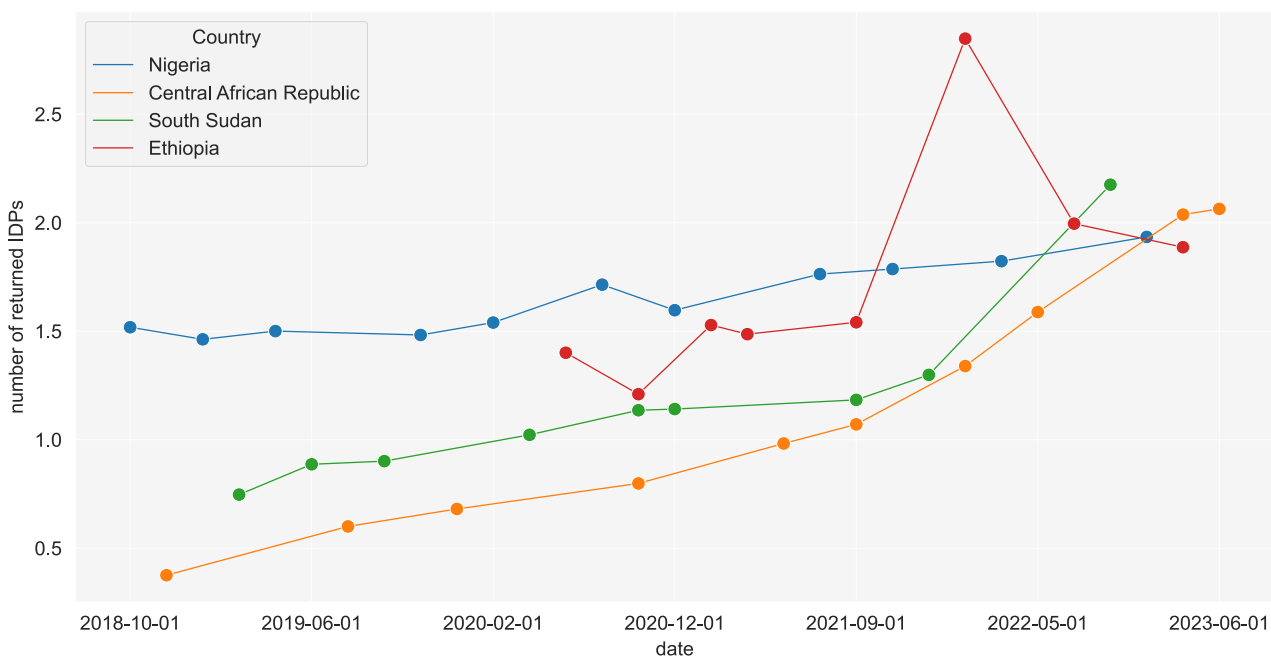
Figure 4: SHIFTS IN IDP RETURNEE STOCK FIGURES BY COUNTRY GROUPS (Source: IOM DTM Global Central Data Warehouse⁸³ as of December 2022).

Note: Countries grouped in four different graphs based on the scale of stock figures, from highest (Afghanistan, Iraq) to lowest (Libya, Chad, Niger, Mozambique) for easier reading.

COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF RETURNED IDPS (UP TO 11M)

