

# Preventing Social Conflict and Promoting Social Cohesion in Forced Displacement Contexts

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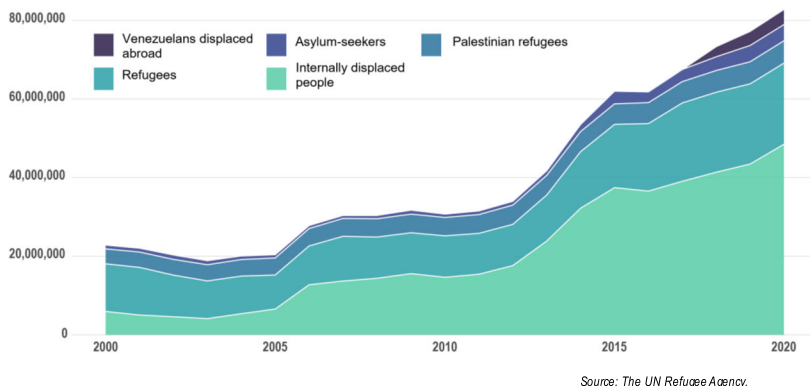


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Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement

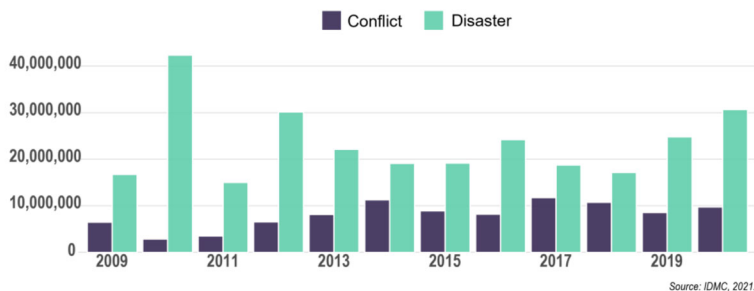
# Forced displacement is increasing and changing; more research is needed to understand the impacts on social cohesion

Displacement Trends Over Time



New Displacements Over Time, By Cause

Estimated number of internal displacements to have taken place in a given year. Figures include individuals displaced more than once.



- The share of the world’s population that has been forcibly displaced because of conflict, political violence, persecution, and political, economic, and environmental crises **grew from 1 in 167 in 2012 to 1 in 88 in 2021**. Currently, over 100 million people are displaced.
- Between 2009 and 2020, disasters—such as **floods, droughts, earthquakes, and extreme temperatures**—drove a larger proportion of **internal displacement than conflict**.
- The **war in Ukraine forced over one-third of the population to flee their homes**. As of August 2022, 6.9 million Ukrainians have left the country and are still residing in other European countries and an additional 6.98 million people were displaced within Ukraine.
- **Forced displacement may undermine or strengthen social cohesion**, including through the trauma or mobilization effects of the displacement experience, its impact on social ties and economic and human capital accumulation, and the perception or reality of the impacts of population inflows on goods, services, markets, jobs, and the environment.

## *Building evidence on how to promote social cohesion in displacement contexts*



How can development investments and policies reduce inequalities, alleviate social tensions, and promote social cohesion between and within displaced populations and host communities?



26 background papers from eminent academics



Covering countries across Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and Europe

