

# PROGRESS 2024

Periodic Global Report on the State of  
Solutions to Internal Displacement



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# PROGRESS 2024

Periodic Global Report on the State of  
Solutions to Internal Displacement

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**December 2024**

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IOM Director General visits Chad during a high-level visit to meet with government partners as well as visit the Chadian border in Adré where several Sudanese refugees are arriving from Sudan. Chad hosts more than one million forcibly displaced people, including refugees from conflicts in neighbouring Sudan, the Central African Republic and Cameroon.

# FOREWORD

The continuing rise in the numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide – up from 71.1 million in 2022 to 75.9 million in 2023 – is a stark reminder of the challenge we face as conflict, violence, disasters and climate-related events impose human costs on communities around the globe.

To overcome these challenges, we need more than the world’s attention. We need the world to act, to do better at delivering durable solutions that leave no one behind. That is the spirit behind the UN Secretary General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and the mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement.



As Secretary General Antonio Guterres said when he launched the Action Agenda in late 2019 “more of the same is not enough”.

I am proud to share IOM’s second Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement 2024 (PROGRESS24). PROGRESS24 is intended to support decision-makers - from policy to operational partners – with a fresh evidence base to improve outcomes for internally displaced persons.

This year’s collaboration with Georgetown University reveals the importance of creating conditions where people who are displaced can make informed decisions about what solution they prefer. Using data collated from 33 of the world’s most troubled displacement contexts, along with focused case studies of IDPs in nine countries, the report identifies the factors that go into what someone who is displaced wants to do next.

We want to increase the self-reliance of internally displaced people, so the choices of those people – whether to return home, resettle elsewhere, or integrate locally -- must be at the heart of our work to find lasting solutions to displacement. When the options IDPs need are not available, their progress toward stability can be fragile and short-lived. That is why it is crucial for humanitarian and development partners to have data on what displaced families intend to do.

Even basic information about these intentions helps plan resources effectively, ensuring the right support is in place to guide IDPs along their chosen path to a durable solution.

The main finding of this year’s PROGRESS report reveals a difference in what IDPs plan to do, and current policy direction. There is often a bias toward returning IDPs to their communities of origin. However, the results of PROGRESS2024 - based on more than 85,000 household surveys– reveal a widespread intention of IDPs to remain where they are.

This finding showcases the critical importance of taking a people-centred approach by listening to IDPs and ensuring that their voices are at the heart of solutions planning and programming. Factors that impact the IDPs’ preferred solution include how long they have been displaced and why, along with their own safety, security and opportunity to pursue a livelihood, among others.

The findings invite humanitarians and development partners alike to take a renewed look at our collective advocacy, planning, data collection, and operational delivery, to help IDPs find and achieve the durable solutions they prefer.

INSERT: Text Box with quote from R. Piper: e.g. “evidence-based planning and responses can lay the groundwork for solutions from the start .” With the mandate of the UN Secretary General’s Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement Robert Piper concluding in December 2024, IOM’s data-driven humanitarian and development programming is moving forward with partners to improve the lives of IDPs, including data collection and analysis.

As we move into 2025, IOM remains committed to our Organizational Strategic Objective of driving solutions for displacement. PROGRESS24 is one aspect of our work to fulfil that objective. Based on our unparalleled data collection and analysis system, PROGRESS offers the humanitarian and development system the essential data foundations upon which to continue delivering solutions for those we serve.

**Amy Pope**

IOM Director General

A handwritten signature of Amy Pope in black ink, written in a cursive style.



Merly and her children had to move to a shelter after storms Eta and Iota hit their communities. Despite the challenges, they see the future with hope and resilience. Honduras  
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are grateful to IOM's leadership, Director General Amy Pope and the Deputy Director General for Operations, Ugochi Daniels, for their vision, guidance, and support during the process. We would also like to extend our warm thanks to the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Robert Piper, and his team for their engagement in the creation of the second edition of the PROGRESS report.

The editorial team is particularly grateful to the Governments of Burundi, Honduras, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan for their contributions to the report and ongoing support in improving data for solutions efforts at the country level.

Special thanks to the numerous data and research focal points in IOM missions and regional offices, especially to field teams and internally displaced persons in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Honduras and Nigeria who shared their displacement experience with us.

The Global Data Institute and Georgetown University are grateful to IOM's technical experts from various departments for their feedback and collaboration, especially the Department of Humanitarian Response and Recovery, the Senior Advisor on Internal Displacement, the Department of Data, Insight and Policy Coordination and IOM Office to the United Nations in New York and to research assistants working with Georgetown's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM).

The second edition of the report would not be possible without our partners and their invaluable contributions, including the Expert Group on Refugee, IDPs and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS), International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Joint IDP Profiling Services (JIPS), the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), REACH Impact Initiatives, UN Development Program (UNDP), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP).

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<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>DSID</b>	Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Task Force
<b>DTM</b>	Displacement Tracking Matrix
<b>EGRISS</b>	Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FACA</b>	Central African Armed Forces
<b>FGDs</b>	Focus group discussions
<b>GAIN</b>	Global Annual Inclusion Survey
<b>GDI</b>	Global Data Institute
<b>IASC</b>	Inter-agency Standing Committee's Framework for Durable Solutions
<b>IDMC</b>	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IRIS</b>	International Recommendations on IDP Statistics
<b>ISIM</b>	Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration
<b>JIPS</b>	Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service
<b>MGI</b>	Migration Governance Indicators
<b>PROGRESS</b>	Periodic Global Reports on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement
<b>ReDSS</b>	Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Climate Change Task Force on Displacement
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNOCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Objective and Context

**PROGRESS**, the Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement, was launched in 2023 to provide evidence on the factors which enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to move toward – and eventually achieve – durable solutions. A joint initiative of IOM's Global Data Institute (GDI) and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), PROGRESS is intended to support governments, development and humanitarian actors, and host communities to increase and improve solutions' outcomes for IDPs.

PROGRESS complements the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions and the important International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) from the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) in emphasizing that efforts to improve solutions outcomes for IDPs must follow a tailored, effective process, while keeping the destination – full resolution of an IDP's displacement – firmly at the front of our minds. More recent Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) recommendations and PROGRESS recognize that data are needed to capture an IDPs' entry onto a solutions pathway, to measure progress toward durable solutions, and that data will demonstrate when IDPs have achieved resolution of their displacement. This report provides an evidence-based, operationally relevant and people-centric analysis of factors to support IDPs find solutions to internal displacement.

## Key findings

PROGRESS<sup>24</sup> breaks new analytical ground in several ways: it is **the first effort to systematically analyse differences between those displaced by conflict and by disasters**. It provides an analysis of key variables that influence durable solutions intentions. It brings together insights from analysis on IDPs intentions across varied durations and causes of displacement, vulnerability of household members, perception of safety and security and participation in community activities in displacement.

It **reveals promising new routes for humanitarian and development stakeholders to improve solutions outcomes for IDPs**. Aside from confirming three of the four hypotheses structuring this report, an unexpected finding has emerged from across the analysis that has significant implications for solutions data users in policy, advocacy, coordination, and operational delivery of assistance programmes. The findings suggest governments and practitioners to re-assess long-held assumptions about dynamics, and strategies for supporting durable solutions and resolving internal displacement.

### **1. A majority of IDPs surveyed (60%) wish to remain where they are as their preferred solution.**

Despite variations between contexts and causes of displacement, a majority of IDP households surveyed across nine countries included in this year's analysis, wish to stay in their location of displacement from year one of displacement onwards. This suggests that supporting local integration in the first few years of displacement would correspond to IDP intentions.

### **2. Duration of displacement affects solutions intentions.**

Local integration preferences approach 100% by year 5 of displacement in disaster settings - with higher percentages (69.5%) of conflict-displaced also expressing an intention to remain in their area of displacement.

### **3. Fewer than 5% of IDPs wish to relocate or resettle as a solution.**

Although the intention to relocate or resettle to another part of the country increases slightly over time - from 2.7% for those displaced for one year or less, to 3.9% for those displaced for more than 5 years, this remains the least preferred displacement solution for surveyed IDPs.

### **4. Solutions preferences differ significantly between those displaced by conflicts and those by disasters.**

A higher percentage of those displaced by disasters intend to stay in their current location than those displaced by conflict (in eight of the nine countries analysed).

### **5. Multiple displacement is experienced by more than one third of surveyed IDPs.**

In this report, 40.8% of respondents reported that they had been displaced on multiple occasions; 59.2% reported that they had been displaced only once. The share of IDPs who intend to stay in their current location reduces as the number of displacement increases.

### **6. Safety and security is the most frequently cited influence on solutions intentions.**

Data on the perceptions of safety (of mostly conflict-displaced households) shows that most (95%) surveyed IDPs feel safe in their locations of displacement and female-headed households are just as likely to feel safe as male-headed households.

### **7. Livelihoods and employment opportunities are the second most influential factor on solutions preferences.**

Livelihoods become an increasingly important influence on solutions intentions the longer people remain displaced. Approximately 2 out of 10 surveyed IDPs (18.1%) displaced up to a year reported livelihoods and employment as the major factor influencing solutions intentions compared to 25.2% of those displaced for over 5 years.

### **8. Social ties or community participation could affect durable solutions intentions.**

While social ties are not a component of the IRIS criteria nor the IASC Framework on durable solutions, social ties have long been understood to underpin IDP preferences when it comes to choosing a solution pathway. IDP participation in community activities is relatively low in the location of displacement, with only 32.3% of IDP households participating. Over 8 out of 10 (86.2%) of those that do participate in community activities intend to remain in their current location compared to 67.2% of those who do not participate.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. An urgent pivot towards local integration.**

National authorities and international partners have historically practiced a returns-oriented approach to resolving displacement. Findings from this report, strongly suggests the need for a pivot by all stakeholders to improve IDP prospects for achieving the preferred solutions, by making local integration support programmes widely available. Additionally, information sharing with IDPs about available support provided by the authorities and partners to achieve solutions and a consistent monitoring of the intentions of IDPs would help identify any new trends in the durable solutions.

## **2. Governments and authorities could develop more tailored policy responses to support durable solutions by considering the cause of displacement and associated displacement related vulnerability.**

This could include, for example, tackling the lasting impact of disaster-displacement on shelter and housing to ensure return or investing in community engagement programmes to facilitate local integration.

## **3. National authorities and practitioners should ensure that IDPs are able to participate in plans for their displacement solutions.**

The effects of multiple displacements on both IDP well-being and their ability to pursue durable solutions should be factored into these plans.

## **4. Livelihoods programming is critical to support IDP solutions of return and local integration in communities.**

## **5. New opportunities for improving governance frameworks include implementing a whole-of government and whole-of society approach, as well as ensuring accurate and comprehensive data collection.**

Actors at the subnational level, such as local and regional governments, should be recognized and empowered to play a role in working towards durable solutions.

## **Looking Ahead**

PROGRESS24 has identified several trends in solutions for IDPs and has shed light on some of the factors that play a role in IDPs deciding to pursue specific solution pathways. But the report also underscores some of the gaps in our understanding. The social and economic characteristics of the host community are likely to play a role in determining whether IDPs can integrate or feel compelled to either return or to try to relocate elsewhere. The extent to which local authorities are failing – or struggling – to meet the needs of IDPs and to support solutions for their displacement is an area where further evidence is needed, particularly by development actors.

PROGRESS24 has highlighted important differences between those displaced by disasters and by conflict but more attention is needed on how different types of disasters and conflicts influence intentions.

Intention surveys are snapshots of IDP attitudes at a particular moment in time. While PROGRESS24 has focused on duration of displacement by considering how long IDPs have been displaced, robust longitudinal data analysis is needed – surveying the same IDPs over time as they seek solutions. Moreover, it is essential that IDPs who are asked about their solutions intentions, are also informed about available support from authorities and partners that will help reducing their displacement related vulnerabilities.

Findings from PROGRESS24 have implications for current discussions of climate mobility, particularly around loss and damage. The fact that most IDPs intend to remain in the locations of their displacement means that the economic and social cost to host communities needs to be factored into discussions on loss and damage.

Further data should be collected to identify the impact of multiple displacements have on each of the three solutions options. It would be useful for solutions stakeholders on the ground to understand what, if any, causal links there are between multiple displacements and (i) duration of displacement, (ii) type of original and or vulnerability to subsequent displacements, (iii) how and whether solutions intentions change with each displacement.

The next iteration of PROGRESS will seek to address some of these evidence gaps, perhaps in collaboration with other UN agencies, particularly to incorporate data on host communities and development indicators.



Displaced persons in front of collective center, Tigray region, Ethiopia. © IOM Ethiopia 2022



IOM Director General visits Chad during a high-level visit to meet with government partners as well as visit the Chadian border in Adré where several Sudanese refugees are arriving from Sudan. Chad hosts more than one million forcibly displaced people, including refugees from conflicts in neighbouring Sudan, the Central African Republic and Cameroon.



Chapter

01

INTRODUCTION  
TO PROGRESS

# 1. INTRODUCTION TO PROGRESS

**PROGRESS**, the Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement, was launched in 2023 to provide evidence on factors which enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to move toward – and eventually achieve – durable solutions. An initiative of IOM's Global Data (GDI) Institute and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), PROGRESS is intended to support governments, development and humanitarian actors, host communities and IDPs themselves to increase opportunities to move closer to finding solutions.

## Setting the Stage

Given the rising number of IDPs in the world and the increase in protracted displacement, this is an opportune moment for the international community to harness its collective efforts to resolve internal displacement through durable solutions for the world's 75+ million IDPs.<sup>1</sup> In the past few years, the United Nations has sought to elevate the issue of IDPs – and particularly the problematic issue of solutions – in several forums. The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and subsequent Action Agenda on Internal Displacement have re-focused attention on IDPs.<sup>2</sup> In particular, the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement has been a much-needed catalyst in spearheading international agencies to take the issue of solutions seriously. Formed in response to the request of the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Task Force has carried out impressive work in conceptualizing the process through which IDPs are moving toward solutions. Both DSID and PROGRESS complement the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions and the important International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) from the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) in emphasizing that the search for durable solutions is a process of gradually diminishing displacement-specific needs. Data is needed to measure progress toward durable solutions, and that data will demonstrate when IDPs have achieved a solution. This report seeks to build on these initiatives by contributing an evidence base for policies intended to contribute to solutions for IDPs.

The first edition, PROGRESS23 had three objectives:

- Assess the status of progress towards solutions to support efforts by governments and other stakeholders to end displacement
- Identify key gaps in data needed to measure progress toward solutions and develop ways of addressing these gaps
- Engage national governments and UN system actors to take measures which will facilitate solutions for IDPs

**PROGRESS23** yielded results. It reiterated long-standing evidence that IDPs have a range of additional vulnerabilities that non-displaced populations do not have and that the sex of IDPs matters. Furthermore, the length of displacement also affects IDPs' solutions intentions, and both adequate housing and economic security emerged as key factors in solutions. PROGRESS23 also analysed differences between IDPs living in camps and those living among host communities, finding that IDPs in camps tend to be more vulnerable than those living in communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Global Report on Internal Displacement. 2024. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/2024-global-report-on-internal-displacement-grid/>

<sup>2</sup> UN Secretary-General. Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. 2022. [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)

This PROGRESS24 report builds on the previous work by taking a deeper dive into several of these variables – length of displacement, solutions preferences, economic security, household vulnerabilities and sex of the head of the household.

Relying on data from many of the 15 priority countries identified by the Action Agenda, PROGRESS23 reported a few compelling insights about solutions for people displaced by conflict and disasters. PROGRESS 24 seeks to further unpack the differences and similarities between people displaced by these two broad categories of causes.



A flood protection wall in Herat, Afghanistan, has enabled over 200 families to return to what was once a ghost town and resume agricultural activities, reviving the area after years of abandonment due to frequent flooding.

