

## **Working Document**

### **PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO SOLUTIONS FOR INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT:**

### **RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION AND ASSETS RECOVERY: A PATHWAY TO RESILIENCE FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATIONS**

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## 1. Introduction

The global landscape is increasingly marked by fragility, conflict, violence and climate-related shocks, forcing millions to leave their homes. These interconnected crises disproportionately impact the poorest populations, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and development challenges.

Internal displacement is a rapidly growing phenomenon, with 75.9 million people internally displaced globally—a 50% increase in the last 5 years.<sup>1</sup> Low and middle-income countries, which host over 80% of forcibly displaced persons, face the dual burden of pre-existing development challenges<sup>2</sup> and displacement-induced vulnerabilities, including heightened poverty. However, internal displacement can also affect high income countries, such as Canada and New Zealand.<sup>3</sup> In some instances, displacement becomes protracted, lasting years or even decades, as seen in Colombia, Somalia, and Sudan. While no country is immune to the issue, the long-term impacts are particularly severe in nations facing significant development challenges and limited capacities for response and planning.

Conflict and disasters remain the primary drivers of displacement, although climate-related displacement is rising sharply, with disaster-related displacements marking the second-highest annual figure since the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) began tracking this metric in 2019. Projections by the World Bank suggest that climate change could displace up to 216 million people by 2050.<sup>4</sup> Vulnerable populations are the most affected by such shocks and often lack the capacity to recover, pointing to the critical need for development-centered solutions. Addressing internal displacement thus requires coordinated, multi-level efforts that focus on long-term development actions and financing mechanisms.

In 2022, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched the **Action Agenda (AA) on Internal Displacement** following recommendations from a High-Level Panel.<sup>5</sup> Informed from the UN's Common Agenda, the Call to Action for Human Rights, and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the AA sets out three interconnected goals:

1. **Help IDPs find durable solutions** to their displacement.
2. **Prevent new displacement crises** from emerging.
3. **Ensure effective protection and assistance** for those facing displacement.

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<sup>1</sup> IDMC Grid Report, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Social and economic inequality and marginalization, uneven access and coverage of services like health and education, significant rates of labor informality, among others.

<sup>3</sup> IDMC, Grid Report 2024, climate and disaster related.

<sup>4</sup> [World Bank Groundswell Report, 2021](#).

<sup>5</sup> Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future. Available at: <https://internaldisplacement-panel.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/HLP-report-WEB.pdf>

The AA underscores the urgency of transitioning from a predominantly humanitarian response to a development-oriented approach. It emphasizes internal displacement as a priority for development, peace and climate action.<sup>6</sup> This involves embedding internal displacement within broader development policies and promoting national leadership, with support from the UN system.

### Purpose and contribution

Transitioning to development-oriented solutions for internal displacement is widely recognized as a critical step forward. However, there remains a need for insights and tools to support development and poverty actors in incorporating internal displacement into policy design. A key starting point is understanding the specific vulnerabilities faced by IDPs and how these intersect with pre-existing challenges that hinder long-term wellbeing.

Comprehensive legal and policy frameworks, alongside evidence-based programs, are essential for addressing the needs of forcibly displaced persons. These solutions must promote durable outcomes, including pathways out of poverty and successful integration into hosting communities (Ibañez et al., 2022) as well as in terms of returns. Achieving this requires government leadership, supported by a range of actors, policies, and capacities aligned with shared goals.<sup>7</sup>

To contribute to these efforts, the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement along with UNDP developed this guiding document with the following objectives:

- **Generate evidence-based analysis** to guide development and poverty specialists integrating IDPs and wider displacement-affected communities into policy design and sectoral analysis.
- **Enhance understanding of the development dimensions** of internal displacement, including its links to poverty, and how policies can move people out of displacement and toward sustainable long-term solutions.
- **Enhance the capacities of development actors** to address internal displacement through adaptable policies and programs, by establishing or strengthening social protection systems.

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<sup>6</sup> The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement Follow-Up to the Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, June 2022. Available at: [https://www.un.org/en/content/action-agenda-on-internal-displacement/assets/pdf/Action-Agenda-on-Internal-Displacement\\_EN.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/content/action-agenda-on-internal-displacement/assets/pdf/Action-Agenda-on-Internal-Displacement_EN.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Ensuring government engagement and leadership can be challenging as in some cases, it is precisely the government that is producing or enabling displacement to occur in the first place. This analysis assumes that governments are willing to engage in solutions to internal displacement.

- **Develop actionable policy recommendations** for designing and implementing socio-economic policies that support durable solutions, poverty reduction, and resilience.

This document targets development practitioners, including governments, working in poverty reduction and socio-economic policy and planning. It builds on existing efforts to concretely define development-oriented approaches to solutions<sup>8</sup> and offers: (1) a two-pronged framework of more **responsive social protection instruments** anchored in an asset-based approach to address internal displacement holistically; (2) **country case studies** that illustrate the analysis; and (3) a **set of strategic policy recommendations** to inform practice. Following the Action Agenda starting point that more of the same is not enough, with this effort, the aim is to provide alternative entry points to addressing internal displacement through a combination of multisectoral, responsive interventions rooted in well-defined frameworks that can better inform responses.

This document leverages case studies from two countries to analyze displacement drivers and dynamics of asset loss. It focuses on identifying the vulnerabilities faced by IDPs and the interventions needed to accelerate pathways towards solutions. The analysis is complemented with case studies and examples that illustrate asset-loss dynamics in the context of displacement to provide insights that can enhance analytical frameworks and approaches into the issue of internal displacement.

The document proceeds as follows: section 2 looks at the relationship between development, poverty and displacement as a way to highlight dynamics that produce and exacerbate vulnerabilities; section 3 puts forward the conceptual framework for the analysis through a two-pronged approach of asset-base and social protection responses; section 4 details the asset-based approach and its relevance for addressing internal displacement through the building and strengthening of income-generating assets of IDPs; section 5 expands on social protection as a starting point to anchor responsive instruments to address the multidimensional nature of displacement and promote long-term solutions; section 6 illustrates the socioeconomic impacts of displacement in two countries through five key asset categories—human capital, physical assets, financial assets, social capital, and natural assets—and proposes possible pathways toward resilience for IDPs with responsive social protection; section 7 provides insight into how to rebuild critical assets; section 8 discusses guidelines for incorporating internal displacement in development policies, and the last section, delivers concluding remarks.

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<sup>8</sup> See World Bank 2017 for a development approach to forced displacement; UNDP 2021, Political economic to promote development approaches to internal displacement.

## 2. Development, poverty and displacement

Internal displacement is a multidimensional shock that disrupts the lives of individuals, communities, and countries. Primarily driven by conflict, violence, and disasters, it poses a significant challenge to development by exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and creating new ones. Displacement often pushes individuals into deeper poverty or exclusion, while limiting their opportunities for recovery. IDPs, though citizens of their countries and entitled to public services, can sometimes face invisibility<sup>9</sup> or exclusion, hindering their reintegration into productive activities.

According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, IDPs are “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border.”

While internal displacement can occur anywhere, its impacts are particularly severe in contexts with pre-existing development challenges such as high levels of social and economic inequality, marginalization, limited access to essential services like health and education, and high levels of informality.<sup>10</sup> These factors exacerbate patterns of marginalization and disadvantage, creating lasting effects that compound vulnerabilities for displaced populations. Understanding the specific vulnerabilities that IDPs face—particularly how these interact with structural gaps—is essential for designing development-focused and adequately financed solutions that address both immediate needs and long-term resilience.

Displacement is closely linked with poverty, as it erodes productive, social, and psychological capacities.<sup>11</sup> For instance, in **Colombia**, monetary poverty affected 51.6% of IDPs in 2022 compared to 34.7% of non-victims (UARIV, 2023). Similarly, multidimensional poverty among IDPs stood at 21.4%, significantly higher than the national average of 12.9%.

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<sup>9</sup> This can be related to limited data collection mechanisms that enable the identification of IDPs, as well as contextual issues such as ethnic and cultural minorities. Mitra (2022) argues that IDPs are often considered ‘hardest to reach’ and frequently fail to be accounted for in public health programs. Several reasons are attributed to this lack of visibility: statelessness, state persecution, lack of address, and being constantly on the move, social fear, as well as psychological trauma, politicisation or stigmatization of IDP issues, cultural challenges, knowledge gaps, and lack of institutional capability.

<sup>10</sup> Kirsten Schuettler and Quy-Toan Do, [Outcomes for Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees in Low and middle-income countries](#), World Bank Group. For more detailed information of specific indicators, see the [WDI](#) for countries with large internally displaced persons. See also UNDP’s [Human Development Reports](#) and Human Development Indices.

<sup>11</sup> Ibañez et al, Promoting Recovery and Resilience for Internally Displaced persons: lessons from Colombia, 2022.

The disparity is starker in low-income countries. For example, in **Central African Republic** (CAR), where over 68.8% of the population lives under the national poverty line, poverty rates among IDPs are higher, particularly for IDPs living in camps, where it reaches 76.3%.<sup>12</sup> Similar trends are evident in **Yemen**, where 80% of IDPs live in poverty compared to 48% of non-displaced people, and in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, where 77% of IDPs live in poverty compared to 64% of the non-displaced population (GRID Report 2024).

A similar pattern emerges with more comprehensive measures such as multidimensional poverty that focus on overlapping deprivations. In countries like Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan, a multidimensional poverty index tailored to capture unique deprivations that IDPs face found that IDPs generally experienced higher levels of multidimensional poverty than host communities (World Bank, 2021), illustrating exclusions beyond income.

Women and children, who comprise over half of the world's IDPs, face heightened vulnerabilities.<sup>13</sup> Women, in particular, many times encounter greater challenges in securing livelihoods, accessing shelter, and obtaining healthcare and education. At the end of 2023, nearly half of all IDPs due to conflict and violence were women and girls. Among them, there were approximately 4.2 million girls under five, 5.4 million aged 5–11, and 17 million women aged 18–59.

**Table 1. Age and sex distribution of IDPs by conflict and disaster drivers**

Sex	0-4	5-11	12-17	18-59	60+
<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>9,657,539</b>	<b>12,360,854</b>	<b>9,692,926</b>	<b>38,176,669</b>	<b>6,014,156</b>
Conflict	8,738,330	11,127,281	8,734,698	34,246,757	5,390,214
Disaster	919,209	1,233,573	958,228	3,929,912	623,942
<b>Female</b>	<b>4,742,047</b>	<b>6,073,529</b>	<b>4,763,632</b>	<b>19,119,400</b>	<b>3,424,036</b>
Conflict	4,292,282	5,470,459	4,295,646	17,165,851	3,082,665
Disaster	449,765	603,070	467,986	1,953,549	341,371
<b>Male</b>	<b>4,915,492</b>	<b>6,287,325</b>	<b>4,929,294</b>	<b>19,057,269</b>	<b>2,590,120</b>
Conflict	4,446,048	5,656,822	4,439,052	17,080,906	2,307,549
Disaster	469,444	630,503	490,242	1,976,363	282,571

Source: IDMC 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Central African Republic Poverty Assessment 2023: A roadmap towards poverty reduction in the Central African Republic, World Bank. October 2023. How data can inform policy to address challenges faced by internally displaced people in the Central African Republic. Available at: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/african/how-data-can-inform-policy-address-challenges-faced-internally-displaced-people-central-african-republic>

<sup>13</sup> Secretary General's Action Agenda in Internal Displacement, 2022.

Internal displacement, like poverty, is not static. IDPs can experience displacement more than one time, and due to different drivers, which can hinder progress towards solutions. The same is true for poverty reduction trends, that can be reversed as a result of shocks.<sup>14</sup>

Since poverty—in many displacement settings—is a structural and pre-existing issue, it must be considered in the implementation of solutions to internal displacement. For example, war-induced displacement has reshaped poverty dynamics and exacerbated vulnerabilities, as illustrated in Box 3: Ukraine’s internal displacement and poverty dynamics amid war in section 7.

This alignment between internal displacement interventions and poverty reduction strategies is evident in many national approaches to durable solutions. For example, Somalia’s 2020–2024 durable solutions strategy explicitly links addressing displacement to accelerating nationwide poverty reduction.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, Mozambique’s 2024 action plan emphasizes prevention, early warning systems, and risk reduction as part of its broader poverty reduction efforts aimed at building resilience at all levels.<sup>16</sup> Central African Republic’s new strategy also considers internal displacement as a strategic priority for the government's commitment to reducing poverty.

Internal displacement is closely tied to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly its central commitment to the “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) principle, which emphasizes prioritizing the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, addressing poverty, inequality, and exclusion in all their forms. Ensuring sustainable solutions for IDPs and their host communities is essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 on poverty eradication. Other goals are also relevant for internally displaced persons including those related to health, education, gender, climate change, sustainable cities, work and inequalities, peace and justice, just to mention a few. Without addressing internal displacement, many countries—already significantly behind in their SDG progress—risk falling further behind.

The gains made in poverty reduction are frequently jeopardized by displacement and its drivers. Thus, protecting these gains and enhancing resilience among vulnerable populations, particularly IDPs, is critical for enabling sustainable recovery. Addressing displacement-related vulnerabilities—such as loss of assets, documentation, and trauma—is essential. The *Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions*

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<sup>14</sup> More in: UNDP, 2018 Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean Multidimensional progress: well-being beyond income.

<sup>15</sup> Somalia’s [National Durable Solutions Strategy 2020–2024](#).

<sup>16</sup> Action Plan for the Policy and Strategy of Management of Internal Displacement (PEGDI). Forthcoming – set to be launched December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



outlines eight criteria that signal progress toward resolving displacement, including access to livelihoods, housing, and services.

**Figure 2. The eight criteria for achieving durable solutions to internal displacement**



Source: IASC

Achieving these durable solutions is a gradual process, centered on the right of IDPs to choose their future—whether returning to their homes, integrating locally, or settling elsewhere. It requires eliminating vulnerabilities associated with displacement and ensuring long-term socio-economic inclusion and resilience.<sup>17</sup> While access to livelihoods, restitution of housing and land, and adequate standards of living are critical, all eight IASC criteria are essential for fostering self-reliance and stability.

### 3. Conceptual framework

Internal displacement often results in the loss of critical assets, leaving individuals more vulnerable to poverty and marginalization (Ibañez et al., 2022). An asset-based approach offers a comprehensive framework for addressing these vulnerabilities by analyzing the interconnections between households' productive, social, and natural assets, along with the policy and risk context that shapes their livelihood strategies. This approach helps identify pathways out of poverty and promotes asset recovery and accumulation for upward mobility.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Framework on Durable Solution.

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

<sup>18</sup> See also Attanasio and Székely (1999) and Carter and Barrett (2006) for a conceptual discussion on the importance of assets endowments to generate income and escape poverty and poverty traps. For recent empirical evidence on the significance of asset accumulation in breaking poverty traps, see Balboni, et al. (2022), who highlight how targeted interventions to rebuild household assets, such as livestock or productive resources, can create lasting impacts on income generation and economic mobility, underscoring the importance of asset-based frameworks for poverty reduction and resilience building.

Sustainable poverty reduction requires understanding household asset portfolios and how they interact with external factors to influence livelihoods and well-being.<sup>19</sup> Policies focused on rebuilding these assets—productive, social, and natural—are essential for fostering the socio-economic integration of IDPs into host communities. The asset-based approach focuses on five primary forms of assets: human capital, financial and physical assets, social capital, and natural capital.<sup>20</sup>

Responsive social protection systems, when well-designed and integrated with complementary interventions, can help households prepare for, cope with, and recover from shocks, thereby contributing to greater resilience and potentially strengthening their asset base over time. They can incorporate critical elements like risk mapping, early warning systems, and scalability to target vulnerabilities and accelerate asset recovery. Risk mapping identifies geographic, socio-economic, and environmental vulnerabilities faced by IDPs, allowing for targeted interventions. Early warning systems enable policymakers to anticipate crises and implement pre-emptive measures such as cash transfers or temporary shelters to mitigate risks. The scalability of this framework allows for the rapid expansion of social protection during crises, transitioning from emergency relief to long-term recovery and helping IDPs rebuild financial and social capital.

#### **Box 1. Mapping risks and vulnerabilities of IDPs: Tools and strategies**

##### *Risk mapping and vulnerability assessments*

An integrated analysis of IDP vulnerabilities requires tools and methodologies that comprehensively capture the risks faced by displaced populations. These include: **geospatial mapping**, which utilizes geographic information systems (GIS) to identify displacement hotspots, track migration patterns, and assess environmental risks. For instance, GIS-based tools can overlay data on flood risks, drought conditions, and conflict zones to identify areas most at risk of displacement; **multidimensional poverty index (MPI)** to evaluate IDPs' vulnerabilities beyond monetary poverty. This approach considers deprivations across education, health, and living standards, providing a nuanced understanding of the socioeconomic challenges IDPs face. By disaggregating MPI data at the household or community level, policymakers can better target interventions; and **climate vulnerability** measures or indices to assess how climate-induced risks—such as rising temperatures, flooding, and drought—affect IDP populations. These measures can help identify regions where IDPs are most susceptible to future displacement, enabling preemptive planning and resource allocation.

##### *Integrated data systems*

Effective vulnerability assessments require robust data systems that integrate multiple datasets, including demographic data, displacement registries, and socioeconomic indicators. Linking

<sup>19</sup> Siegel, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3475, January 2005.

<sup>20</sup> Lopez Calva and Rodriguez-Castelán, “Pro-Growth Equity: A Policy Framework for the Twin Goals” World Bank 2016.

social registries with environmental risk databases enables policymakers to identify at-risk populations and tailor responses to their needs.

#### *Participatory approaches*

Community-based vulnerability assessments engage IDPs and host communities in identifying risks and needs. These participatory approaches ensure that assessments reflect ground realities and incorporate local knowledge. For instance, focus group discussions and participatory mapping exercises can uncover hidden vulnerabilities, such as gender-specific risks or barriers to accessing services. Importantly, they enable IDPs to engage in solutions and interventions that respond to their needs and choices.

Together, these tools and participatory methodologies provide a comprehensive basis for understanding the multifaceted vulnerabilities of IDPs, setting the stage for targeted interventions to rebuild assets and foster resilience.

**Note:** This approach to risk mapping and integrating vulnerability assessments draws on methodologies outlined in *Reflections on Adaptive Social Protection: A step forward to create resilience in LAC*, by UNDP's Inclusive Growth - Panama Regional Hub (forthcoming 2025).

Integrated and responsive systems are instrumental in transitioning IDPs from reliance on humanitarian aid to self-reliance. By addressing vulnerabilities and rebuilding key assets, these systems create pathways for poverty reduction and economic mobility. Combining principles of adaptability with an asset-based approach ensures that responses extend beyond immediate assistance to foster long-term resilience in IDPs and displaced affected communities. This approach enables IDPs and affected communities to restore human capital, recover financial and physical assets, and rebuild social cohesion, fostering sustainable recovery and socio-economic inclusion. Resilience-based social policies that integrate responsive social protection with asset-based approaches offer a robust framework for durable solutions to displacement, paving the way to stability for displaced populations.