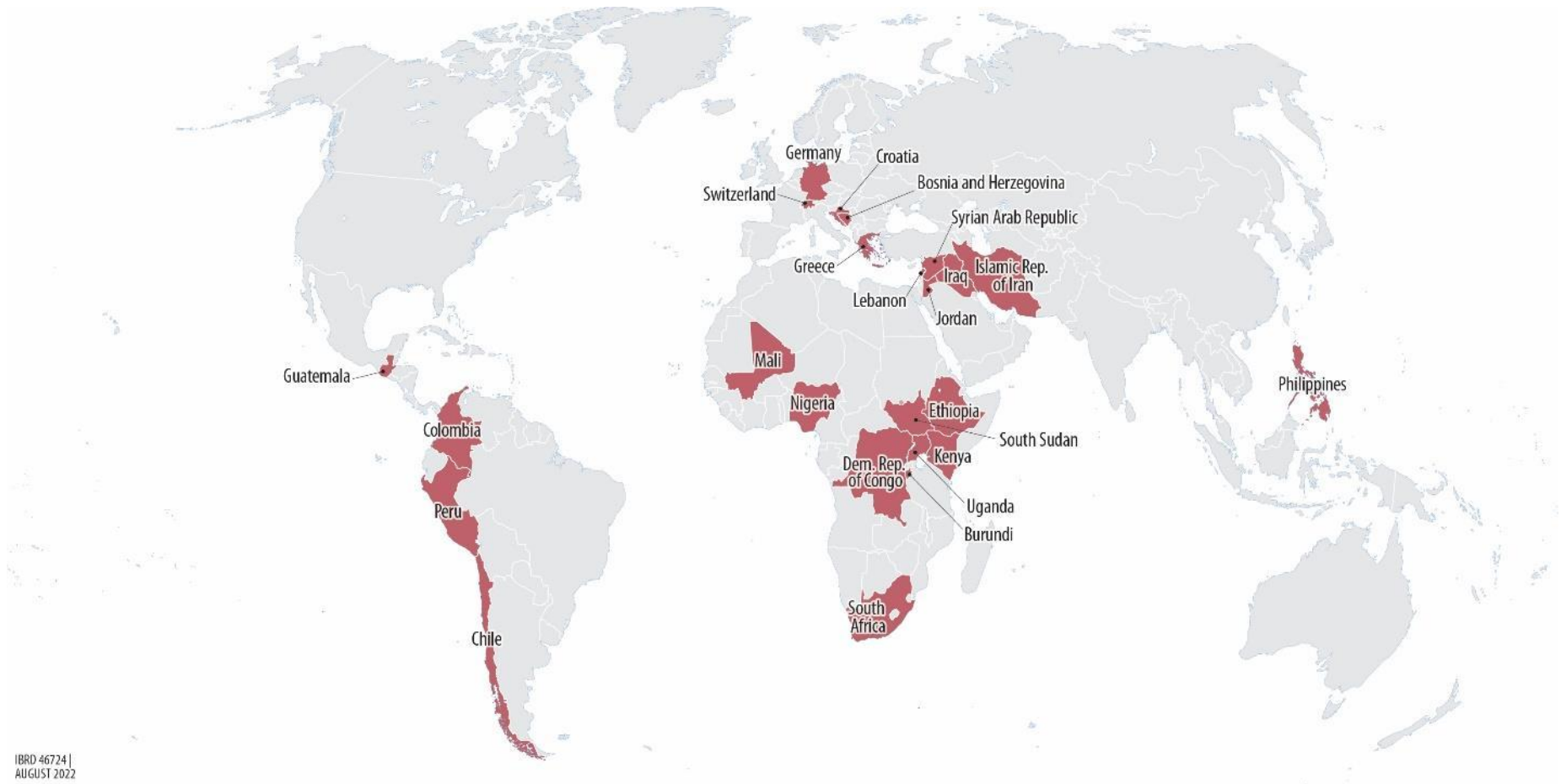


Variety of research designs: natural and survey experiments; sub-national and cross-national regression analysis; qualitative case studies



1 global report to synthesize the findings

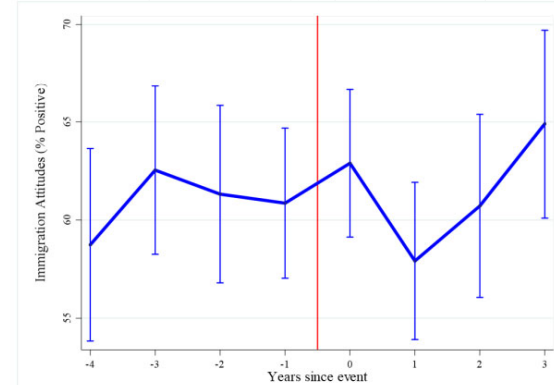
## *Countries covered by the background papers*