Chapter

# 02

PROGRESS 24:  
FOCUS ON IDPS  
SOLUTIONS PREFERENCE

## 2. PROGRESS24: FOCUS ON IDPS SOLUTIONS PREFERENCE

### The changing landscape of work on IDP solutions

By mid-2024, IOM tracked over 58 million IDPs and 36 million IDP returnees across 31 countries with active DTM operations,<sup>3</sup> with estimated 49 per cent of IDPs residing with host communities and 51 per cent in displacement sites<sup>4</sup>. The trend of record high levels of IDPs observed in 2023 continued into the first half of 2024.<sup>5</sup> Sudan remains the largest displacement crisis in the world with over 11 million IDPs displaced across 9,470 locations by the end of October 2024 with 53 per cent of IDPs under 18 years of age.<sup>6</sup> Historic floods<sup>7</sup> drastically increase vulnerabilities for the 6.9 million IDPs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the second largest displacement crisis.<sup>8</sup> Of special concern is the unfolding situation in the Gaza Strip where continued attacks hinder delivery of aid to approximately 1.9 million IDPs,<sup>9</sup> as flagged by the Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.<sup>10</sup>

Based on the findings of PROGRESS23, PROGRESS24 sought to test four hypotheses which are presented and discussed in the following chapters. But before doing so, this section reports on recent work on solutions by partner UN agencies, Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) working group, Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS), and academics, including an assessment of the state of data analysis on solutions for IDPs.

Since the November 2023 launch of the PROGRESS23 report, there have been several developments in understanding solutions for IDPs. Multiple academic studies have been published, conferences organized, and UN agencies and partners – notably Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), REACH and the World Bank – have robustly engaged with solutions to internal displacement.

### Heightened attention from UN agencies

The United Nations and other international agencies have been active over the past year in refining instruments and taking steps to address the many challenges with existing data on solutions.

Existing guidance on durable solutions for IDPs, particularly the gold standard of the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions, sets a high bar for achieving solutions. Durable solutions are achieved when IDPs “no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.”<sup>11</sup> Given this standard and the

3 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) – Global Consolidated Figures. <https://dtm.iom.int/data-and-analysis/dtm-api>

4 Displacement camps are often a last resort for IDPs and are often set up with the exception that they will be short-term. Camp Set-up and Closure - Introduction | CM Toolkit

5 IDMC – 2024 Mid-Year Update. <https://story.internal-displacement.org/2024-mid-year-update/>

6 IOM – DTM Sudan Mobility Update, October 2024. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-mobility-update-10?close=true>

7 IDMC – 2024 Mid-Year Update. <https://story.internal-displacement.org/2024-mid-year-update/>

8 IOM – DTM Democratic Republic of the Congo, October 2024. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/drc-internal-displacement-report-2024?close=true>

9 IDMC – 2024 Mid-Year Update. <https://story.internal-displacement.org/2024-mid-year-update/>

10 Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee – Stop the assault on Palestinians in Gaza and on those trying to help them. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/statement-principals-inter-agency-standing-committee-stop-assault-palestinians-gaza-and-those-trying>

11 UN. IASC. Framework for Durable Solutions for Internal Displacement. 2010. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/other/iasc-framework-durable-solutions-internally-displaced-persons>

understanding that finding solutions is a process, PROGRESS has focused its efforts on interim solutions. Can we assess when IDPs are moving towards solutions and what factors support these interim solutions? In 2023, the DSID taskforce introduced the concept of a ‘solutions pathway’ which “begins when an IDP is no longer in displacement, either due to moving to a location of solution (return or resettlement locations), or has decided to locally integrate in the area of displacement (local integration), however has not yet overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities.”<sup>12</sup> As discussed below, the DSID is a global level coordination mechanism presently working on how to determine whether an IDP has embarked on a solutions pathway and how to measure progress.<sup>13</sup> The DSID has also developed and is using a country-level diagnostic tool to assess the data ecosystem of displacement affected countries. The working group is taking a case study approach to understand the current implementation of the DSID framework and coordination mechanisms to then refine the DSID framework proposal.

One of the basic findings in most assessments of solutions for IDPs is that displacement solutions need to be envisaged and planned from the outset of a crisis. Decisions made in the early days of displacement can determine prospects for longer-term solutions. Waiting until the emergency phase is over to begin thinking about long-term solutions is almost a recipe for protracted displacement. Since the release of the PROGRESS23 report, there have been several new large-scale IDP emergencies (e.g. Sudan, Gaza Strip) where the humanitarian community has faced inordinate problems in providing even the most basic relief items to IDPs. We are very far from implementing or even seriously discussing the existing guidance to provide ‘solutions from the start’.<sup>14</sup> And most IDPs have been displaced for years. Further to that, there are at least 36 million IDP returnees<sup>15</sup> who seem to be on a solutions pathway—that is, they have returned to their area of origin yet still require support to overcome displacement related vulnerabilities and achieve solutions.

The **DSID** taskforce presented its first report to Special Adviser Robert Piper in March 2023 and following his endorsement and recommendation, was given the task – as a new Working Group – of coordinating, supporting and monitoring the uptake of the DSID Framework. The new DSID Working Group will deliver coordinated and accountable support to Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) on data for solutions. The work of the DSID Working Group complements the other three work streams initiated by the Office of the Special Adviser to work towards: (a) a coordinated approach to support states to put in place relevant mechanisms, to collect, manage and use internal displacement data, (b) agreement on global top line IDP solutions data points with clarity of roles and responsibilities of data provision and reporting, and (c) agreement on a unified IDP solutions index. In its supporting role with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, the DSID Working Group developed a common diagnostic tool which will establish baseline data, and the Working Group will subsequently monitor progress on adoption of the DSID Framework. UNDP and IOM are working together to identify countries that need support in implementing the DSID framework.

Meanwhile, **EGRIS** has done further work to develop an ‘exit measure’ to capture existing IDP stock and provide guidance to governments on when people should no longer be considered to live in displacement.<sup>16</sup> **This is not intended to provide information on when specific individuals no longer need humanitarian assistance but rather to enable governments and other stakeholders to measure progress toward**

12 Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Task Force, Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement. March 2023. [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/osa-improving-data-for-solutions-to-internal-displacement-a-proposal-dsidframework\\_.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/osa-improving-data-for-solutions-to-internal-displacement-a-proposal-dsidframework_.pdf)

13 The terms of reference for the DSID Working Group clarify that it is responsible for global coordination and collaboration amongst humanitarian, development and peace actors working to advance data for solutions and information sharing and knowledge management to advance country-level adoption of the DSID Framework (16+ countries). In addition, the Working Group is charged with developing a common diagnostic tool and supporting Resident Coordinators/UN Country Teams to apply it in order to establish a baseline and subsequently monitor progress on adoption of the DSID Framework.

14 This recent report, for example, found that the lack of engagement with governments was a key factor in preventing planning for solutions at the outset of a crisis: Amy Rodgers and Matthew Hemsley, Solutions from the Start: Adapting Deliverables for Humanitarian Country Teams to Ensure Better Outcomes for IDPs: Learnings from Iraq, Syria and Yemen. July 2024. <https://researchinginternaldisplacement.org/working-papers/solutions-from-the-start-adapting-the-deliverables-for-humanitarian-country-teams-to-ensure-better-outcomes-for-internally-displaced-persons-learnings-from-responses-in-iraq-syria-and-yemen/>

15 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimates on the number of IDP returnees for 23 countries with displacement context. IOM DTM Central Data Warehouse, update as of June 2024.

16 For an overview of EGRIS’ work, see EGRIS, 2023 Annual Report. 2024. <https://egrisstats.org/resource/egriss-2023-annual-report/>. For a report on EGRIS’ Global Annual Inclusion Survey (GAIN), see <https://egrisstats.org/resource/egriss-gain-survey-flyer/>

**solutions.** The exit measure is based on 5 criteria and 10 sub-criteria which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, with respect to housing, EGRISS suggests using as an indicator the proportion of the urban population living in informal settlements/slums. To determine if an IDP has exited internal displacement, they would need to pass all 10 sub-criteria; this clearly links with DSID's emphasis on pathways to solutions. In collecting this information, EGRISS is working closely with national statistical offices who play a key role; as a first step they need to include IDPs in their data collection.

An overview of the implementation can be found through their Global Annual Inclusion Survey (GAIN) which found 43 examples of IRIS implementation at the country (24) and institutional (19) levels predominantly related to the implementation of various surveys, alignment of administrative data, censuses and data integration.<sup>17</sup>

In June 2024, the **JIPS** announced a new 2024-2030 organizational strategy focusing on strengthening subnational evidence and advancing national data ecosystems,<sup>18</sup> in line with the broader solutions agenda. Based on an independent evaluation of JIPS' work from 2021-22, the new strategy encompasses four areas of work: 1) enabling nationally owned evidence on internal displacement; 2) enabling collective and responsible efforts on displacement data at the field level; 3) leveraging the wider context and informing conducive environments for solutions through evidence; and 4) enabling the effective use of data in policies and programmes addressing internal displacement. JIPS has also issued a Pocket Guide for implementing IRIS for statistical offices.<sup>19</sup>

Another major initiative on IDPs – though not specifically on solutions – was the independent review of the humanitarian response to internal displacement which concluded that the present system is not

## The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions states that

“A durable solution is achieved when IDPs no longer have any specific protection and assistance needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.”

**Table 1. IASC durable solutions criteria and identified IRIS sub-criteria**

IASC CRITERIA	IRIS SUB-CRITERIA
Safety and security	Victims of violence
	Freedom of movement
	Protection mechanisms
	Disaster risk reduction
Adequate standard of living	Food security
	Shelter and housing
	Medical services
Access to livelihoods	Education
	Employment and livelihoods
Restoration of housing, land and property	Economic security
	Property restitution and compensation
Access to documentation	Documentation
Family reunification	Voluntary reunification
	Reunification and tracing services
Participation in public affairs	Public affairs
	Right to vote
Access to effective remedies and justice	Right to engage in public service
	Remedies and justice

<sup>17</sup> For an overview of GAIN, see EGRISS, GAIN Survey Result Dashboard. 2024. <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/implementation-progress/global-overview/>.

<sup>18</sup> JIPS. JIPS Strategy 2024-2030. 2024. <https://www.jips.org/jips-publication/jips-strategy-2024-2030-durable-solutions-to-internal-displacement-evidence/>.

<sup>19</sup> JIPS. Initiating Implementation of the IRIS at country level: a pocket guide for national statistical. 2024. <https://www.jips.org/jips-publication/initiating-implementation-of-the-iris-at-country-level-a-pocket-guide-for-national-statistical-systems-jips-jan2024/>.

working well.<sup>20</sup> In particular, IDPs are not involved in decision-making and their priorities are not taken into consideration: as the report says, ‘what IDPs want is jobs, education and safety...what they get is hygiene kits and food handouts.’<sup>21</sup> Rather than supporting solutions for IDPs, the humanitarian response system has largely become a ‘care and maintenance system.’ Recommendation 5 speaks directly to solutions in calling for stakeholders to lay the groundwork for solutions by concentrating on giving people agency and choice from the beginning and focusing more intentionally on urban environments. Areas such as livelihoods, education and rights should be a priority, not an afterthought.<sup>22</sup> The findings of the independent review provided additional incentives for the international community to develop ways of supporting solutions for IDPs.

## Academic initiatives

The academic research community has taken several initiatives to support the international community’s focus on solutions to internal displacement.<sup>23</sup> The University of London’s Refugee Law Initiative – and particularly its Internal Displacement Research Programme – has emerged as a key academic center for research on IDPs, establishing a working group and network of researchers, a working paper series and a platform for shorter blogs. In March 2024, the Refugee Law Initiative organized an online *Conference on Internal Displacement and Solutions* which brought together academics and practitioners to explore cutting-edge issues emerging in work on solutions. Of particular relevance to PROGRESS were sessions on how to measure progress toward solutions for IDPs and academic perspectives on conceptualizing solutions.<sup>24</sup> This was followed in April 2024 by a Global Conference on Internal Displacement, jointly organized by Refugees International and Georgetown University with a focus on protection in solutions for displacement and on the importance of IDP participation in policy-making.<sup>25</sup> The close collaboration between academic researchers, practitioners and policy-makers was evident in both of these conferences. IOM, also in collaboration with Georgetown University, hosted the first Academic Colloquium on Data for Solutions in Development earlier in 2024 – an initiative which will be expanded in the coming year. In addition to academic papers published by individual researchers, several ongoing research efforts offer insights into particular factors linked to solutions, including the ODI on livelihoods and displacement,<sup>26</sup> the work of the International Institute for Environment and Development, the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) and Samuel Hall on urban displacement.<sup>27</sup>

PROGRESS24 seeks to build on and complement these many efforts intended to catalyse concrete action by governments and other stakeholders to support IDPs to find solutions to their displacement.

20 Overseas Development Institute, Humanitarian Policy Working Group, Independent Review of the Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement. March 2024, p. 34. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/independent-review-humanitarian-response-internal-displacement>

21 Overseas Development Institute, Humanitarian Policy Working Group, Independent Review of the Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement. March 2024, p. 34. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/independent-review-humanitarian-response-internal-displacement>

22 Ibid.

23 See for example: Blumont. Internally displaced Colombian women find peace of mind through rental support. July 2024. <https://blumont.org/blog/internally-displaced-peace-of-mind-rental-support/>

Zavisca, Jane, Beth Mitchnek, and Theodore Gerber. Housing and integration of internally displaced persons: the case of Ukraine in 2018. *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*. 2023. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/human-dynamics/articles/10.3389/fhumd.2023.1086064/full> Aurore Mathieu. ‘We’re here for an indefinite period.’ Prospects for Local Integration of Internally Displaced People in North Kivu, DRC. Oxfam USA. 2017. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/were-here-indefinite-period>; Ahmed S. Bile et al. Rethinking (local) integration: domains of integration and their durability in Kismayo and Garowe, Somalia. *Frontiers in Human Dynamics* (5). 2024. <https://www.research.ed.ac.uk/en/publications/rethinking-local-integration-domains-of-integration-and-their-dur>; Huang, Cindy and Jimmy Graham (2019). How Urban are IDPs and What Does that Mean for Their Economic Integration? Center for Global Development. <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/how-urban-are-idps-and-what-does-mean-their-economic-integrationint/sites/>; International Organization for Migration. Access to Durable Solutions among IDPs in Iraq – 6 Years in Displacement. IOM-Georgetown University. 2022, p. 7. <https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/heoqo6kcgxsbkhpjy2e88czsm4ecy2ny>; Jonathan Lain et al. Comparing IDPs with Those Left Behind: Evidence from the Central African Republic. World Bank. 2024.

24 University of London, Refugee Law Initiative. Internal Displacement and Solutions Conference. 2024. Recordings: <https://rli.sas.ac.uk/podcasts/internal-displacement-and-solutions-conference>

25 Refugees International and Georgetown University. Global Conference on Internally Displaced People. Washington, DC. April 2024. <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/events-and-testimony/2024-global-conference-on-internally-displaced-people/>

26 Nicholas Crawford et al. The lives and livelihoods of forcibly displaced people in Mogadishu, Somalia. HPG case study. London: ODI. 2024. [www.odi.org/en/publications/the-lives-and-livelihoods-of-forcibly-displaced-people-in-mogadishu-somalia](http://www.odi.org/en/publications/the-lives-and-livelihoods-of-forcibly-displaced-people-in-mogadishu-somalia)

27 IIED, Mixed Migration Centre, Samuel Hall. Briefing Inclusive Urban Solutions: City actors engaging with displaced communities. 2024. <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2024-04/22291iied.pdf>



Burundi, Bujumbura, 2024/06/06. Khadija, a beneficiary of vocational training, practices repairing a car engine.



Chapter

# 03

DATA AND  
METHODOLOGY

## 3. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

PROGRESS24 is based on multiple datasets, including various IOM assessment tools, durable solutions and intentions household surveys and Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNAs) collected by both IOM and REACH.

The multi-country analysis is based on IOM household data from a variety of durable solutions and intention surveys<sup>28</sup> from nine countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. The IOM MSNA data were used to conduct the five case studies focussing on Burundi, Haiti, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Sudan (see Chapter 4 and 6). The deep dive analysis of Ethiopia is based on data collected by IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (see Chapter 7). In addition, the analysis of the economic characteristics of IDP households include analysis of IDP household income from the MSNA collected by REACH for Mali and Niger (see Chapter 6).

The [appendix](#) to this report contains detailed methodological notes on the data used to test these hypotheses including the list of all datasets and metadata. The quantitative survey data is supplemented by qualitative data analysis using focus group discussions (FGDs), carried out in August 2024 in 5 countries: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Honduras and Nigeria (see Chapter 5). In addition to demographic data and displacement histories, focus group discussions focused on the experiences of displacement, living conditions, changes over time and future intentions. Insights from the FGDs were used to complement the survey results, address data gaps, and are incorporated into the discussion of findings. More information on the FGD methodology is presented in the Methodological Annex. A third data source relies on IOM's Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) used in drafting the chapter on IDP governance. More information on the MGI methodology is also available in the Methodological Annex.