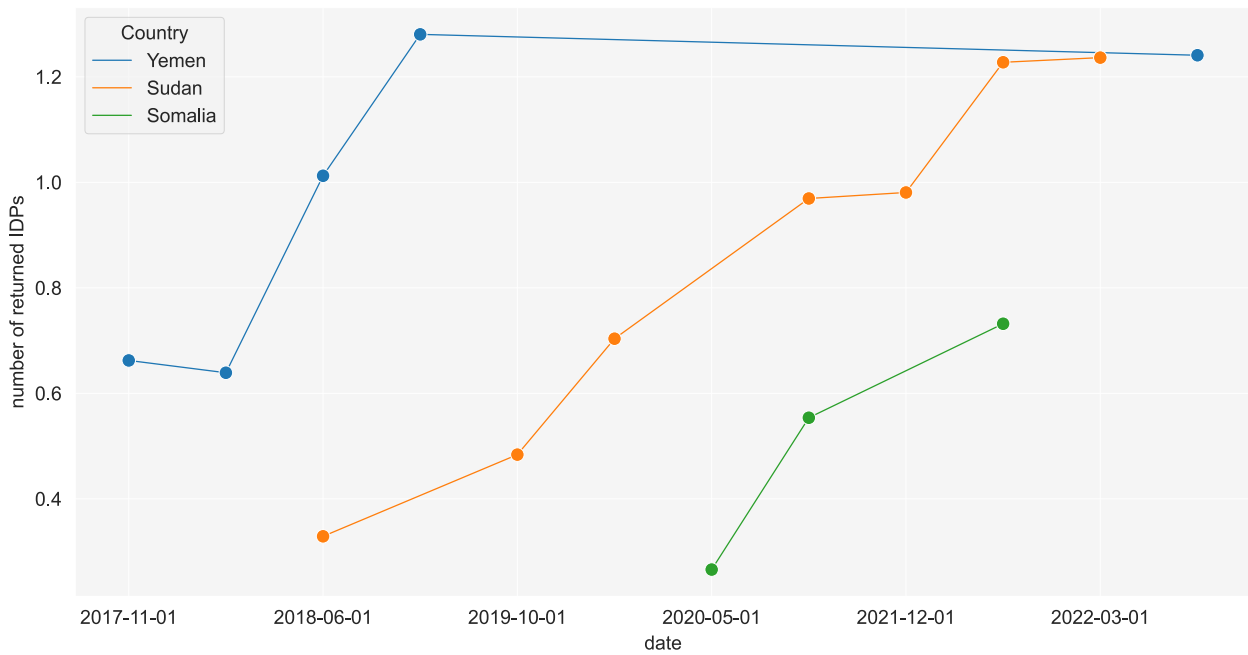


COUNTRIES WITH THE NUMBER OF RETURN/IDPS BETWEEN 500,000 UP TO MORE THAN 2.5M

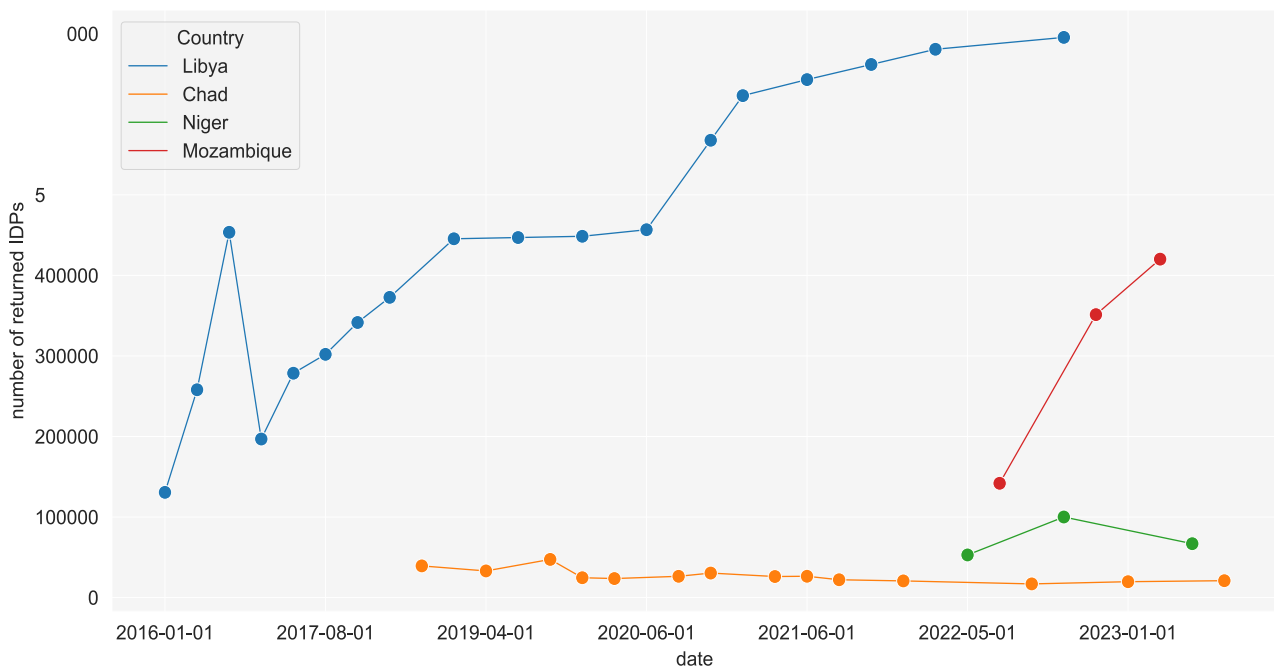


83 A central repository of IOM DTM data from all country level data collection exercises. This is not a publicly accessible data source.

COUNTRIES WITH THE NUMBER OF RETURNED IDPS BETWEEN 500,000 UP TO MORE THAN 2.5M



COUNTRIES WITH LESS THAN 1M RETURNED IDPS



7.1 Factors associated with IDP returns

The following section provides insight into factors shaping the return process for internally displaced communities. The analysis is a compilation of analyses conducted specifically for this report and existing country-level reports produced by IOM DTM teams. The data used for this analysis differ based on geographical coverage, level of representativeness by population category, and data collection method (household survey versus key informant interviews). The data are collected for operational purposes, and the methodology and geographical coverage are based on programmatic requirements and needs,

including the geographical scale of the displacement crisis and humanitarian response.

7.1.1 Reason for displacement

Displacement triggers are associated with the pace of returns. Protracted conflict, localized violence, and insecurity in settings like Afghanistan, South Sudan or the Central African Republic that severely damage community cohesion, basic services, and infrastructure lead to long-term displacement and prevent people from returning home. In addition, those who attempt to return often experience secondary displacement. Data from Ethiopia show that displacement due to drought has long-term consequences and appears to reduce intention to return.

Table 7: Stock of IDPs in Ethiopia: Returnees and IDPs and ratio of returns in relation to the displacement trigger (January 2023).

TYPE OF DISPLACEMENT	DROUGHT	CONFLICT	RATIO
Number of IDPs (number of IDPs at the sites where drought or conflict is the main driver of displacement)	781 344	1 849 742	1:2
Number of Returned IDPs	40 705	1 793 806	1:44

Table 7 shows that most IDPs and IDP returnees in Ethiopia are displaced due to conflict. The difference in the ratio of drought-affected populations to conflict-affected populations shows that IDPs displaced within the same time period by conflict are more likely to return than those displaced because of drought. The ratio of drought-displaced to conflict-displaced IDPs is 1:2 i.e., for every 1 person displaced due to drought there are 2 people displaced by conflict. In contrast, among returned IDPs, the ratio of drought-affected to conflict-affected IDP returnees is 1:44 i.e., for every one IDP who returned from displacement caused by drought there are 44 IDPs who returned from displacement due to conflict. This may reflect IDPs' reluctance to return to areas affected by drought for fear that droughts may recur in the same area, provoking further hardship and displacement.

Evidence from Vanuatu⁸⁴ demonstrates that increased preparedness by the government has a decisive effect on the speed of returns, especially in the case of seasonal climatic shocks and exposure to natural hazards.

7.1.2 Duration of displacement

The likelihood of return appears to diminish with the duration of time spent in displacement. Table 8 illustrates that IDP returns decline with longer durations of displacement in Ethiopia (excluding Tigray).

⁸⁴ IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. Vanuatu-Ambase Evacuation Response, Returns Report – Round 6. November 2019. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/vanuatu-ambae-evacuee-response-returns-report-round-6-november-2019?close=true>.

Table 8. Total returned IDPs by duration of displacement in 1,727 villages in Ethiopia, December 2022.

DURATION OF DISPLACEMENT	NUMBER OF RETURNED IDPS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IDPS WHO RETURNED
Up to 1 year	303 692	16.0%
1 to 2 years	1 582 517	83.8%
3 to 4 years	649	0.0%
5 or more years	296	0.0%

Almost all returned IDPs in Ethiopia had been displaced for two years or less. A small number (945 out of 1,887,154) who had been displaced three or more years also returned to their villages of origin. Thus, the data show that recently displaced IDPs make up a larger share of returned IDPs than those who have been displaced for three or more years.

7.1.3 Sustainability of returns

According to IOM's DTM Mobility Tracking Assessment data, over half of the returnees in Nigeria, South Sudan and Central African Republic spent more than two years in their communities of habitual residence. In Nigeria, 93 per cent returned between 2014 and 2020;⁸⁵ in South Sudan, 50 per cent returned between 2016 and 2020;⁸⁶ and in the Central African Republic 61 per cent.⁸⁷ In Afghanistan⁸⁸, a significant return uptake was observed in 2021 when 38 per cent of the country's 10,064,707 returnees reached their areas of habitual residence or an adjacent area.

It is important to assess whether IDPs who return can remain in their communities of origin. In Ethiopia, the data collection included only IDPs who returned after January 2021, meaning all IDP returnees resided in their area of return for at most two years: 48.6 per cent of the returned IDPs were in their area of return for approximately six

months to a year, while 33.1 per cent lived in their area of return between one to two years.