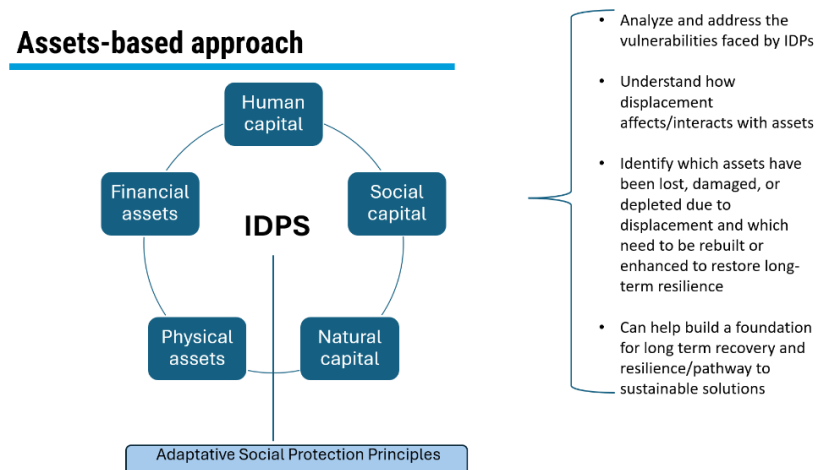
#### **4. The asset-based approach to addressing displacement**

Displacement often depletes the critical assets that households rely on for their livelihoods and well-being. The asset-based approach provides a structured framework to analyze and address these vulnerabilities by focusing on five key types of assets: human capital, financial capital, physical capital, social capital, and natural capital. By identifying which assets have been lost or damaged, this approach prioritizes their recovery to build long-term resilience.

- **Human capital** includes skills, education, knowledge, and health, all of which are vital for income generation and well-being. Displacement frequently disrupts access to education and healthcare, eroding this capital. Children may experience interrupted schooling, while adults lose access to employment and health services.

- **Financial and physical capital** encompasses household savings, income-generating tools, and infrastructure like homes or business premises. These assets are often destroyed or rendered inaccessible during displacement, deepening poverty and economic instability. Many displaced families are forced to sell remaining assets to survive.
- **Social capital** refers to the networks, relationships, and norms that provide individuals with support and access to resources. Displacement severs these ties, leaving IDPs without essential safety nets.
- **Natural capital** includes land, water, soil, and other environmental resources that are especially important for rural livelihoods. Displacement disrupts access to these resources, exacerbating economic vulnerability.

**Figure 3. The asset-based approach for addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience among IDPs**



Source: Adapted from Attanasio, O. and M. Székely (1999), Lopez Calva and Rodriguez-Castelán (2016), and UNDP (2025, forthcoming)

The asset-based approach provides policymakers with a structured roadmap to address the vulnerabilities of displaced populations and host communities while promoting sustainable development. Rebuilding these assets goes beyond restoring livelihoods; rather it is about fostering long-term recovery and resilience. Effective interventions should integrate asset recovery and capacity-building into broader social protection systems, enabling vulnerable groups and IDPs to rebuild their lives and achieve social and economic inclusion.

## 5. Responsive Social Protection and IDPs<sup>21</sup>

Social protection is a critical tool for reducing poverty, safeguarding vulnerable populations, and strengthening household resilience. Social protection systems encompass integrated or coordinated measures, including social assistance (e.g., cash transfers, food vouchers), social insurance (e.g., health coverage, pensions, unemployment benefits), and labour market programs (e.g., wage subsidies, vocational training). Social protection systems vary across contexts, with those in developed countries often encompassing a broader range of measures, while many systems in less developed countries having comparatively less emphasis on social insurance or labour market initiatives due to resource constraints and/or competing policy priorities.

For IDPs, social protection systems can provide a strategic platform to address long-term needs, foster self-reliance, and support pathways to durable solutions.<sup>22</sup> In humanitarian contexts, social protection and particularly social assistance, is an important avenue to support vulnerable populations during crises. It lays the foundation for longer-term interventions, including anticipatory actions that safeguard at-risk populations before crises fully unfold.<sup>23</sup> However, traditional social assistance models, which primarily focus on short-term relief, often fall short in addressing the compounded vulnerabilities faced by displaced populations. Responsive social protection offers an integrated framework for addressing the complex risks that IDPs encounter. By combining social protection, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation, responsive social protection delivers a more comprehensive approach to reducing vulnerability and enabling recovery. These systems not only address immediate needs but also build resilience, equipping displaced populations to cope with and recover from shocks while supporting their pathways toward sustainable solutions.

This approach builds upon existing social protection frameworks, with a particular emphasis on non-contributory social assistance mechanisms, such as cash transfer programs. It enhances these systems by introducing additional tools and strategies tailored to better

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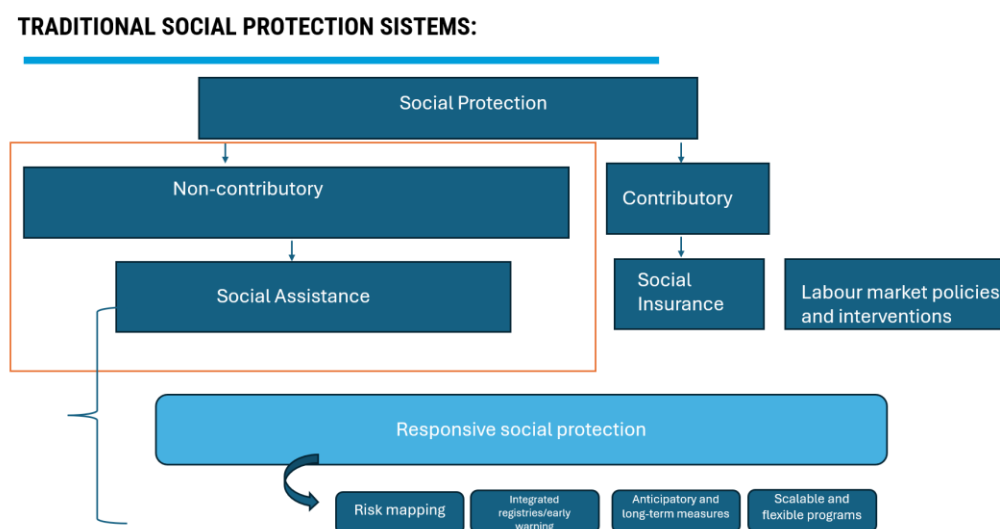
<sup>21</sup> This section draws on and it's consistent with a forthcoming analysis from UNDP Inclusive Growth team at the Panama Regional Hub *Reflections on Adaptive Social Protection. A step forward to create resilience in LAC* (forthcoming 2025). The key elements of ASP have been adapted here to address the unique challenges posed by internal displacement.

<sup>22</sup> OECD, "Social Protection for the Forcibly displaced in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Pathway for Inclusion" (2022).

<sup>23</sup> World Food Program has implemented anticipatory actions in humanitarian crises to help prevent and reduce impacts of predicted imminent extreme weather events, through social protection systems. See: WFP's Anticipatory Action and Social Protection Guidance, 2022. UNICEF also has center efforts on strengthening social protection systems to make them more shock responsive in the context of multiple crises especially in the Middle East and North Africa. See: Sato, Lucas. 2022. "Practitioner Note 4: Inclusive social protection for forcibly displaced populations".

address the needs of internal displaced persons. While social protection and welfare systems differ significantly across regions (Esping-Andersen, 1989; Wood and Gough, 2006; Gentilini, 2024), the COVID-19 pandemic underscored that nearly all countries, regardless of income level, have some sort of social assistance architecture. Even in contexts with modest systems, cash transfers proved to be a critical and timely instrument for delivering support to vulnerable populations.

**Figure 4: Social protection as entry point for integrated and responsive mechanisms**



Source: Own elaboration

Responsive social protection extends beyond post-displacement interventions; it is a dynamic and proactive framework encompassing both anticipatory actions and recovery measures. Anticipatory actions aim to protect and harness existing assets, fostering resilience. Post-displacement measures focus on asset reconstruction, integrating instruments such as cash transfers with broader policy interventions in education, health, employment, and housing.

The flexibility of responsive approaches to social protection allows for rapid scaling during large-scale displacement events and expand vertically or horizontally. Governments can quickly expand social protection programs to accommodate newly displaced populations, ensuring timely and targeted support. This scalability is particularly vital in regions frequently affected by natural disasters or conflicts, where needs often outpace existing capacities.

### 5.1. Key elements of Responsive social protection for IDPs

Responsive social protection offers a structured framework to address the vulnerabilities of IDPs by integrating proactive, scalable, and coordinated measures. These elements

enhance preparedness, response, and recovery while promoting resilience and socio-economic inclusion.

**Risk mapping and vulnerability assessments.** Effective responsive social protection implementation begins with understanding the risks and vulnerabilities faced by IDPs. Displacement often exposes populations to new challenges, affecting livelihoods, food security, and exposure to climate-related hazards, which must be systematically identified and monitored. Risk mapping enables governments to target interventions to regions or communities where IDPs are most at risk, while vulnerability assessments provide a detailed understanding of household and individual needs (World Bank, 2020).

Risk mapping integrates geographic, socio-economic, and environmental data to improve the precision of the interventions. For example, it can identify areas at high risk of environmental shocks, such as floods or droughts, and enable early warning systems to trigger responses like cash transfers, food aid, or access to healthcare. These preemptive measures help protect IDPs' assets and reduce the humanitarian impact of displacement. Early actions, such as deploying temporary shelters or financial aid, minimize asset depletion and support recovery efforts before crises escalate.

**Scalable and flexible programs.** A core strength of this framework is its capacity to scale up during crises, a feature crucial for addressing sudden and large-scale displacement. Displacement often overwhelms local social protection systems, requiring programs designed for rapid expansion. Scalability enables governments to quickly increase support—such as cash transfers, housing assistance, or food aid—and adapt interventions to accommodate newly displaced populations. Flexibility ensures that social protection systems can evolve alongside shifting needs, transitioning from emergency relief to long-term rehabilitation and resilience-building (UNDP, 2021).

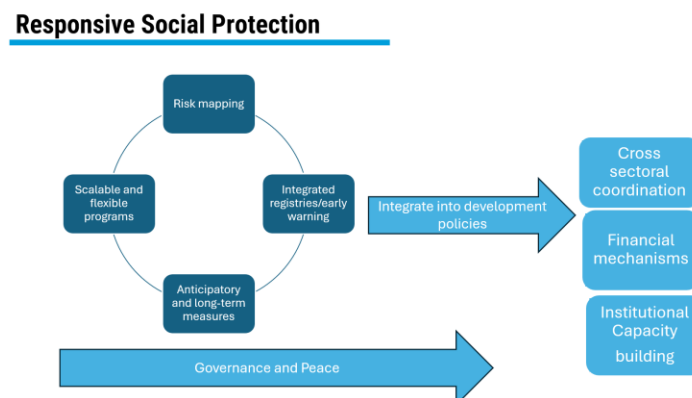
For example, Colombia's SISBEN system, though not specifically designed for displacement, demonstrates how integrated social registries can enable rapid program expansion during crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, SISBEN facilitated the swift delivery of cash transfers to vulnerable populations, showcasing how existing systems can be leveraged to respond to large-scale shocks. While this is not an RSP intervention, it underscores the importance of scalable social protection mechanisms, which can be adapted and strengthened to address displacement crises. Similar principles of scalability can be applied to RSP frameworks in displacement contexts, where the capacity to expand support rapidly is essential for mitigating vulnerabilities and fostering recovery.

**Integrated social registries and early warning systems.** For RSP to be effective, it must be data-driven and proactive. Integrated social registries enable the continuous updating of information on IDPs, ensuring that assistance is accurately targeted. When linked to early

warning systems, these registries can trigger interventions before crises unfold. This proactive approach helps protect IDPs from further shocks, reducing the humanitarian and economic impacts of displacement (Cecchini & Madariaga, 2011).

**Anticipatory and long-term measures.** RSP not only addresses displacement after it occurs but also incorporates anticipatory measures to prepare for future risks. These include climate-resilient infrastructure in displacement-prone areas, insurance schemes for vulnerable populations, and vocational training programs to help IDPs transition into new job markets. Such proactive actions enable IDPs to build resilience ahead of shocks, reducing reliance on emergency aid and accelerating recovery. For example, Colombia’s social protection strategies have provided long-term support to IDPs through access to education, health services, and livelihood opportunities (UNDP, 2020).

**Figure 5. Key components of Responsive social protection for internal displacement**



Source: Adapted from Bowen et al. (2020) and UNDP (2025, forthcoming)

**RSP and Governance.** In displacement settings, RSP measures can be complemented by interventions that promote governance (including building resilient institutions at national and local levels), peacebuilding, and social cohesion to reduce conflict and prevent future displacement. Alongside asset recovery and socio-economic inclusion, RSP frameworks can integrate peacebuilding efforts and community engagement to foster harmony and reduce conflict risks. Section 9 will detail how the RSP can be integrated into development planning for solutions to internal displacement through cross sectoral coordination, financial mechanisms and capacity building.

The flexibility of social protection systems in response to shocks can consist of temporary vertical expansions (increasing benefits for current beneficiaries) or horizontal expansions (adding new beneficiaries) and adapt programs to address multidimensional shocks like internal displacement.



## *Beyond social assistance: Responsive Social Protection for sustainable recovery*

Traditional social assistance offers short-term relief to IDPs but often fails to address the long-term vulnerabilities caused by displacement. RSP goes beyond temporary aid by focusing on sustainable recovery through asset reconstruction, livelihood restoration, and fostering social and economic inclusion. This approach empowers IDPs to rebuild their lives and achieve resilience in new environments.

RSP incorporates tools such as early warning systems, risk transfer instruments, and integrated social registries to create resilient safety nets. These systems can enable governments to anticipate risks and support long-term recovery by addressing both immediate needs and structural vulnerabilities. For IDPs, this means access to comprehensive systems that promote economic stability, social inclusion, and resilience against future shocks.

## **6. Case analysis**

### **6.1. Analytical framework**

Displacement caused by climate-related disasters or violence profoundly impacts communities, disrupting livelihoods, weakening social structures, and heightening vulnerabilities. Using an asset-based approach, this subsection examines the socioeconomic impacts of displacement through five key asset categories—human capital, physical assets, financial assets, social capital, and natural assets—and identifies pathways toward resilience for internally displaced persons (IDPs) with two distinct yet comparable cases: flood-induced displacement in Kenya and violence-induced displacement in Cameroon.

The findings aim to provide insights for designing targeted interventions that address the vulnerabilities of displaced populations and foster long-term resilience in the context of broader development interventions in displaced settings. It is an initial illustration of integrating approaches to internal displacement. This approach emphasizes the integration of income-generating strategies into recovery efforts, promoting sustainable development and economic stability for displaced populations.

#### **6.1.1. Case context: Kenya and Cameroon**

Kenya faces drought- and flood-induced displacement, particularly in regions like Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, and Isiolo, which are marked by agrarian livelihoods, limited infrastructure, and high susceptibility to climate-related disasters. Devastating floods have displaced entire rural communities, forcing reliance on humanitarian assistance. These regions endure a dual burden of droughts and floods, as highlighted by Al Jazeera (2023), underscoring the

precarious nature of survival. The International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2022) has documented significant human mobility in these areas, particularly among rural IDPs.

With a population of 55 million (2023), Kenya has approximately 171,000 IDPs (IDMC, 2023). Over a third of the population—36.1%—lives below the national poverty line, and 37.5% experiences multidimensional poverty, reflecting deprivation in education, health, and living standards.<sup>24</sup> The country's GDP per capita is \$1,813.76<sup>25</sup>, and it ranks 146th out of 193 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI), placing it in the medium human development category. These figures highlight Kenya's significant development challenges, combined with the vulnerabilities of its displaced populations.

In Cameroon, violence and insecurity have driven mass displacement, particularly in Maga and surrounding areas, forcing many IDPs to seek refuge in camps such as Bogo and Louggol or nearby settlements. These communities face not only physical insecurity but also the collapse of local social and economic systems. Displacement in these contexts underscores instability in conflict zones and the severe disruption of key assets, including livelihoods, education, and health services.

With a population of 28.6 million (2023), Cameroon has over 1 million IDPs (IDMC, 2023). Similar to Kenya, it faces considerable development challenges, with 37.5% of its population living below the national poverty line and 43.6% experiencing multidimensional poverty. Its GDP per capita is \$1,461.02, and it ranks 151st out of 193 countries on the HDI, also in the medium human development category. The intersection of high poverty levels with broader structural gaps in governance, infrastructure, and service delivery further compounds the vulnerabilities faced by IDPs and their host communities.

The overlapping challenges illustrate the developmental constraints Kenya and Cameroon face in addressing displacement. Understanding how IDPs' vulnerabilities intersect with structural issues is critical for implementing policies that tackle displacement within a broader development framework.

#### 6.1.2. Data source and analytical scope

This analysis draws on data from the 2023 Socioeconomic Impact Case Studies by the IDMC, which recently made its dataset and survey tool publicly available. The dataset provides comprehensive coverage of displacement drivers—conflict, violence, insecurity, floods, droughts, and other natural disasters—across 14 countries, including Kenya and Cameroon. For this study, the dataset was filtered to focus specifically on IDPs in Kenya and

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<sup>24</sup> The global [multidimensional poverty index](#) includes 3 dimensions: health (nutrition and child mortality), education (years of schooling and school attendance) and living standards (cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing and assets). Human Development Report 2023/2024 country tables.

<sup>25</sup> World Bank development indicators.

Cameroon, enabling a comparative examination of their demographic characteristics and displacement impacts.

The primary dataset includes microdata collected between January and February 2023. It captures individual-level information disaggregated by displacement status, gender, age, disability, language group, and other socioeconomic characteristics. Data collection employed gender-balanced quota sampling, random walk techniques for household selection, and modified respondent-driven sampling to address the uneven distribution of IDPs.

While the findings are not intended to represent the entire IDP populations in these countries, the analysis aims to provide descriptive insights that can guide targeted policy interventions. These results are designed to identify trends and patterns in socioeconomic conditions before and after displacement, offering entry points for strengthening income-generating capacities through RSP systems.

The analysis also highlights critical areas of vulnerability, such as recurring climatic shocks in Kenya or long-term social cohesion disruptions in Cameroon. By examining these impacts through an asset-based lens, this section sets the foundation for more robust econometric studies that could deepen our understanding of the drivers and determinants of resilience and income generation among displaced households.

#### 6.1.3. Asset dimensions

This analysis aligns with the asset-based approach, using variables from the dataset to explore changes in key dimensions before and after displacement. Each dimension represents critical areas for understanding vulnerabilities and designing recovery strategies:

- Human capital: Education levels, disruptions in schooling for children, and changes in access to healthcare services and self-reported health reflect the human capital status of IDPs.
- Physical assets: Housing conditions, tenure security, and access to basic infrastructure (e.g., water and sanitation) are analysed to assess stability and well-being.
- Financial assets: Income generation, employment status, financial support from government and social networks, and perceptions of resource adequacy provide insights into financial resilience.
- Social capital: Household size, presence of children, and perceptions of safety offer a lens into the integration and social stability of IDPs in their new environments.

