TOWARDS A DEVELOPMENT APPROACH: MANAGING CHANGES FOR HOST COMMUNITIES

Helidah Ogude, Young Professional/Social Development Specialist
Joanna De Berry, Snr. Social Development Specialist
How can host countries and communities be best supported in their own development efforts, when their circumstances are transformed by an influx of forcibly displaced?
Overview

1. A Framework to Understand Impacts on Hosts: Initial conditions; the magnitude and nature of the ‘shock’; and the policy and investment response

2. Fragility and National Security
   Social Cohesion
   Local Impacts on Jobs and Prices
   Local Impacts on Service Delivery
   The Environment

3. An Agenda for Development Actors

A Framework to Understand Impacts on Hosts
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1. Initial Conditions in host country
   - Unemployment rate, inter-group relations etc.

2. The magnitude and nature of the flow of people
   - Population size, demographic composition etc.

3. Policy and Investment Response of governments and others
   - Encampment policy, right to work etc.
A Framework to Understand Impacts on Hosts

- **Demographic shock**

- Relatively rapid (and sometimes abrupt) increase in population, which disrupts preexisting equilibria

- **Temporary disorganization** (at least at local level), which often negatively affects the host community

- **Mismatches in demand and supply** in a number of markets, such as for services and jobs

- **Alters balances across ethnic or social groups** within host communities (appease or exacerbate social tensions)

- Passage of time, the shock is absorbed, some positive outcomes emerge, and new equilibria set in
Overview of Impacts:

Fragility

Social Cohesion
Do the forcibly displaced spread conflict to host countries and communities?

82 Countries 1991-2014 +25,000

68% Did not experience any conflict

32% Forced displacement was a consequence not a cause of conflict

Only in exceptional circumstances. The presence of refugees mainly exacerbates preexisting factors of fragility.
Fragility

991 country-year episodes

8

Cases in which refugees inflow may have caused conflict

In all of these cases, there were exceptional circumstances:

Initial conditions:
• Multiple preexisting factors of fragility (high fragility, ethnic fragmentation, political exclusion, weak legitimacy of the government)

Magnitude and nature of shock:
• Refugee flows were large compared with the host population (typically above 3 percent) and mixed with militarized elements, and
• There were strong ethnic affiliations with parts of the host countries and ethnic difference was politicized

Policy response
• In all cases where their presence contributed to igniting a conflict, a large majority of refugees were accommodated in camps
Two dimensions: *within* host communities, and *between* host communities and the forcibly displaced
An Agenda for Development Actors
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Development Actors should engage in several areas:

**A** Help deal with pre-existing issues through “traditional” development programs:
- e.g. high degree of fragility, a poor business environment, an inadequate social protection system, a limited access to services

**B** Support the most vulnerable among the hosts and those who are negatively affected
1) identify the groups who may require support, 2) evaluate their vulnerabilities and their coping strategies, 3) assess the political economy, and 4) select entry points to provide assistance; Emphasis should be on labor market interventions & social protection programs

**C** Help strengthen and expand service delivery
- a supply response that can match the increased demand caused for social, urban and environmental services; requires major investment, as well as sustained support for operations and maintenance

**D** Support sound policies on right to work, free movement, and aid delivery, where possible
- Support an agenda of free movement and participation in the labor market
- Aid agencies should support forcibly displaced and host communities
- Gradual transition of aid delivery mechanisms towards using country systems
World Bank Case Studies
Development approaches to forced displacement should, as far as is possible, base objectives and design on evidence.

Recognize the regional interdependencies between countries dealing with forced displacement, which necessitates a regional and collaborative approach, where possible.

Self-reliance requires a conducive legal and policy framework including rights to freedom of movement, access to finance and participation in governance systems.

The impacts of forced displacement on hosting communities and countries should be recognized and mitigated. Therefore, investing in and promoting jobs, livelihood opportunities and wealth creation for host communities to address the underlying poverty in, and vulnerability of, host communities is critical.

Interventions with emphasis on community consultation and participation have proven to help support social cohesion, foster inclusion of marginalized groups, and contribute to decentralization.
Thanks