Nevertheless, many returnees remained vulnerable. Over one-quarter of returnees in North-East Nigeria⁸⁹ resided in fully or partially damaged shelters, while in South Sudan, many people reported challenges in obtaining documentation and land paperwork.⁹⁰

The sustainability of returns is further affected by various drivers. For some, return is not a voluntary option but a necessity. Approximately 28 per cent of Afghan IDPs who returned home in 2021 and 2022 reported that the main reason for return was an inability to afford to remain in displacement.⁹¹ In southern South Sudan, the main drivers for return are a reduction of aid and friction with the host community. In contrast, in Yemen, drivers such as improved conditions in the place of origin play a more prominent role in the decision to return.

85 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. Nigeria – North-East – Mobility Tracking Round 44 IDPs and Returnee Atlas. April 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/nigeria-north-east-mobility-tracking-round-44-idp-and-returnee-atlas-april-2023>

86 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. South Sudan – Baseline Assessment Round 13, August 2022. <https://dtm.iom.int/datasets/south-sudan-baseline-assessment-round-13>

87 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. Central African Republic, Baseline Assessment December 2022. <https://dtm.iom.int/data-product-series/baseline-assessment-9>

88 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. Afghanistan, Baseline Mobility Assessment. Round 16, December 2022. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/afghanistan-baseline-mobility-assessment-report-round-16-september-december-2022>

89 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. Nigeria, Round 44 IDP and Returnee Atlas April 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/nigeria-north-east-mobility-tracking-round-44-idp-and-returnee-atlas-april-2023>

90 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. South Sudan – Inter-Sectoral Needs Assessment Report (Rural Component) September 2022. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-inter-sectoral-needs-assessment-report-rural-component-september-2022?close=true>

91 IOM Afghanistan, Baseline Mobility Assessment (Round 16.) December 2022. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/afghanistan-baseline-mobility-assessment-report-round-16-september-december-2022>

Table 9. Reasons for return, comparative overview for South Sudan (May 2022) and Yemen (November 2022)

COUNTRY (TYPE OF SURVEY) AND NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED	DETERIORATION IN PLACE OF DISPLACEMENT	IMPROVEMENTS IN PLACE OR ORIGIN OR RELOCATION
South Sudan (HH survey)	Reduction in aid (58.9%)	Improved livelihoods (45.3%)
South Sudan (HH survey)	Friction with host community (21.8%)	Improved security (43.0%)
Yemen (KI survey)	Worsened conditions at the place of displacement (3.4%)	Improved conditions (96.5%)

The data for Libya shows IDPs' decisions to return due to factors such as improvement in security (as cited by 80% of those assessed) or better economic conditions (cited at 20%). Deteriorating conditions in displacement sites can also cause return movements, such as worsening security (cited by 50%), unfavourable economic conditions (33%), and deterioration in social cohesion (17%).

Table 10. Drivers of return in Libya (June 2022)

FACTORS INFLUENCING DECISION TO RETURN	IMPROVEMENTS IN PLACE OF ORIGIN (%)	DETERIORATION IN PLACE OF DISPLACEMENT (%)
Economic reasons	20.0%	33.3%
Security at displacement site	0.0%	50.0%
Security conditions in community of origin	80.0%	0.0%
Lack of social cohesion in location of displacement	0.0%	16.7%

7.1.4 The needs of returnees

This section provides insight into the support that returnees require to build their resilience and self-reliance. The household survey in southern South Sudan reports that 97 per cent of returned households stated they returned without any support from humanitarian actors or the government. Those who needed support relied on family and friends. Nevertheless, sustainability of returns can depend on the support provided by the government and international partners, as long-term reliance on citizen aid in the context of displacement can lead to households providing that support themselves resorting to negative coping mechanisms.⁹²

Village assessment data in Ethiopia show that in 79 per cent of the assessed villages, IDP returnees have access to land for cultivation or farming, showing that many returnees have access to the most common type of livelihood available to them. The main obstacles for the remaining IDP returnees are lack of available land (in 55% of the villages) and returnees living in urban areas who have no farming land (cited in 68% of the villages). Some seven per cent of IDP returnees reported that the main challenge is related to their returnee status and lack of documentation (4%) and drought (3%) that significantly reduced availability of arable land – with security concerns at 6 per cent. A major concern of Ethiopian returnees is lack of water in assessed villages (65%), insufficient number

⁹² IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. Humanitarian Assistance and Citizen Aid : Assessing the Impact on Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities. July 2023. Internal draft

of water points (53%) and lack of storage containers for the water (45%). A small portion of returnees (7%) also report facing discrimination that hinders their ability to fully access available services.

In Yemen, returnees report the need for financial support and food, as shown in Table 11. The need for food is

especially prevalent among returnee households who were previously displaced due to conflict (53%) compared to just 5 per cent of those displaced by climate shocks or natural hazards. In addition, 22 per cent of conflict returnees reported financial support as the main need compared to 39 per cent of those displaced by climate shocks or natural hazards.

Table 11: IDP returnee needs by cause of displacement, Yemen (June 2018)

NEEDS OF RETURNEES	CONFLICT RETURNEE HOUSEHOLDS	NATURAL HAZARD AFFECTED RETURNEE HOUSEHOLDS
Access to income	1.4%	5.1%
Child protection services	3.6%	0.0%
Cooking/washing water	7.6%	0.0%
Drinking water	2.9%	0.9%
Education	0.7%	13.7%
Financial support	21.8%	39.3%
Food	52.8%	5.1%
Household items (NFI)	0.7%	0.0%
Psychosocial support	0.7%	0.0%
Sanitation/Hygiene	4.9%	35.9%
Shelter/Housing	2.9%	0.0%
Grand Total	100%	100%

Comparative analysis of living conditions for IDPs, returnees, and non-displaced⁹³ households in Iraq found that returnee households underperform on housing, land and property, and compensation indicators compared to non-displaced households. At the same time, all groups had challenges in accessing livelihoods. Only 38 per cent of returnee households in Ninewa, Iraq relied on a stable source of income and only 22 per cent reported they could afford an unexpected expense. The study shows⁹⁴ that instability during displacement often hinders progress toward solutions. This is especially apparent in households that have experienced multiple displacements. In addition, the survey showed that there is a clear relationship between intentions to stay and progress toward solutions. Those who have not made significant progress towards solutions are less inclined to remain where they are, indicating that the most vulnerable households are struggling to integrate and require targeted programming to improve their progress toward a solution.