- Natural assets: Engagement in agricultural activities, including livestock ownership and land cultivation, highlights the environmental and economic impacts of displacement.

#### 6.1.4. Limitations of the analysis

While the findings offer valuable insights, the analysis is subject to the following limitations:

1. Non-representative sampling: The results are specific to the surveyed locations and cannot be generalized to national populations or the broader displaced communities.
2. Data constraints: The dataset includes limited metrics for financial assets, consumption, and direct health indicators, which restrict the scope of economic and well-being analyses.
3. Causal inference: The analysis identifies correlations and patterns but does not establish causality between displacement and changes in asset portfolios.

Despite these limitations, the analysis provides a starting point for designing interventions that align with the asset-based approach. Future econometric studies can build on this descriptive analysis to yield more precise estimates and evidence for impactful policy measures.

## 6.2. Displacement impacts in Kenya

### 6.2.1. Socioeconomic profile of IDPs

The socioeconomic profile of IDPs in Kenya reveals critical insights into their vulnerabilities. The data shows a slightly higher proportion of males (55%) than females (45%) among IDPs, a discrepancy that may reflect gendered migration patterns or societal roles, with men more likely to migrate or respond to displacement differently than women. Women, on the other hand, often face unique challenges during displacement, such as caregiving responsibilities, which can limit their mobility or make their experiences less visible in statistical data (IOM, 2022).

The majority of the displaced population falls within the 25–34 (40%) and 35–44 (29%) age groups, illustrating that displacement disproportionately affects the economically active population. This trend has significant implications for livelihood strategies and household dynamics, especially in rural areas where agriculture is the primary source of income. The disruption of this workforce exacerbates economic vulnerabilities, posing challenges for recovery and resilience. A stark lack of formal education among IDPs further compounds their challenges, with 90% having no formal educational attainment. This reflects the broader struggles in rural Kenyan areas, where access to schooling is often limited. The

absence of education hinders IDPs' ability to adapt to displacement or secure formal employment, perpetuating cycles of poverty and vulnerability.

Displacement patterns reveal that while many individuals have experienced a single displacement due to flooding, nearly 25% have faced two displacements, and almost 20% have experienced three or more. These repeated displacements highlight recurring vulnerabilities to climatic shocks in rural regions, eroding household assets and disrupting social networks. Such challenges necessitate long-term solutions focused on sustainable land use practices, disaster risk reduction strategies, and community-based resilience-building to mitigate flood risks and enhance adaptive capacity.

Most displaced households comprise 3 to 8 members (70%), with a smaller proportion (19%) consisting of larger families. This reflects typical rural Kenyan household sizes, where extended families are common but may fragment during displacement due to logistical challenges. Larger households often encounter greater difficulties in securing adequate resources, shelter, and assistance during crises. Development programs must account for household size to ensure proportionate support for these families.

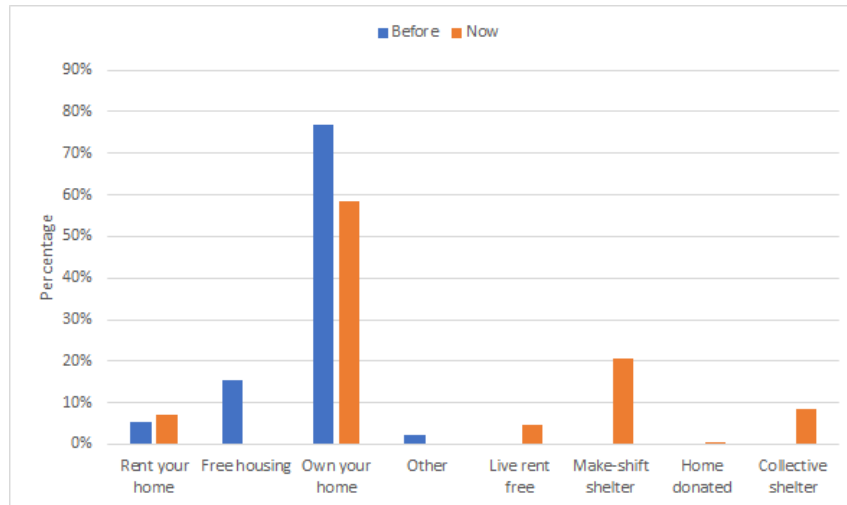
Over 60% of displaced households include children aged 6–17 years, emphasizing the critical importance of education from the beginning of the recovery process. Displacement often disrupts schooling, leaving children vulnerable to exploitation, child labor, and long-term developmental challenges. Ensuring displaced children have access to quality education and psychosocial support is essential to mitigate these impacts and secure better future opportunities.

#### 6.2.2. Before and after displacement

##### **Housing**

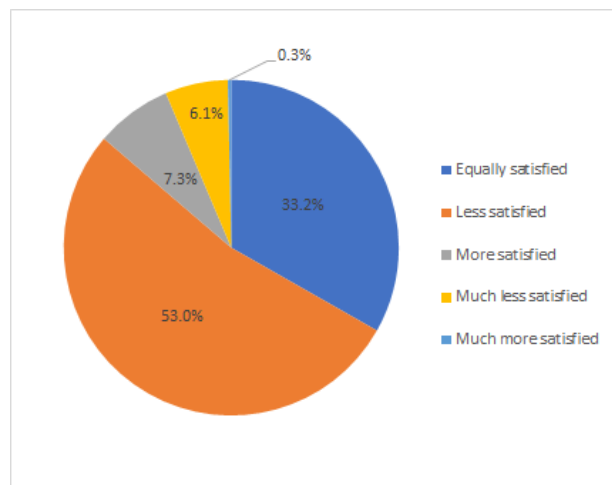
The housing situation of IDPs undergoes a significant transformation following displacement, reflecting substantial loss and disruption. Before displacement, most individuals (approximately 80%) owned their homes. After displacement, homeownership dropped sharply, with the majority of IDPs now living in rented housing or makeshift shelters (Figure 6). This transition illustrates the economic and social upheaval experienced by displaced populations, particularly in rural areas, where stability and property ownership are often central to livelihoods. Addressing this issue requires interventions that focus on securing safe, affordable housing solutions and creating pathways to ownership or stable tenure, thereby reducing vulnerability and fostering recovery.

**Figure 6. Housing situation**



Housing dissatisfaction among IDPs is widespread. A majority report feeling “less satisfied” with their current housing compared to pre-displacement conditions, while only a small proportion feel “equally satisfied”, and a negligible number feel “more satisfied” (Figure 7). This widespread dissatisfaction underlines the inadequacy of current post-displacement housing conditions, emphasizing the need for strategies aimed at improving housing quality and stability.

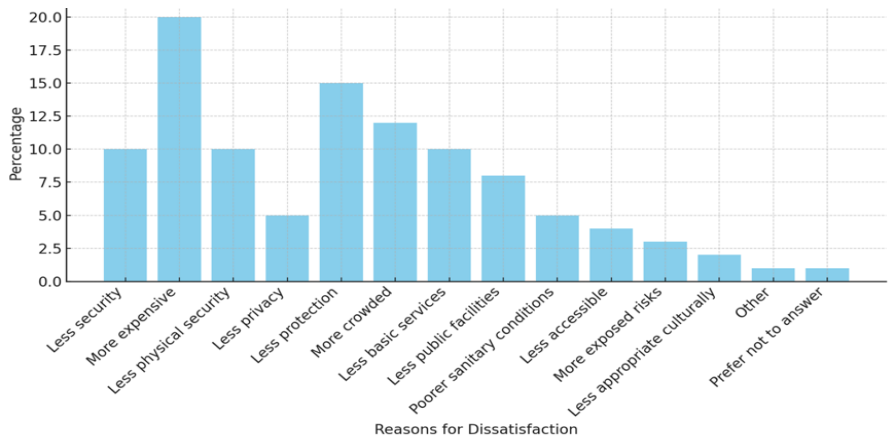
**Figure 7. Satisfaction with current housing situation**



The primary drivers of housing dissatisfaction include increased housing costs and reduced physical security, each affecting approximately 20% of respondents (Figure 8). Additional issues, such as lack of basic services, overcrowding, and inadequate protection, were reported by 10–15% of respondents. While less frequently mentioned, concerns about poor sanitation and cultural mismatches in housing were noted by around 5%. These findings indicate the importance of policies that alleviate financial burdens (e.g., subsidies or rental

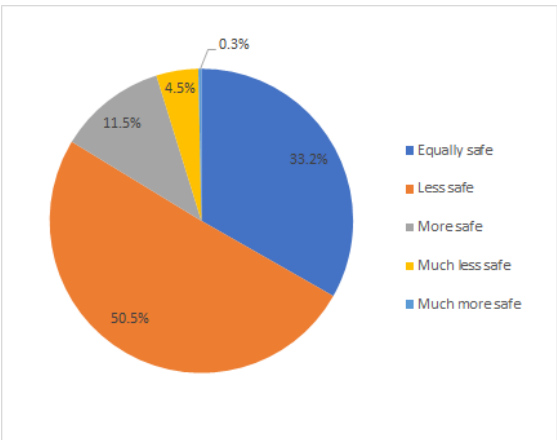
support), enhance security (e.g., through well-designed, secure neighborhoods), and ensure access to essential infrastructure and services (see Box 2 for an experience in Colombia with rental subsidies for IDPs). Addressing these factors is critical for improving housing satisfaction and overall well-being among displaced populations.

**Figure 8. Reasons for being less satisfied with current housing**



Safety perceptions also reveal a marked decline. More than half of respondents feel “less safe” in their current housing compared to their pre-displacement homes, while approximately one-third perceive safety levels as unchanged, and only a small fraction feel “safer” (Figure 9). This decline in perceived safety highlights the need for interventions that incorporate robust security features, such as well-lit areas, durable construction, and safeguards against environmental hazards. These measures are essential for improving the safety and well-being of displaced households.

**Figure 9. Perceived safety compared to before displacement**

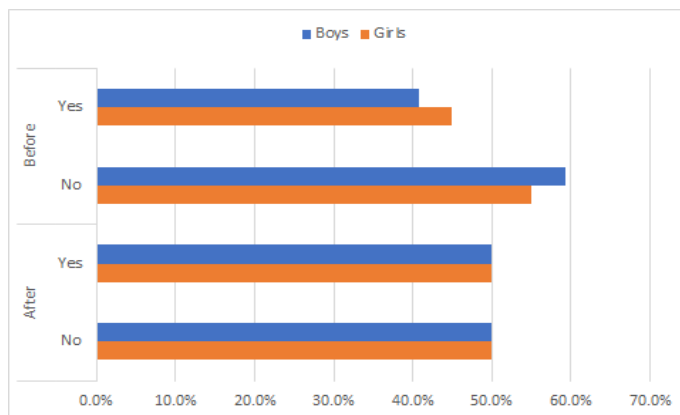


**Education**

The educational experiences of displaced children reveal several key patterns that highlight both progress and challenges. Notably, school attendance for both boys and girls shows an

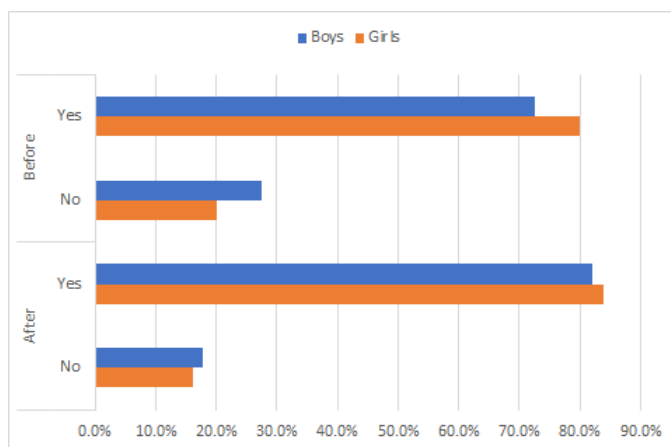
unexpected increase after displacement (Figure 10). This trend can be attributed to the prioritization of education in emergency response efforts by humanitarian organizations and government programs. Displacement camps or resettlement areas may provide free schooling or improved access to educational services, alleviating some barriers that were prevalent in rural settings prior to displacement. For instance, challenges such as a lack of schools, long distances to educational facilities, or economic constraints within rural villages may have previously hindered school attendance.

**Figure 10. School attendance among boys and girls**



Despite these improvements in attendance, educational costs remain a significant concern. Data indicates that many families incurred educational expenses both before and after displacement, with a consistently low proportion of families reporting no educational costs (Figure 11). This suggests that even in displacement settings, education is not entirely free, potentially due to hidden expenses such as transportation, uniforms, or additional materials. Addressing this requires comprehensive support programs that ensure children access education without imposing financial burdens on already vulnerable families.

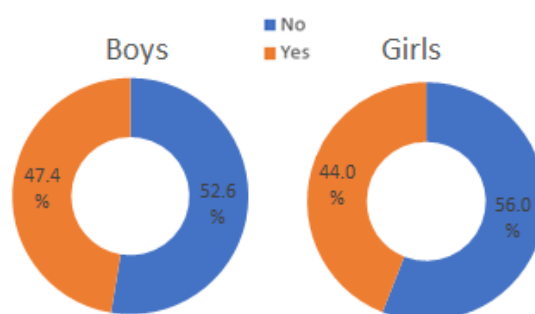
**Figure 11. Educational cost among boys and girls**





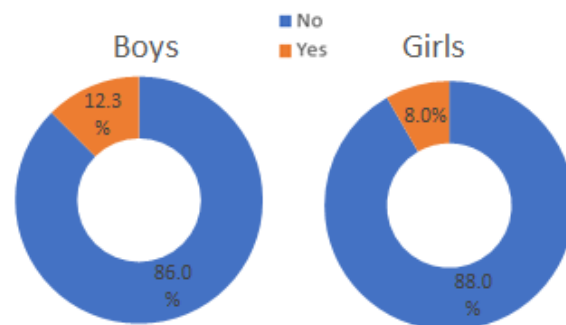
Breaks in education present another dimension of the displacement experience (Figure 12). For boys, the data reveal an almost equal split between those who experienced breaks and those who did not. In contrast, a slightly higher percentage of girls did not face interruptions in their education, indicating marginally better continuity for girls, post-displacement. This disparity may result from targeted interventions aimed at addressing gender inequalities in education, as well as cultural norms where boys may be more likely to leave school to contribute to household income. While this continuity for girls is a positive development, the fact that nearly half of them experienced educational breaks brings up the need for stronger measures to ensure uninterrupted access to education for all children. Efforts should focus on mitigating disruptions caused by relocation, financial instability, and limited availability of schools in resettlement areas.

**Figure 12. Breaks due to displacement for boys and girls**



A critical gap is evident in the lack of financial support for schooling among displaced children. Over 90% of both boys and girls report receiving no assistance from the government or other institutions, with only a small fraction benefiting from financial aid (Figure 13). This absence of institutional support places the financial burden of education largely on families, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities in displacement contexts where incomes are often reduced, and economic insecurity is heightened. Addressing this gap is essential for ensuring that displaced children can fully benefit from the opportunities provided by increased educational access.

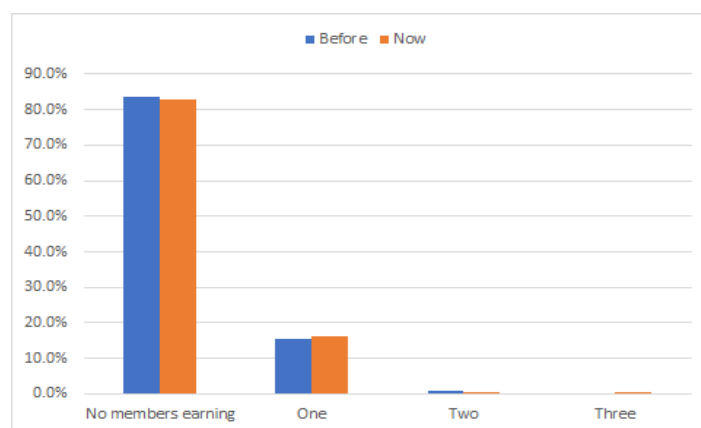
**Figure 13. Government assistance for schooling**



## Livelihoods

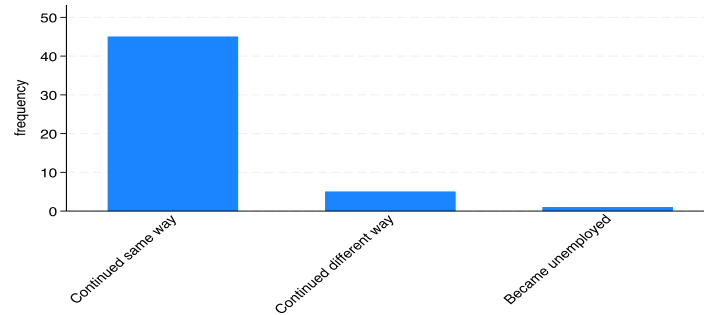
The analysis of livelihoods reveals persistent challenges and limited recovery in income-generating activities for displaced households. Figure 14 shows a significant concentration of households where no members earned an income, both before and after displacement, with frequencies exceeding 250 households in each case. This suggests that many displaced families faced pre-existing economic vulnerabilities that persisted through displacement, emphasizing the need for interventions that bolster income generation and economic resilience.

**Figure 14. Household members earning money**



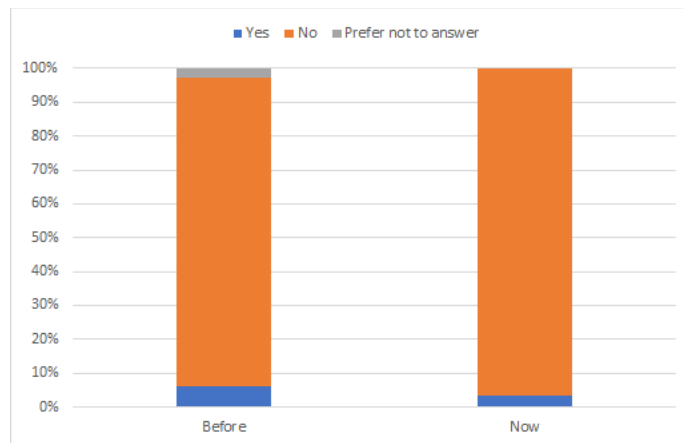
Changes in employment status post-displacement provide further insights (Figure 15). Many individuals (around 50) continued to earn income in the same way as before displacement, demonstrating some degree of economic stability. However, a smaller proportion shifted to different means of earning income, reflecting adaptability to changed circumstances, while an even smaller group became unemployed. These patterns show the varied impacts of displacement on livelihoods and the relevance of targeted support to help individuals maintain or adapt their income-generating activities effectively.

**Figure 15. Change in employment status after displacement**



The role of financial support in mitigating economic vulnerabilities appears limited. Figure 16 indicates that most households, both before and after displacement, did not receive financial support from family or friends, with approximately 300 households reporting no such assistance.

