Lessons from World Bank Group Support in Situations Involving Conflict-Induced Displacement

The world is currently witnessing the largest forced displacement crisis on record. Lessons from World Bank Group operations in refugee and host communities can help the Bank Group improve outcomes to achieve the overarching objective of the 19th Replenishment of IDA.

Involving Conflict-Induced Displacement

Selection of key findings and lessons from the evaluation

The scale of IDA support during and after conflict has been unprecedented. For example, the Window for Refugees and Host Communities has contributed $37.5 billion ($28.7 million in IDA and $9.8 billion in IBRD) to support 11 million refugees and 13 million host community residents during its decade-long operation, with multiyear financing—including through the Window for Refugees and Host Communities.

Evidence suggests the need for greater synergies between the Fragility, Conflict, and Violence Global Theme and the Gender Global Theme.

COVID-19 and the Pandemic Response

Early evaluation of the financial support and the Bank’s will to learn lessons during the pandemic underscores the need for cross-country learning from member states to transition to more progressive policies and institutional changes.

The Ethiopia Economic Opportunities Program-for-Results learned from a similar project in Jordan that had multiple improvements that could be used to mobilize private capital for situations involving the long-term displaced. For example, discussions with stakeholders to establish policies and institutional changes that would enable refugees to access markets and services, and improve the livelihood opportunities and resilience of refugees and host communities.

Women, women, and girls.

Gender and displacement are inextricably linked, and women, who face gender-based violence and other specific challenges in forced displacement situations, experience forced displacement differently. Women and girls require targeted interventions to develop and implement innovative and context-specific approaches to encourage business development for refugees (including women) and integrate them into host communities.

Studies of forced displacement are often in silos and marginal refugee assistance in local contexts, but displacement is often an interconnected problem. The Bank’s efforts to create entry points to engage in dialogue related to IDPs have been limited due to the success of the “window” approach.

The government’s Refugee Proclamation that aims to improve the quality of life and opportunities by providing work permits to refugees, and increase educational and social services available to refugees, including women, has been an important milestone.

Evidence suggests that women’s economic empowerment is constrained. To address situations of forced displacement, IDA countries need capacity building and increased political support along with its ability to link financing to reforms has helped improve refugee and host community outcomes. The key to long-term displacement is to build on lessons from prior engagements.

The Philippines

Innovative entry points encourage private sector development.

Innovative entry points encourage private sector development. For example, the Window for Refugees and Host Communities supports a balanced approach to secure livelihoods, promote socioeconomic inclusion, and ensure access to basic services that are needed for the displaced to settle in countries and regions of origin.

In the Philippines, the government is piloting an employment scheme that requires adequate childcare arrangements to support a balanced approach to secure livelihoods, promote socioeconomic inclusion, and ensure access to basic services that are needed for the displaced to settle in countries and regions of origin.

IDRs Commitments for Situations of Conflict-Induced Displacement by Fiscal Year, FY11-FY17

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Commitments ($, millions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY11-FY17</td>
<td>0, 450, 900, 1800</td>
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Note: Totaled $4.4 billion. The increase in financial support reflects the Bank Group’s new approach to forced displacement. Between FY00 and FY17, IDA financial support for refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and others supported by IDA countries increased from $1.5 billion to $4.4 billion. The evaluation found that the Bank Group’s new approach helped improve outcomes to achieve the overarching objective of the 19th Replenishment of IDA.