### *Note on protracted internal displacement*

The concept of protracted displacement, coined in 2004 to describe “prolonged and intractable displacement”, was primarily used for refugee situations that lasted 5 years or more.<sup>29</sup> While initially there were no equivalent figures for internal displacement, the definition of protracted internal displacement evolved with the expansion of the discussion on durable solutions to internal displacement. IOM considers a combination of the 3-year threshold and hindrances in the process of durable solutions as a benchmark, while acknowledging that there is no standard definition of protracted displacement.<sup>30</sup> Some IOM DTM country missions, such as Ethiopia utilise the 3-year threshold as a benchmark for analysis, as will be seen in chapter 7. Without consensus on the threshold of when displacement becomes protracted (3 vs. 5 years)<sup>31</sup>, there has been a push to move away from setting a threshold for duration of displacement to focus on the long-term absence of solutions and the need for pathways to overcome displacement-related vulnerabilities.<sup>32</sup>

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28 IOM data collections tools on the intentions of IDP and IDP returnee households focus on the ISAC/IRIS preferred durable solutions. Additionally, some of these surveys have information on the barriers and support needed by those on a solutions pathway.

29 <https://www.unhcr.org/media/protracted-refugee-situations>

30 [https://publications.iom.int/es/system/files/pdf/iml\\_34\\_glossary.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/es/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf)

31 <https://www.fmreview.org/externalisation/kraler-etzold-ferreira/> and [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/20070621\\_displacement.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/20070621_displacement.pdf)

32 <https://www.fmreview.org/externalisation/kraler-etzold-ferreira/> and <https://media.odi.org/documents/9851.pdf>

Given the availability of detailed data on length of displacement from DTM assessments, this analysis uses for the 3 and 5 year protracted displacement benchmarks as well as for displacement durations for the time periods in-between. Therefore, this report uses three intervals of displacement duration: 0 - 1 year, 2 - 4 years and 5+ years.

## Interpretation of the results

While it was possible to provide a comprehensive analysis for each of the four hypotheses, the sample size for each hypothesis depends on the number of datasets that have the relevant indicators for each hypothesis. Hence, the findings in this report focus only on variables for which we found sufficient evidence across IDP households in different countries. These include intentions of IDPs, duration of displacement, safety and security, vulnerability within the household, and participation in community activities.

While IOM has evidence of IDP returns in more than 20 countries, and to lesser degree evidence of local integration and resettlement, the focus of this analysis is on IDPs currently living in displacement. Because the analysis examines similar variables from different country datasets – some country-wide and others sub-regional (or where displacement is prevalent), it is not a comparison between different countries but rather it provides a collective overview of durable solution intentions from countries where IOM has data available. An important consideration about multi-country analysis is that country differences in data collection coverage and samples influence results from the analysis. The findings of this report are representative of the IDP households for which IOM has collected data on intentions and durable solutions.

### *Limitations of the analysis*

The PROGRESS 2024 analysis leverages operational data to perform in-depth analysis and testing of the hypotheses. As the primary purpose of the operational data is to inform humanitarian response and durable solutions programming for individual country contexts, there were limitations related to the merging and recoding of variables to build the multi-country dataset for hypothesis testing.

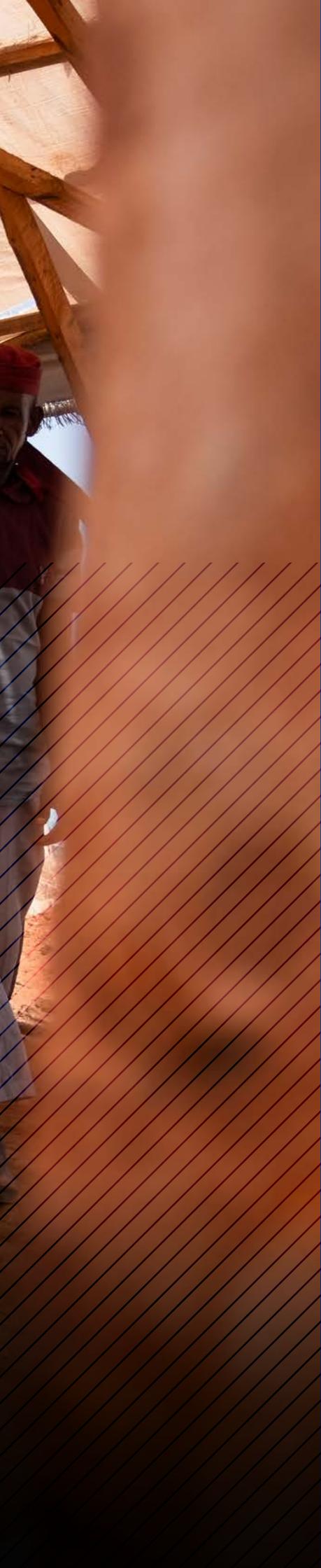
It is a well-known challenge in data for solutions that the development of indicators and measures of solutions pathways is difficult due to contextual differences. For instance, this may include the types of employment sectors available in a country, how safety is measured, and prevalent health conditions. While variables for livelihoods, safety and security and health varied by country, these were recoded into categories that allowed for the analysis of data from multiple countries. While measures were taken and contextual information used to match the variables as closely as possible, limitations in the categorization of harmonized data from multiple countries must be considered.

## Way Forward

Aside from data gaps, a challenging characteristic of the existing datasets is the contextual differences in survey questions. Efforts are underway to consolidate and standardize data collection tools and questionnaires for solutions programming needs and further alignment with global frameworks. In many instances, this results from data collection designs that are aimed at serving operational purposes in a specific context, wherein addressing immediate and contextually relevant information gaps for programs outweighs global level cross-country analysis needs. However, efforts are in process to standardize key solutions indicators for IOM's data for solutions portfolio.



IOM teams are working on making mud bricks to build shelters for the displaced Somalis in Ladan, Dolow region.



Chapter

# 04

FACTORS INFLUENCING  
IDP SOLUTIONS INTENTIONS:  
MULTI-COUNTRY ANALYSIS

## 4. FACTORS INFLUENCING IDP SOLUTIONS INTENTIONS: MULTI-COUNTRY ANALYSIS

An IDP's voluntary choice of a solution lies at the heart of its durability.<sup>33</sup> It is essential to obtain a broad understanding of IDPs' solutions intentions for two principal reasons. Firstly, if an IDP wishes to undertake one solution but is required, due to a lack of viable alternatives being offered or through policy to undertake another, there is a high chance that any progress made towards solutions will be transitory and not durable. Secondly, for humanitarian and development partners to support the delivery of durable solutions, it is essential that they have figures showing the likely or potential scale of respective caseloads for returns, relocations (resettlements), and local integration. The provision of even rudimentary data on intentions enables resource planning to determine what will be needed to support IDPs to progress along their pathway to a solution.

This chapter aims to analyse which factors influence durable solutions intentions of IDP households in nine countries. This multi-country analysis draws on both disaster and conflict<sup>34</sup> displacement datasets from Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia<sup>35</sup>, Iraq, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen.<sup>36</sup> The data used in this chapter draws on highly contextual and dynamic displacement contexts, and using a multi-country analysis approach, we aim to understand what global level insights we can draw and what trends emerge.

Building on the results of PROGRESS23 and a review of the relevant literature, four hypotheses were developed,<sup>37</sup> examining the relationship between IDPs' intentions for solutions and length of displacement, health, perceptions of security and social ties. The aim of this chapter is to build a broader understanding of the interplay between the cause of displacement, specifically those displaced by disasters and conflict, and its impact on durable solutions intentions and key related factors.

The first section provides an overview of IDP household profiles including sex disaggregation, the cause of displacement, the number of secondary or multiple displacements and the preferred durable solutions. In addition, this section outlines the three key intended durable solutions of IDP households.

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33 IASC Framework on Durable Solutions, IRIS by EGRISSE etc.

34 Conflict includes Armed conflict and Community clashes while Disaster includes IDP HHs that were displaced due to natural hazards including both slow onset natural hazards like Drought and sudden natural hazards like Floods and Landslides.

35 The data from Ethiopia contained a much larger sample size (136,918 households) than the other countries. Stratified random sampling on the key variables across all datasets was used to reduce this sample size (20% of the data, or 27,384 households).

36 It is critical to note that not all 9 countries were analysed for the same variable due to considerations related to applicability/relevance and data availability for each country context. Each sub section in the chapter outlines the number of countries that were analysed based on data availability.

37 A fifth hypothesis, relating economic security to solutions intentions, was initially included but is not included here due to inadequate survey data, although results from surveys on livelihoods are included.

## Durable Solutions

- **Return:** return and reintegration of IDPs into their place of habitual residence before their displacement occurred.
- **Local integration\***: constitutes remaining in the location of displacement, integrating in their new place of residence, and overcoming all displacement related vulnerabilities.
- **Resettlement:** voluntary settlement elsewhere within the country.

*\*Note: Due to differences in terminology used for local integration intentions across different countries, the term 'stay' was used throughout this analysis to indicate the potential for local integration in their current location of displacement. It is important to note that within the DTM durable solutions methodology, while the language is often interchanged, the intention to stay refers to local integration.*

*European Commission: Eurostat and United Nations Organisation, International Recommendations on Internally displaced persons Statistics (IRIS) –): March 2020, Publications Office of the European Union, 2020, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2785/18809>*

**Figure 4.1. PROGRESS 2024 analysis: Key factors influencing durable solution intentions**

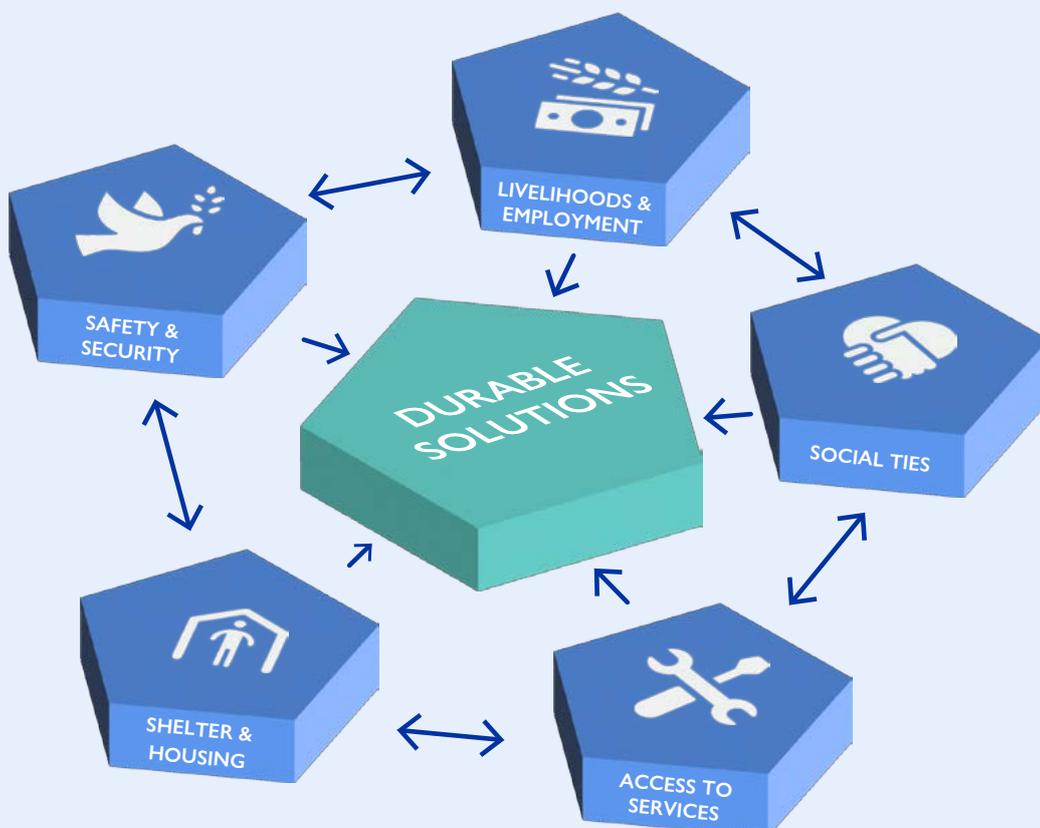
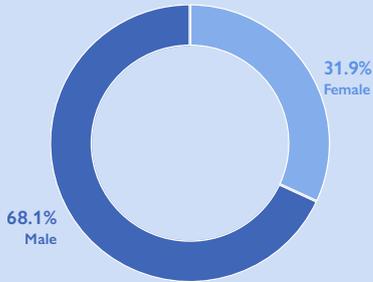
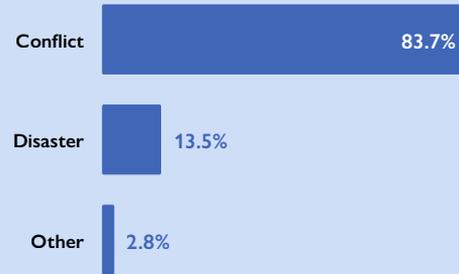


Figure 4.2. Multi-country analysis: IDP Profile Overview

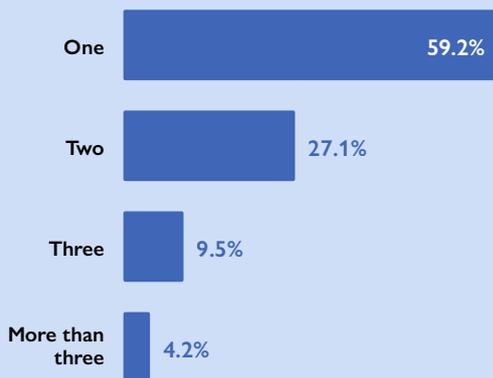
**Sex Breakdown of households heads (N=54,640)**



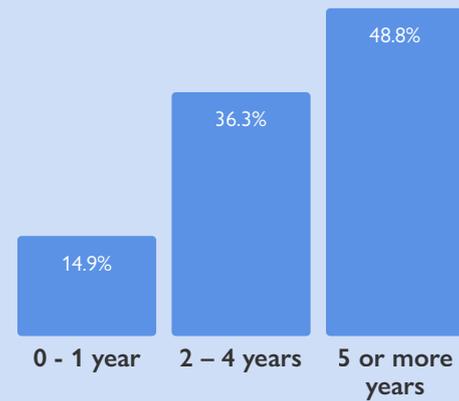
**Cause of displacement (N=65,971)**



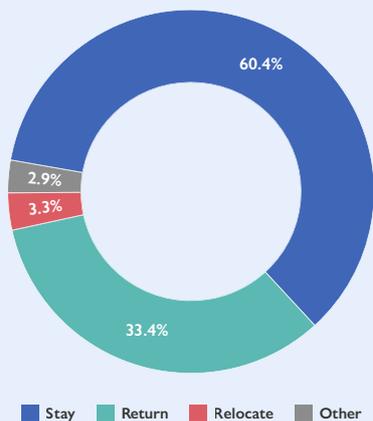
**Number of Displacements (N=42,749)**



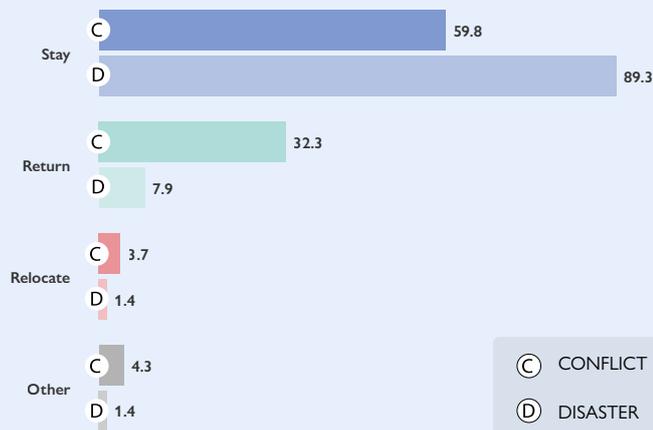
**Duration of displacement (N=72,904)**



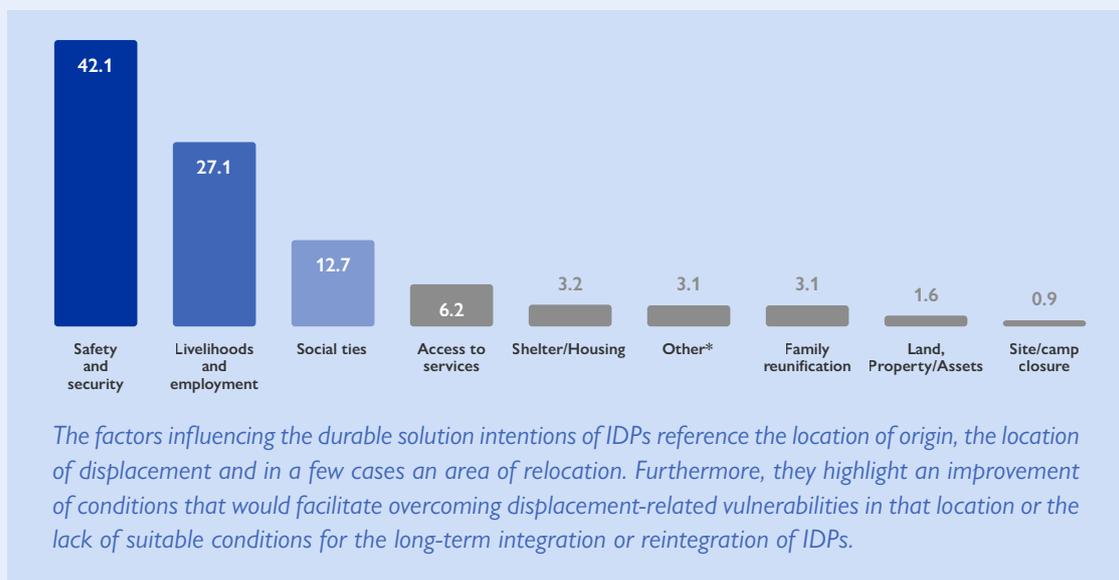
**Durable solution preference (N=85,040)**