**Figure 16. Households receiving financial support from family and friends**



Similarly, government financial support was minimal, as shown in Figure 17. Only a very small fraction of households received any aid, highlighting a persistent gap in public and social support mechanisms for displaced populations. Strengthening these mechanisms is crucial to address the economic instability that often accompanies displacement.

**Figure 17. Households receiving financial support from government**

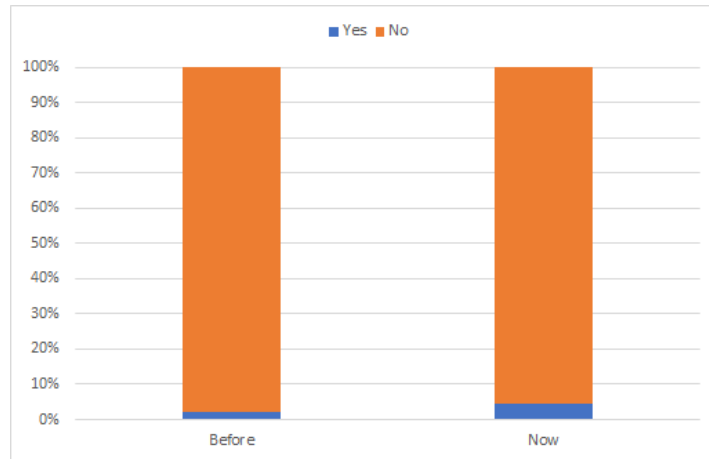
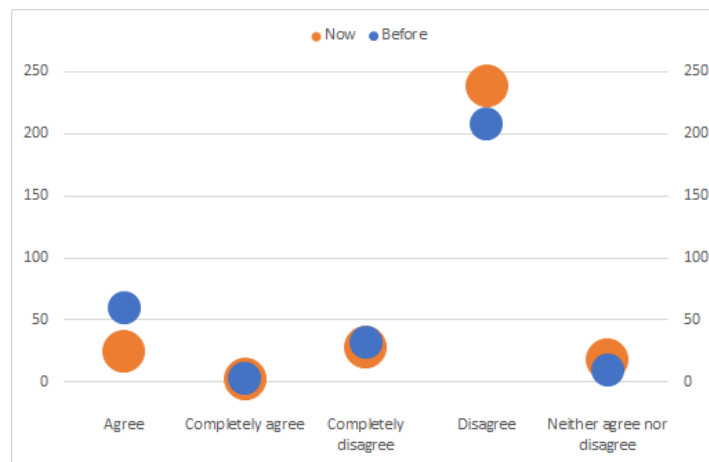


Figure 18 presents the perceived inadequacy of household financial resources both before and after displacement. Most respondents disagreed that their financial resources were sufficient to meet their needs, with very few expressing complete agreement. This consistent perception point to the enduring economic insecurity of displaced households and the urgent need for interventions that enhance financial stability and access to resources.

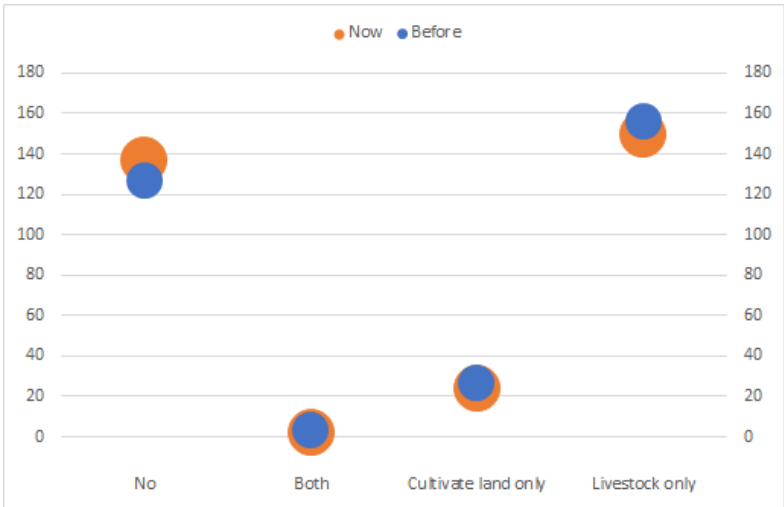
**Figure 18. Perception of adequacy of financial resources**



Regarding agricultural livelihoods, a critical component of income generation in rural areas, Figure 19 shows limited transitions in agricultural activities among displaced households. Before displacement, many households (over 150 respondents) depended solely on livestock, while a significant proportion reported no agricultural activity, and a smaller proportion engaged in land cultivation or a combination of both. Post-displacement, these patterns remained largely unchanged, with a continued reliance on livestock and a notable lack of diversification. This indicates significant barriers to diversifying or expanding

agricultural practices, such as access to land, resources, or markets, following displacement.

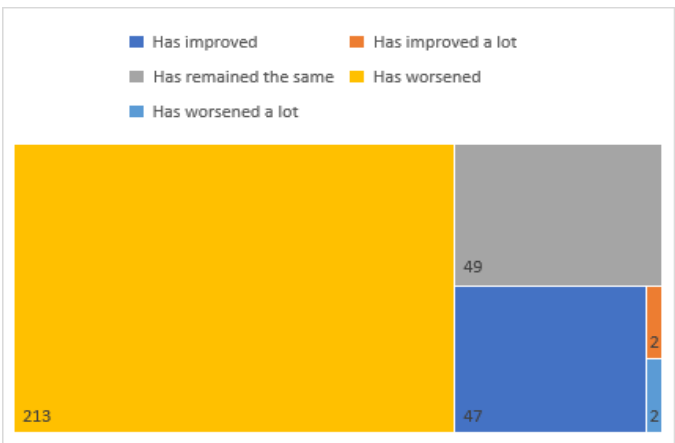
Figure 19. Agricultural livelihoods



Health

In terms of health-related impacts Figure 20 reveals that a substantial majority of respondents reported worsening physical health since displacement. While a smaller proportion indicated that their health remained unchanged or improved, extreme changes—either significant improvement or severe decline—were rare. These findings emphasize the need for targeted health interventions to address the widespread negative effects of displacement on physical health.

Figure 20. Physical health



Access to healthcare services has also declined significantly for many displaced individuals, as shown in Figure 21. A large number of respondents reported reduced access to healthcare compared to pre-displacement levels, with some indicating significantly less

access. However, a minority experienced no change, and a few even reported improved access, possibly due to targeted health interventions in certain resettlement areas. These disparities highlight the critical importance of enhancing healthcare availability and ensuring equitable access for displaced populations, particularly in regions where services are already strained.

**Figure 21. Access to healthcare compared to before displacement**

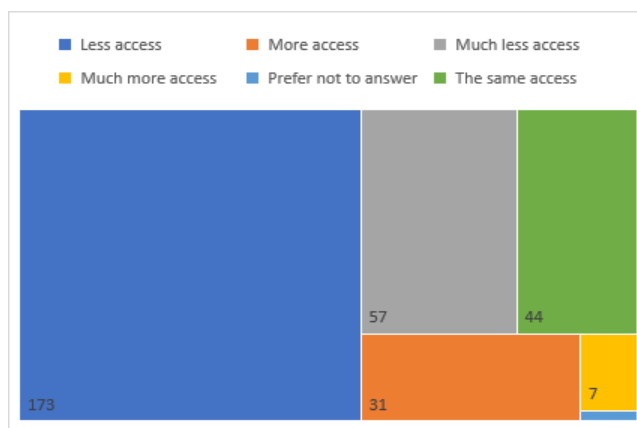
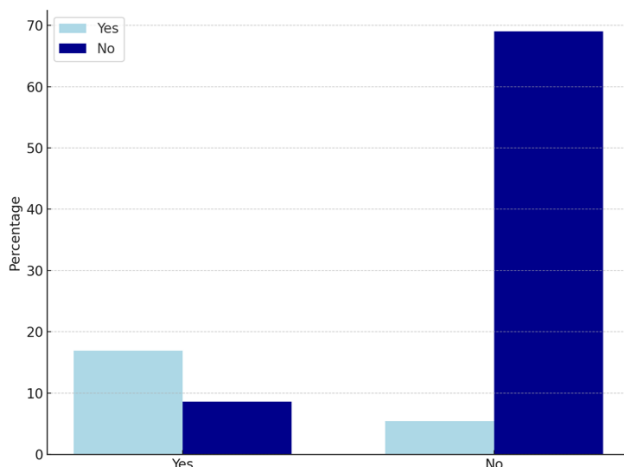


Figure 22 compares free access to healthcare before and after displacement, showing a sharp decrease from 16.9% to just 8.6% of respondents reporting free access. Conversely, the proportion of those without free access increased from 69.0% before displacement to 91.4% after. These findings call for policies aimed at reducing healthcare costs and expanding free or subsidized health services for vulnerable populations.

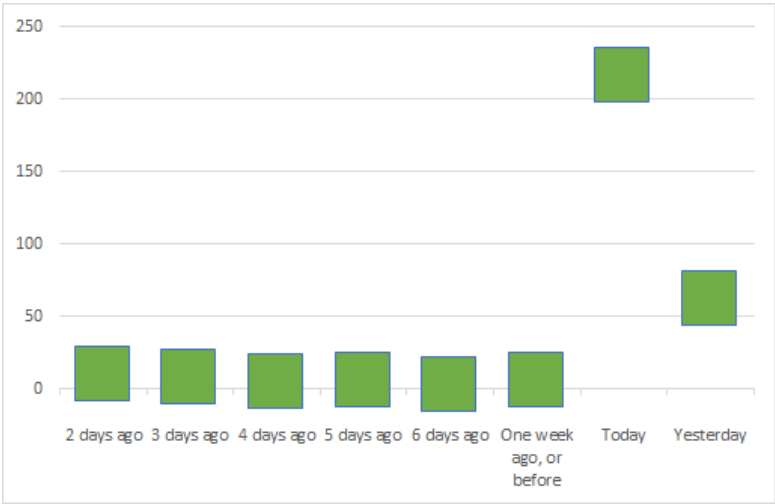
**Figure 22. Free access to healthcare**



Following Figure 23, food security remains a concern. While the majority of households reported consuming food on the same day, a notable portion indicated having eaten only yesterday, with a smaller fraction experiencing delays of two or more days. This variability

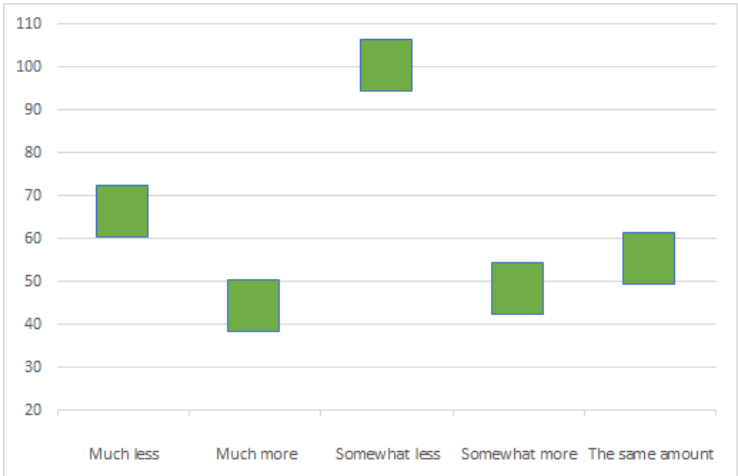
underscores ongoing challenges in ensuring consistent access to food for all displaced households. Addressing these gaps requires immediate humanitarian interventions and long-term strategies to bolster food security among affected populations.

**Figure 23. Last time household members ate food**



Displacement also appears to have impacted health-related expenditures. Figure 24 shows a mixed pattern in spending changes, with the highest frequency corresponding to those spending “somewhat less” on health compared to pre-displacement levels. Other respondents reported spending “much less”, “the same amount”, or “somewhat more”, while only a small proportion spent “much more”. These shifts may reflect constrained financial resources, reduced access to healthcare services, or prioritization of other immediate needs over health-related expenses. To alleviate these challenges, policies should focus on improving financial support and reducing the costs of healthcare for displaced households.

**Figure 24. Spending on health compared to before displacement**



## 6.3. Displacement impacts in Cameroon

### 6.3.1. Socioeconomic profile of IDPs

The socioeconomic profile of IDPs in Cameroon reveals distinct demographic patterns and vulnerabilities. Women constitute a slight majority (53%) of the displaced population, a trend often observed in displacement contexts where women may face unique vulnerabilities within IDP communities. Similar to Kenya, most displaced individuals fall within the economically active age groups of 25–34 (30%) and 35–44 (28%), with smaller proportions represented among younger (13%) and older populations (4%). Again, this distribution accentuates the impact of displacement on the working-age population, with implications for livelihood opportunities and household stability.

Educational attainment among IDPs is alarmingly low, with 80% of respondents reporting no formal education. Only a small fraction has completed primary (18%) or secondary (3%) education. This educational gap presents a critical barrier to economic integration and access to stable employment, further exacerbating the vulnerabilities faced by displaced individuals. Limited education restricts the ability of IDPs to adapt to new environments, access formal job markets, or benefit from skills training programs, highlighting the urgent need for educational interventions.

Displacement in Cameroon is predominantly driven by single large-scale events rather than recurring instability, as evidenced by the fact that nearly all respondents have experienced displacement only once in the last three years. Household sizes among IDPs are typically medium to large, with 37% consisting of 3–5 members and 45% comprising 6–8 members. Larger households face heightened challenges in accessing adequate resources, shelter, and assistance, particularly in displacement settings where services and infrastructure are strained. Finally, children aged 6–17 are present in the vast majority (90%) of displaced households, emphasizing the critical need for child-specific interventions. Ensuring access to quality education, psychosocial support, and basic services for children is essential to mitigate the long-term developmental impacts of displacement.

### 6.3.2. Before and after displacement

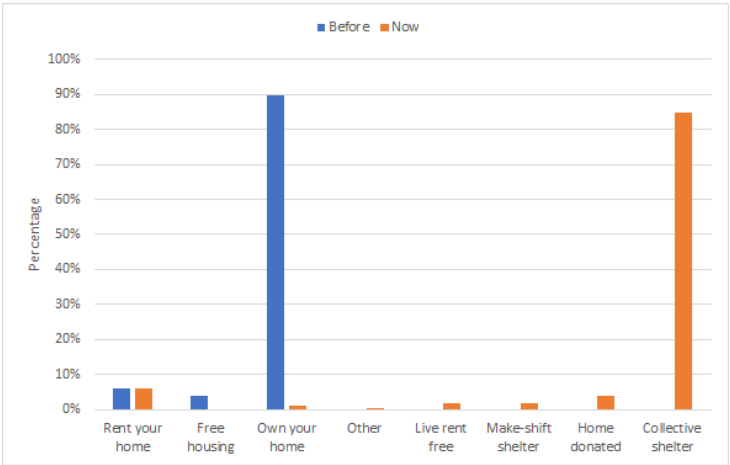
#### **Housing**

The housing situation for IDPs in Cameroon demonstrates a significant deterioration in security and quality following displacement. As shown in Figure 25, the majority of IDPs owned their homes prior to displacement, signaling the loss of property and stability. A smaller proportion of respondents reported renting or relying on housing provided for free before being displaced. Now, many IDPs live in collective or makeshift shelters, reflecting a dramatic decline in housing security and living standards. These shifts highlight the economic and social disruptions caused by displacement, emphasizing the need for



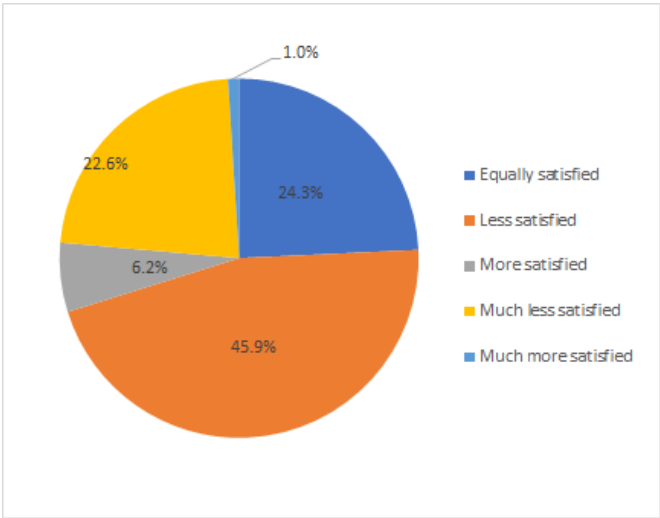
interventions that provide safe, affordable housing solutions and pathways to stable tenure to reduce vulnerability and support recovery.

**Figure 25. Housing situation**



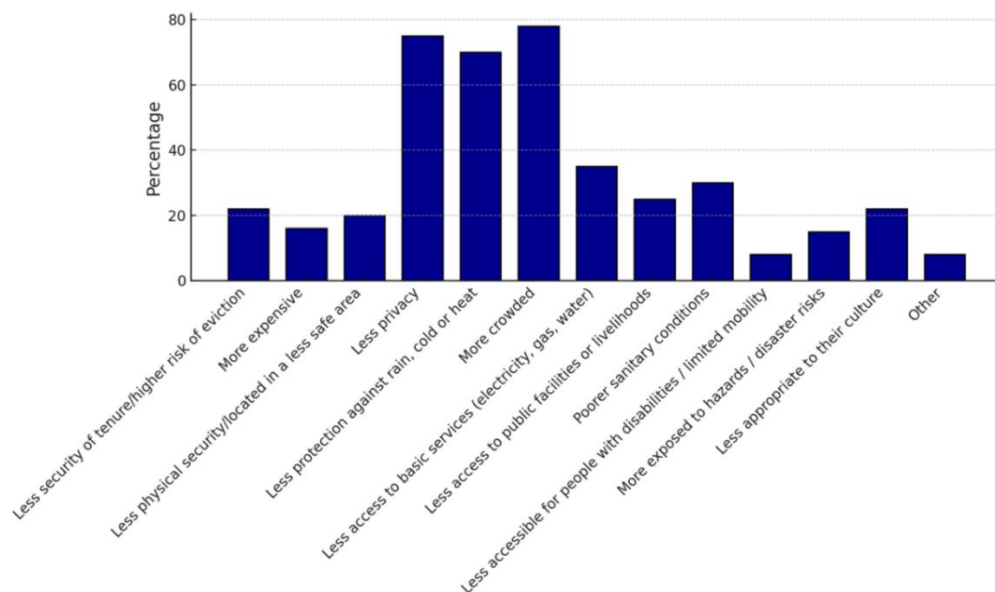
Satisfaction with current housing conditions among IDPs is notably low, with most respondents indicating they feel “less satisfied” or “much less satisfied” compared to their pre-displacement housing (Figure 26). This dissatisfaction reflects the significant challenges of adapting to displacement environments and the degradation in housing quality.