93 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix. Progress towards Durable Solutions in Iraq: A Pilot Project in Ninewa Governorate. August 2023. https://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/HHReintegration/20238202245839_Progress%20Towards%20Durable%20Solutions%20-%20Ninewa%20Report.pdf Note that the Term *stayee* refers to the population that was not forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence due to the 2014 crisis. The group is used as a baseline for comparison with IDPs and returnees to assess displacement-related vulnerability against a population group which has not been displaced, in line with the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS).

94 Ibid.



IOM staff conducting DTM activities in Al Fashir, Sudan

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IOM enumerators carry out door to door assessments in partnership with the Lebanese Red Cross in areas affected by the Beirut explosions, Lebanon. ©IOM/2020 Muse MOHAMMED



Chapter

08

| THINKING ABOUT
| NEXT STEPS

8. THINKING ABOUT NEXT STEPS

Based on the identified information gaps, the next edition of PROGRESS report will particularly focus on the gender aspect of displacement and solutions pathway experience, and the impact of climate change on displacement and solutions.

In a context where there are more IDPs worldwide and displacement is increasingly protracted, encouraging IDP self-reliance is considered here as an important factor in moving along the solutions pathway. Being able to work and support oneself is key to well-being, dignity, protection, and integration of those who are displaced. Securing livelihoods is also a key component of protection. When IDPs are unable to find work, they can be at more risk of exploitation by both employers and criminal elements. Dependence on humanitarian assistance for long periods of time has negative consequences for the self-esteem of IDPs, for host community and national governments' perceptions of them, and for the international community. Thus, enabling IDPs to be self-reliant is in the interests of all – IDPs, host community and government, and has implications for international humanitarian actors.

These initial findings and development also underscore the needs of women and girls, both among IDPs and host community households, with respect to security, income and housing. In future PROGRESS reports, we hope to delve deeper into the gendered aspects of displacement, looking at the intersection of age and sex to inform gender analysis of the effects of different types of displacement – particularly those due to climate shocks and conflict.

In addition, almost all countries analyzed here experience a combination of climate shocks and conflict-triggered displacement. In subsequent analyses on solutions, it will be useful to consider the similarities and differences between IDPs displaced by disasters on the one hand and by conflict on the other. At the same time, it will be important to look at the situation of IDPs affected by both conflict and climatic shocks.

Data needed for solutions-oriented action?

The review of datasets and initial efforts to test a limited number of hypotheses indicate a need for a systematic approach to data collection on solutions pathway for IDPs. While data on the number of IDPs is generally robust – due in large part to IOM's DTM, REACH, and IDMC – for the most part, these are stock figures that do not capture the dynamics of displacement over time or operational data about needs in specific locations.

There are limitations to data collected to support humanitarian operations. The analysis in this summary is primarily based on operational data collected for humanitarian response. As a result, the data often represent one-off exercises for a specific humanitarian purpose, leaving many gaps and far from perfect alignment with the DSID Task Force recommendations. One main challenge is measuring progress toward durable solution through an area-based approach by comparing key displacement-related vulnerability criteria between the host/resident population and IDPs. The IOM-Georgetown study on access to durable solutions in Iraq is currently the only longitudinal study based on data from individual IDPs over time.⁹⁵

Data on development indicators are needed, specifically more longitudinal studies. Other than the longitudinal study of internal displacement in Iraq, there are virtually no comparable panel studies where the same IDPs are tracked over a period of years. Longitudinal studies are costly in the short term, but in the long term they can induce savings as they serve as a reference point for monitoring the success of programs designed to find solutions to

95 IOM Iraq. Access to Durable Solutions among IDPs in Iraq: Six Years in Displacement. 2022. https://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/DurableSolutions/20221181458543_iom_Access_to_Durable_Solutions_Among_IDPs_in_Iraq_Six_Years_in_Displacement.pdf

displacement. They can also contribute to strengthening the accountability of partners and governments to affected IDP populations. Longer term data is essential to show the impact of local integration or other solutions options on the protracted displacement caseload. This will allow to quantify the increase in solutions uptake and decrease in displacement figures on the global scale. In

lieu of longitudinal panel studies, improved data systems can collect retrospective displacement history data which can include first and most recent displacement, duration of displacement, where displaced and the conditions experienced during displacement, and whether and when return occurred.⁹⁶

⁹⁶ Retrospective data collection about migration has a long history of success in studies of migration, author's note.



After a 2016 attack devastated Malakal PoC site, IOM quickly set up a temporary clinic to maintain essential services for IDPs.
© IOM South Sudan/Muse Mohammed



A family carries IOM's shelter kits for temporary relocation near Giyan. © IOM 2022/Léo TOR



Chapter 09

ADDRESSING DATA GAPS

9. ADDRESSING DATA GAPS

Building on the UN Action Agenda, PROGRESS endeavours to build evidence on the factors that contribute to durable solutions in country. In doing so, and looking ahead, identifying data gaps and building consensus for sustainable solutions is the next step.

Detailed datasets are collected to provide humanitarian agencies with operational-level details needed to support their assistance programs. However, to examine progress toward solutions, **data need to be collected** on different indicators **related to the different stages of the Solution Pathway, particularly for locally integrated IDPs and those in other settlement locations**. In line with the DSID Task Force recommendation, data are needed that compare IDPs and national populations along relevant IRIS core indicators – such as income, access to education, livelihood conditions, and food security. This requires development of metrics to capture and track local integration. Such metrics will enable analysis of local integration challenges, obstacles and benefits compared to return and resettlement. This also requires development of metrics to capture and track local integration. Such metrics will enable analysis of local integration challenges, obstacles and benefits compared to return and resettlement. In this respect, guidance is also needed on the most appropriate baseline data that will be used for comparative analysis to determine the end of displacement as per the IRIS standards and in distinguishing displacement related vulnerabilities from the average situation of the general/national population at a given time. National census data may be the most comprehensive despite being collected at multi-year intervals (and even though, in many of the countries this data does not exist).

Consistency in defining and coding solutions-focused core indicators is also needed to facilitate comparisons between communities and across time. Social scientists

have clearly found that the wording of survey questions affects the responses.⁹⁷ Questions asking about income, stable income, or adequate income may elicit different answers and it cannot be assumed that responses will be comparable.