**Preferred durable solution by cause of displacement (N=64,126)**



### Percentage breakdown of factors influencing durable solution intentions



REASONS FOR SELECTING THE PREFERRED DS UNDER SAFETY AND SECURITY	PERCENTAGE
Security in the area of displacement	45.3%
Insecurity in the area of origin	45.1%
Security in the area of origin	6.4%
Insecurity in the area of displacement	1.7%
Security in the area of relocation	1.1%
Disaster risk in the area of origin	0.3%
Area of origin not accessible	0.1%

REASONS FOR SELECTING THE PREFERRED DS UNDER LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT	PERCENTAGE
Lack of economic opportunities in area of displacement	44.6%
Economic opportunities in current location	43.4%
Economic opportunities in area of origin	7.9%
Lack of economic opportunities in area of origin	4.0%
Economic opportunities in area of resettlement	0.1%

REASONS FOR SELECTING THE PREFERRED DS UNDER SOCIAL TIES	PERCENTAGE
Community ties in the location of displacement	31.0%
My household has been here for a long time	29.5%
Family settled in location of displacement	19.6%
Desire to return to home areas	16.7%
Frictions with host community	1.1%
Community discrimination in location of displacement	0.8%
Community ties in the location of resettlement	0.8%
Location Close to my hometown / neighbourhood	0.5%

## 4.1 Factors influencing durable solutions

In alignment with the IASC and IRIS durable solutions criteria, this section provides an overview of the reasons mentioned by IDPs for choosing their preferred durable solution. The analysis below provides a more in-depth look at the top three factors – safety and security, livelihoods and employment and social ties – and the impact of duration of displacement. While some IDP households listed multiple reasons influencing their durable solutions intentions, the data below presents the main factor as reported by the head of household.

The discussion on the factors influencing the durable solutions of IDP households uses data from Burundi, Central African Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen with a sample size of 47,712 households. The analysis shows that **safety and security (42.1%), livelihoods and employment (27.1%), and social ties (12.7%) are the three main reasons that influenced the intentions of IDP households.** These accounted for more than eight out of ten (82%) of the IDP households.

**Table 4.1. Percentage breakdown of factors influencing durable solution intentions**

REASON FOR SELECTING THE PREFERRED DS	PERCENTAGE OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS
Safety and security	42.1
Livelihoods and employment	27.1
Social ties	12.7
Access to services	6.2
Shelter/Housing	3.2
Other*	3.1
Family reunification	3.1
Land, Property/Assets	1.6
Site/camp closure	0.9
	100

\*Other factors include a varied group of reasons that impact decisions but do not fall under the main IASC criteria, for example: trauma / psychosocial reasons, the ability to return to the area of origin, and lack of resources to return.

## Intentions of IDP households by the reasons for selecting preferred durable solutions

Most surveyed households prefer to stay in their location of displacement. As shown in Table 4.2, this preference holds for the main factors except for **Access to services**, and **Livelihoods and employment** where the preference is to return to their area of origin is higher.

**Table 4.2. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions for the top influencing factors**

INTENTION	SAFETY AND SECURITY (N=20,071)	LIVELIHOODS & EMPLOYMENT (N=12,908)	SOCIAL TIES (N=6,079)	ACCESS TO SERVICES (N=2,938)	SHELTER/ HOUSING (N=1,531)	OTHER (N=1,473)
<b>Stay</b> (N=31,321)	83.7	45.5*	80.1*	32.2*	91.6*	91.4*
<b>Return</b> (N=12,970)	8.1	48.4*	18.5*	52.1*	0.5*	1.3*
<b>Relocate</b> (N=1,208)	1.2	4.2*	0.9	7.7*	1.0	2.0*
<b>Other</b> (N=2,253)	7.1	1.9*	0.5*	8.0	6.9	5.3
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: T-test assess the statistical differences between Safety & security and the other factors (\*  $p < 0.01$ ).

Specifically, there is a difference in the durable solutions intentions of IDP households who cited Safety and security vs. those who cited Livelihoods and employment as the main factor for selecting their intention. Most (83.7%) IDP households who considered Safety and Security as the main factor driving their decision-making for their preferred durable solution intend to stay in their location of displacement. This contrasts with IDP households who reported Livelihoods and employment as the main factor for their preferred durable solution: 48.4% intend to return to their location of origin and 45.5% intend to stay in their current location of displacement.

It is important to highlight that for some factors the intentions of IDP households are dominated by one of the three durable solutions. For example:

- 91.6% of IDP households who cited Shelter/housing as the main driver intend to stay in their location of displacement. Despite the low share of IDP households (N = 1,531) who cited shelter/housing as the main driver, this highlights how the ability to find stable housing in a location of displacement plays a role in the decision to either stay or integrate into the host community.
- 80.1 per cent of IDP households that cited social ties as the main driver prefer to stay in their current location of displacement. Social cohesion plays a significant role in the decision-making process for IDP households as having a settled family in their location of displacement and /or feelings of acceptance in

the community can have a positive impact on the ability to overcome displacement-related vulnerabilities.

The analysis also showed some additional factors which are not shown in the table above, such as:

- 99.9 per cent of IDP households who cite Land, property/assets prefer to return to their area of origin, underlining the ties and stability that land and property provide for displaced households in their area of origin.
- 85.5 per cent of IDP households who cited Family reunification as the main driver intend to return to their area of origin.

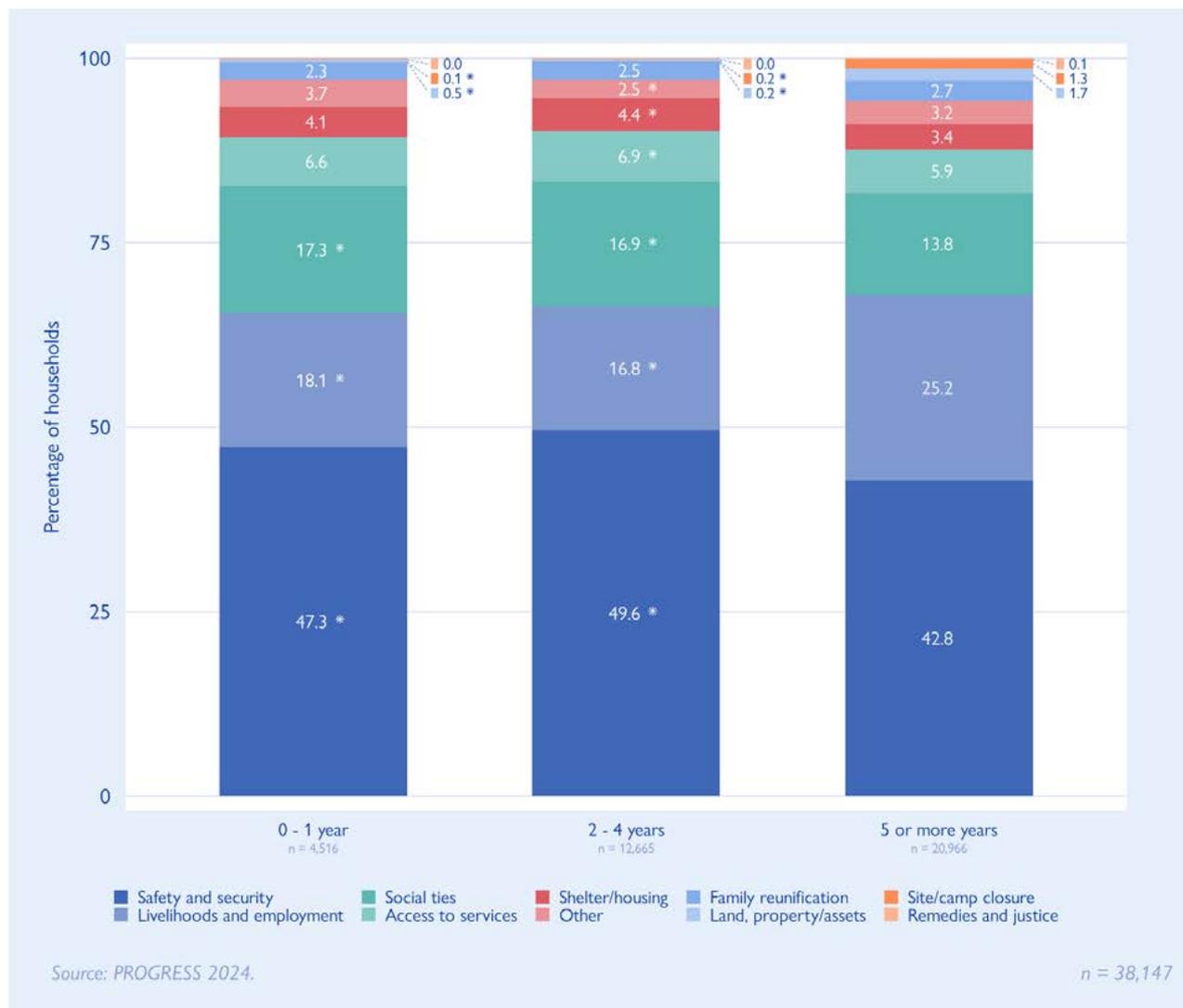
## Relationship between duration of displacement and factors influencing the intentions of IDP households

While displacement can occur in a matter of days – or hours – finding solutions to internal displacement can take years. As displacement drags on, IDPs' situations continually evolve. In some cases, they may establish relationships in their place of displacement and in other cases, the desire to return may persist depending on other factors.

In PROGRESS 23, we considered the hypothesis that the longer people have been displaced, the less likely they will be to return to their community of origin. We assessed the displacement context in the 15 priority countries and found IDPs' path toward solutions is affected by the duration of displacement.

Building on these insights, figure 4.1 delves into understanding the relationship between duration of displacement and the factors influencing IDP's durable solution intentions using PROGRESS 24 data.

**Figure 4.3. Percentage breakdown of the factors influencing durable solution intentions by duration of displacement**



Note: T-tests assess the difference between the HHs that have been 5 or more years and the other two time periods (\* $p < 0.01$ ) and the duration of displacement is measured in years based on the year of initial displacement reported by households.

### Among the key findings:

- The top three factors influencing solutions intentions – Safety and security, Livelihoods and employment, and Social ties – are the same across the three categories of duration of displacement. In each category of duration of displacement, more than 40 per cent of IDP households cite safety and security as the main factor influencing their decisions.
- The longer IDP households remain in displacement, the more important livelihoods and employment are for their future intentions. At the same time, the salience of safety and security decreases.
- Over time social ties become less influential in IDP durable solutions intentions.

## 4.2 Testing hypotheses on durable solutions using a multi-country dataset

Each of the following 4 hypothesis is tested using two different datasets: the multi-country comparative analysis is based on IOM's household level data namely, Progress towards Durable Solutions and Intention Surveys. Additionally, analysis from five country case studies (based on IOM MSNAs) is employed to provide further evidence. The following hypotheses were tested::

- 1. Duration of displacement:** the longer IDPs are displaced, the less likely they are to return to their communities of origin.
- 2. Health:** The health status of IDPs will be associated with their solutions intentions.
- 3. Security and safety:** Perceptions of security will be associated with IDP intentions for solutions. When they feel insecure in displacement, they will be more likely to return and when IDPs perceive that their communities of origin are safe, they will be more likely to return.
- 4. Social ties:** IDPs' social ties will be associated with their solutions intentions. IDPs with more social ties in their area of displacement are more likely to intend to remain in their host community while IDPs with strong ties to their community of origin are more likely to intend to return.

### Hypothesis 1: The longer IDPs are displaced, the less likely they are to return to their communities of origin.

For all the analysis done using the multi-country dataset, the duration of displacement is measured in years based on the year of initial displacement reported by households. The analysis compares the differences in average durations of displacement by intended durable solutions, across three categories: return, stay and relocate, using data from seven countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, and Yemen.

Across the sample, IDP households reported being displaced for an average of 4.7 years. Based on the average those intending to stay or to relocate spent the longest time in displacement (between 4.9 and 5.2 years), whereas those intending to return and those uncertain about their intentions reported the shortest duration of displacement (4.3 and 4.1 years). All durations were statistically different from the average duration for those intending to stay.

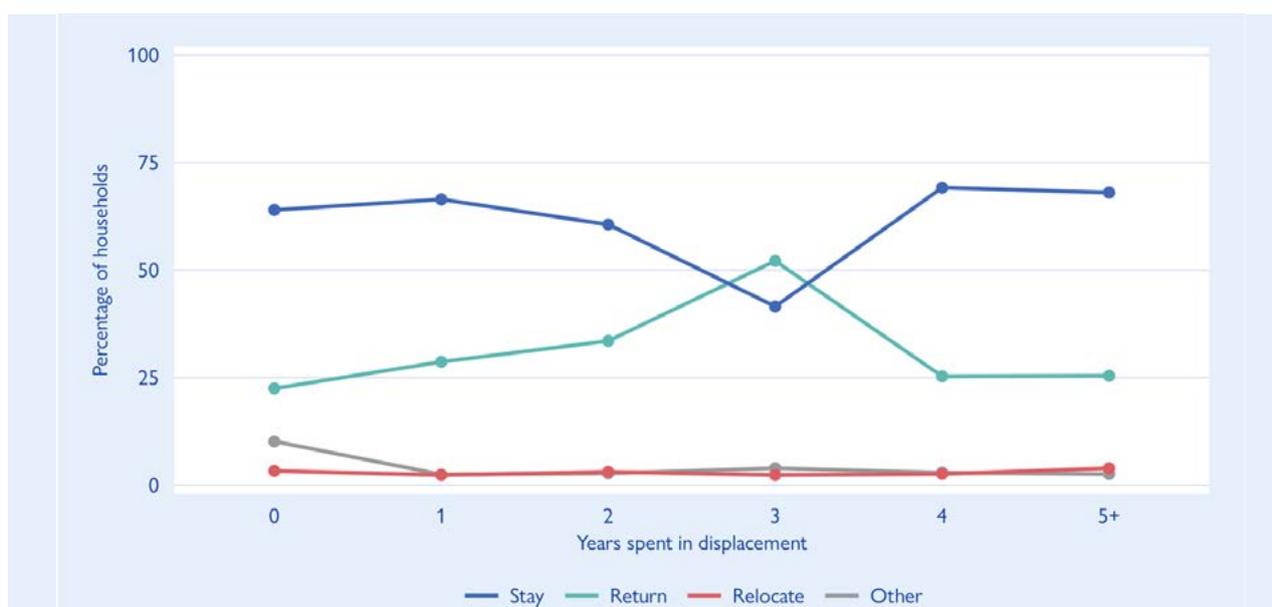
Table 4.3 reveals that intentions to stay are highest for those experiencing protracted displacement, e.g. 68.0% for those displaced for 5+ years vs. 52.3% and 65.5%, respectively, for those displaced 2-4 years or for one year or less. In addition, intentions to return are higher among those displaced for shorter durations, compared to the 25.5% of households displaced for 5+ years who intend to return. The shares of households intending to relocate were considerably lower for those with shorter durations in displacement (0-1 and 2-4 years), whereas among those in protracted displacement situations, 3.9% intended to relocate. Finally, the percentage of households that were uncertain as to their intentions (represented by Other in table 4.3 and figure 4.2) was lowest among those displaced for longer vs. shorter durations.

