The Multi-Dimensional Integration Index (MDI)

16 January 2018
RATIONALE FOR DEVELOPING THE TOOL

76% of Afghans have had an experience of displacement. 1 in 4 Afghans has had an experience of international migration.

(Re)Integration is the objective of many programming efforts, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. But what is integration?

“A process that should result in the disappearance of differences in local rights and duties between returnees and their compatriots, and equal access to services, productive assets and networks.”

How to measure progress towards achieving integration?

A standardized framework to understand and map integration processes of displaced and returnee populations, and an attempt at a consolidated data collection system.

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A STANDARIZED FRAMEWORK, AN INTER-AGENCY APPROACH

- No harmonized standard to measure how the displaced fare after the emergency phase of displacement. Partners (RWG) recommended to:
  - Consider standards at national and international levels
  - Make more efforts to combine indicators
  - Take

- Goal: Baseline data on the integration of displaced and returnee groups to inform and measure the impact of programming - Applied with global (IASC) and academic standards!

- The first attempt at a consolidated data collection system on integration / reintegration. Responds to donor requests for scientific, standardized data. A global push for using index-based programming.

- Inter-agency collaboration: The Government, the United Nations and NGOs agreeing on a standardized tool.

- COLLECTIVE data collection mechanism, allowing for an integrated and systematic approach to understanding integration in Afghanistan.
## MDI DIMENSIONS AND INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic dimension</th>
<th>Social dimension</th>
<th>Safety / security dimension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerator ownership</td>
<td>Tazkera possession</td>
<td>Possible sources of financial assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car ownership</td>
<td>Possible sources of financial assistance</td>
<td>Last occasion of reduced food intake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank account</td>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Migration intentions and expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>Distance to healthcare</td>
<td>Perceived safety in daily life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piped water</td>
<td>Social activities</td>
<td>Perceived tenure security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remittances</td>
<td>Psychological state</td>
<td>Existence of a support network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from agriculture</td>
<td>Perceived safety in daily life</td>
<td>Self-perceived access to employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from trade</td>
<td>Perceived tenure security</td>
<td>Earner redundancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from aid</td>
<td>Political participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt to spending ratio</td>
<td>Existence of a support network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-assessment of relative economic situation</td>
<td>Domestic conflict</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible sources of financial assistance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last occasion of reduced food intake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-perceived access to employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Earner redundancy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Does at least one member of your household have a tazkera or a birth certificate?
- Does your household currently hold more debt than it spends in a month?
- Does any member of your household have a bank account?
- Someone in the household could get a job if he/she wanted one ...
- If you needed financial help, which of the following sources of credit (if any) could you turn to?
- I feel secure that my household can remain in this dwelling for as long as we wish
- If there is a conflict or I am threatened, I can go to the police or the courts for help
SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE INDICATORS

Reintegration is also a question of perception:

*How does the household *situate itself* within the community?*

- **Economic dimension**
  - Perceived economic situation compared to others
  - Could someone in this household find a job?

- **Social dimension**
  - Symptoms of trauma and stress
  - Domestic conflict

- **Safety / security dimension**
  - Perceived safety at home and outside
  - Perceived tenure security
HOW ARE WE MEASURING?

Blue arcs represent the best possible conditions for a given indicator.

The yellow arcs: the conditions of the host community at large.

The brown area: the shortfall of the entire community.

The orange areas: migrant-specific deprivation. The MDI provides a measure of these deprivations.
THE TARGET POPULATION

For the baseline, in each location,

- 100 host households
- 300 displaced households (refugees, returnees, IDPs, economic migrants...)

For follow-up assessments, displaced households only.

Households are randomly sampled in a given community.

The community must be defined through access to services, social and economic habits rather than just physical location.

Contextual knowledge is key!
Two different sampling strategies were tested:

1. **Separate settings:** In Kabul, returnees were interviewed in neighbourhoods largely inhabited by returnees while hosts were interviewed in locations with a large share on non-displaced residents.

2. **Identical settings:** In the second and third pilots, locations mostly inhabited by returnees were selected, and resident returnees as well as host respondents were sought out for the survey.