Agreement by UN agencies to build consensus around **core solutions-focused** questions would permit greater collaboration and harmonization across data sets. Similarly, clearer definitions of population categories are needed. For example, for operational purposes, the term “returnee” is almost exclusively related to mobility factors without analyzing people’s needs, security or well-being. National laws and policies rarely include clear criteria for population categories. The period for considering someone a returnee differs by country. Without additional analysis and data that can respond to the IRIS criteria, it is difficult to establish when returnees are fully re-integrated into the host community or resident population. Thus, operational definitions of population categories have often been guided by short-term humanitarian planning, which does not necessarily correspond to the long-term transition, recovery, and development programming. EGRIS recently developed standard indicators for identification of IDPs and refugees and will soon address the issue of coming up with indicators on the end of IDP status.⁹⁸

Within the humanitarian program cycle, data collection is often limited to geographical areas with confirmed presence of IDPs, returnees, and to some extent resident

97 See for example, Pew Research Center. Writing Survey Questions. Nd. <https://www.pewresearch.org/our-methods/u-s-surveys/writing-survey-questions/#:~:text=Perhaps%20the%20most%20important%20part,of%20ambiguous%20or%20biased%20questions.>

98 EGRIS. Methodological Paper 1 on Standardized Refugees and IDP Identification Questions in Surveys. August 2023. <https://egrisstats.org/wp-content/uploads/EGRIS-Methodological-Paper-Towards-a-standardized-approach-to-identify-IDPs-refugees-1.pdf>

populations. Humanitarian response limits prioritization of data on the resident population. This means that there is a significant data gap for comparative analysis between IDPs, returnees, and the resident population, which is essential for identifying vulnerabilities related to the experience of displacement and distinguishing these from vulnerabilities across the general population, as recommended by IRIS and DSID. The EGRISS subgroup on Methodological Research and Guidance Development, for example, is working on a methodological paper on defining host communities as well as on standardizing the progress indicators identified by IRIS.

Clear descriptions of the metadata for public datasets are needed. For example, a central repository of datasets on IDP solutions, catalogued according to a standard protocol to facilitate access by a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, international organizations and academics would contribute towards filling the gap on the global state of solutions dataset.

Finally, **better data are needed on the effects of climate change on the sustainability of returns.** Returns can be spontaneous, and a household decision for a preferred durable solution can often be related to the perception of safety and security and the availability of services. Though many countries described here are affected by climate change, the impact of slow-onset weather changes on return, local integration and resettlement cannot be overlooked, creating challenges related to the availability

of resources to sustain solutions. Hence, the international community should scale up the analysis of the impact of climate change for the timely engagement of communities in resilience-building and climate adaptation programs.

This initial foray into data on IDPs suggests several promising areas for future analysis that PROGRESS will consider in subsequent reports. The importance of economic security raises issues of importance for humanitarian action, transition and recovery and development for longer-term solutions. How can IDPs be supported to be self-reliant during displacement? Does IDP self-reliance increase possibilities for local integration and acceptance by host communities? Do gender differences during displacement affect possibilities for solutions? How does displacement in camp vs non-camp settings affect attainment of solutions? What can focus group discussions with host communities tell us about future local integration? When relations between IDPs and hosts are good, are IDPs more likely to settle there – and conversely when there are tensions between them, are they more likely to return?

These questions have implications for IDPs themselves and for both humanitarian and development partners. PROGRESS endeavours to build evidence on the factors that contribute to solutions, we can provide specific suggestions – and tools – to enable IDPs themselves, governments and other stakeholders to take steps to end displacement.



Though many countries described here are affected by climate change, the impact of slow-onset weather changes on return, local integration and resettlement cannot be overlooked, creating challenges related to the availability of resources to sustain solutions.



Boneya and his wife in front of their newly built home, with IOM's support, in drought-hit Oromia Region, Ethiopia.
© IOM 2022/KayeViray



Chapter

10

| PARTNER
CONTRIBUTION

10. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

As reiterated in the UN Action Agenda, long term solutions to internal displacement necessitate a collaborative approach and concerted effort. We recognise that we cannot make progress without our partners. We rely on their technical expertise, unique perspectives and collaborative action for data for durable solutions at global, regional and country level.

As an operational report employing a consultative process, IOM's Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS) reflects the diversity of actors working on durable solutions to internal displacement. The analysis presented in this report illustrates that resolving displacement is a challenge requiring work across the humanitarian-development and peace nexus. In line with this, actors with a range of expertise and roles across this nexus must be involved in defining what actionable data look like.

A sample of these actors have contributed their unique perspectives on data for durable solutions through the lens of their technical areas of expertise. These areas include national statistics and censuses, food security and agricultural livelihoods, child protection, and data collection on internal displacement. Their contributions highlight the multifaceted ways in which data can have a tangible effect on achieving lasting solutions for displaced populations and addressing vulnerabilities associated with protracted displacement.

IOM GDI consulted with existing partners, especially those engaged in various data-related inter-agency platforms, such as the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) working group and EGRISS. Partners were consulted throughout the conceptualization phase and analysis. In the process, IOM offered the opportunity to contribute to the report, turning it into an advocacy platform for the advancement of the solutions agenda by providing opportunities and lessons learned for collective action for the benefit of displaced communities and those on the pathway to solutions.



Including data on internal displacement into the systems that produce national statistics – which form the foundation of evidence-based policy implementation and development planning – is a crucial step towards attaining “data for solutions on internal displacement.” Beyond national ownership of results (i.e. data trusted by governments), statistical inclusion also brings additional benefits much sought after in the search for “solutions data.” These include data on the living conditions and well-being of IDPs that are comparable to non-displaced persons and can be used to assess the extent to which durable solutions have been achieved. Moreover, in the context of Agenda 2030, including and properly identifying IDPs in national data production processes can enhance their visibility in key targets and indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals⁹⁹ framework.

With the increasing need for data-driven solutions to internal displacement, particular attention should be given to the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics¹⁰⁰ (IRIS), developed by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics¹⁰¹ (EGRISS). These Recommendations, which were endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2020, present the first internationally agreed guidance for countries to use to strengthen their IDP statistics. The IRIS provides governments and their international partners with a comprehensive statistical framework built upon the conceptual foundation of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement¹⁰² and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions¹⁰³. Furthermore, it outlines technical recommendations on how data should be produced. In doing so it uses different sources of data (drawing on existing statistical standards) and outlines procedural recommendations concerning stakeholder coordination to improve quality, coverage and use. Developed in collaboration with many affected states, the IRIS is now being used by national statistical offices in a growing number of countries.¹⁰⁴ With important investments in strengthening national capacity, the use of the IRIS will significantly increase.

Regarding durable solutions, the IRIS offers specific recommendations on how this complex process can be statistically captured. First it outlines a measure for determining progress made towards the achievement of durable solutions based on the IASC Framework’s eight criteria. Second it develops a measure to determine the outflow from the IDP stock based upon five of these criteria – to assess when IDPs have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities – and should no longer be counted as IDPs in statistical terms. At the heart of both measures lies the requirement of being able to compare the situation of IDPs to non-displaced persons.

One of EGRISS’ Technical Subgroups is conducting research to help complete these measures and provide additional guidance to countries pursuing their implementation.