**Table 4.3. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by duration of displacement**

INTENTION	0 - 1 YEAR (N = 10,851)	2 - 4 YEARS (N = 26,445)	5 OR MORE YEARS (N = 35,608)
<b>Stay</b> (N = 45,178)	65.5*	52.3*	68.0
<b>Return</b> (N = 22,913)	26.2	41.6*	25.5
<b>Relocate</b> (N = 2,398)	2.7*	2.6*	3.9
<b>Other</b> (N = 2,415)	5.5*	3.4*	2.6
	100	100	100

Note: T-tests assess the difference between those displaced for 5 or more years and the other time periods (\*  $p < 0.01$ ).

The higher share for return among households displaced 2-4 years, as explained further in chapter 7, reflects displacement in the Ethiopia sample. In 2020, displacements occurred in the Tigray region because of armed conflict in Northern Ethiopia. More than 80% of those households intended to return to their area of origin, which increased the share of return among households displaced 2-4 years in Table 4.3 and in year 3 in Figure 4.2.<sup>38</sup>

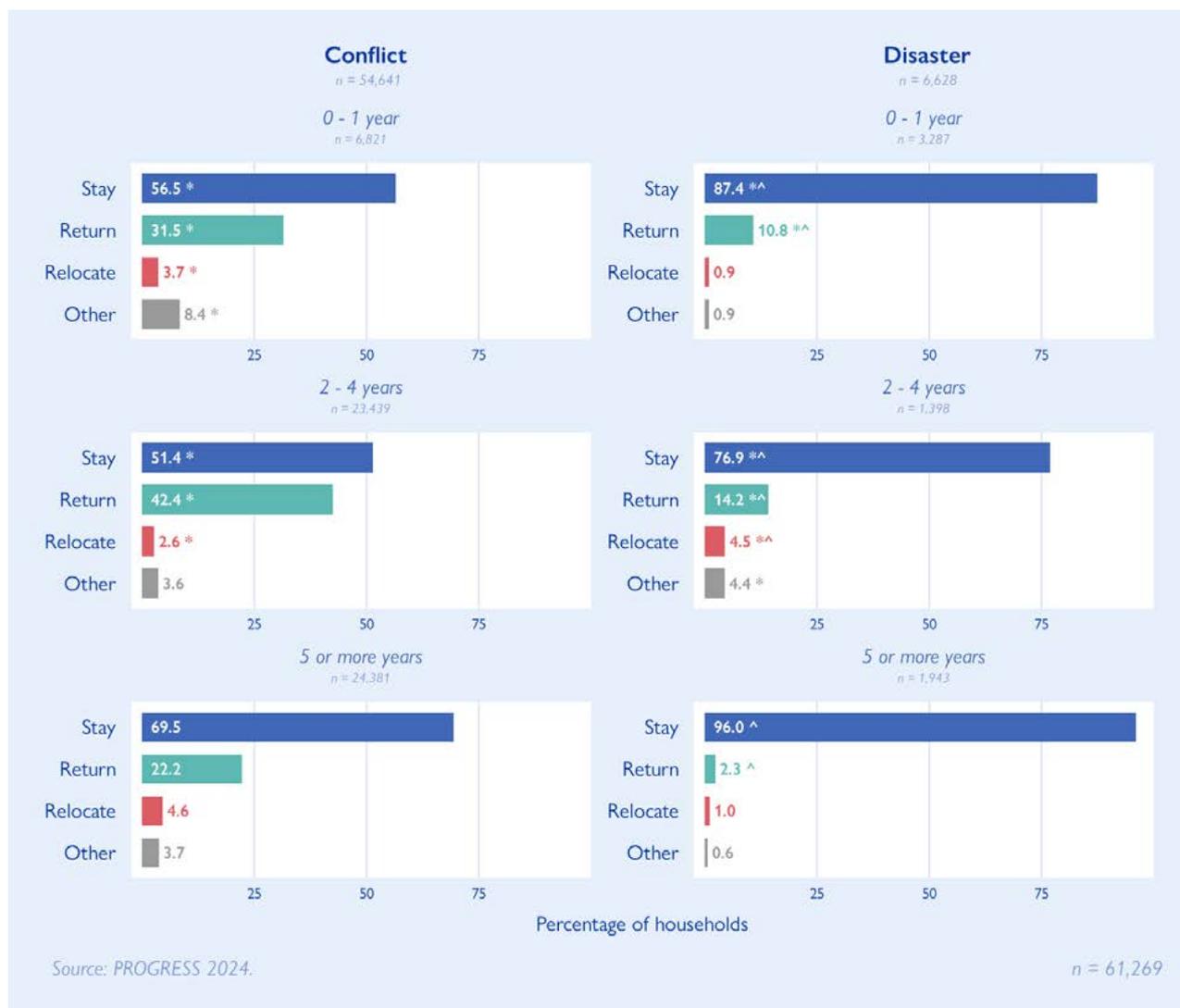
**Figure 4.4 Durable solution intentions by duration of displacement in years**

<sup>38</sup> When excluding Ethiopia from the analysis displayed in figure 4.2, in all five years of displacement the share of households reporting an intention to stay was higher than the share of households reporting an intention to return.

## Duration of displacement, intentions and cause of displacement

To analyse the impact of cause of displacement on intended solutions and duration, this analysis uses data from 63,082 IDP households in six countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Iraq, and Yemen.

**Figure 4.3. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by cause and duration of displacement**



Note: T-tests assess the difference between the households displaced for 5 or more years and other lengths of displacement (\* $p < 0.01$ ), and the difference conflict- and disaster-displaced households for each of the lengths of displacement (^ $p < 0.01$ ).

### *Key insights*

- Most IDP households intend to stay in their current location. For households displaced for 5 or more years, almost all (96.0%) displaced by disasters intend to stay in their current location. This percentage drops to 69.5% for those displaced by conflict.
- Among those who would like to return after five or more years, the conflict vs. disaster difference is also quite notable (22.2% vs. 2.3%), suggesting that the intention to return for IDPs in protracted displacement is higher for those who were displaced by conflict than those displaced by disaster.
- Looking at the most recently displaced households (0-1 year) compared to those in longer displacement (5+ years), the share of households that intend to stay increases. This increase is more pronounced among the households displaced due to conflict than those displaced due to a disaster.
- Conflict displaced households that intend to relocate have been displaced longer, on average, than those intending to return or stay.

## Sex of the head of household, intentions and cause of displacement

The analysis also examined whether and how the sex of the head of household is associated with durable solutions intentions, including differences between IDPs who are displaced by conflict vs. disaster. This analysis is based on data from 38,227 households in seven countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Iraq, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Yemen. The ratio of female-headed to male-headed households in the sample is 34.8% to 65.2%.

**Table 4.4. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by sex of the head of household and causes of displacement**

Sex of head of household	Female (N=13,288)			Male (N=24,939)		
	Conflict (N=12,039)	Disaster (N=1,249)	Both	Conflict (N=23,461)	Disaster (N=1,478)	Both
Intention						
<b>Stay</b> (N=28,541)	72.3	88.0*	73.8	74.3^	89.1*	75.1+
<b>Return</b> (N=6,138)	17.9	7.3*	16.9	16.3^	5.0*	15.6+
<b>Relocate</b> (N=1,077)	2.9	0.9*	2.7	3.0	0.9*	2.9
<b>Other</b> (N=2,471)	6.9	3.8*	6.6	6.5	4.9	6.4
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: T-tests assess differences between conflict and disaster displaced within female-headed and male-headed HHs (\* $p < 0.01$ ), and between female-headed and male-headed HHs within type of displacement ( $^{\wedge}p < 0.01$ ). T-tests also assess differences in the intentions of female- and male-headed HHs (+ $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key Insights

- Most of both female- and male-headed households intend to stay (more than 70%) while approximately 16 per cent (for both female- and male-headed households) prefer to return.
- For those displaced by conflict, female-headed households are more likely to intend to return than male-headed households while male-headed households are more likely to stay in their current location than female-headed households. For those displaced by disaster, as shown in the table there is no statistical significance in the difference between male and female headed households, both groups have a high preference for staying.

## Multiple displacements: Durable solution intentions by number of displacements

In addition to duration of displacement, the analysis also considered the impact of multiple displacements (measured by the number of displacements). This analysis is based on data from 42,749 households in six countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Iraq, Mozambique, and Nigeria.

For IDP households where data on the number of displacements is available, 40.2% have been displaced more than once and 4.2% have been displaced more than 3 times. As shown in the table below, there is a relationship between the number of displacements and the intentions of IDP households.

**Table 4.5. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by the number of displacements**

Number of Displacements	One (N=25,306)	Two (N=11,592)	Three (N=4,047)	More than three (N=1,804)
Intention				
<b>Stay</b> (N=26,425)	68.2	54.5*	49.9*	46.0*
<b>Return</b> (N=12,485)	22.2	37.0*	43.0*	46.8*
<b>Relocate</b> (N=1,483)	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.4*
<b>Other</b> (N=2,356)	6.3	5.0*	3.2*	2.8*
	100	100	100	100

Note: T tests assess the difference between households displaced only once and those that have been displaced more than once (\*  $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key insights:

- IDP households that have been displaced only once are more likely to intend to stay in their current location (68.2%) than return to their area of origin (22.2%).
- Preferences for staying decline while preferences for return increase as the number of displacements increase. Furthermore, with more displacements, the difference between those who would like to stay in their current location and those who would like to return decreases.
- Lastly, uncertainty (represented by Other) decreases as the number of displacements increases.

**Table 4.6. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by the cause of displacement and number of displacements**

Type of displacement	Conflict (N=20,861)				Disaster (N=2,733)				
	Number of displacements	One (N=13,095)	Two (N=5,456)	Three (N=1,560)	More than three (N=750)	One (N=2,311)	Two (N=385)	Three (N=34)	More than three (N=3)
<b>Stay</b> (N=16,739)		70.5	66.1*	59.2*	56.7*	93.3^	94.8^	94.1^	100
<b>Return</b> (N=3,580)		13.3	20.1*	28.5*	32.7*	2.3^	1.6^	2.9^	0
<b>Relocate</b> (N=919)		4.7	3.6*	4.2	4.0	0.6^	0.3^	0	0
<b>Other</b> (N=2,356)		11.6	10.3	8.1*	6.7*	3.9^	3.4^	2.9	0
		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: T tests assess the difference between households displaced only once and those that have been displaced more than once within conflict- and disaster-affected households (\*  $p < 0.01$ ) as well as the difference between conflict and disaster (^ $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key insights:

- For those displaced by conflict, the percentage to stay decreases from 70.5% for those who have been displaced only once to 56.7% for those who have been displaced more than 3 times. This decrease coincides with an increase in the number of households that would like to return as the number of displacements increases.
- Within disaster affected households, the number of displacements is not associated with the durable solutions intentions of IDPs; more than 90% of the households would like to stay in their current location regardless of how often they have been displaced.
- Lastly, for both causes of displacement, uncertainty of durable solutions preferences (represented by Other in the table above) declines as the number of displacements increases.

To complement the multi-country analysis based on aggregated household data, each hypothesis briefly presents analysis from case studies conducted from additional IOM MSNA data on the association of duration of displacement with solutions intentions

# BURUNDI CASE STUDY

**Table 4.7. Burundi: Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by arrival year and cause of displacement**

Durable Solution	< 2021		2021-2023	
	Conflict	Disaster	Conflict	Disaster
Stay	71.4	59.8*	59.0 <sup>^</sup>	36.0* <sup>^</sup>
Return	12.3	24.5*	20.8 <sup>^</sup>	44.0* <sup>^</sup>
Relocate	4.8	4.6	4.9	8.3 <sup>^</sup>
Don't know	11.5	11.2	15.3	11.7
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>N</b>	(814)	(1,770)	(183)	(1,843)

Note: T-tests assess differences conflict and disaster displaced households (\* $p < 0.01$ ), and between before 2021 and 2021-23 (<sup>^</sup> $p < 0.01$ ).

## Key Insights:

- Conflict-displaced IDPs are more likely to report an intention to stay than disaster-displaced IDPs (71.4% vs. 59.8% and 59.0% vs. 36.0%). Conflict-displaced IDPs are significantly less likely than the disaster-displaced to report an intention to return (12.3% vs. 24.5% and 20.8% vs. 44.0%).
- In contrast to the multi-country findings, the analysis of the Burundi case study finds that more recently displaced IDPs (in 2021-23) are more likely to indicate that they plan to return than those whose displacement is more protracted.
- Differences in intentions to return or stay between those displaced by conflict vs. disasters are larger for those displaced for longer periods. The difference between the conflict vs. disaster displaced that arrived in 2021-23 and intended to return is 23.2% ; the comparable difference of those households that arrived before 2021 is 12.2%.
- It is also noteworthy that the intention to relocate does not differ between conflict vs. disaster IDPs before or after 2021 but the share of those displaced by disasters intending to relocate differs across the periods.

# SOUTH SUDAN CASE STUDY

**Table 4.8. South Sudan: Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by arrival year and cause of displacement**

Durable Solution	< 2021			2021-2023		
	Conflict	Disaster	Both	Conflict	Disaster	Both
Stay	34.2	27.9	31.5	38.9 <sup>^</sup>	34.3	28.4*
Return	40.6	46.3	43.4	40.2	48.6*	50.4*
Relocate	13.9	16.2	10.8	9.4 <sup>^</sup>	12.6	12.5
Don't know	11.3	9.6	14.3	11.5	4.5* <sup>^</sup>	8.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>n</b>	<b>(1,644)</b>	<b>(229)</b>	<b>(251)</b>	<b>(1,325)</b>	<b>(827)</b>	<b>(401)</b>

Note: T-tests assess differences between conflict, disaster, and both conflict and disaster displaced households (\*p < 0.01), and between before 2021 and 2021-23 (<sup>^</sup>p < 0.01).

## Key Insights:

- The data for South Sudan reveal differences by type of displacement, but the significant differences only appear in the 2021-2023 period. Although there are no differences between those displaced by conflict vs. disasters in intentions to stay, e.g. approximately one-third intend to stay, IDP households recently displaced by conflict are less likely than those displaced by disasters to intend to return (40.2 vs. 48.6%). In addition, households that were displaced more recently by both conflict and disasters are significantly more likely to intend to return in comparison to those displaced by conflict. (50.4 vs. 40.2%).
- Across the board, the percentages of households who intend to relocate are much lower, with the largest share (16.2%) for households displaced by disasters before 2021. In other words, those displaced longer are not more likely to say that they plan to remain in their community of displacement. This is counter to the hypothesis that the longer people in South Sudan are displaced, the less likely they are to return and the more likely they are to remain where they are.

## HYPOTHESIS 2: The health status of IDPs will be associated with their solutions intentions.

The initial hypothesis was that the health of IDPs would be associated with solutions intentions. However, because available data sources focus primarily on access to health services rather than the health of IDPs, for this analysis we used the presence of vulnerable household members as a proxy indicator of the household's health status. Examples of vulnerabilities include chronic illness, mental illness, and physical disabilities. An important caveat is that the data do not recognize the fact that a household member may have more than one vulnerability. This analysis relies on data from 31,780 displaced households in four countries: Burundi, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen. More than half (63.3%) of IDP households have at least one vulnerable member. However, vulnerability in households varies considerably by country. Almost 71.0% of households in Yemen, 59.7% of households in Nigeria, 50.2% in Burundi, and 40.2% in South Sudan, include at least one vulnerable member.