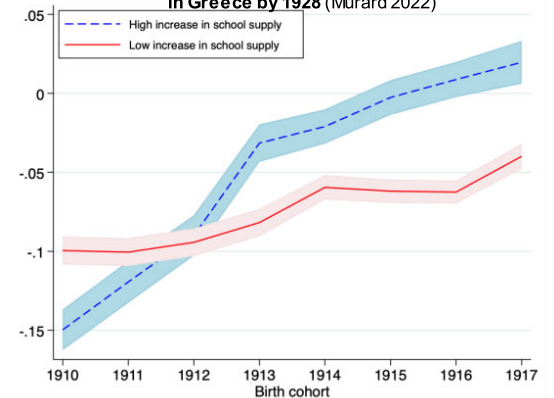
## Selected findings from the 26 background papers (published in the WB's Policy Research Working Paper Series)

- [Aksoy & Ginn](#) (Global): There is **no evidence that large refugee arrivals negatively affect host community attitudes towards refugees**. Having more inclusive policies (e.g. refugee access to the labor market) does not negatively affect host community attitudes towards refugees.
- [Zhou, Grossman, Ge](#) (Uganda): **Host communities with more exposure to refugee settlements experience substantial improvements in the provision of public goods and services**. Proximity to refugee settlements does not affect attitudes towards migrants or migration policy.
- [Groeger, León-Cilotta, Stillman](#) (Peru): **Inflows of Venezuelans in Peru led to better labor market outcomes for locals**, decreased reported crime, as well as improved reported quality of local services, and greater trust in neighbors.
- [Foltz & Shibuya](#) (Mali): **Wealth, inequality, and poverty are comparable across IDP-hosting and non-IDP hosting households and communities**. Household consumption may even increase more in IDP-hosting communities compared to non-IDP hosting communities. This may be due to successful government and development investments.
- [Murard](#) (Greece): **Policies that promoted the integration of refugees into the community contributed to long term social cohesion in Greece**. These policies included: granting farmland, building new houses and schools, and providing citizenship
- [Walk, Garimella, Christia](#) (Syria): The paper **uses social media text and image data to evaluate return decisions among Syrian refugees**. Areas with more return have more discussion of services and the economy whereas areas with less return have more discussion of violence.

There is no change in attitudes towards migrants after a large arrival of refugees (Aksoy & Ginn 2022)



Building schools in areas where refugees settle helped eliminate the literacy gap between refugee and native men in Greece by 1928 (Murard 2022)



## *Global report synthesizes research into 5 themes*

- 1 Displacement directly affects social cohesion outcomes among *the displaced*
- 2 Displacement affects social cohesion outcomes by shaping the attitudes and behavior of *host communities*
- 3 Pre-existing socioeconomic conditions and attitudes in host communities moderate how displacement affects social cohesion
- 4 The presence of displaced populations in host communities drives socioeconomic conditions and behaviors that affect social cohesion
- 5 Policy interventions designed to influence the economic and security conditions of refugees and host populations affect social cohesion

## *Key takeaways from the synthesis report*



Displacement can worsen inequalities and create new inequalities and the potential for conflict, especially in areas with strained services and limited economic opportunities.



Inclusive policies and development investments can mitigate the negative effects of displacement and promote social cohesion.



Multi-sectoral investments paired with participatory decision-making involving both the displaced and host communities can help ensure that the investments address the highest priorities and promote social cohesion.



Needs vary across the short- and long-term and across urban and rural and camp and non-camp settings.

## *Policy recommendations (1-4)*

1. In line with the United Nations' Global Compact on Refugees, provide refugees the right to work, freedom of movement, access to social services, civil and birth registration, and right to accommodation.
2. Ensure that humanitarian assistance and development investments target both displaced persons and host communities.
3. Invest in infrastructure and services to meet the increased demand due to population shocks and use these investments to also address existing vulnerabilities in host communities.
4. Near-term relief and assistance should be provided to both host communities and displaced persons following displacement to offset negative externalities on prices and jobs.





## *Policy recommendations (5-8)*

5. Provide relevant support such as mental health services for the trauma endured during displacement, ongoing social assistance to address hardships, and legal assistance to recover property and obtain documents to address displaced persons' longer-term well-being and self-reliance.
6. Tailor investments to the unique needs of urban and rural areas hosting the displaced, which may include labor market integration and housing support in urban areas and access to land, income-generating opportunities, infrastructure, and services in rural areas.
7. Employ participatory approaches, trained facilitators, and public messaging to promote positive interactions and empathy between host residents and displaced persons.
8. Pair multisectoral investments with participatory approaches to ensure investments address the needs of displaced persons and host communities.



