About the DAC

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is a unique international forum of many of the largest funders of aid, with an existing membership of 30 countries. The Committee monitors development finance flows, reviews and provides guidance on development co-operation policies, and helps shape the global development architecture.

About the Guidance

At the 2016 DAC High Level Meeting, participants recognised that there was a need for comprehensive co-ordinated international responses to address large-scale and often protracted forced displacement. They emphasized that in situations of protracted crises, development co-operation providers needed to develop models for co-ordination and planning between development and humanitarian actors and host countries, to make official development assistance (ODA) more effective.

This guidance was developed with the support of the DAC Temporary Working Group on Refugees and Migration. It provides clear and practical direction to donor staff seeking to mainstream responses to forced displacement into development planning and co-operation. The guidance will also assist other key stakeholders to better understand donor priorities and responses in situations of forced displacement, and should enable delivery partners to work alongside donors with greater insight and improved efficiency.

"Far from a problem, refugees can and should be part of the solution to many of the challenges our societies confront. They bring hope: the hope of a better life and a better future for their children and ours"

Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General

Addressing Forced Displacement through Development Planning and Co-operation

Guidance for Policy Makers and Practitioners

OECD

THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE:
ENABLING EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT

Development Co-operation and Forced Displacement

The guidance draws on findings compiled from an extensive literature review, as well as exchanges with key stakeholders including donors, host governments, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, civil society organisations, international financial institutions and the private sector.

While recognising that donor policies and responses are constantly evolving, the guidance proposes that donors responding to situations of forced displacement prioritise three broad areas of work:

- Strengthening co-ordination by creating a shared space where both development and humanitarian actors can co-exist.

- Enhancing the capacity and willingness of states to meet their responsibilities to protect and find solutions for refugees and IDPs, including through the integration of responses to forced displacement into regional, national and local development plans.

- Supporting inclusive, durable and resilience-driven solutions which build upon the potential for displaced people and host communities to contribute to local growth, recovery and development.

With this in mind, the guidance identifies twelve actions, grouped under four key principles, outlining what donors can do to reinforce the capacities of key actors to respond to refugees and IDPs at the national, regional and global levels, and to advance comprehensive solutions.

Principle 1

Increasing understanding through context analysis, assessing and managing risk, and prioritization

Actions:

1. Invest in Better Context Analysis
Invest in new skills and staffing and incentivise better knowledge-sharing

2. Assess and Manage Risk
Improve capacity to understand and anticipate different types of risks to facilitate adaptive programming

3. Ensure Rigorous Prioritisation
Make the right choices based on comprehensive context and risk analysis

Principle 2

Learning through experience by institutionalising learning from failure and translating knowledge into practice.

Actions:

4. Formalise Learning
Invest in expertise, standardisation and innovation to support quality data collection and analysis

5. Learn From Failure
Be transparent about challenges and opportunities. Identify what works and what does not work

6. Translate Knowledge into Practice
Promote data accessibility and use quality evidence to guide operational decisions and policy formulation

Principle 3

Strengthening partnerships by prioritising capacity-building and supporting people-centred and value-driven partnerships

Actions:

7. People-Centred and Community-Driven Programming
Support local actors at the national, sub-national and local level to participate in decision-making processes

8. Build Capacities across Stakeholders
Enhance donor field presence, incentivise dialogue, define progress and success in capacity-building efforts

9. Recognise the Strategic Value of Different Partnerships
Adapt partnerships on the basis of needs, context and comparative advantage

Principle 4

Delivering the 'right' finance by ensuring predictability, alignment and accountability

Actions:

10. Predictability and Flexibility
Adapt planning timelines to support quick reaction and encourage flexible budget management

11. Better Alignment
Align funding with national development plans and work through national / local actors where appropriate

12. More Accountability
Reinforce capacity to report on and track development and humanitarian funding streams

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