**Table 4.9. Percentage of durable solution intentions by the presence of a vulnerable household member**

Presence of a vulnerable HH member	Yes, have at least one vulnerable member (N = 20,108)	No, households do not have a vulnerable member (N = 11,672)
Intention		
Stay (N = 20,186)	63.9	62.8
Return (N = 10,930)	34.0	35.1
Relocate (N = 664)	2.1	2.1
	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: T-tests assess the difference between households that have at least one vulnerable member and those that do not have a vulnerable member (\*  $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key insights:

- Having at least one vulnerable household member is not related to IDPs' durable solutions intentions. For both households with at least one vulnerable member and those without, more than half of the IDPs prefer to stay in their displacement locations, while about one third prefer returning to their areas of origin. The percentage is slightly lower among those with at least one vulnerable member, 34.0%, versus 35.1% among those without vulnerable household members.

**Table 4.10. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by the number of vulnerabilities present in household**

Number of vulnerabilities in the HHs	None (N=11,672)	One (N=14,205)	Multiple (N=5,756)
Intention			
<b>Stay (N = 20,135)</b>	62.8	64.4	63.6
<b>Return (N = 10,836)</b>	35.1	33.5	34.4
<b>Relocate (N = 662)</b>	2.1	2.1	2.0
	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Some of the data from South Sudan only denotes the presence of a vulnerability in a household without the details on the number or types of vulnerabilities. These households are not part of the analysis in the table above.

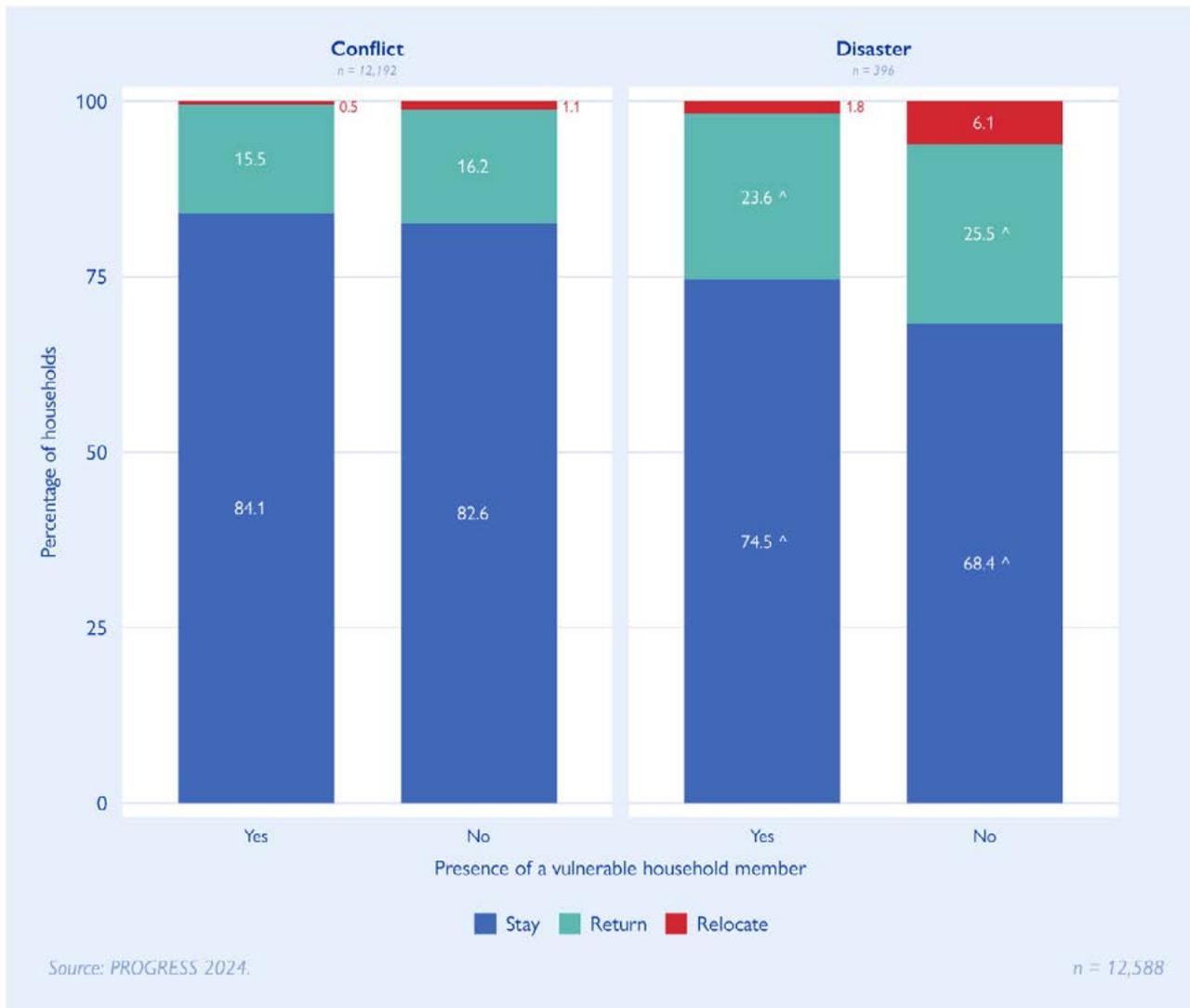
\* T-tests assess the difference between households that have at no vulnerable and those that have either one or multiple vulnerabilities within the household (\*  $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key insights

- There is **no** statistically significant difference in the intentions of households that have at least one vulnerable member and those that do not have a vulnerable member. For both types of households, approximately 63.9% of the households intend to stay in their current location while 34.0% intend to return to their area of origin.
- There is also no difference between the intentions of households with only one type of vulnerability and those with multiple types of vulnerabilities.

## Presence of a vulnerable household member, intentions and cause of displacement

Figure 4.4. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by cause of displacement and the presence of a vulnerable household member



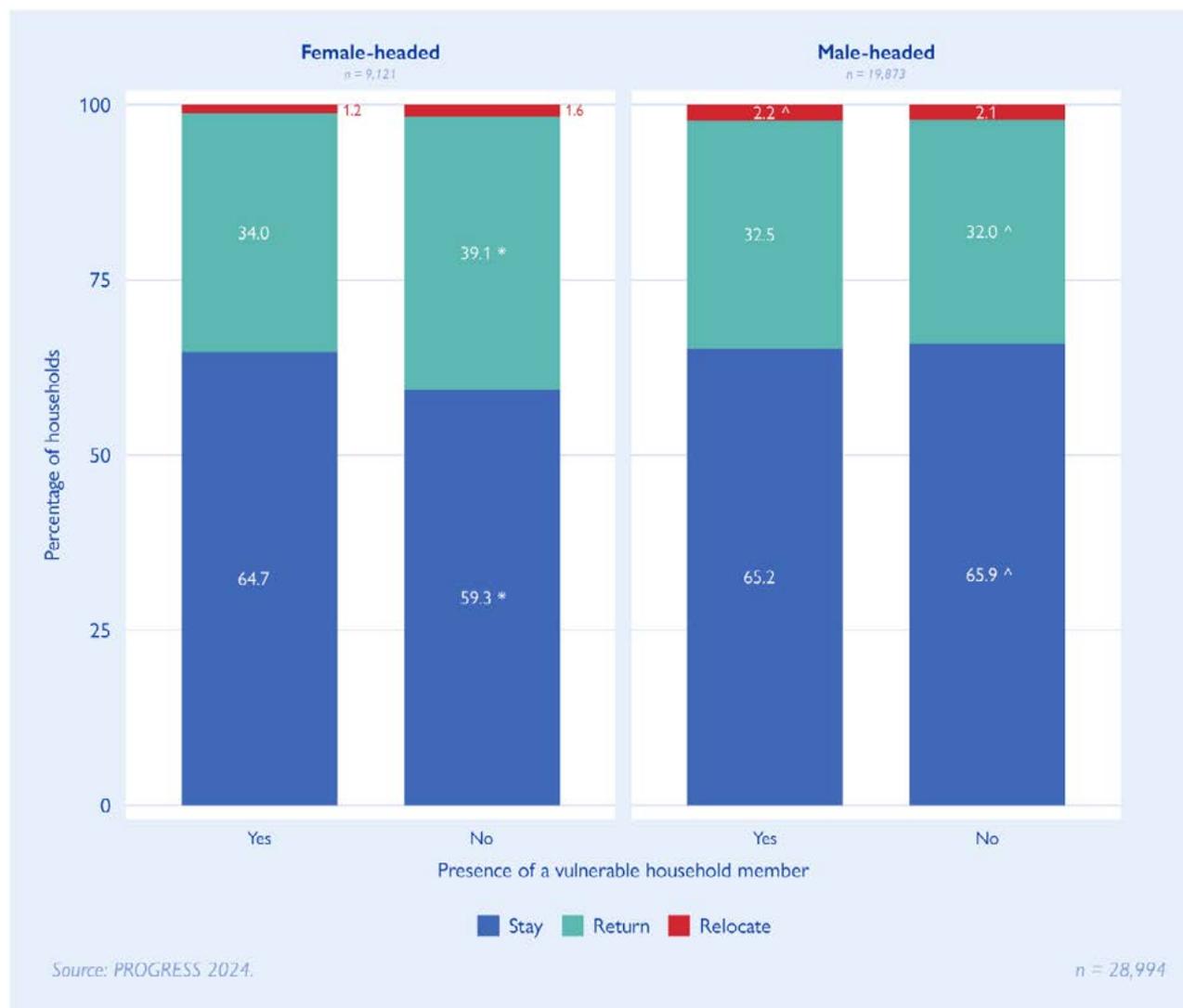
Note: T-tests assess the difference between the households with and those without a vulnerable HH member and those that do not (\*  $p < 0.01$ ), and the difference between conflict affected HHs and disaster affected HHs (^  $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key insights:

- Among those displaced by conflict living in households with a vulnerable member, 84.1% intend to stay (with no significant difference between households with and without a vulnerable member). However, among those displaced by disasters with vulnerable members, 74.5% intend to stay compared to 68.4% for households without vulnerable members.
- For households with a vulnerable household member, disaster affected IDPs are more likely to intend to return than those displaced by conflict (23.6% vs. 15.5%).

## Sex of the head of household, intentions and the presence of a vulnerable household member

Figure 4.5. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by sex of the head of household and the presence of a vulnerable household member



Note: T-tests assess the difference between the households with and those without a vulnerable HH member and those that do not (\*  $p < 0.01$ ) within both female- and male-headed HHs, and the difference between female-headed HHs and male-headed HHs (^  $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key Insights:

- The presence of a vulnerable household member is associated with the intentions of female-headed IDP households. For female-headed households, having a vulnerable household member means they are more likely to intend to stay where they are while those without a vulnerable member are more likely to return to their area of origin.
- For male-headed households, there is no distinction between households that have a vulnerable member and those that do not; 65% would like to stay and 32% would like to return regardless of whether there is vulnerability in the household.

# SOUTH SUDAN CASE STUDY

Data on the health needs of IDPs was available only in South Sudan. Respondents were asked whether anyone in the household had health problems and needed to access medical care in the previous three months.

**Table 4.11. South Sudan: Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by the presence of health needs and cause of displacement**

Durable Solution	Health Needs			No Health Needs		
	Conflict	Disaster	Both	Conflict	Disaster	Both
Stay	33.3	34.0	31.7	39.5 <sup>^</sup>	32.7*	27.5*
Return	41.9	49.3*	46.1	39.2	46.1*	49.2*
Relocate	13.8	11.1	9.9	9.8 <sup>^</sup>	15.6*	13.9
Don't know	11.0	5.6*	12.3	11.6	5.6*	9.4
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>n</b>	(1,523)	(503)	(334)	(1,404)	(538)	(309)

Note: T-tests assess differences by type of displacement (\* $p < 0.01$ ), and between households with and without health needs (<sup>^</sup> $p < 0.01$ ). Total Ns may vary due to missing data.

## Key Insights:

- Conflict displaced households that report that they have health needs are less likely to intend to stay than those without reported health problems (33.3% vs. 39.5%).
- Displacement by disasters translates into higher return intentions among those reporting health needs; they are more likely to return compared to conflict displaced households (49.3 vs. 41.9%).
- Those displaced by disasters without health problems are also more likely to intend to return compared to conflict displaced households although at slightly lower levels (46.1% vs. 39.2%).
- Conflict displaced households that report that they have health needs are more likely to intend to relocate (13.8% vs. 9.8%).
- It may be that those with health needs are more likely to choose to return, or for the conflict-displaced to stay, because they feel that those needs can be better addressed in either their community of origin or where they are. Interestingly, compared to those with health needs, households without health needs displaced by both conflict and disasters were more likely to say they wanted to return.

## HYPOTHESIS 3: Perceptions of security will be associated with IDP intentions for solutions.

When they feel insecure in displacement, they will be more likely to return and when IDPs perceive that their communities of origin are safe, they will be more likely to return.

This analysis is based on data from 25,767 households in five countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Iraq, Mozambique, and South Sudan. Overall, most (95%) of households reported feeling safe in their current location.

**Table 4.12. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by perceptions of safety**

Perception of safety	Yes, I feel safe (N=24,601)	No, I do not feel safe (N=1,166)
Intention		
Stay (N=18,203)	71.1	60.9*
Return (N=4,134)	15.9	19.7*
Relocate (N=982)	3.5	9.7*
Other (N=2,448)	9.5	9.7
	100	100

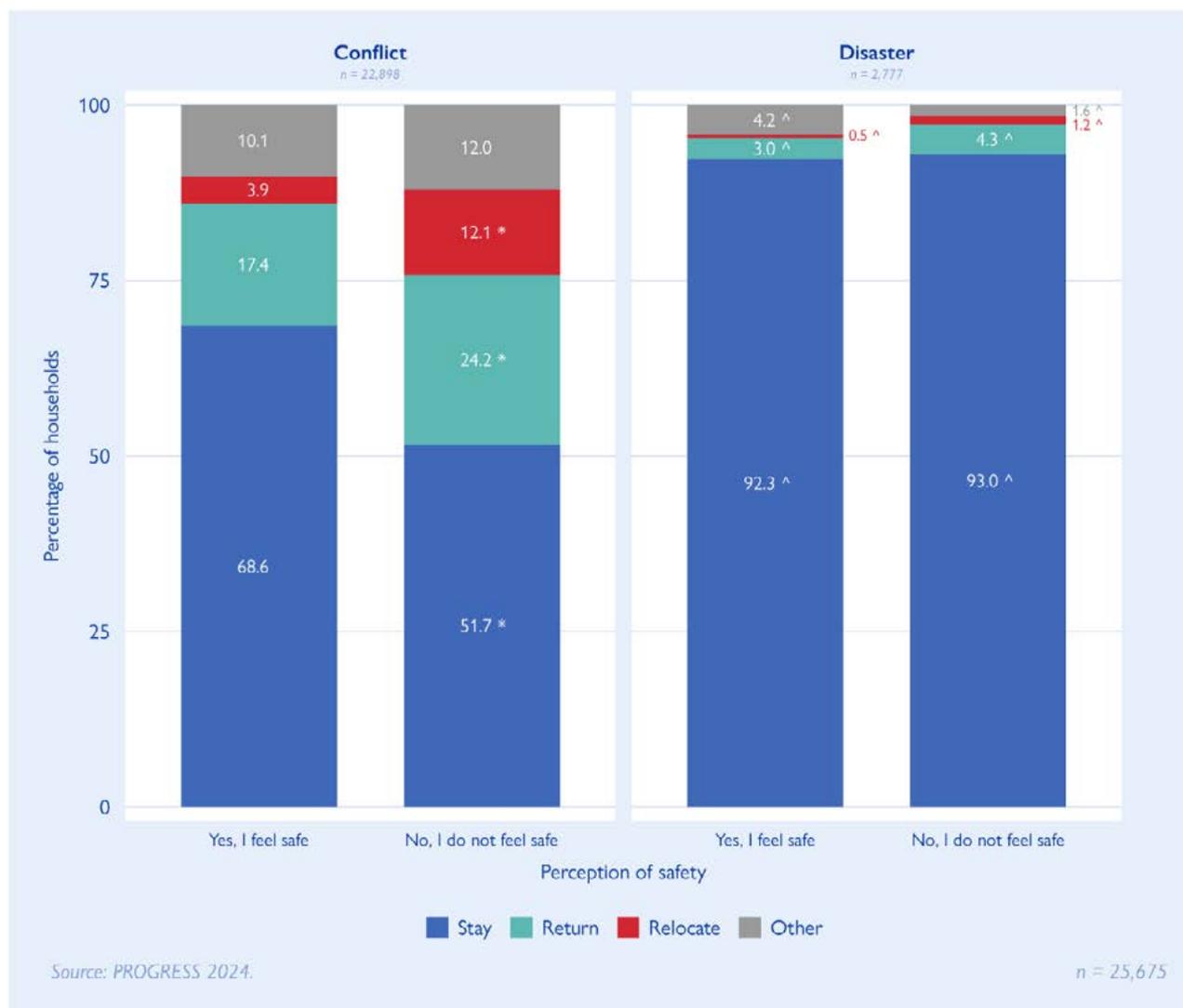
Note: T-tests assess household differences between those reporting feeling safe and those not feeling safe (\*  $p < 0.01$ )

### Key Insights

- The preference to stay in their current location is higher among IDP households that feel safe. Among those reporting that they feel safe, 71.1% intend to stay compared to 60.9% among those who do not feel safe.
- By contrast, among those that do not feel safe, the intentions vary more. Of the 40% of households that do not intend to stay in their current location, approximately half intend to return, and the other half intend to relocate or are uncertain about their future intentions.