**Lesson learned:** The second approach mutes differences between host and returnee populations.
1. Principal Component Analysis is used to reduce the number of variables by selecting an optimal set of components consisting of weighted sums of the original variables.

2. These principal components are then used to compute a logistic regression classifier to estimate the similarity between displaced households and the host archetype.

3. The resulting parametrized model can then be used to score additional displaced households within the same community.

The resulting scores are numbers between 0 and 1, reflecting the degree of similarity between the individual respondent households and the host archetype in their community of residence.
FAQ

- Can comparative conclusions be drawn between locations?
  - Yes. *PCA is a standardized computation.*

- Can the question set still be amended?
  - Yes, and it should be. *Changes should be incremental.*

- Can different types of displaced populations be compared?
  - Yes. *In the training phase, the model only compares hosts to non-hosts. The resulting baseline can be used for all types of displacement.*
WHAT DRIVES INTEGRATION?

Proposed prioritization criteria

1) Beneficiary categories (refugee returnees, undocumented returnees, group returns, host communities);
2) Vulnerability criteria, re-integration levels;
3) Geographic location (high-return area, urban versus rural, areas with high vulnerability, areas of high out-migration);
4) Years in exile, year of return.

WHAT DO THE RESULTS LOOK LIKE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pilot 1 (SH)</th>
<th>Pilot 2 (NRC)</th>
<th>Pilot 3 (DRC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>Herat</td>
<td>Jalalabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kandahar</td>
<td>Herat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of displaced</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of host</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA economic mean</td>
<td>0.661</td>
<td>0.636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA social mean</td>
<td>0.771</td>
<td>0.779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA security mean</td>
<td>0.866</td>
<td>0.827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA average mean</td>
<td>0.773</td>
<td>0.814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot 4 (AKF)</td>
<td>Pilot 5 (NRC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baghlan</td>
<td>Takhar</td>
<td>Jalalabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deshi</td>
<td>Pali Khumri</td>
<td>Basti-e-Qala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of displaced</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of host</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA economic mean</td>
<td>0.689</td>
<td>0.629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA social mean</td>
<td>0.912</td>
<td>0.799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA security mean</td>
<td>0.902</td>
<td>0.739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA average Mean</td>
<td>0.904</td>
<td>0.705</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Diagram and tables showing data]
WHAT DID WE LEARN?

✓ Geographic disparities

The needs of the displaced are not identical across locations → blanket targeting is not a solution.

✓ Disparities in terms of beneficiary categories

Deportees fare worst. The impact of voluntary returns packages was significant in Kandahar and Herat, but negligible in a context of massive recent returns to Jalalabad.

✓ Disparities between rural, urban and peri-urban areas

Economic integration tends to be higher in the cities, safety integration tends to be higher in the outskirts.
WHAT ELSE DID WE LEARN?

✓ **Home sweet home**

Returning to one’s place of origin has a significant positive impact, particularly in the social and security dimensions.

✓ **Vulnerability**

Vulnerable returnee and IDP households in Jalalabad exhibit significantly lower integration scores, particularly in the social and security domains.

✓ **Years in exile, years since return**

The effect differs between locations. Security scores in Kabul tend to rise with time spent abroad, while those in Herat tend to drop. Social integration is positively correlated with time since return in Kabul.
APPLICATIONS OF THE MDI:

Programming
- Linking the MDI to tailored geographic interventions
- Using the MDI to design packages
- Examine the relative importance of indicators on integration

Monitoring
Verify to which degree organizations‘s programming has impacted integration of beneficiaries in their local communities.

Policy making
- Collecting comparative evidence, improving coordination
- Confirming assumptions, supporting advocacy
NEXT STEPS: A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

- Data collection by partners on the ground, with UNHCR at the forefront of roll-out across ten locations in 2018
- Establishing comparable baselines across Afghanistan
- Data and MDI scores uploaded to the centralized database to be shared with the partners
- Results published on a dedicated website
- Visuals to map different migrant / displaced communities. By zooming in on locations, viewers will be able to see scores mapped against drivers of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synergies instead of duplication of efforts!</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easily accessible data for all</td>
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<td>Value for money</td>
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THANK YOU

Stefanie BARRATT
Stefanie.barratt@samuelhall.org