99 UN Sustainable Development Goals. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

100 International Recommendations on IDP Statistics. <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-idp-statistics-iris/>

101 Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics. <https://egrisstats.org/>

102 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-internally-displaced-persons/international-standards>

103 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions.

104 EGRISS Implementation Examples. <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/examples-of-implementation/>



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The historical approach of the humanitarian system to address food insecurity among IDPs has focused on direct food assistance, despite the protracted nature of internal displacement. This approach, however, has proven ineffective in achieving long term food security and durable solutions for IDPs, and has created a situation of aid dependency and increased vulnerability to shocks.

The outcome of the High-level Panel on Internal Displacement's¹⁰⁵ consultation with IDPs was a call for greater autonomy for displaced people and investment in their self-reliance. However, insufficient efforts are being made on the part of the humanitarian system as a whole, to understand who IDPs are and what they want. Evidence shows us that IDPs feel unheard and disconnected from decision-making processes. In parallel, data collection on the food security status of IDPs is often missing, leading to generic response efforts that do not tackle their specific needs, nor fully understand their vulnerabilities. This lack of understanding from actors, and subsequent lack of adaptation of responses to actual IDP concerns and needs hinders progress in achieving their independence and durable solutions to their displacement.

Many IDPs rely or have relied on agricultural livelihoods as their primary source of income. However, while recognizing the importance of food aid, most emergency responses do not include agricultural livelihood support in such contexts, perpetuating aid dependency. Here, early investment in sustainable agricultural livelihoods and ensured access to natural resources is crucial for IDPs' long term food security, economic independence, and to achieve solutions to internal displacement.

The humanitarian system's failure to deliver durable solutions and listen to IDPs' voices calls for a radical rethink of current approaches. The system must prioritize investing in agricultural livelihoods for resilience and self-reliance-building, incorporating IDPs' perspectives and needs from the beginning of the humanitarian cycle. Donors can play a significant role in this reform. Funding cycles should be flexible and tailored to IDP needs, recognizing the importance of investing in long-term solutions to internal displacement early enough. By addressing these challenges, the humanitarian system can better support IDPs in achieving long lasting food security, resilience, self-reliance, and durable solutions.

105 High Level Panel on Internal Displacement, Shining a Light on Internal Displacement – A Vision for the Future. <https://internaldisplacement-panel.org/index.html>



Achieving progress on internal displacement requires information to tailor solutions to each context and to the varying needs of different groups of affected people. Women and men, children, and people with disabilities face specific vulnerabilities in displacement. These vulnerabilities may also depend on whether their flight was triggered by conflict, sudden or slow-onset disasters, and whether they are in an area where they can receive support or not. While much progress has been made in understanding these different factors and collecting better data on internal displacement, many gaps remain.¹⁰⁶

Data on internal displacement in the context of climate change, for instance, remains insufficient to plan ahead. Data on IDPs is rarely disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other characteristics, preventing intersectional analyses of vulnerabilities and responses aimed at reaching those at higher risk. Information on the duration of displacement and on the conditions in which IDPs live is also hard to come by in most contexts. Rarer still is information on essential yet less visible aspects of solutions, such as local integration, social cohesion, psychosocial well-being and feelings of acceptance and belonging in the community.

Several organisations have made efforts to bridge these gaps, including national and sub-national government institutions, civil society organisations and multilateral agencies. The renewed attention paid to internal displacement at the highest political levels has given more visibility to this issue and to the need to invest in better knowledge to inform future investments. With current trends to provide more comprehensive, inclusive and granular analyses and produce evidence that is more accessible, interoperable and harmonized from one organisation to the next, there is hope that the data landscape on internal displacement will soon enable more effective solutions.

¹⁰⁶ iDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2023/>



At the end of 2022, UNICEF estimated that 29.7 million children had been internally displaced by conflict, violence or disasters – this represented 42 per cent of the global IDP population. Children were involved in 34 per cent of all new internal displacements that year – this is equivalent to one in three displacements. These are record highs that show no signs of slowing down. Over the last decade, the number of children displaced by conflict and violence within their own borders has more than doubled, and since 2020, those displaced by disasters has increased by 24 per cent. There were 18 million IDP children living in the 16 priority countries identified by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, representing three out of five IDP children globally.

Yet these estimates come with great uncertainty. Countries often employ different methods, criteria and definitions to determine if an individual is an IDP or fail to collect or analyse data by displacement status, leaving IDPs – regardless of age – largely invisible in data and statistics. When data on displaced populations are available, these are often of poor quality, lacking key details like age and sex. For instance, among almost 7 in 10 countries and territories with conflict-related internally displaced persons no reliable data on age is available. Among the 16 priority countries in the Action Agenda, 11 do not have reliable data on age and sex on their IDP populations.¹⁰⁷

These gaps in the data leave IDP children exposed and render their situations largely invisible. Even though we know that many internally displaced children are intensely vulnerable – facing limited to no access to proper food, clean water and sanitation, health care and a quality education, while also being exposed to many child protection risks – we do not know the scale and scope of these harms, as data on the socio-economic circumstances

of IDP children are scarce.¹⁰⁸

A critical first step to strengthening the policy and protective environment for IDP children is better data. The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC)¹⁰⁹, a cross-sectoral global coalition of close to 50 members has called on Member States to sign a global pledge and commit to better data for migrant and displaced children, an initiative launched with the Migration Youth and Children's Platform (MYCP).¹¹⁰

In addition, policies geared towards upholding the rights of all internally displaced persons must take children's concerns into account. This means:

- Investing in child-critical systems and services – including education, health, social protection and child protection – to make them shock-responsive, portable and inclusive of all children, including those already displaced;
- Prioritizing child-sensitive and displacement-sensitive disaster risk reduction (DRR), community early warning systems and anticipatory action to minimize displacement risk and reach children and families already on the move;
- Investing in internally displaced children and young people's adaptive capacities, resilience and participation – and empowering them as partners in shaping durable solutions to internal displacement;
- Ensuring national and local durable solutions plans, strategies and budgets take internally displaced children's vulnerabilities, rights and voices into account;
- Scaling up development, humanitarian and climate financing for child-sensitive durable solutions.

¹⁰⁷ UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced displacement in 2022*, UNHCR, Geneva, 2023.

¹⁰⁸ UNICEF, *Lost at Home: The risks and challenges for internally displaced children and the urgent actions needed to protect them*, UNICEF, New York, 2020.