## Perceptions of safety, intentions and cause of displacement

Figure 4.6. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by cause of displacement and perceptions of safety



Note: T-tests assess the difference between households that feel safe and those that do not (\*  $p < 0.01$ ) and the difference between households displaced by conflict and those displaced by a disaster (^  $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key Insights

- More than 90% of households displaced by disasters intend to stay in their current locations, irrespective of whether they reported feeling safe or not (92.3% vs 93.0%).
- 68.6% of conflict-affected IDPs who feel safe intend to stay in their current location while 17.4% would like to return to their area of origin. Furthermore, among those conflict-affected households who do not feel safe, only half (51.7%) intend to stay in their current location while 24.2% would like to return.
- Uncertainty (represented by Other in the table above) in the intentions of IDP households is more prevalent among IDP households displaced due to conflict.
- The breakdown of intentions for conflict affected IDP households, especially those who do not

feel safe, is more varied than those displaced due to disaster. Conflict-affected IDPs are more likely to intend to relocate when they do not feel safe (12.1%) compared to when they feel safe (3.9%).

- For disaster affected IDP households, there is no significant difference between households that feel safe and those that do not in their choice of intentions.

## Sex of the head of household, intentions and perceptions of safety

**Table 4.13. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by sex of head of household and perceptions of safety**

Sex of the head of household	Female-headed HHs (N=8,053)		Male-headed HHs (N=17,531)	
	Yes, I feel safe	No, I do not feel safe	Yes, I feel safe	No, I do not feel safe
Intention				
Stay (N=17,980)	72.3	59.9*	70.2^	59.4*
Return (N=4,162)	13.6	17.5	17.1^	22.1*
Relocate (N=986)	3.6	10.1*	3.6	10.0*
Other (N=2,456)	10.6	12.5	9.1^	8.6
	100	100	100	100

Note: T-tests assess the difference between households that feel safe and those that do not (\*  $p < 0.01$ ) and the difference between female-headed and male-headed households (^  $p < 0.01$ ).

## Key insights

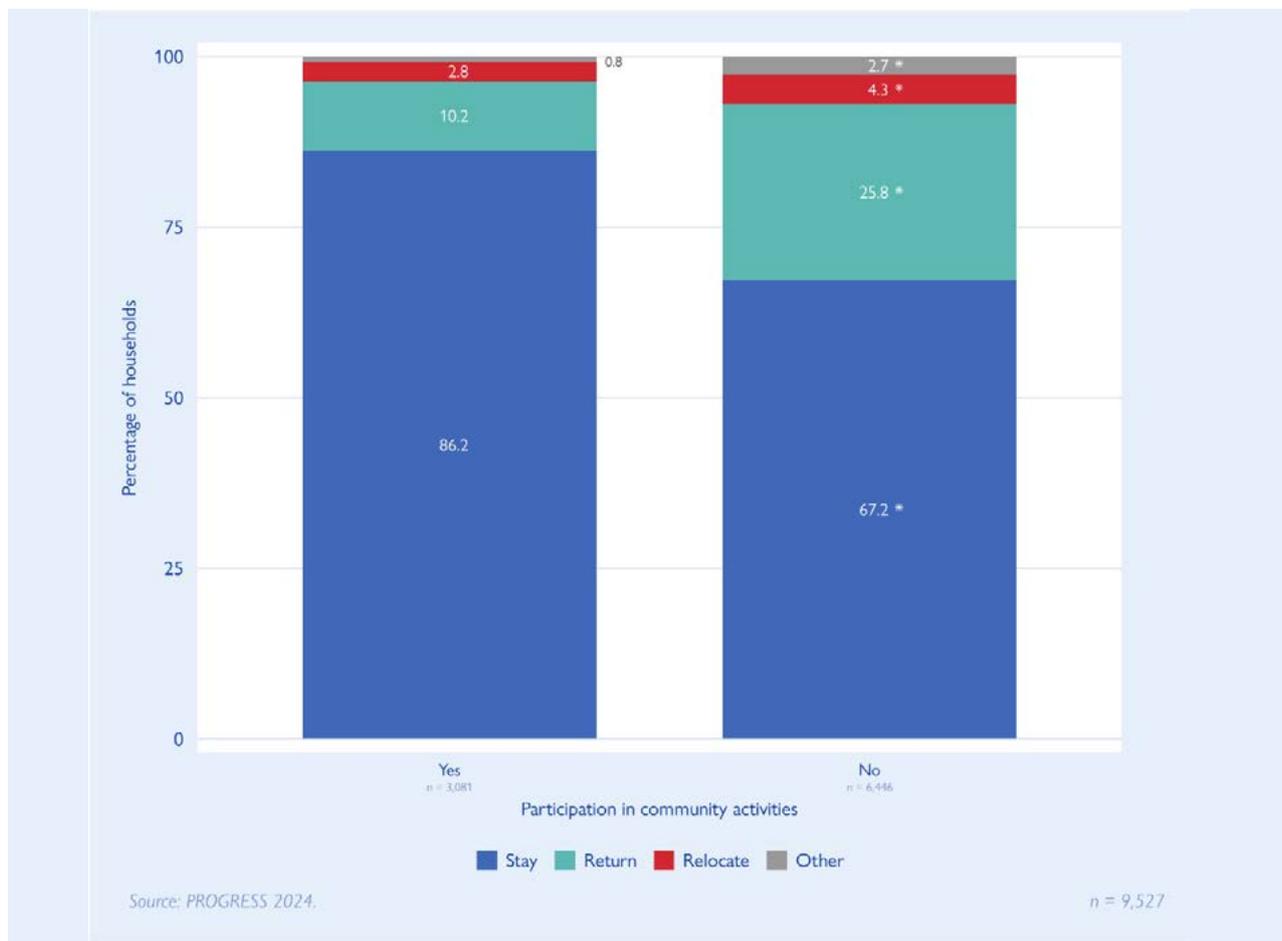
- Overall, female-headed households are just as likely to feel safe as male-headed households.
- Male-headed households that do not feel safe are more likely to intend to return to their area of origin than female-headed households (22.1% vs 17.5%), while female-headed households that do not feel safe are more uncertain about their future intentions than male-headed households (12.5% vs 9.1%). For both male and female-headed households, 10% of those who do not feel safe intend to relocate.

## HYPOTHESIS 4: IDPs' social ties will be associated with their solutions intentions.

IDPs with more social ties in their area of displacement are more likely to intend to remain in their location of displacement while IDPs with strong ties to their community of origin are more likely to intend to return.

Participating in community activities is one aspect of social ties and represents an important dimension of integration. The most common variable regarding social ties across the different datasets was the variable on participation in community activities (e.g. sports and women's groups). Being engaged in community activities is expected to influence durable solutions intentions. Households which report community engagement were expected to be more likely to intend to stay than those who do not participate in community activities. The analysis below relies on data from 9,527 households in four countries: Burundi, Iraq, Mozambique, and South Sudan.

**Figure 4.7. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by household participation in community activities**



Note: T-tests are used to assess the difference between households that participate in community activities and those that do not participate in community activities (\*p < 0.01).

## Key insights

- Approximately two-thirds (67.6%) of IDP households (6,446 out of 9,527) **do not** participate in community activities. Nearly one-third (32.3%) report that they do.
- Of those that participate, 86.2% intend to remain in their current location, 10.2% intend to return and 2.8% intend to relocate. Of those who do not participate, 67.2% intend to remain in their current location, 25.8% intend to return and 4.3% intend to relocate.

Although the association between community participation and solutions intentions is strong, it does not indicate causality. It may be that those who have decided to stay are more likely to participate in community activities, or inversely, that those who participate in community activities are more likely to decide that they'd like to stay. Social ties are, of course, more than participation in community activities. Family ties, for example, are very important to IDPs as suggested in the focus group discussions where households who experienced family separation noted that their decision-making was influenced by their hope to be reunited.

## Cause of displacement, intention and participation in community activities

Below we analyse the relationship between solution intentions and participation in community activities by type of displacement.

**Table 4.14. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by cause of displacement and participation in community activities**

Cause of displacement	Conflict (N=7,079)		Disaster (N=2,357)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Participation in community activities</b>				
<b>Intention</b>				
<b>Stay</b> (N = 6,907)	64.0	65.4	98.6 <sup>^</sup>	90.4* <sup>^</sup>
<b>Return</b> (N = 1,970)	26.1	27.3	1.3 <sup>^</sup>	6.3* <sup>^</sup>
<b>Relocate</b> (N = 363)	7.7	4.5*	0.1 <sup>^</sup>	1.7* <sup>^</sup>
<b>Other</b> (N =196)	2.2	2.8	0.0 <sup>^</sup>	1.7*
	100	100	100	100

Note: T-tests assess the difference HHs that participate in community activities and those that do not (\* $p < 0.01$ ), and between conflict and disaster affected IDP HHs (<sup>^</sup>  $p < 0.01$ ). Note that most of the disaster affected IDPs refer to data collected from Mozambique while the majority of the conflict affected IDP households are in Iraq.

## Key insights

- There are few differences between those who participate and those who do not participate in community activities among conflict displaced households. However, there is more variation among those displaced by disasters. IDP households displaced by disasters are more likely to participate in community activities than those displaced by conflict.
- Among those displaced by disasters and engaged in community activities, 98.6% intend to stay

compared to 64.0% for those displaced by conflict and engaged in community activities.

- Intending to return or to relocate is significantly more likely among conflict-displaced households irrespective of community participation.

## Sex of the head of household, intentions and participation in community activities

Table 4.15 shows the difference between female-headed and male-headed households and the relationship between participation in community activities and intentions of IDP households. The ratio of female-headed households to male-headed households presented in the table below is 25% to 75%.

**Table 4.15. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by sex of head of household and participation in community activities**

Sex of the head of household	Female-headed HHs (N = 2,336)		Male-headed HHs (N=6,961)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Participation in community activities</b>				
<b>Intention</b>				
<b>Stay (N = 6,760)</b>	91.2	66.6*	82.3^	67.4*
<b>Return (N = 1,976)</b>	6.1	24.1*	13.4^	26.3*
<b>Relocate (N = 364)</b>	1.7	4.9*	3.6^	4.2
<b>Other (N =197)</b>	1.0	4.4*	0.8	2.2*^
	100	100	100	100

Note: T-tests assess the difference between households that participated in community activities and those that did not participate (\*  $p < 0.01$ ), and the difference between female- and male-headed households (^  $p < 0.01$ ).

### Key insights:

- For both female- and male-headed households, among those who did not participate in community activities approximately 67% would like to stay in their current location while approximately 25% would like to return.
- However, there are statistical differences between female- and male-headed households that participated in community activities; 91.2% of the female-headed households that participate in community activities prefer to stay compared to 82.3% of male-headed households. A similar difference also appears for those who would like to return to their area of origin (6.1% vs. 13.4% for female- vs. male-headed households).

## Duration of displacement, intention and participation in community activities

Using data from only two countries: Burundi, and Iraq (N = 7,315 households), the analysis reveals that IDP households displaced for a longer time are less likely to intend to stay in their current location. Participating in community activities does not appear to have a strong association with duration of displacement.

**Table 4.16. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by duration of displacement and participation in community activities**

Duration of displacement	0 – 1 year (N=51)		2 – 4 years (N=244)		5 or more years (N=7,020)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Participation in community activities	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Intention						
<b>Stay (N = 4,879)</b>	76.5	73.5	83.1	78.4	67.0	66.0
<b>Return (N = 1,912)</b>	17.6	26.5	16.9	14.4	23.9	27.0
<b>Relocate (N = 362)</b>	5.9	0.0	0.0	7.2	7.4	4.5
<b>Other (N =162)</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.4
	100	100	100	100	100	100

### Key insights

- For IDPs that have been displaced for 5 or more years, two-thirds would like to stay in their current locations whether they have participated in community activities or not. In contrast, for those that have been displaced for four or less years, IDP households participating in community activities are more likely to say that they intend to stay in their current location.
- This suggests that forming social ties in the community of displacement in the early stages of displacement is associated with staying.



IOM and partners are addressing displacement and conflicts driven by competition over natural resources, exacerbated by demographic growth, environmental degradation, and climate change. With support from the EU, initiatives like solarized water boreholes, peace platforms, and early warning systems are fostering peace and resilience in North-eastern Nigeria.

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Thousands of Somalis are displaced to Dolow region due to drought and conflict. While IOM and partners are providing range of services and support to the displaced, many more are arriving daily who live in makeshift shelters, in wait of support.



Chapter

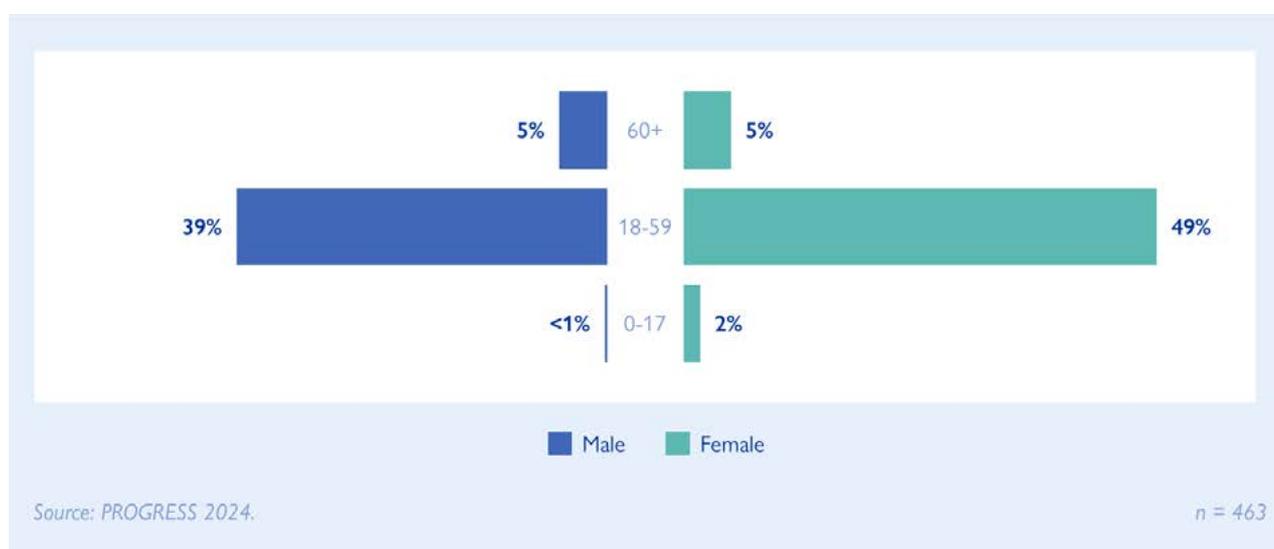
# 05

VOICES OF DISPLACED  
COMMUNITIES:  
QUALITATIVE DATA  
ANALYSIS

## 5. VOICES FROM DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

To supplement the findings from the PROGRESS24 quantitative data analysis, DTM country teams carried out focus group discussions (FGDs) with IDPs. The methodology used in the FGDs is explained in the Methodological Annex. Discussions focused on the experience of displacement, living conditions during displacement, changes over time, social ties and future intentions.

**Figure 5.1 Demographic breakdown of focus group discussion participants**



The findings below are based on the qualitative analysis of 43 FGDs conducted in August 2024, with 463 IDPs across 28 locations in 5 countries: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Honduras and Nigeria. The primary reason for displacement reported by participants was conflict (95.9%) including armed conflict, community clashes and gang violence. The remaining participants cited disasters (2.2%) and other reasons (2.0%). Therefore, the following findings mostly represent the points of view of conflict-displaced IDPs.