**Figure 26. Satisfaction with current housing situation**



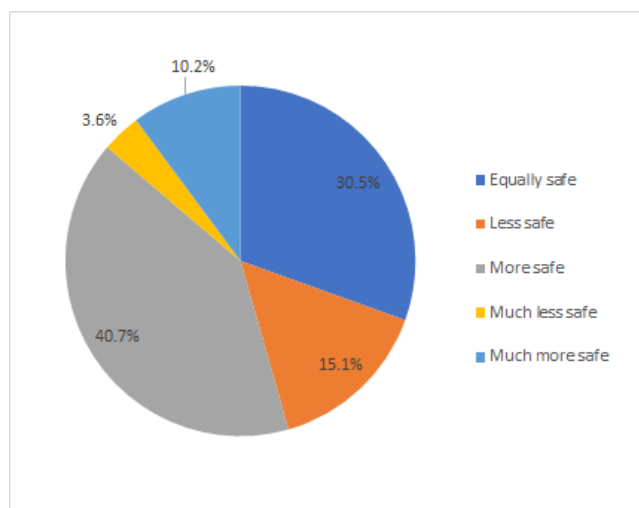
The primary reasons for dissatisfaction include lack of privacy, inadequate weather protection, and overcrowding, each cited by 70–80% of respondents (Figure 27). Other critical issues include poor access to basic services, sanitation, and public facilities, affecting 30–40% of respondents. Additionally, less frequently mentioned but still notable concerns include disaster risks, cultural mismatches, and mobility constraints.

**Figure 27. Reasons for being less satisfied with current housing**



Despite these challenges, Figure 28 reveals that over 40% of respondents reported feeling safer post-displacement, with approximately 10% indicating they feel “much safer”. Around 20% perceived safety levels as unchanged, while smaller proportions felt “less safe” (15%) or “much less safe” (under 10%). This perceived improvement in safety for many may reflect relocation to more secure environments, even as some IDPs still face significant risks.

**Figure 28. Perceived safety compared to before displacement**

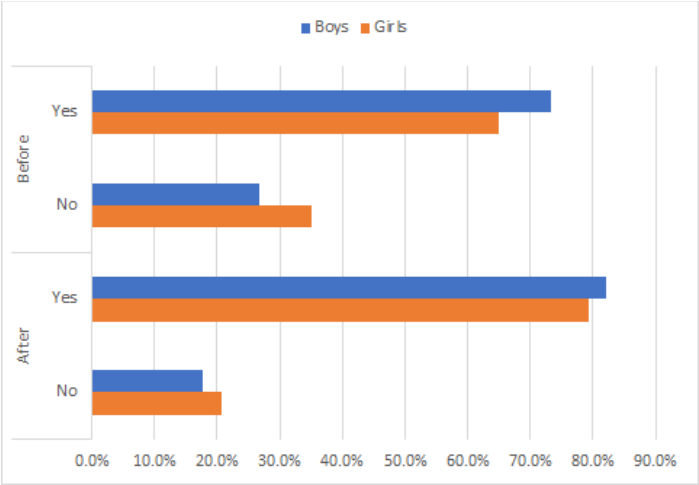


## Education

The education experiences of IDPs in Cameroon make for a complex interplay of gender disparities, disruptions, and limited institutional support, with some areas of progress observed post-displacement. As shown in Figure 29, boys’ school attendance remained

relatively stable despite displacement, with 70–80% attending school both before and after displacement. For girls, however, school attendance was initially lower, at approximately 60% before displacement, but increased slightly after displacement, reaching levels closer to those of boys. This improvement may reflect targeted efforts to maintain or enhance educational access for girls in displacement contexts, potentially addressing pre-existing gender disparities. Nevertheless, broader contextual factors, including the availability of resources and interventions, must be considered when interpreting these trends.

**Figure 29. School attendance among boys and girls**



Regarding educational costs, Figure 30 reveals a significant reduction in expenses for both boys’ and girls’ post-displacement. Before displacement, nearly all respondents reported incurring educational costs, but this shifted markedly after displacement, with a notable proportion of families no longer bearing such expenses. The reduction in costs was more pronounced for girls, suggesting that displacement may affect educational investments differently by gender. This trend could stem from decreased school attendance, financial constraints, or changes in access to educational opportunities in displacement settings.

**Figure 30. Educational cost among boys and girls**

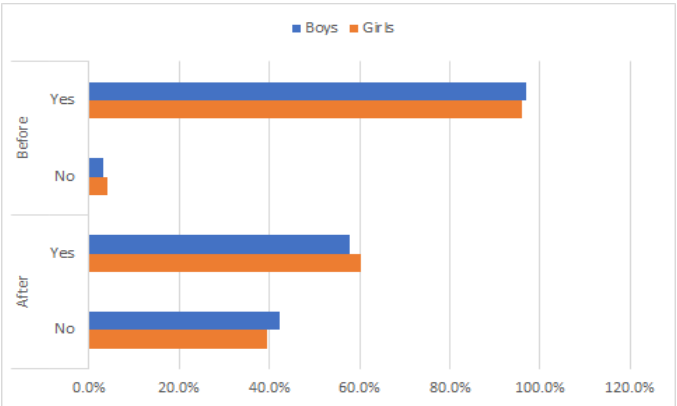
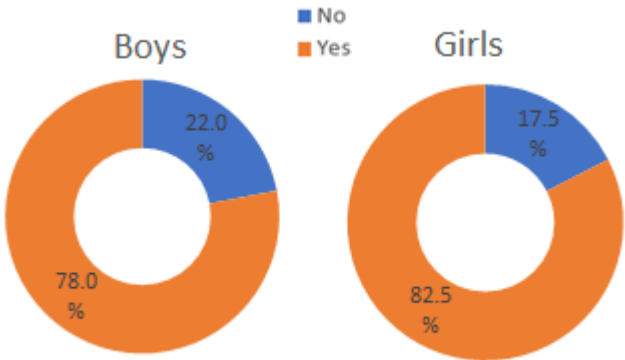


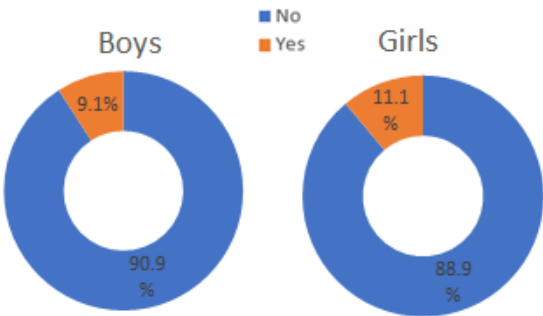
Figure 31 looks at educational disruptions caused by displacement, with study breaks reported by over 80% of girls and approximately 72% of boys. These interruptions underscore the severe challenges faced by displaced children, particularly girls, in maintaining educational continuity. Such disruptions can have long-term implications for academic progress and overall development, underscoring the need for targeted strategies to ensure uninterrupted access to education during and after displacement.

**Figure 31. Breaks due to displacement for boys and girls**



Institutional support for education remains critically lacking, as demonstrated in Figure 32. Over 80% of girls and nearly 90% of boys reported not receiving government assistance for education. This disparity in institutional support accounts for gaps in the provision of educational aid for displaced populations. Minimal differences in access between genders suggest that displaced children across the board face substantial barriers to educational assistance, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and limiting opportunities for stable schooling.

**Figure 32. Government assistance for schooling**



## Livelihoods

The livelihoods of IDPs in Cameroon have been severely disrupted, with significant changes observed in earning capacity, financial support, and agricultural activities. As shown in Figure 33, the number of income earners within households decreased dramatically after displacement. Before displacement, many households had two income earners, followed by those with one or five or more earners, reflecting a relatively distributed earning capability. After displacement, however, the largest group consisted of households with no income earners, followed by those with only one. This shift points at the profound economic impact of displacement, which diminishes earning capacity, increases dependency, and exacerbates economic vulnerability.

**Figure 33. Household members earning money**

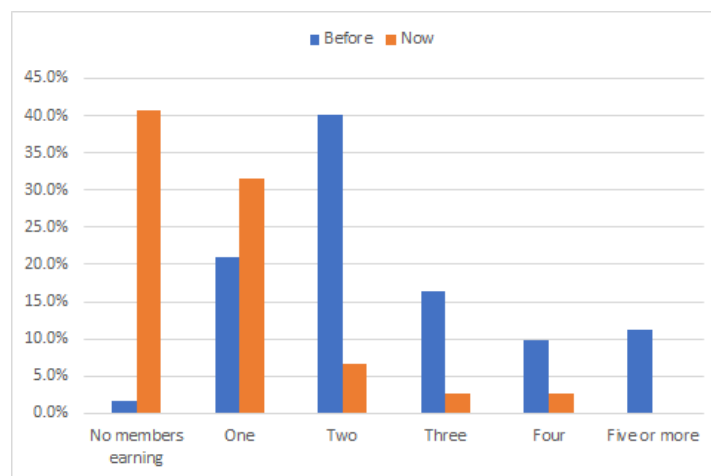
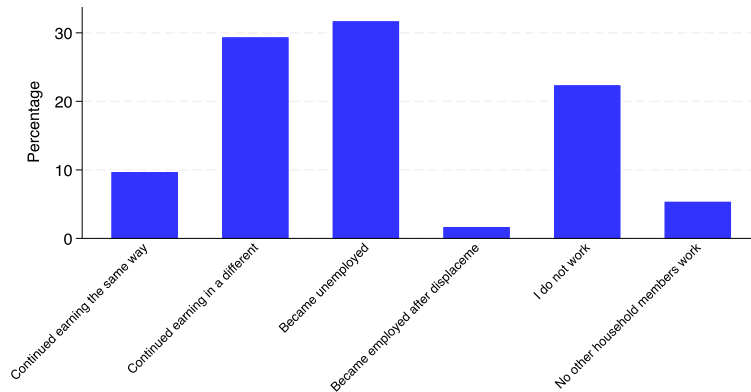


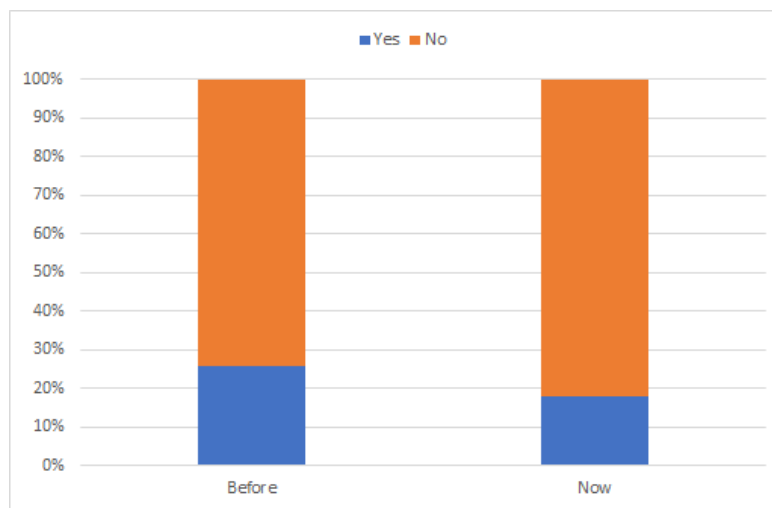
Figure 34 provides further understandings of employment disruptions. Over 30% of respondents reported becoming unemployed after displacement, indicating a severe blow to livelihoods. A significant portion (around 30%) continued earning income but through different means, likely reflecting a shift to informal or less stable employment. A smaller group maintained their previous earning situation, while minimal respondents reported becoming employed post-displacement. This data underlines the precarious economic reality for displaced households, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to support livelihood restoration and adaptation to new economic contexts.

**Figure 34. Change in employment status after displacement**



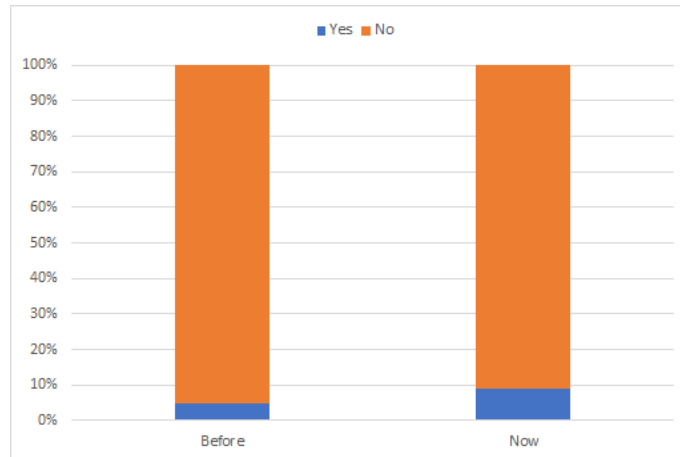
Financial support dynamics remained relatively unchanged post-displacement. As shown in Figure 35, over 80% of households did not rely on financial support from family or friends before displacement, a trend that persisted afterward. This consistency suggests that displaced populations have limited access to extended social networks or resources that could provide financial assistance, generating economic vulnerabilities.

**Figure 35. Households receiving financial support from family and friends**



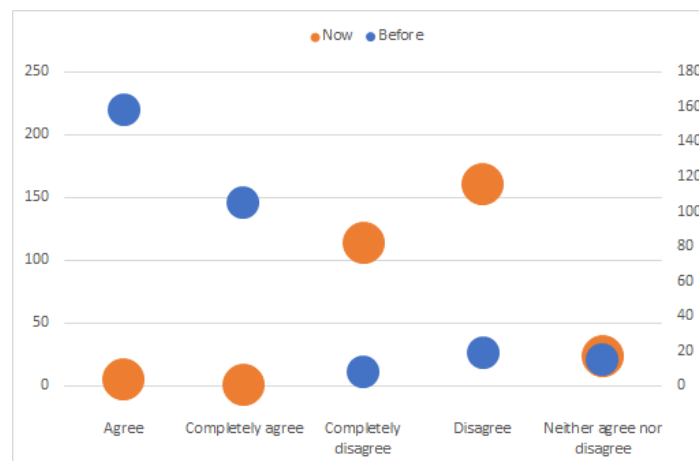
Similarly, Figure 36 illustrates the minimal government financial support received by displaced households. Before displacement, nearly 100% of respondents reported no government assistance, a situation that barely improved post-displacement, with over 90% still receiving no support. This persistent gap underscores the urgent need for enhanced public financial interventions tailored to the needs of displaced populations.

**Figure 36. Households receiving financial support from government**



The perceived adequacy of financial resources has significantly declined post-displacement, as shown in Figure 37. Before displacement, over 50% of respondents agreed and nearly 40% strongly agreed that their financial resources were sufficient to meet their needs. After displacement, this perception reversed drastically, with over 50% disagreeing and approximately 40% strongly disagreeing about having adequate financial support. This shift reflects the severe economic strain and inadequacy of financial resources faced by displaced households, highlighting the critical need for interventions that improve financial stability.

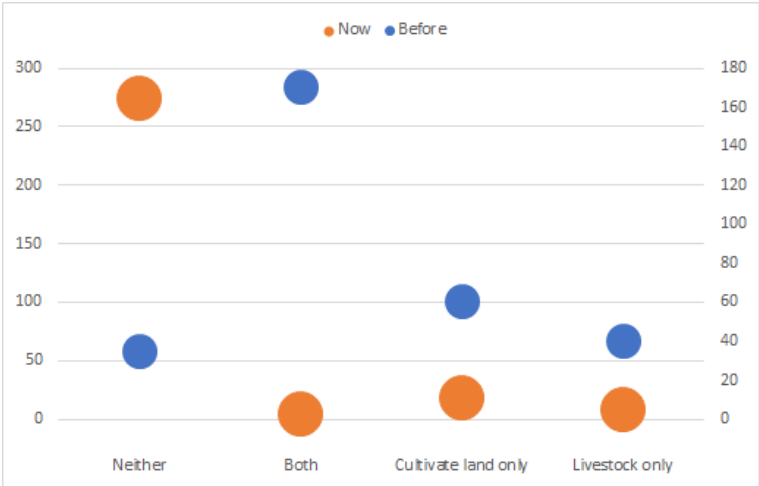
**Figure 37. Financial resource perception**



Agricultural livelihoods, a key source of income and food security, have been almost entirely disrupted. Figure 38 shows that before displacement, many households (around 60%) engaged in cultivating land and raising livestock, demonstrating a diverse engagement in agricultural activities. Post-displacement, however, nearly 90% of households reported engaging in neither activity. This stark transition reflects the profound disruption of livelihood structures caused by displacement, with severe implications for food security, income

generation, and long-term resilience. These findings emphasize the need for targeted efforts to restore agricultural activities or provide alternative livelihoods to displaced households.

Figure 38. Agricultural activities



Health

The health and nutritional well-being of displaced individuals in Cameroon have been significantly impacted by their displacement experience. As shown in Figure 39, over 50% of respondents reported that their physical health had worsened since displacement, while around 10% indicated it had worsened significantly. Approximately 30% stated their health had remained the same, with less than 5% noting any improvement. These results highlight the adverse impacts of displacement on physical health, likely driven by factors such as stress, inadequate living conditions, and limited access to healthcare services.