¹⁰⁹ For more information, see <https://data.unicef.org/resources/international-data-alliance-for-children-on-the-move/>

¹¹⁰ See International Data Alliance for Children on the Move, *From Promises to Actions: Towards better data for migrant and displaced children*, 2023. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/declaration-on-improving-data-for-children-on-the-move/>



Alarming levels of acute food insecurity and rising numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) globally call for joint efforts to better assess and address the needs of displaced populations, including durable solutions. Countries with the largest number of IDPs often face high levels of acute food insecurity, indicating that the two phenomena are interlinked and potentially mutually enforcing. Drivers of acute food insecurity, namely conflict, climate and economic shocks, frequently overlap with those of displacement; acute food insecurity can also trigger displacement, and conversely, displacement can exacerbate acute food insecurity.

Evidence from the World Food Programme (WFP)'s assessments in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, and Niger, suggests that IDPs are more likely to be food insecure than non-displaced populations, due to their reportedly higher level of vulnerability and limited access to land and livelihoods. For instance, the latest food security assessment in the Democratic Republic of Congo reported that 100% of in-camp IDPs and 79% of IDPs in host communities were acutely food insecure, compared to 44% of residents; in Afghanistan, a lower proportion of IDPs reportedly own livestock and farmland compared to residents. This indicates that, in contexts of displacement, it is necessary to systematically represent IDPs in food security and vulnerability assessments to better inform humanitarian assistance and address the specific vulnerabilities of displaced populations. However, key challenges for assessing and targeting IDPs remain:

- Lack of a clear and common definition of IDPs and duration of displacement;
- IDPs are not always formally registered, and their information is not always regularly updated;
- IDPs are mobile populations that may move from one place to another, multiple times.

Even though several food security assessments take IDPs into consideration, their sampling methodologies, indicators, geographical coverage and reporting timeframes often differ, which prevents globally comparable outcomes of acute food security among IDPs.

To address these challenges, reinforcing humanitarian coordination is necessary. This includes harmonizing approaches to identifying, registering, and targeting IDPs for assistance based on vulnerability, as well as establishing data sharing agreements to reduce the duplication of efforts. This would ultimately support the development of durable solutions for IDPs, making sure displaced populations steadily become independent of humanitarian food assistance and can rely on local economies and national supply chains. WFP will continue working with national governments and partners to address the needs of the most vulnerable and build solutions for displaced populations



Population and housing censuses hold significant potential for generating crucial data on internally displaced persons and their integration within host communities. Representing the entire population, censuses can provide accurate and comprehensive statistics on the number, age, gender, and socio-economic status of displaced populations down to the smallest geographical unit. Unlike surveys that are based on household sampling frames, the census should cover the subpopulations living in camps and other institutions. By collecting data on employment, education and housing conditions, and allowing for comparison with host populations, censuses can also reveal the extent to which internally displaced populations are participating in the local economy and society. This data allows policymakers to tailor integration programs that address specific needs, and helps estimating the long-term impacts of displacement on host communities' social services and infrastructure.

However, there is currently a gap between the potential use of the census to generate data on the stock of IDPs, and the actual data availability and practice. In some of the 15 Action Agenda's priority countries, it has not been possible to conduct a census in two decades or more due to conflict, political instability, security concerns, funding shortfalls, and, more recently, the Covid-19 pandemic. In others, the population census has not been equipped to allow a systematic identification and measurement of internally displaced populations, resulting in a lack of consistent and comparable data. Key challenges for IDP data collection include the limited participation of marginalized and hard-to-reach populations, the unwillingness of individuals to provide information due to privacy and safety concerns, and the lack of clear guidance and best practice recommendations.

The implementation of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) within population censuses offers a great opportunity to enhance the collection of accurate and comprehensive data on this vulnerable group, further facilitating their integration within host communities. In addition to operational guidance on census design to ensure the inclusion and participation of displaced populations, the IRIS include specific questions (e.g. displacement history, reasons for displacement, and duration of displacement) that can be used in combination with core census topics (e.g. current and previous place of residence) to identify and differentiate IDPs from other population groups, ensuring that their unique circumstances are adequately captured.

As part of its mandate, UNFPA has been supporting more than 150 countries to strengthen national capacity to collect, process, analyze, disseminate and use census data for development and humanitarian action. Amongst the IDP Action Agenda Pilot Countries, Central African Republic, Chad, Iraq, Niger, Nigeria, and Somalia have been actively engaging in census preparations with UNFPA's support and aim to enumerate their populations as soon as the political and safety conditions will be amenable to field data collection. For the next (2030) census round, the upcoming revision of the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses will provide further opportunities for mainstreaming guidance on IDP data collection in census processes.



The Action Agenda on Internal Displacement has highlighted important questions about the role of data in promoting evidence-based and people-centred solutions to internal displacement. As a leading producer of data in crisis contexts, the REACH Initiative continually reflects on how to maximise the value of displacement data for decision-making. Below are a few of our reflections, based on learnings from conducting primary research in more than 30 countries over the past decade.

- Data is available now – let’s use it. Whilst specific information gaps may remain, a wealth of data has been collected in many internal displacement crises that can be used right now to inform policy planning and decision-making. REACH Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNAs), nationwide surveys conducted in 18 humanitarian contexts in 2023, are one example of statistically representative data, often disaggregated by displacement status, that can provide vital insights for durable solutions. Data for durable solutions workstreams should therefore systematically integrate such data, and ensure that these initiatives are tangibly linked with programmatic outcomes for people on the move.
- Appropriate solutions require an understanding of both measurable living standards gaps and the stated aspirations of affected people. Evidence-based solutions require careful consideration of the severity of IDPs’ living conditions in locations of displacement and areas of return, relocation, or local integration. This kind of information should complement a context-specific understanding of movement intentions, perceptions regarding safety and security, and other barriers to return, reported directly by displaced people. Mixed-methods and area-based assessments can provide this nuanced analysis at a more local level. Such evidence can support needs-based approaches to programming that fully consider the realities on the ground, given that status-based planning alone can be reductive of the complexity of the living conditions of displaced people.



The past decade has brought strides towards better data on internal displacement – in quantity, quality, and availability, at the national, regional, and global levels. The Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS), alongside its parent organizations (UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, IDMC, OCHA, UNDP, UN-Habitat, NRC, and DRC), has critically contributed to this progress. However, as the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement highlights in its final report: “[More] attention is needed both to the type of data gathered and to how it is collected, managed, used and protected.” While increased access to data and improved availability and quality are critical, this does not guarantee its effective use for better policies and service delivery. Drawing on 14+ years of JIPS’ experience in supporting multi-stakeholder data efforts across 50+ countries, three key factors must be emphasized for successful IDP data utilization by policy- and decision-makers: i) A clearly defined purpose for data collection from the outset, involving end-users in collaborative planning. ii) Improved accessibility of data, best practices, and lessons learned for government and humanitarian actors in affected countries. iii) Enhanced focus on cohesive, inclusive national data systems, requiring capacity building and a data-driven culture among internal displacement stakeholders.

