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**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
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DAC Temporary Working Group on Refugees and Migration

Summary Note of World Bank presentation at OECD: Forcibly Displaced: Toward A Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts

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OECD Delta Annex

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Presentation

[Forcibly Displaced: Toward A Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts](#)

A new publication from the World Bank, in collaboration with UNHCR

Xavier Devictor led the team which wrote the report. He is the Advisor for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank. He has broad experience with the World Bank across several regions including Poland and the Baltic Countries, Egypt, Yemen and Djibouti, as well as with UNHCR in the former Yugoslavia, earlier in his career.

Ewen Macleod is head of the Policy Development and Evaluation Service at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. He has worked for the UN and European Commission, in headquarters and in complex humanitarian crises and protracted refugee situations in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Assumption:

Forced displacement does not only need a humanitarian response but also a development one: enhance medium-term, socio-economic dimensions to help the displaced and the host community.

Problem / Current situation:

- Numbers are historically high: about 65 million people are displaced.
- Most affected countries are developing countries: the MENA region hosts the most refugees and Sub-Saharan Africa hosts the most IDPs.
- Displacements are resulting from conflicts that are protracted and responsibilities for forcibly displaced are unevenly shared geographically.
- 94% of forcibly displaced persons live in cities and half of today's refugees have lived in exile for less than 4 years. It should be noted that the latter number is a reflection of the recent Syrian crisis. In general, the average duration of displacement is 10.3 years.
- There is no evidence that today's IDPs become tomorrow's refugees.
- Displaced and host communities have different vulnerabilities that need to be addressed.

Findings:

- Host countries can be prepared for the impact of forced displacement, because it generally takes 4 year for a crisis to build.
- Impacts for host community mostly show on the local level: aggravating existing challenges, straining social services.
- Most displaced suffer from loss and trauma, women and girls face particular challenges, and jobs are a necessary part of recovery.
- Successful refugee interventions should not always be result in 'return' but should be centred on overcoming vulnerabilities.

- Recovery takes time: In the EU it takes 15 years for refugees to reach the employment level of an economic migrant.
- Legal status is a problem, even though restricting the rights of the displaced does often not help the hosts.

Recommendations:

- Provide more data and evidence. However, the difficulties of collecting accurate data, particularly in situations of mass displacement should not be discounted. National statisticians should be included in this process.
- Try to prepare countries for influx of refugees before arrival and address long-standing development issues during crisis.
- Facilitate the right to work and freedom of movement for displaced.
- Support service delivery through country systems.
- Aim for successful return or integration to reduce time in "limbo".
- Social cohesion should be one of the key goals of programming in host communities.
- Complement humanitarian financing with development financing, development should be seen as an investment not a compensation and push for evidence of cost-effectiveness.
- Make use of alternative and innovative financing solutions (private sector inclusion, policy financing) complementing to concessional terms and additional resources.
- The distinction between migrants and forcibly displaced people must be maintained – while groupings may overlap and movements may occur simultaneously, they have distinct needs for support and require appropriate interventions.
- Forcibly displaced are people in extreme situations that require particular treatment and can benefit from combining humanitarian and development approaches.
- Displaced people easily fall "off the radar" -particularly in urban settings. This creates a lack of critical analysis that is essential to de-mystify the impact refugees have on their host communities.
- Making differentiations based on status is often necessary, as refugees have specific vulnerabilities.
- Return is often an unlikely solution for refugee situations, options and policies need to be rethought accordingly.
- Enlarge the policy dialogue with host countries incorporating different ministries e.g. Finance, Health etc. to engage more people in the topic.

Discussion

Are there any best practices that can be highlighted?

The WB pointed towards a survey to be published next month on labour participation in Lebanon and Kurdish Iraq that stresses the importance of legal access to labour. It noted that there are evident differences in pay scales in Lebanon, where refugees are not allowed to work legally, and in Kurdish Iraq, where they are. It was noted that refugees will work, regardless of whether or not it is legal – they will find ways to access the informal sector. It is therefore recommended to provide them with legal rights in order to be able to regulate labour markets.

To what extent is it feasible to integrate different parts of host governments into the dialogue?

This measure should be seen as a process in order to change the dynamics of discussions and engage a greater spectrum of people. Political dynamics cannot be neglected. Refugees are generally seen as citizens of other countries, which is why national spending is often not allocated for them. It is also acknowledged that capacities of host governments vary greatly. South Sudan is not the same as Jordan. UNHCR noted that many developing countries have set up parallel systems e.g. Commission for Refugee Affairs to the UN – a phenomenon that can be termed ‘isomorphic mimicry’. These entities are normally weak and do not have the same access to resources as technical ministries e.g. Finance, Education, Health etc. hence the need to engage more with the latter.

What is the role of cash-based interventions in the context of the humanitarian/development nexus?

CBIs are a more dignified tool than traditional in-kind donations and UNHCR is trying to move away from the latter. The CBI project in Jordan was described in detail. However, UNHCR noted that it is important to define the ultimate goal of CBIs – is it to help people integrate or is it basic support provided to keep people from heightened vulnerability. In most cases at present, it is the latter.

How appropriate is the status-base vs. the needs based approach?

The World Bank noted that early integration of displaced into national systems is favourable. The status based approach can be difficult because it is hard to define an end to a status, while an end to a need can be defined more easily. It was noted that people can be displaced multiple times, moving from one status to another, can strategically define themselves as refugees (particularly in border areas) in order to access benefits related to this status, and many will never return e.g. Colombia.

DAC is discussing viability of 12 month rule for ODA reporting of in-donor contributions. How does this tie in to today’s duration of displacement being 4 years?

Figures should always be analysed. 4 years is a result of the Syrian displacement. Average duration is much longer. It should also be noted that every time the duration of displacement decreases, this is an indication of a crisis, as it points to recent large scale displacements. It is counter-intuitive - a number that might appear to be an indication of improvement, actually indicated deteriorating situation.

How can the DAC contribute further to this discussion?

It is recommended that the DAC should speak with one voice on the issue of forcibly displaced and should strengthen their agenda on resilience, with a focus on mitigating consequences for host countries by anticipating large movements of people.

Can integration capacity be affected by trauma experienced by refugees?

This is a much neglected area, and few countries offer adequate support even though it is very much recognised that psychological support for displaced should be available and would contribute to preparing them to successfully join the workforce.