*Stay tuned for the launch event on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
Visit our [webpage](#) for more info.*

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## *Annex: overview of all background papers (1 of 2)*

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Country/region</b>	<b>Population(s) studied</b>	<b>Methods and data</b>	<b>Issue/policy studied (main independent variable)</b>
Agüero & Fasola	South Africa	Refugees & immigrants	Regression discontinuity design (RDD) using survey data	Cash transfers
Aksoy & Ginn	Low- and middle-income countries with large refugee populations	Refugees	DiD using data from numerous sources (Gallup World Poll, UNHCR data, etc.)	Exclusionary & inclusionary refugee policies
Albarosa & EsIner	Germany	Refugees & immigrants	DiD using survey data and violent event data based on newspaper articles, police reports, etc.	Refugee inflow
Allen et al.	Burundi	Refugees	Instrumental variables (IV) estimation using survey data	Refugee return
Bertinilli et al.	23 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa	Refugees	Ordinary least squares (OLS) and IV using multiple observational sources (ACLED, Afrobarometer, UNHCR data, etc.)	Refugee-driven ethnic polarization and ethnic fractionalization
Betts et al.	Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda	Refugees	OLS, IV, and qualitative methods using survey data	Host-refugee interactions; ethno-linguistic proximity between hosts and refugees
Bove et al.	South Sudan	IDPs	IV using survey data	Presence of UN peacekeepers
Coniglio et al.	Africa	Refugees	Matching using geo-coded event data from GDELT and geo-located data from UNHCR	Presence of refugee camps
Denny et al.	Guatemala	Deportees	Natural experiment using survey data	Extortion during migration
Ferguson et al.	Jordan and Lebanon	Refugees	Quasi-experimental data	Co-educational vocational training interventions
Foltz & Shibuya	Mali	IDPs	DiD, IV, propensity score matching using survey, census, and geo-located event data	IDP presence
Groeger et al.	Peru	Refugees & immigrants	IV using multiple sources of data (surveys, census, Google trends, etc.)	Employment in the informal sector
Hoseini & Dideh	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Refugees	Natural experiment using survey data	Economic shocks

## *Annex: overview of all background papers (2 of 2)*

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Country/region</b>	<b>Population(s) studied</b>	<b>Methods and data</b>	<b>Issue/policy studied (main independent variable)</b>
Kaplan	Colombia	IDPs & conflict-affected individuals	Regression, matching, interviews & focus groups using surveys and interviews	Conflict exposure
Kovac et al.	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia	IDPs, refugees, migrants	OLS using survey data	Conflict exposure
Meneses & Villamizar-Chaparro	Chile	Immigrants	OLS and RDD using administrative data	Financial aid for education
Müller et al.	Switzerland	Refugees	Natural experiment using administrative data	Employment
Murard	Greece	Refugees	OLS using survey and census data	Concerted policy efforts to integrate refugees
Parry & Aymerich	Iraq	IDPs	Case study using semi-structured interview data	Local peace agreements
Pham et al.	Congo, Dem. Rep.	IDPs & refugees	OLS using surveys and focus groups	Presence of refugees and IDPs
Ruiz, & Vargas-Silva	Colombia	Refugees & immigrants	Conjoint experiment using survey data	Host–refugee interactions, host attitudes toward refugees
Šedová et al.	Nigeria	IDPs	Two-way fixed effects and IV using numerous observational data sources (ACLED event data, World Bank data, etc.)	Presence of IDPs
Tellez & Balcells	Colombia	IDPs	Matching on observables using survey data	Displacement
Vinck et al.	Colombia, Iraq, Philippines, Uganda	IDPs	Logistic regression using survey data	Displacement
Walk et al.	Syrian Arab Republic	IDPs & refugees	Seeded models and predictive model with machine learning using geo-located social media data and survey data	IDP and refugee return
Zhou et al.	Uganda	Refugees	OLS using numerous sources of geo-located data (UNHCR refugee settlements, data on road quality, location of schools, health clinics, and health-related aid projects)	Exposure to refugee settlements