The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and other international instruments highlight that data collection can not only provide insights but also inform and influence concrete decisions. JIPS and its Executive Committee have prioritized “enhancing data’s impact on policies and programs for internal displacement” in their 2021-2023 strategy. They will continue to invest in promoting data use, supporting IRIS and EGRIS implementation, and contributing to the UNSG’s Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement efforts.

ANNEX 1. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE FOR PROGRESS

Methodological Note for PROGRESS

Objective of the Analysis

A global compilation of data on the state of solutions for internally displaced persons does not exist. Addressing this gap and what it means for supporting long term and sustainable solutions to internal displacement necessitates using a new approach to data collection and analysis. In the absence of data for solutions to internal displacement as recommended by the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) taskforce and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), this first PROGRESS report relies on existing datasets collected for humanitarian responses. Rather than reverberating with a general call for more data, this PROGRESS analysis is driven by two interlinked objectives. First, it uses existing data to perform a baseline analysis laying the foundation to identify solutions for internal displacement. Second, its comparative analysis of existing data reveals important differences between IDP and host households and differences among IDP households.

This PROGRESS analysis is based on household survey data, key informant assessments, and focus group discussions (FGD) to assess hypotheses about differences in the characteristics of IDP and host households and returnees. As proposed by the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS), the analysis focuses on the first five IASC criteria deemed to be relevant in any displacement context¹¹¹. A key strength of using household survey data in this regard is the ability to compare between IDP and host households in different displacement settings, especially in the 15 pilot Action Agenda Countries, each with highly individual internal displacement contexts. Being able to assess whether there are large differences between IDP and host households across the board can help to inform solutions for internal displacement.

Data Overview

The quantitative data analysed for PROGRESS were

collected using IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix Methodological Framework¹¹² (DTM), the REACH Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment Methodology¹¹³ and the global displacement figures from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center¹¹⁴. Data were collected in countries between 2021 and 2023. Research teams employed a total 21 datasets, including 19 country-specific datasets and 2 containing data from different countries. In sum, these datasets are household-level surveys from more than 165,000 households, and key informants information for 20,500 locations. A detailed profile of the individual datasets is available [here](#)¹¹⁵. In addition to the quantitative analysis, a total of 74 FGD were conducted in ten countries.

Data Analysis

The following describes methodological issues that researchers faced during the PROGRESS analysis. Below, we summarize these challenges in two sections. Section one refers to those experienced when conducting analysis from the household surveys and location-level key informant assessments. Section two describes the methodological issues in the design of the FGDs.

Section One – Survey Data Analysis

The analysis in PROGRESS relies on household survey data that were collected to inform humanitarian responses in particular areas of the world. It strove to include as many of the 15 pilot Action Agenda Countries as possible to portray a wide lens view on some of the issues faced by IDPs.

Using data not designed for IDP durable solutions

Because the household survey datasets were collected for humanitarian purposes rather than to assess differences between host community-, IDP- and returnee households, the datasets varied in the information they contained. For example, some datasets did not contain information on an IDP household's year and duration of displacement.

111 International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) <https://egrisstats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/The-International-Recommendations-on-IDP-Statistics.pdf> (page 44).

112 <https://dtm.iom.int/about/methodological-framework>

113 https://www.reachresourcecentre.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/MSNA-2021-Analysis-guidance_20210721.pdf

114 https://www.reachresourcecentre.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/MSNA-2021-Analysis-guidance_20210721.pdf

115 <https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1461/files/progress/PROGRESS%20Datasets.pdf>

Some datasets had no information to differentiate how long a household's internal displacement situation existed, thereby making it difficult to determine if households had begun to embark on possible solution pathways. Furthermore, the datasets seldomly included information about household's preferences pertaining to durable solutions, which represent a precondition to well-designed and implementable solution pathway. Additionally, household representativeness varied across the datasets. While some country data sets covered households in all their primary geographic units, others only cover a portion; for example, in Nigeria, the household data were restricted only to the northeast region. Finally, for a few datasets, the mode of survey data collection included both telephone and face-to-face surveys.

Combining data from 15 Action Agenda Countries

The 15 pilot Action Agenda Countries present a multitude of political and socio-economic challenges that vary by governance mechanism, donor priority and humanitarian response, among other factors. This directly affects the availability of data, their frequency, location targeting, and coverage. It also influences decisions on what data to collect and how to collect it. Only some variables are – or were recoded to become – comparable across the country data sets. PROGRESS is based on our efforts to harmonize variables across the data sets. Thus, while some attributes such as the condition of household's shelter and access to health care can be analysed across many country data sets, others such as households' perceptions of security or children's school attendance were only possible only across a limited number of countries. This edition of PROGRESS pilot comparability. From the combined dataset, a few key findings on the IDPs and Host Community households were extracted and presented in some instances, the tables (e.g. figure

2, Table 1). The tables show the percentages along each variable for both population groups. However, the tables do not show the alternative options for each indicator. For example, the tables only show the percentage number of HHs with security concerns but does not show the percentage number without security concerns.

Section Two – FGD Data Analysis

Given that the hypotheses which guide the solutions analysis in this report were established after the point of data collection and given that the research team repurposed operational datasets originally designed to inform humanitarian assistance, PROGRESS uses FGDs as a qualitative complement to the quantitative survey analysis. A total of 74 FGDs were conducted in ten countries (Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen) between 1 to 15 August 2023. All FGDs were held in local languages and translated by DTM country teams or global support teams. Data collection covered three population groups: host communities, IDPs and returnees (sub-groups include: females, males, mixed groups, older persons and youth). The FGDs addressed some of the gaps that resulted from the data structure outlined previously. Open-ended surveys for the focus groups served to address indicators of self-reliance, social cohesion (e.g., relationship between host communities and IDPs), family dynamics in the decision-making processes on preferred solutions, and the effects of displacement on community dynamics and integration. was used to code and analyse FGD data. The coding of thematic insights for Arabic and Portuguese transcripts was based on translations. The coding framework for each population category (IDP, returnee and host country) is available in the annex.

Summary: Methodological Limitations

Because the quantitative analysis in this PROGRESS report is based on household and key informant data sets collected to inform humanitarian response, the data may not adequately capture differences between IDP, host, and returnee households, or differences between different types of IDP households. In addition, because not all data sets include comparable variables, the analysis

is limited only to the countries, households, and variables that we could harmonize. The objective for this first PROGRESS report is to examine what existing data can tell us about these groups. In future PROGRESS reports, we will employ data harmonization techniques as well as use newly collected data with harmonized variables to improve the scope of analysis.

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