Figure 39. Physical health

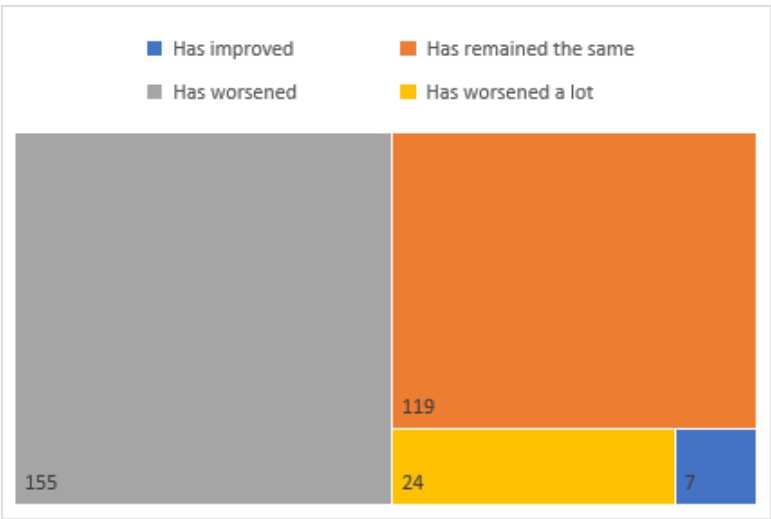
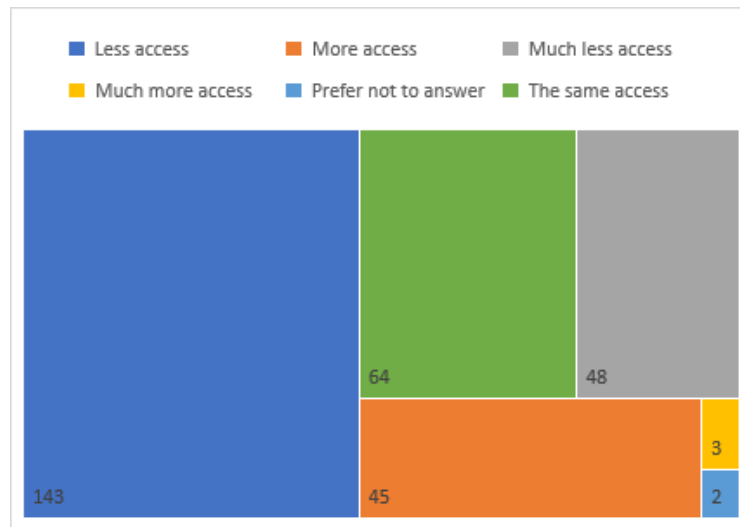




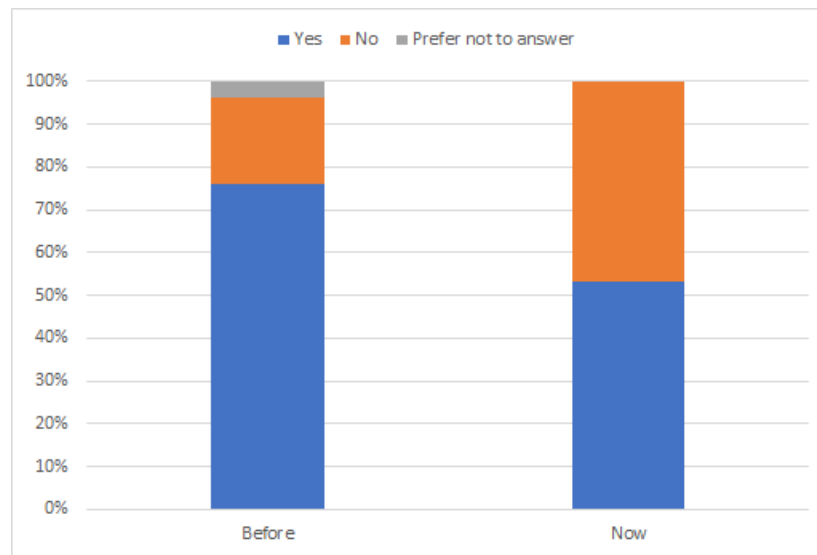
Figure 40 shows that approximately 50% of respondents reported having less access to healthcare services after displacement, including those who indicated "Much less access to healthcare" and "Less access to healthcare." Meanwhile, a slightly smaller proportion (around 20%) stated that their healthcare access remained the same compared to before displacement. Only a very small percentage reported experiencing more or much more access to healthcare, and an insignificant number chose not to respond.

**Figure 40. Access to healthcare compared to before displacement**



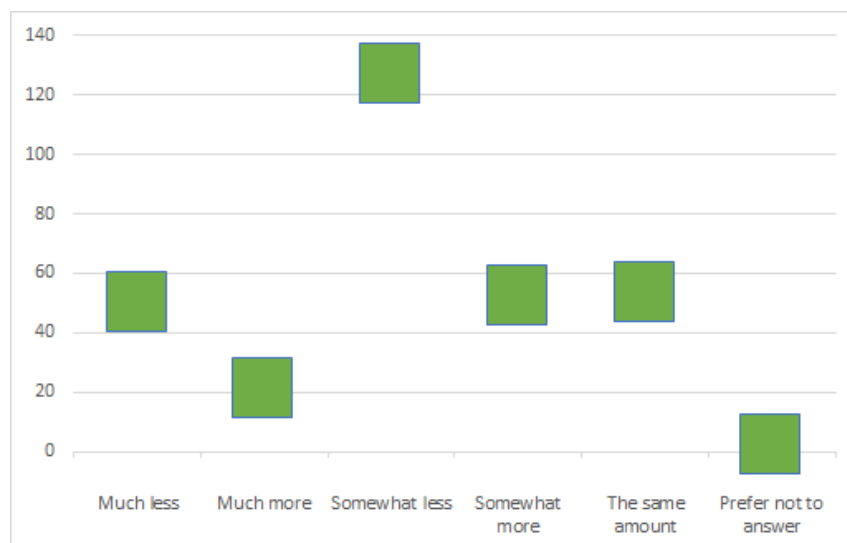
Free access to healthcare has similarly decreased. Before displacement, as seen in Figure 41, about 80% of respondents reported having free access to healthcare, while 20% did not. Post-displacement, access to free healthcare dropped dramatically, with free access and lack of access now evenly split at approximately 50% each. This marked reduction in free healthcare availability highlights either supply restrictions or growing financial barriers to essential services faced by displaced populations, necessitating policies that improve equitable access to healthcare.

**Figure 41. Free access to healthcare compared to before displacement**



Displacement also influenced health-related spending patterns. Figure 42 illustrates that about 40% of respondents reported spending somewhat less on health post-displacement, with another 15% spending much less. Meanwhile, 20% indicated spending somewhat more, and 15% maintained the same level of spending. This variability suggests that financial constraints and limited healthcare access forced many displaced individuals to reduce health expenditures, potentially exacerbating existing health issues.

**Figure 42. Health spending compared to before displacement**



The nutritional challenges faced by displaced households are stark. As shown in Figure 43, while 60% of households reported having a meal “today”, 25% indicated their last meal was “yesterday”, and smaller but troubling proportions had not eaten for two or more days,

including some who last ate up to five days ago, suggesting acute food insecurity among displaced populations.

**Figure 43. Last time household members had a meal**

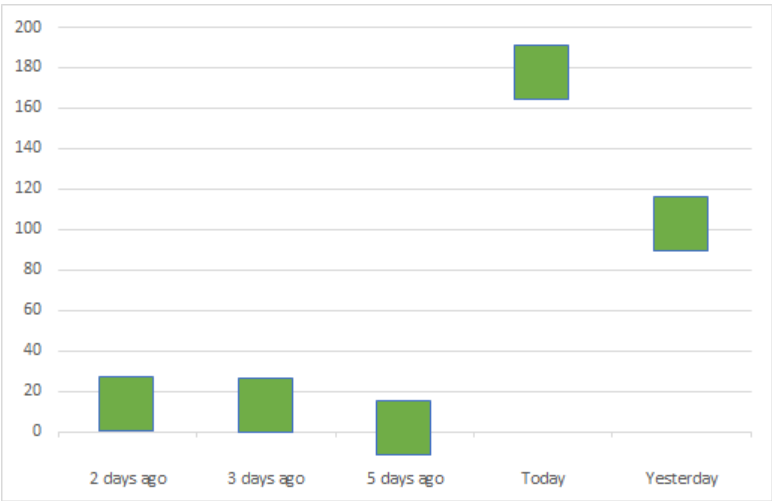
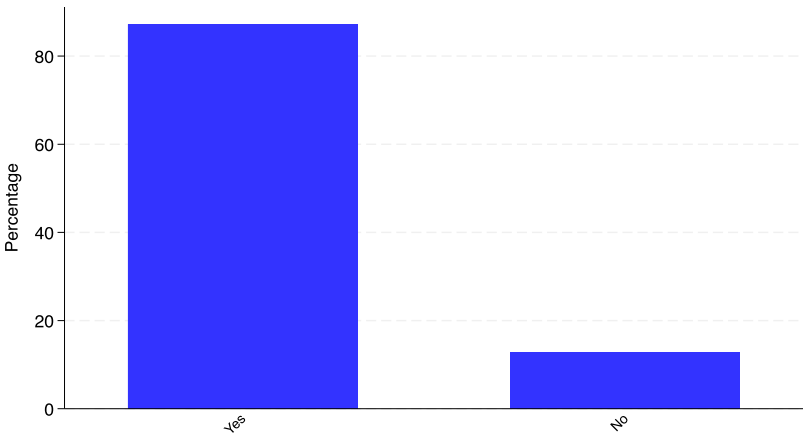


Figure 44 further highlights the widespread food insecurity issue, with over 80% of households reporting difficulties in accessing food. Only a small minority (under 20%) indicated no such challenges. These difficulties are likely linked to the loss of income, disrupted supply chains, and limited access to markets caused by displacement. Addressing food insecurity requires comprehensive interventions, including direct food aid, support for income generation, and measures to restore market access.

**Figure 44. Facing difficulties in accessing food**



**6.4. Lessons and policy implications from displacement in Kenya and Cameroon**

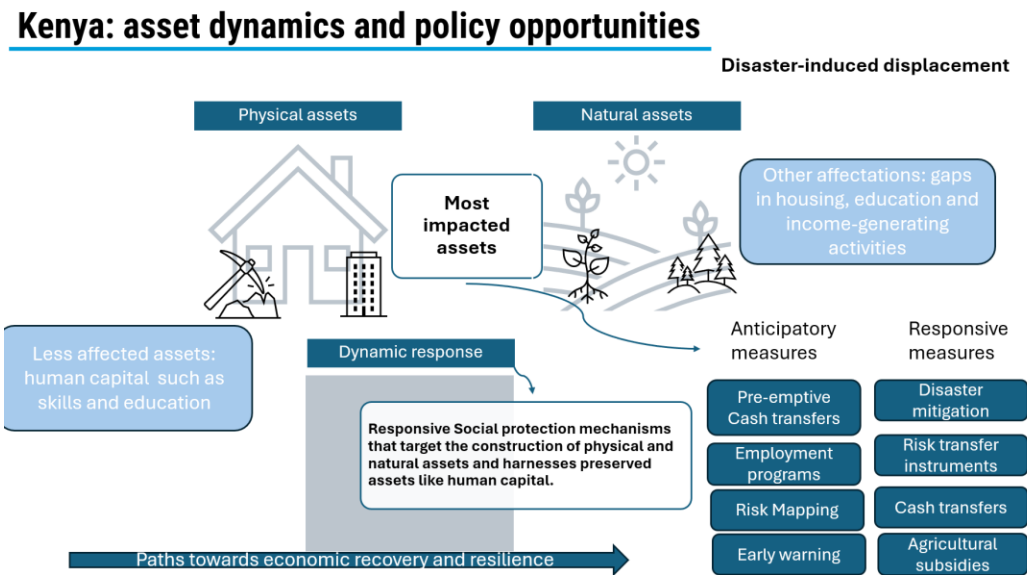
Displacement, whether driven by disasters or violence, disrupts lives, livelihoods, and well-being in profound ways. The cases of Kenya and Cameroon shed light on the distinct impacts of these displacement drivers, revealing common vulnerabilities and context-specific

challenges that necessitate tailored policy responses. By connecting these results to the asset-based approach and RSP, this section underscores how these frameworks can inform effective recovery and resilience-building strategies for IDPs.

In Kenya, disaster-induced displacement primarily disrupts physical and natural assets. Agricultural livelihoods, the backbone of rural economies, are often entirely halted as land and livestock are rendered unusable. Infrastructure damage isolates communities from markets and services, exacerbating economic vulnerabilities. However, human capital—such as skills—tend to remain relatively intact, creating opportunities for recovery if resources are effectively mobilized and environmental stability is restored. Addressing these challenges through the lens of the asset-based approach highlights the need to rebuild physical and natural capital while leveraging existing human and social assets. Responsive social protection systems can complement these efforts by providing scalable and adaptive multisectoral support that address immediate needs while promoting long-term resilience.

The Kenyan case also illustrates persistent gaps in housing, education, and income-generating opportunities. IDPs face inadequate housing solutions and financial barriers to education despite targeted interventions. Livelihood challenges, combined with disrupted agricultural activities, call for diversified income-generation strategies. RSP’s integration of disaster risk reduction and social protection mechanisms can provide a dynamic response to these vulnerabilities. For instance, scalable social safety nets, such as employment programs and agricultural subsidies, combined with proactive disaster mitigation efforts, can help IDPs rebuild critical assets and reduce future risks.

**Figure 45: Asset dynamics and policy integration opportunities**



In Cameroon, displacement caused by violence exerts a more systemic and long-term toll on all asset categories. Social capital is heavily eroded as trust and community cohesion break down, while access to education, healthcare, and basic services diminishes significantly. The destruction or abandonment of physical and financial assets, such as homes and savings, leaves households without the means to rebuild their lives. The asset-based approach suggests the need to restore social capital and human capital while addressing the systemic barriers to economic recovery. For instance, education and skills development initiatives can empower displaced individuals to rebuild human capital, while RSP's coordinated social registries, and integrated programs can provide the necessary support to restore financial and physical assets.

The widespread food insecurity and reduced access to healthcare in Cameroon are also relevant. Adaptive measures, such as linking social protection programs to early warning systems and expanding health and nutrition initiatives, can mitigate the immediate impacts of displacement while fostering long-term resilience. These interventions must address the overlapping vulnerabilities, particularly women and children, who are disproportionately affected by reduced access to essential services.

Across both contexts, income-generating capabilities emerge as a critical shared challenge. Disaster-affected populations in Kenya may recover more quickly if resources are effectively mobilized, but victims of violence in Cameroon face systemic barriers, such as social exclusion, institutional gaps, and trauma, which delay recovery. Comprehensive livelihood support is essential. Such support should prioritize skill development, access to financial resources, and opportunities for both agricultural and non-agricultural income diversification to promote economic resilience.

By situating displacement impacts within the frameworks of the asset-based approach and responsive social protection, the cases of Kenya and Cameroon offer lessons for policies. The analysis stresses the importance of understanding the behavior of assets – which are differently affected depending on context - to promote policy interventions that can prioritize the rebuilding of the most affected ones as a first step towards recovery.

**Box 2: Rental subsidies as an entry point to start solutions and to restore assets**

Housing solutions are a pivotal element in solutions to internal displacement, as identified by the IASC criteria. It is one of the most affected assets due to the shock of displacement and a critical one for households' social and economic recovery. Adequate housing is also linked to more stable forms of income and less dependency on humanitarian assistance. BLUMONT, a global NGO with support from USAID, developed an initiative to foster durable solutions among the displaced population: rental support for six months for displaced female headed households, as a mechanism to expand self-sufficiency. Since 2023, 752 recently displaced people received rental support in six cities: Cali, Popayán, Sincelejo, Montería, Cúcuta, and Florencia. The initiative incorporated an impact evaluation a year after the program, with the following initial results: 61% of the families benefiting from rental support manage to maintain adequate housing by paying the rent themselves, whereas for the control group is only 20%. In terms of security and sense of belonging to their community, the families continue to make very good progress with 80% feeling safe and that they belong to the community where they live, 55% for the control group. The beneficiary families have stabilized their income at a level 2.4 times higher than at the time of their displacement, although their income is still very similar to the control group. This shows that with the same income the beneficiaries can make totally different decisions to maintain adequate housing, and this is possible due to the peace of mind that rental support gives them. This experience illustrates that having a safe place to live, frees up resources and mental and emotional space to focus on families, education, and livelihoods. It also reinforces the importance of housing solutions as key to restore other impacted assets due to displacement. Social protection systems can coordinate with different institutions and actors to bring solutions for IDPs to complement actions that protect or help reconstruct assets. For more information see: [Internally Displaced Colombian Women Find Peace of Mind through Rental Support - Blumont](#)

Policymakers must promote and strengthen coordinated and dual approaches that integrate short-term humanitarian aid with long-term development strategies. This includes addressing immediate needs, such as housing, healthcare, and food security, while investing in sustainable recovery through education, livelihood restoration, and social cohesion. Adaptive systems that anticipate future risks and respond dynamically to crises are critical for fostering resilience and reducing vulnerabilities.

Ultimately, these lessons emphasize the importance of aligning displacement responses with broader development policies. By using the asset-based approach and RSP, governments, development actors, and humanitarian organizations can create more resilient systems that not only respond to the immediate needs of displaced populations but also address the structural challenges that drive and perpetuate vulnerability. This integrated approach is essential for promoting sustainable development and enhancing the well-being of displaced populations and their host communities.

While the experiences of Kenya and Cameroon demonstrate the socioeconomic challenges caused by displacement in low-income contexts, Ukraine offers a compelling case study of

how conflict-driven displacement reconfigures poverty and vulnerability in a middle-income country with significant pre-war disparities. The Ukraine case illustrates the dual shocks of economic contraction and mass displacement, also providing insights into how social protection interventions can mitigate the impacts of such crises.

### **Box 3. Ukraine's internal displacement and poverty dynamics amid war**

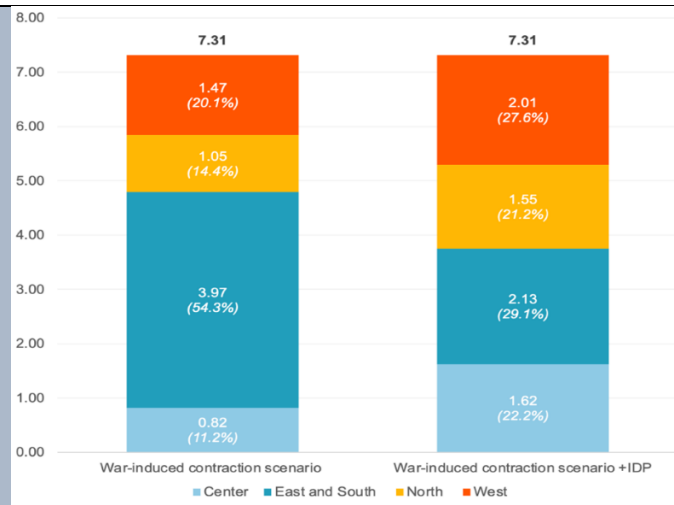
The war in Ukraine significantly reconfigured poverty dynamics, at least in the short-term, exacerbating vulnerabilities across the country. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have been disproportionately impacted, facing deepened socioeconomic challenges due to the dual shocks of economic contraction and displacement. A UNDP internal assessment (*Ukraine: A Rapid Assessment of the Impacts of the War on Poverty and its Mitigation Potential*) provides a detailed examination of the impacts of the war on poverty and vulnerability in Ukraine, focusing on the redistribution of poverty across regions, the role of IDP movements, and the effectiveness of targeted support mechanisms.

#### **The socioeconomic impact of displacement**

Ukraine's pre-war poverty rate, measured with the international poverty line of \$6.85 a day (2017 PPP), was relatively low at 7% in 2020. However, vulnerability to poverty—defined as living on \$6.85–14 per day—affected 53.4% of the population. The latter figure suggests that any severe disruption to livelihoods could push large segments of the population into poverty. The war-induced economic contraction of 32.5% in GDP per capita in 2022 worsened these conditions, with monetary poverty estimated to have increased to 25.2% by 2022, returning to levels last observed in 2007. Compared to a situation in which the war did not occur, the latter translates to over 7.31 million additional people falling below the poverty line, alongside an increase in vulnerability affecting 3.7 million more individuals.

The redistribution of IDPs has significantly altered poverty patterns across regions. As of mid-September 2022, approximately 8 million Ukrainians have been displaced internally, with most originating from the conflict-affected East and South regions. This reallocation has shifted the relative poverty burden toward host regions, particularly the Center and West. For instance, while 80% of displacement originates from the East and South, their contribution to the total 7.31 million new poor nearly halves (from 54.3% to 29.1%), whereas the Center's contribution doubles (from 11.2% to 22.2%) and the West's significantly increases (from 20.1% to 27.6%) when accounting for IDP movements (Figure B1).

**Figure B1:** People falling into poverty (\$6.85 a day) under a war-induced contraction scenario with and without considering IDP — million people and its distribution across regions, 2022



Source: UNDP based on the Household Living Conditions Survey (OUZHD), 2020, IMF WEO Database October 2021 and April 2022, the Estimated Population Baseline and Affected Population Dataset (IOM 2022), and the Ukraine Internal Displacement Report 2022, Round 9 (IOM 2022).

### Key findings

#### *Reconfiguration of poverty at Oblast level after accounting for displacement*

The decline in East and South's contributions to new poverty is due to outflows of poor and vulnerable IDPs. However, within these regions most affected by hostilities, Luhansk Oblast stands out, with its poverty rate rising from 36.5% (war-induced contraction scenario) to 51.4% (war-induced contraction scenario and internal displacement) as non-poor and non-vulnerable individuals leave, leaving behind a poorer population. The increase in the Center's poverty contribution is driven by the influx of poor and vulnerable displaced individuals, while in the West, despite hosting a significant number of IDPs, the increases in poverty rates have been more moderate due to better pre-war socioeconomic conditions. Figure B2 shows the incidence of monetary poverty at the Oblast level, comparing a no-war scenario with the war-induced contraction scenario while accounting for displacement.

**Figure B2:** Incidence of monetary poverty (\$6.85 a day, % of the Oblast's population) across Ukraine's Oblasts under a counterfactual scenario of no war (Panel a) and a war-induced contraction scenario considering IDPs (Panel b), 2022



**Panel a. Poverty (< \$6.58 a day) incidence (%) by Oblast without war**



**Panel b. Poverty (< \$6.85 a day) incidence by Oblast under a war-induced contraction scenario and internal displacement (%)**



Source: UNDP based on the Household Living Conditions Survey (OUZHD), 2020, IMF WEO Database October 2021 and April 2022, the Estimated Population Baseline and Affected Population Dataset (IOM 2022), and the Ukraine Internal Displacement Report 2022, Round 9 (IOM 2022). Note: In Panel b, the percentages below Oblast names indicate the share of total IDP residing in the respective Oblast.

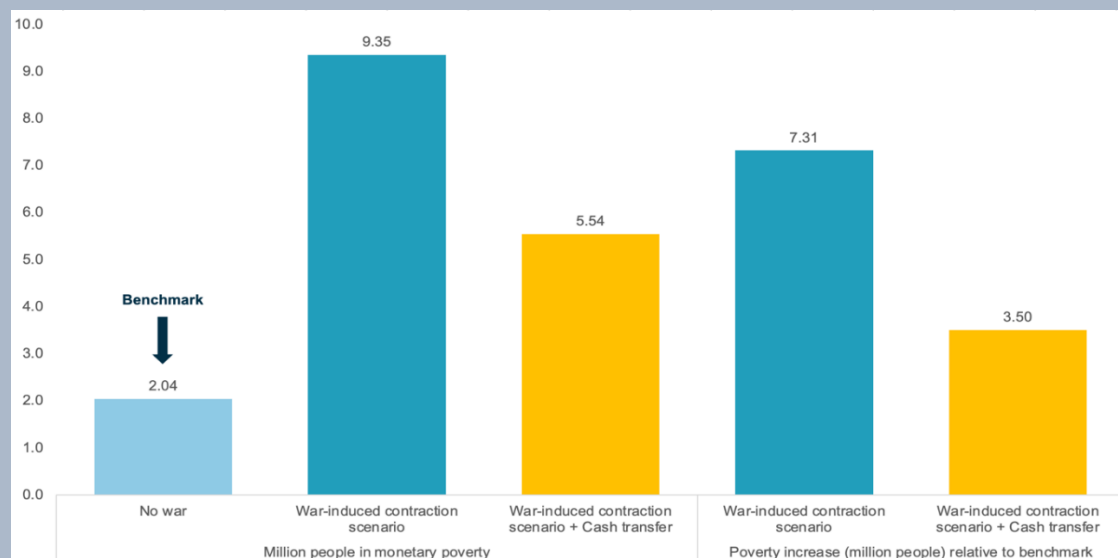
*IDPs' dual burden and shock-responsive interventions*

IDPs face a dual burden: the economic contraction caused by the war pushed many below the poverty line, compounded by asset depletion and disruptions associated with displacement. In response to the socioeconomic crisis, the Ukrainian government and international partners have implemented various social assistance measures. By the time the UNDP rapid assessment was written, cash transfers have been pivotal through an expansion of the “ePidtrymka” program:

- Income support of 6,500 hryvnia (one-off transfer) to individuals who have lost their jobs and incomes in the regions most affected by active hostilities.
- IDPs received monthly cash transfers of 2,000 hryvnia per adult and 3,000 hryvnia per child or disabled individual.

A *simulation* of an expanded individual cash transfer scheme reveals that a sustained program (spanning 12 months) delivering similar amounts and targeting 35% of the population (composed by the IDP and those who were living in multidimensional deprivation before the war with limited capacity to generate income) could mitigate more than half of the war-induced poverty increase. Specifically, for an estimated monthly cost of less than US\$600 million (or just 0.35% of Ukraine’s 2021 GDP), monetary poverty could rise by 3.5 million people, significantly lower than the 7.31 million increase expected without any intervention (Figure B3).

**Figure B3:** Population in poverty (\$ 6.85 a day) in Ukraine under different scenarios of contraction and cash support and poverty increases relative to a ‘no war’ scenario (million people), 2022



Source: UNDP based on the Household Living Conditions Survey (OUZHD), 2020, IMF WEO Database October 2021 and April 2022, the Estimated Population Baseline and Affected Population Dataset (IOM 2022), and the Ukraine Internal Displacement Report 2022, Round 9 (IOM 2022).

This simulated cash transfer scheme exemplifies how elements of ASP systems can respond to large-scale displacement crises by delivering timely and scalable social assistance. Cash assistance by itself can cushion the initial impacts of conflict-induced economic shocks, and, by integrating anticipatory action mechanisms—such as early identification of vulnerable populations—and adaptive measures can lay the groundwork for longer-term resilience with more nuanced interventions.

### Policy implications for IDPs

- Addressing the spatial redistribution of poverty requires region-specific interventions that account for the varying impacts of IDP movements.
- Host regions need additional resources to support increased demands on public services and infrastructure.
- Programs should focus on rebuilding human, physical, and financial assets for IDPs to enable sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion.
- From an ASP point of view, strengthening early warning systems and scalable social protection mechanisms is critical for mitigating the impacts of future shocks.

### Conclusion

The Ukrainian rapid assessment demonstrates that ASP systems are well-suited to address the multidimensional challenges posed by large-scale internal displacement. In general, by combining social assistance, early warning systems, and scalable interventions, ASP frameworks can help mitigate displacement-induced vulnerabilities while fostering resilience. This opens the space for more long term and sustainable interventions to rebuild assets. The lessons learned from Ukraine’s case—particularly regarding the integration of displacement data, the design and simulation of cash transfer programs, and group- and region-based targeting—can serve as a blueprint for other contexts experiencing conflict-driven displacement.

## 7. Solutions pathways: Key dimensions to move forward



### 7.1. Rebuilding critical assets for IDPs

Rebuilding critical assets lost or affected due to displacement is essential for fostering resilience and enabling long-term recovery. This involves restoring human capital (e.g., education, skills training), financial capital (e.g., access to credit, savings, cash transfers), social capital (e.g., networks and community relationships), and natural capital (e.g., land and environmental resources). As previously indicated, asset-based approaches, combined with RSP systems, offer a comprehensive framework to achieve these goals by integrating anticipatory measures, risk mapping, and scalable interventions.

Restoring **human capital**—such as education, skills, and health—is foundational to empowering displaced populations to regain self-reliance and socio-economic stability. Skills-development programs tailored to displaced populations can prepare them for employment opportunities in host communities, integrating immediate needs with long-term resilience. For example, the lack of formal education among IDPs in Kenya and Cameroon necessitates targeted interventions to address educational gaps and expand

access to skills development programs. RSP anticipatory measures, such as deploying education and training resources in displacement-prone areas, can prepare individuals for economic recovery even before displacement occurs.

Rebuilding **social capital** is equally critical for ensuring durable solutions for IDPs. Social capital—encompassing networks, relationships, and norms—is often severely disrupted during displacement. RSP frameworks can promote community-based programs and social cohesion initiatives to help IDPs reintegrate into host communities and rebuild networks. In both Kenya and Cameroon, displacement has significantly disrupted community structures, with IDPs often facing social exclusion. Community-driven projects and inclusive development initiatives that promote integration and participation can help foster trust and collaboration between displaced and host populations, reducing stigma and promoting shared recovery efforts.

Strengthening **financial capital**, such as household savings or access to credit, is crucial for stabilizing livelihoods post-displacement. In both Kenya and Cameroon, the significant economic disruptions faced by IDPs, including widespread unemployment and lack of financial support, highlight the need for targeted financial recovery mechanisms. Scalable cash transfer programs, a key feature of RSP systems, can play a vital role in providing immediate relief and enabling households to rebuild financial stability.

Ensuring access to **natural capital**, such as land, water, and environmental resources, is vital for rebuilding rural livelihoods. In Kenya, the loss of agricultural assets due to climate shocks emphasizes the need for integrated risk mapping and climate adaptation strategies within RSP frameworks. By restoring access to natural resources and enhancing resilience to future shocks, policymakers can support sustainable livelihoods for displaced populations in rural contexts.

## 7.2 Enhancing livelihood strategies for economic resilience

Achieving sustainable livelihoods is a cornerstone of resilience for IDPs. Displacement often disrupts income streams and limits access to markets, training opportunities, and entrepreneurial ecosystems. RSP systems enhance livelihood strategies by integrating skill development, financial inclusion, and market access into recovery frameworks.

Developing **human capital** through skill-building and vocational training equips IDPs to re-enter the workforce. Programs tailored to local labor demand—such as apprenticeships or on-the-job training—can bridge skill gaps and align displaced populations with host community markets. For example, addressing the lack of formal education among IDPs in Kenya and Cameroon is critical to fostering employability and economic inclusion. Incorporating digital literacy and technology-based skills can further prepare IDPs for evolving market trends.

Expanding **financial inclusion** is vital for enabling displaced households to rebuild economic stability. Key strategies can include:

- Providing low-interest microfinance loans to displaced entrepreneurs to invest in income-generating activities.
- Creating savings groups within IDP and host communities to foster collective economic resilience.
- Offering financial literacy programs to enhance resource management and long-term planning capabilities.

Leveraging RSP systems for sustainable livelihoods integrates risk mapping, skill development, and adaptive measures:

- Risk mapping identifies high-potential sectors for income generation.
- Adaptive measures, such as cash-for-work programs or grants tied to skill acquisition.
- Market access initiatives ensure IDPs are included in value chains and benefit from more equitable economic opportunities.

Strengthening **entrepreneurial capacities** provides sustainable avenues to self-reliance. Business development support—covering financial management, marketing, and supply chain integration—can help IDPs launch and grow businesses. Facilitating access to local and regional markets and supporting female entrepreneurs, who often face additional barriers, are critical for ensuring inclusive economic recovery.

By embedding these strategies into broader recovery frameworks, policymakers can address current income needs while empowering IDPs to build more sustainable livelihoods in their new environments.

## 8. Guidelines for incorporation of internal displacement in development policies

A development-centered approach integrates solutions for displaced populations within broader planning frameworks, ensuring that displacement is not treated solely as a humanitarian issue but as a structural challenge requiring cross-sectoral responses. Solutions to internal displacement must be anchored in national and local planning instruments, supported by strong institutional capacities to implement, coordinate, and monitor interventions. This requires mechanisms to align sectoral policies, optimize resource allocation, and foster broad stakeholder participation, ensuring that interventions are inclusive, effective, and sustainable.

Incorporating internal displacement into national development policies also signals a government's commitment to addressing displacement as a key barrier to achieving long-term development priorities. This integration ensures that internal displacement is

addressed through national leadership and with a broader understanding of the issue as it cuts across multiple sectors and institutions with relevant roles to play.

### 8.1 Incorporating Responsive Social Protection for displacement resilience

Integrating RSP into national development policies provides a forward-looking approach to addressing the vulnerabilities of IDPs and fostering their resilience. RSP systems create pathways for rebuilding human, financial, and social assets, enabling IDPs to transition from reliance on humanitarian aid to long-term development. To effectively embed RSP into development strategies<sup>26</sup> for internal displacement, policymakers should prioritize three key areas: cross-sectoral coordination, financing mechanisms, and institutional capacity-building.

By focusing on these areas, policymakers can develop adaptable social protection systems capable of addressing the dynamic challenges posed by internal displacement while laying the foundation for resilience and inclusive development.

#### 8.1.1. Cross-sectoral coordination

Internal displacement presents multi-dimensional challenges across sectors such as housing, employment, education, health, security, and disaster management. Effective responses require cross-sectoral coordination to ensure that social protection policies are comprehensive, inclusive, and aligned with broader development goals. More integrated and responsive social protection systems frameworks play a pivotal role in this process by integrating social protection with disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA), addressing both immediate needs and long-term vulnerabilities.

Key measures for cross-sectoral coordination include:

- **Unified databases and registries:** Centralized platforms that integrate IDP registries with disaster risk management and social protection databases are essential. Linking geospatial data with social and climate vulnerability indices improves targeting and ensures timely assistance for displaced communities. For instance, integrated social registries can combine data from health, education, and employment sectors to provide comprehensive services to IDPs.
- **Policy alignment protocols:** National and regional development plans must incorporate IDP-related policies as a core component. Aligning strategies across sectors such as housing, education, and healthcare with disaster preparedness frameworks reduces duplication and fosters an anticipatory approach to displacement challenges.

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<sup>26</sup> This section builds on Reflections on Adaptive Social Protection. A step forward to create resilience in LAC (forthcoming 2025). It provides comprehensive insights into integrating social protection with disaster risk management and climate adaptation strategies to build resilience among vulnerable populations. These principles have been adapted here to address the unique challenges posed by internal displacement.



- **Accountability and transparency:** Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should track the implementation of IDP policies across sectors. Feedback loops involving IDPs and local communities ensure that interventions are responsive to actual needs and priorities.
- **Empowering local governments:** Local authorities, often on the front lines of displacement responses, must be equipped to handle both immediate needs and long-term integration challenges. Decentralized implementation of IDP-related policies, complemented by RSP strategies, strengthens local resilience and preparedness for future shocks.

Mozambique's upcoming action plan to implement solutions to internal displacement shows a proactive integration of early warning systems and risk reduction generate resilience. These are entry points to incorporating adaptative social protection frameworks into IDP policies, promoting policy adjustment to address the shocks of displacement. It exemplifies how ASP can safeguard IDPs' assets and livelihoods while mitigating the broader effects of displacement.

#### **Box 4. Mozambique: Integrated approaches to advance solutions to internal displacement**

In December 2024, Mozambique is set to present its Action Plan for the Policy and Strategy of Management of Internal Displacement (PEGDI). The strategy is part of a broader framework, which incorporates actions to respond to **internal displacement and poverty reduction** in terms of access to basic social services, such as education, health, sanitation and water supply, social inclusion and security, as well as economic protection and opportunities. Additionally, it has a strong focus on **prevention, early warning systems and risk reduction to generate resilience at all levels**. These are all entry points to incorporating adaptative social protection frameworks into IDP policies as it promotes policy design adjustment to address the shocks of displacement. It is comprised of four pillars:

- **Pillar I – Prevention and mitigation:** aims to guarantee the implementation of prevention and mitigation of risk factors and vulnerabilities that cause Internal Displacement; including measures to strengthen community resilience, climate change adaptation and the promotion of peace and reconciliation.
- **Pillar II – Preparation and readiness:** aims to reinforce the Early Warning System and the institutional capacity to prepare to respond to extreme weather events. This includes operational procedures and coordination mechanisms to meet short term and long-term needs of IDPs.
- **Pillar III – Response:** aims to assist the Government's actions to ensure the provision of essential basic humanitarian assistance services within the scope of the emergency response, based on the specific needs of ODPS as well as the host communities.
- **Pillar IV – Reconstruction and recovery:** aims to create conditions and paths to promote and achieve lasting solutions for IDPs, based on the Principle of Voluntariness and equitable access to sustainable services and economic opportunities.

This integrated approach seeks to address the main drivers of displacement: armed conflict and extreme weather events. The plan combines interventions before, during and after displacement targeting IDPs and communities at large affected by internal displacement. The strategy considers the importance of adaptative social protection programs to support internally displaced persons

as well as mechanisms to strengthen the resilience of communities to respond effectively to crises and socio-economic changes. The plan also proposes the protection of assets such as land, property, livelihoods and others, through relevant laws and policies.

#### 8.1.2. Sustainable financing mechanisms

The successful implementation of responsive social protection systems requires sustainable financing that ensures continuous support for displaced populations. Traditional social assistance programs often rely on short-term funding, which falls short in addressing the protracted nature of displacement crises. RSP frameworks, however, demand flexible and scalable financing mechanisms, such as contingency funds, climate finance, and risk transfer instruments, to provide resources for both immediate and long-term needs. Some key financing tools include:

- **Contingency funds:** They enable governments to rapidly allocate resources during displacement crises. These funds support the immediate scale-up of social protection programs, providing emergency relief and addressing urgent needs such as shelter, healthcare, and cash assistance for displaced populations. They also reduce delays in deployment, ensuring timely interventions during emergencies.
- **Risk transfer instruments:** Tools like parametric insurance and catastrophe bonds offer rapid liquidity in response to displacement-triggering shocks. These instruments activate when pre-set thresholds, such as specific rainfall or temperature levels, are reached, enabling quick expansion of social protection programs to mitigate the impacts of displacement (Clarke & Dercon, 2016).
- **Global financing mechanisms:** Leveraging funds from initiatives like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or the Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF) can enhance the adaptive capacity of national social protection systems. These mechanisms support large-scale interventions, ensuring that resources are readily available to address displacement crises.
- **Social impact bonds:** These performance-based instruments mobilize private sector investments for social programs, with returns contingent on achieving measurable outcomes, such as improved livelihoods or housing for IDPs. These bonds enable governments to scale solutions while reducing reliance on traditional public funding.
- **Blended finance models:** Combining public and private funding sources, blended finance can amplify the resources available for displacement recovery efforts. This approach leverages philanthropic contributions, development financing, and commercial investments to fund initiatives like livelihood restoration, housing reconstruction, and community integration for IDPs.



### 8.1.3. Institutional capacity-building

Strong institutional frameworks and capacities are essential for the effective implementation of RSP systems, especially as displacement often strains the ability of local and national institutions to deliver adequate services to IDPs. Building institutional capacity ensures governments can deploy resources efficiently and develop technical expertise to address the complexities of displacement-related challenges.

Key priorities for capacity-building include:

- **Strengthening local governments:** Local governments, often the first actors on the ground to have to react to displacement crises, require targeted support. Capacity-building efforts can include training programs for officials, establishing inter-agency task forces, and creating standard operating procedures to streamline integrated responses to displacement-related shocks.
- **Developing monitoring and evaluation systems:** Investing in robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks allows governments to assess the effectiveness of RSP interventions, identify gaps, and adapt programs to better meet the needs of displaced populations (Bastagli et al., 2016).

### 8.2 Incorporating RSP into National Development Strategies and Solutions strategies<sup>27</sup>

National and local planning documents are vital for integrating solutions to internal displacement into broader development priorities. These instruments create opportunities for institutional coordination, resource allocation, shared commitments, and progress monitoring.

Countries like Colombia and Nigeria provide illustrative examples. Colombia's National Development Plan (2022–2026) has prioritized internal displacement by committing to placing 2 million IDPs on a pathway to solutions. This positions displacement at the center of national development efforts for the next five years, creating opportunities for targeted interventions. Similarly, Borno State in Nigeria has anchored its displacement solutions strategy within its 25-year state development plan, demonstrating how localized strategies can align with broader development goals.

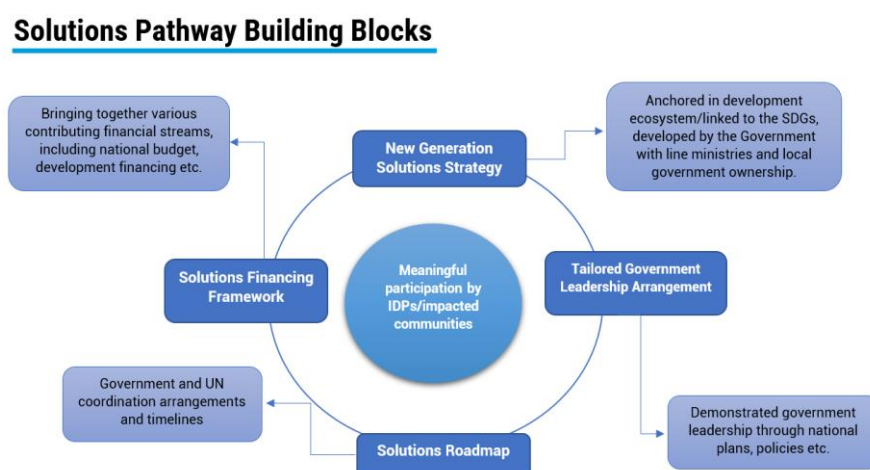
A development-focused approach to displacement solutions, grounded in government leadership, requires strategic planning frameworks. The Office of the Special Adviser has proposed a solutions model to assist countries in crafting and implementing such pathways. Central to this model are national solutions strategies, which signal national commitments and set priorities for addressing displacement. These strategies seek to identify key actors, standards, and policy interventions, aligning them with existing national or regional policies and frameworks. These instruments are accompanied by costing exercises that try to

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<sup>27</sup> Some policy recommendations in this subsection align with *Reflections on Adaptive Social Protection. A step forward to create resilience in LAC*, forthcoming 2025).

indicate the level of investments needed to bring about solutions as well as explore potential sources of funding.

**Figure 46. Solutions pathways for internal displacement**



*Source: Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement*

Solutions strategies serve as an essential entry point for explicitly linking responsive social protection measures with internal displacement. These strategies prioritize access to social assistance and services delivered through social protection frameworks, alongside other policy interventions related to aspects such as livelihoods, education, health and training. By leveraging and adapting such programs, governments can address the specific vulnerabilities of IDPs in context-specific ways.

To effectively incorporate RSP into development frameworks and solutions strategies, governments facing large-scale internal displacement can adopt the following policy recommendations:

- **Integrate RSP with national social protection strategies:** Support strengthening/developing or modifying existing social protection programs to include adaptive elements such as risk mapping, scalability, and early warning systems. These adaptations enable programs to respond more dynamically and effectively to displacement-induced shocks.
- **Develop anticipatory social protection measures:** Implement policies that promote proactive measures—such as pre-emptive cash transfers or livelihood support—triggered by early warning systems. These anticipatory actions help prevent destitution among IDPs and preserve livelihoods even in the face of displacement crises.
- **Build institutional capacity:** Strengthen the capacity of government institutions, especially at the local level, to ensure the effective implementation, coordination, and monitoring of RSP interventions.

- **Sustainable financing mechanisms for RSP:** Securing sustainable financing is fundamental for the effective implementation of RSP systems. Governments should establish dedicated contingency funds that can be rapidly deployed to scale up RSP interventions during displacement crises. These funds provide immediate liquidity, ensuring timely assistance to vulnerable populations.
- **Secure sustainable financing mechanisms:** Establish dedicated contingency funds to scale up RSP interventions during displacement crises rapidly. Such funds provide immediate liquidity, ensuring timely assistance to vulnerable populations without delays. Additionally, governments can explore innovative financing tools such as parametric insurance, catastrophe bonds, or international funding platforms.

With these policies, governments can ensure their social protection systems are equipped to address displacement-related shocks comprehensively. Solutions strategies anchored in RSP principles enable timely and effective responses to immediate crises while fostering long-term recovery and resilience. Future efforts should focus on integrating RSP within broader development policies, fostering further the collaboration of diverse stakeholders, sustained investments, and strong political will to address displacement challenges holistically.

### 8.3 Institutional channels and coordination for IDP solutions

Effective institutional coordination is critical for addressing the multidimensional challenges of internal displacement. Given the cross-sectoral nature of displacement, responses must integrate IDP policies into broader frameworks for disaster risk management (DRM), social protection, and climate adaptation. Establishing robust institutional mechanisms requires aligning IDP policies with national development plans and fostering collaboration across sectors to optimize resources and ensure policy coherence.

Dedicated **inter-ministerial committees** can serve as central coordination hubs, bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to align IDP policies with national poverty reduction strategies and broader development plans. These committees also play a vital role in fostering integration between social protection systems, DRM strategies, and climate adaptation initiatives, addressing the root causes of displacement and promoting long-term resilience.

**Local governments** are pivotal in translating national policies into actionable solutions at the community level. Strengthened local institutions can monitor and address IDP vulnerabilities in real time, tailoring assistance to meet specific local needs and conditions. By acting as a bridge between national frameworks and community-based interventions, local governments ensure effective implementation of policies and programs that directly benefit displaced populations.

Comprehensive support for IDPs also relies on **harmonized and integrated data systems across sectors**. Linking IDP registries with social protection systems enhances the targeting and coverage of interventions, while integrated digital platforms enable real-time updates on demographic, socioeconomic, and risk data. These tools improve the precision of resource allocation and program design, while robust data protection and privacy measures help maintain the trust of displaced populations.

**Aligning IDP policies with DRM and climate adaptation** frameworks further ensures proactive and sustainable responses to displacement risks. Early warning systems, when integrated into social protection programs, can anticipate displacement triggers and mobilize timely interventions. Additionally, designing climate-resilient infrastructure and housing solutions for at-risk communities reduces vulnerabilities, while ecosystem-based approaches enhance resilience and mitigate displacement drivers.

These mechanisms provide a cohesive framework for advancing durable solutions and ensuring that IDPs are not left behind in national development efforts.

#### 8.4 Real-time monitoring and adaptability

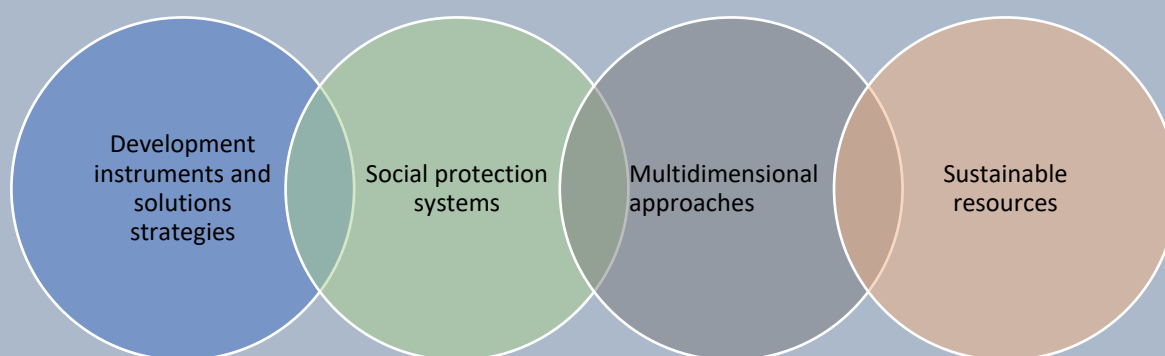
Addressing internal displacement effectively requires adaptive systems that can respond to rapidly changing conditions. Responsive and adaptive frameworks offer essential tools for integrating real-time monitoring mechanisms, ensuring that programs for IDPs remain dynamic, responsive, and efficient.

Real-time monitoring tools play a critical role in creating data-driven and adaptable interventions. Technologies such as geospatial data integration, including GIS mapping, can track IDP movements, identify displacement hotspots, and monitor environmental or conflict-related risks. This enables targeted support and informed resource allocation. Mobile phone-based surveys further enhance data collection efforts, offering cost-effective and rapid insights into IDP living conditions, access to services, and emerging needs. These surveys are particularly valuable for reaching remote or inaccessible areas. Additionally, integrated data dashboards that connect real-time monitoring with existing social registries and IDP databases provide a comprehensive understanding of vulnerabilities and service gaps. Such tools enhance coordination across sectors and improve decision-making processes.

The adaptability of IDP programs is equally crucial for addressing shifting needs and circumstances. RSP frameworks emphasize flexibility through several mechanisms. Programs can leverage real-time data to dynamically update policy priorities, adjust funding allocations, and refine intervention strategies in response to emerging crises or displacement trends. Furthermore, scalability is embedded within RSP systems, enabling interventions to expand or contract based on fluctuations in IDP populations. For instance, cash transfer programs can be scaled up during large displacement events to provide immediate financial relief. Scenario-planning further enhances adaptability by anticipating

potential displacement scenarios and developing contingency plans, ensuring readiness for future challenges. Integrating real-time monitoring and adaptability into IDP solutions would allow governments and partners to create more responsive, effective, and inclusive programs.

**Box 5. Roadmap for Development Practitioners: Key Entry Points to consider Internal Displacement**



Internal displacement poses a multidimensional challenge, frequently leading to severe consequences for countries already facing development hurdles. To address it effectively, development practitioners must prioritize its integration into broader development planning and policy frameworks. This box provides four practical entry points for advancing this.

**Leverage development planning instruments.** Long term national and local planning instruments—such as development strategies, sectorial plans, and legal frameworks—are pivotal in embedding internal displacement into public policy and broader development priorities. Practitioners should assess whether internal displacement is adequately accounted for in these instruments. If absent, they should advocate for its inclusion; if present, they should identify opportunities to strengthen existing interventions.

**Solutions strategies and action plans** are ideal instruments to further dive into specific targets, programs, and resources that can prioritize internal displacement and incorporate approaches (i.e. asset based and RSP) and identify the responsible institutions to generate accountability. They can prioritize access to social assistance and services delivered through social protection frameworks, including RSP, alongside other policy interventions that compliment these efforts, related to livelihoods, housing, training among others and incorporate into solutions.

For this to happen, there must first be some sense of political will on the part of the government. A political economy approach is suggested in this process to evaluate opportunities and bottlenecks to moving towards solutions due to power relations and interests that might be present (UNDP, 2021).

**Strengthen social protection systems and capacities.** Practitioners should evaluate the maturity and adaptability of national social protection systems to address displacement-related vulnerabilities. This includes assessing existing institutional capacities, coverage, institutional coordination, and the inclusion of IDPs in social registries and services. If existent, RSP frameworks can enhance the flexibility of social protection systems, ensuring they respond to displacement shocks while addressing the unique needs of IDPs. Addressing institutional barriers

to IDPs' access to social protection is critical for promoting equity and inclusion. The solutions agenda can promote the strengthening of social protection systems, generating capacities and advocating for transformations to make them more comprehensive and inclusive for all.

**Promote multidimensional approaches to poverty and vulnerability.** Holistic poverty and vulnerability analyses are essential for understanding the intersection between displacement and socio-economic exclusion. Practitioners should advocate for integrating internal displacement into national data systems, including social registries, ensuring that socio-economic, environmental, and climate risk data inform policies. Asset-based analyses can provide insights into the specific types of policies needed to rebuild resilience and reduce vulnerabilities for IDPs, complementing a Leave No One Behind (LNOB) approach. These approaches can inform the construction of solutions strategies that consider the multiple dimensions of life that are affected by displacement.

**Secure sustainable resources.** Adequate and sustainable financing is crucial for addressing internal displacement effectively. Practitioners should evaluate existing funding sources and advocate for innovative mechanisms, such as blended finance, contingency funds, risk transfer instruments, and climate financing, to support durable solutions and link these development resources to initiatives that include solutions strategies. Strong development narratives can help justify long-term investments, ensuring that internal displacement is prioritized in resource allocation and that cross-sectoral coordination—between ministries of finance, planning, environment, and disaster risk reduction—is actively promoted.

## 9. Final remarks

The global context today is marked by a confluence of crises—conflicts, climate-induced disasters, and socio-economic instability—that threaten the progress made toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These interconnected challenges pose significant barriers to ensuring that no one is left behind. Among these pressing issues, internal displacement stands out as both a humanitarian crisis and a developmental challenge, demanding urgent and sustained attention.<sup>28</sup>

Internal displacement disrupts lives, livelihoods, and communities, placing disproportionate burdens on the poorest and most vulnerable populations. While humanitarian assistance remains indispensable for addressing immediate needs, there is a critical need to shift toward a development-oriented approach. Sustainable solutions must focus on fostering resilience, enabling displaced populations to rebuild their lives and reducing their vulnerability to future shocks. This requires government leadership, strengthened institutional capacities, and the alignment of policies with long-term development priorities.

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<sup>28</sup> Turning the tide on internal displacement: a development approach to solutions (UNDP,2022).

Integrating internal displacement in all development processes will undoubtedly contribute to addressing exclusions, building resilience among the vulnerable and accelerating progress.

### **Bridging humanitarian and development approaches**

The transition from humanitarian relief to sustainable development solutions is at the heart of Action Agenda. This analysis has emphasized that development actors must move beyond traditional humanitarian approaches to integrate internal displacement into broader national development frameworks. Addressing displacement demands a dual focus: responding to immediate needs while laying the foundation for durable solutions that promote socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance for displaced populations.

In protracted crises, aligning humanitarian and development objectives requires carefully balancing the trade-off between scaling up short-term support, while not losing sight of structural reforms and capacity-building investments that can lay foundations for more inclusive and sustainable rights-based approaches in the long term.<sup>29</sup>

While organizations such as WFP and UNHCR have made significant strides in embedding ASP within emergency responses, this document emphasizes the need for integrating RSP into long-term development strategies. This document aims at bridging the humanitarian-development nexus, hence, complementing these efforts and offering a combined focus on immediate relief and asset recovery for sustained resilience. Moving forward, fostering collaborative inter-agency platforms will ensure that RSP interventions are both immediate and durable, aligning with national development priorities and the needs of displaced populations.

The asset-based approach and RSP systems applied to IDPs, outlined in this document, provide practical and innovative pathways for addressing the complexities of internal displacement. These frameworks emphasize rebuilding critical assets—human, financial, social, and natural—and integrating resilience-building mechanisms into social protection systems. By linking social protection with disaster risk management and climate adaptation, RSP equips policymakers to design interventions that address displacement holistically and dynamically.

### **Rebuilding assets and fostering resilience**

A central tenet of this document is the recognition that internal displacement often results in the loss of critical assets that are fundamental to individuals' and households' livelihoods

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29 Reid et al, 2024. Realigning Social Protection Across the Nexus: Reflections from Protracted Crises in the Arab Region. IDS Bulletin. [Realigning Social Protection Across the Nexus: Reflections from Protracted Crises in the Arab Region | IDS Bulletin](#)



and well-being. The loss of homes, land, education, and social networks exacerbates poverty and perpetuates cycles of vulnerability. Rebuilding these assets is not just a matter of recovery—it is a critical pathway to fostering resilience and creating sustainable futures for displaced populations.

Countries like Kenya and Cameroon have illustrated the distinct impacts of disaster- and violence-induced displacement on households' asset portfolios. These cases highlight the importance of tailored interventions to address specific vulnerabilities, from disrupted agricultural livelihoods in Kenya to eroded social cohesion and education gaps in Cameroon. Socioeconomic integration, centered on the reconstruction of household assets, is key to fostering resilience and self-reliance among IDPs and their host communities.

### **RSP as a pathway to solutions**

ASP can become a critical framework for transitioning IDPs from dependency on humanitarian assistance to self-reliance. The ability of RSP to integrate interventions and adapt to changing conditions makes it uniquely suited to the multidimensional challenges specific to internal displacement.<sup>30</sup> RSP can provide governments with tools to anticipate displacement triggers, protect vulnerable populations, and support long-term recovery. By bridging RSP's analytical strengths with displacement-focused strategies, this document contributes to a holistic understanding of vulnerability and resilience, empowering policymakers to craft sustainable, inclusive solutions for displaced populations.

### **The role of leadership, data, and financing**

Significant progress has been made in recent years, with growing government leadership in countries heavily affected by internal displacement. Governments, in partnership with the UN and other stakeholders, have advanced critical discussions on data, financing, and the meaningful participation of displaced populations in policy development. National and local solutions strategies, like those in Nigeria's Borno State and Colombia, demonstrate how governments can integrate displacement responses into broader development plans, signalling a commitment to addressing internal displacement as a structural challenge.

However, much work remains. Strengthening institutional capacities at the national and local levels, securing sustainable financing mechanisms, and ensuring inclusive policies that leave no one behind are essential for sustaining progress. Innovative financial tools, such as contingency funds, blended finance models, and climate finance instruments, offer

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<sup>30</sup> The insights from *Reflections on Adaptive Social Protection. A step forward to create resilience in LAC* (forthcoming 2025) reinforce the importance of integrating ASP principles into IDP policy frameworks.



opportunities to scale up support for displaced populations and ensure resources are allocated efficiently and predictably.

### **A call to action**

This document underscores the urgency of embedding displacement responses within broader development agendas, emphasizing the need for inclusive and sustainable solutions. Policymakers, practitioners, and development actors must act decisively to build on the progress achieved so far. This involves not only addressing the immediate needs of displaced populations but also tackling the root causes of displacement, strengthening governance systems, and fostering resilience in both displaced and host communities.

The task ahead requires a collaborative and sustained effort. Governments must take the lead in integrating displacement into national development strategies, supported by international partners, civil society, and the private sector. At the same time, the voices and experiences of IDPs must inform the design and implementation of policies and programs to ensure that interventions are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to their needs.

### **Looking ahead**

The global community has a narrow window to accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda. Addressing internal displacement is not just a moral imperative—it is a development necessity. By combining the principles of RSP and the asset-based approach, and by aligning displacement responses with broader poverty reduction and resilience-building strategies, we can contribute to a future where displaced populations are not only protected but empowered to thrive. The challenge now is to translate these principles into action—ensuring that the millions of people displaced around the world are not left behind, but are instead supported on their journey toward stability, dignity, and opportunity.

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