### 5.1 Impact of duration of displacement

For the majority of IDP households, the impact of displacement was immediate. Upon arrival in their displacement location, IDPs faced challenges with access to shelter and basic services, lack of livelihood opportunities, education and health care. In some cases, IDPs did not feel the effects of displacement until later, when financial resources and assistance decreased, and it became difficult to afford food and basic goods. With time, some IDPs noted that their living conditions improved as they were able to gain access to services and strengthen ties locally with their host communities.

Notably, in all five countries the most persistent challenge over time for most IDP households was economic insecurity. Particularly, the lack of livelihood opportunities in their locations of displacement, including the inability to farm because they could not access land. Over time, IDPs in Afghanistan, Honduras and Nigeria were able to obtain daily wage jobs but noted that they were insufficient for supporting their families. In some cases, the lack of economic resources led to hunger and malnutrition among both children and adults. It also had a

direct impact on education as it limited the ability of children to go to school because their family could not afford the school fees or because the children needed to work. As youth IDPs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo noted, “some of us are studying, while others don’t go to school for lack of funds (school fees and school kit). Our parents have nothing.”<sup>39</sup> Some IDPs also experienced stigma in their host communities due to their economic conditions. In Haiti, economic insecurity contributed to family separation, as some parents were forced to leave their children with relatives because they had no adequate shelter or simply could not afford to feed them.

The lack of economic resources also influenced where IDPs were able to live and the types of shelter that they could afford. This varied greatly by location. Some IDP households in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti were staying in displacement sites, in temporary shelters and with limited access to basic services. Other IDPs, as in Afghanistan, Honduras and Haiti lived with host families; often in crowded spaces and with the pressure to secure their own accommodation soon. As one IDP said, “we share a single room, piled on top of each other, without any privacy”<sup>40</sup> IDPs there reported feeling “humiliated” that they did not have the resources to move elsewhere. Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one respondent said “the biggest challenge for us was hunger, especially as the host family had barely returned and were fewer in number than us displaced people. There wasn’t enough food for them first of all.”<sup>41</sup> While shelters deteriorated over time, in most places, IDPs reported that gradually they were able to replace fraying tents with more solid dwellings and that their physical living conditions had improved with time.

Health care needs surfaced in all the focus groups – in some cases mental health even more than physical health. IDPs noted that the stress of daily life in displacement and feeling unable to make plans took a toll on their wellbeing over time. The lack of economic resources was a factor in accessing both health services, particularly the high cost of medicines. In Nigeria, IDPs mentioned resorting to coping mechanisms like borrowing to be able to pay for health care services and other basic needs. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Nigeria, respondents indicated that they were worried about malnutrition among their children.

## 5.2 Social Ties

### Relationship with family

Displacement led to family separation for several participants. IDPs in all five countries reported the negative impact of displacement on their relationships with family members who were living elsewhere. Some IDPs reported that they were able to stay in touch through phone conversations or occasional visits, though the lack of economic resources in many cases limited their ability to visit. Others said that relationships were becoming more strained – mostly because of stigma related to their lack of livelihoods or homelessness. As a female Afghan respondent said, “there is somewhat of a social stigma around performing daily wage jobs and so sometimes you don’t want family members or relatives to know your economic situation.”<sup>42</sup>

In Haiti, IDPs who are hosted by family perceived that over time they have become a burden to their relatives and that their relationships are no longer as positive as they used to be, with some confirming that they have been completely cut off from support and communication. In cases of multiple displacement, IDPs in Haiti also noted that they were no longer able to stay with family after their first displacement, driving them to stay in displacement sites. In Honduras, participants mentioned having experienced family separation and having

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39 Mixed youth IDP FGD. Group 9, Democratic Republic of the Congo. August 2024.

40 Mixed IDP FGD. Group 11, Haiti. August 2024.

41 Male IDP FGD. Group 3, Democratic Republic of Congo. August 2024.

42 Female IDP FGD. Group 1, Afghanistan. August 2024.

feelings of isolation in displacement due to changing family relationships, “there is a negative change, there is no communication. I have seen a difference that they don’t communicate with me.”<sup>43</sup>

## Relationship with host community

Overall, relations with host communities were described in positive terms in nearly half of IDP responses on assistance provided to them, particularly in the early days of their displacement. However, IDPs who lived with host families – mainly in Haiti – reported that relationships deteriorated over time because of overcrowding. The effect of the increasing duration of displacement on IDPs also varied. Some IDPs in Democratic Republic of the Congo noted improvements in their relationships over time as they gained access to their own fields and no longer depended on sharing with the host community. In contrast, IDPs in Nigeria noticed increased tensions with local farmers because they reduced IDP access to farmland over time. There were a few other cases where IDPs said that they felt discriminated against because of their displacement, which manifested in the form of barriers to obtaining housing or basic services such as water. Security was also an issue, particularly in Honduras where some IDPs noted that “care must be taken when interacting [with the host community] because of insecurity,”<sup>44</sup> highlighting the impact that gang violence and insecurity have on the social fabric of Honduran communities.

## 5.3 Impact of multiple displacement

Over half of all participants (54%) were displaced more than once – two times (35%), three times (13%) and more than three times (5%). Additionally, most of the FGDs included participants who experienced multiple displacements, particularly in Haiti and Nigeria. In Nigeria, for example, 58% of IDPs reported that they had displaced twice and 36% were displaced three or more times. In Haiti, some IDPs noted that they were able to return to their areas of origin after their initial displacement, but deteriorating security conditions led them to secondary displacement.

The fact that so many IDPs have been displaced multiple times has resulted in extreme stress, despair and, in many cases, a lack of hope about their options for the future. As one Afghan respondent said, “it is difficult to move around several times because [we] lack stability and have to find jobs all over again.”<sup>45</sup> A respondent from the Democratic Republic of the Congo also noted, “all of these displacements have always led us to leave our environment in a catastrophic way, leaving behind everything that belongs to us, such as our possessions, our livestock and our fields.”<sup>46</sup> Conversely, in a few cases, subsequent displacements resulted in improved living conditions and access to assistance. As a female respondent in the Democratic Republic of the Congo stated, “the previous displacement was difficult and complicated whereas the recent displacement allows us access to housing, shelter, drinking water and toilets.”<sup>47</sup>

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43 Female IDP FGD. Group 2, Honduras. August 2024.

44 Female IDP FGD. Group 4, Honduras. August 2024.

45 Female IDP FGD. Group 1, Afghanistan. August 2024.

46 Female IDP FGD. Group 2, Democratic Republic of Congo. August 2024.

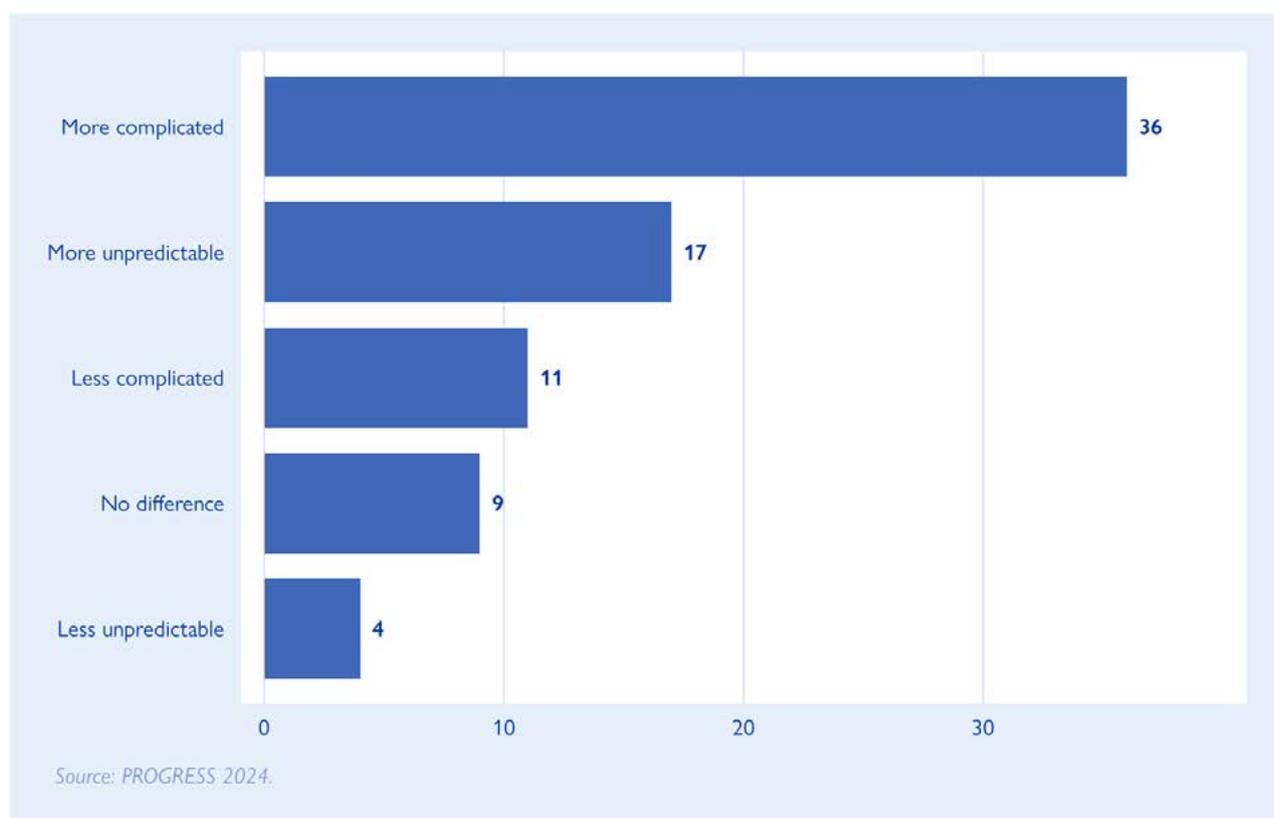
47 Female IDP FGD. Group 4, Democratic Republic of Congo. August 2024.

## Content analysis: IDP perceptions of multiple displacement

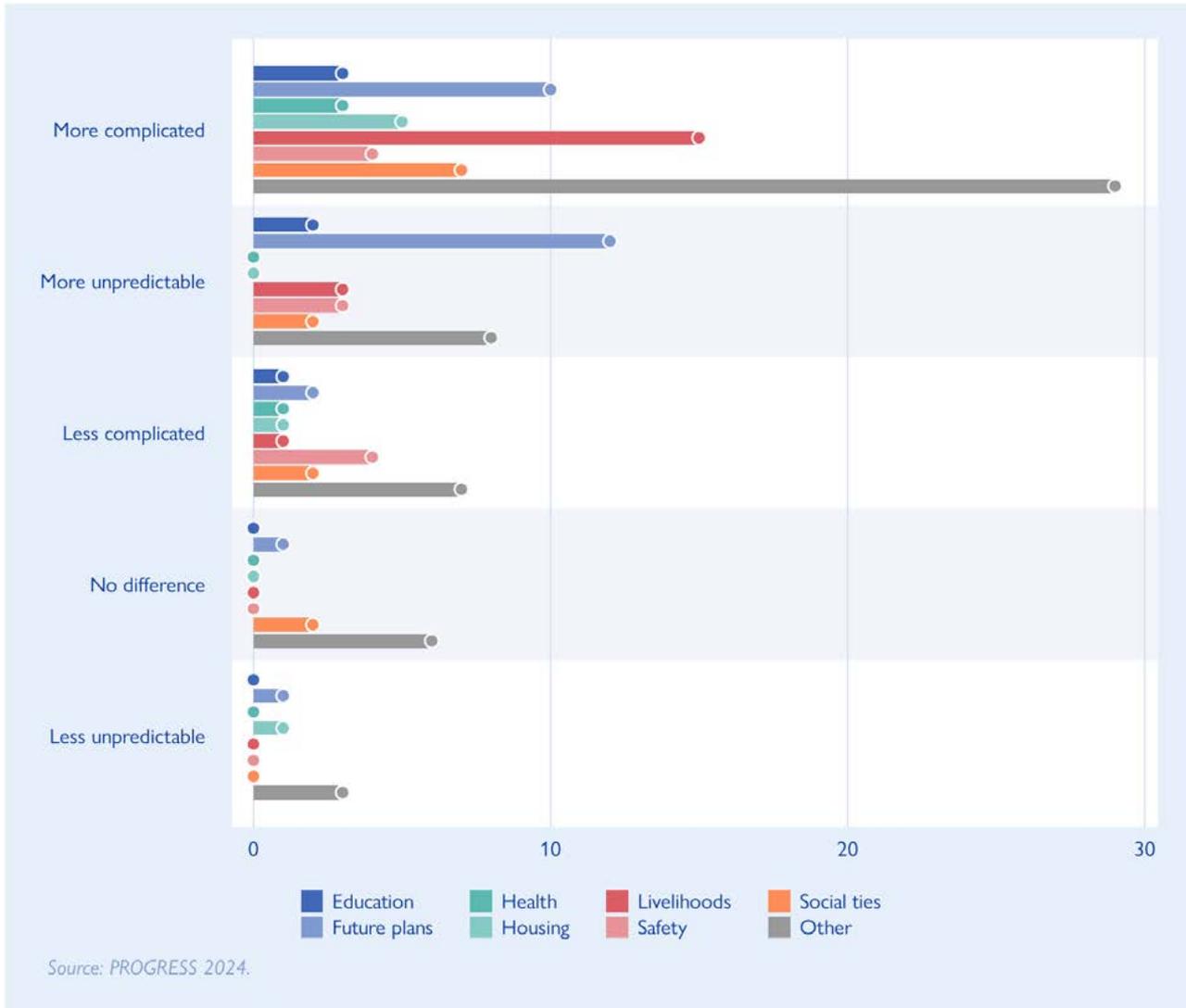
To consider the impact of multiple displacements on the experiences of IDPs, content analysis was conducted to examine the themes that emerge as part of IDPs' reflections on their latest displacements as compared to previous ones.

Figure 5.2 below shows that IDPs primarily viewed their latest displacements as more complicated and more unpredictable. Specifically, complications were noted in relation to livelihoods, housing, social ties and other factors such as personal property and the process of adapting to a new environment. Figure 5.3 shows the frequency of various challenges mentioned by IDPs when asked about their experience of multiple displacements. In many cases, IDPs were keen to elaborate on the latest displacement where they mentioned various factors that negatively impact their current lives. Livelihoods, housing and social ties were among the most frequently mentioned factors that contributed to the latest displacement experience being more complicated than the previous one(s).

**Figure 5.2. Multiple displacement: number of IDP perception statements of latest displacement**



**Figure 5.3. Multiple displacement: number of factors mentioned in perception of latest displacement**



Note: The content analysis utilizes data from 40 out of 43 focus groups. The Other category includes the loss and/or need of household items, clothes, adaptation, emotional impact and impact on duration of displacement.

## 5.4 Intentions and influencing factors

Responses about intentions by FGD participants were congruent with the quantitative analysis of intention surveys when assessing factors influencing decision-making. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo one respondent remarked that “for the time being, everyone prefers to stay in the site as long as they can as there is no security in [our] home village. But once security returns to [our] home village [we] prefer to go back because there [we] are free to move about, can farm, hunt and fish peacefully in rivers.”<sup>48</sup> In Nigeria, some respondents also noted their intention to return due to their strong ties to their farmland once conditions were safe.

The analysis found that positive relationships with the host community were a key factor influencing some IDPs to stay and integrate in the local community. Livelihoods once again emerged as an important factor influencing solutions intentions. In Afghanistan, while most IDPs intended to stay, they mentioned remaining open to the possibility of moving elsewhere if they were guaranteed good economic opportunities, even for those that have lived in the IDP site for more than 10 years. Some IDPs who intended to stay also mentioned having found a source of livelihood, established a business or having found a place to live.

A common sentiment among IDPs in Haiti was that their plans remained uncertain and were heavily dependent on having the resources to obtain stable housing or to travel elsewhere. There was a high frequency of intentions to move elsewhere among participants in displacement sites. Safety was also an influencing factor as many IDPs emphasized that their movement intentions were shaped by the fact that they did not feel safe where they were.

IDPs who mentioned wishing to move somewhere else also indicated that return was not possible, or that life in their current location was not comfortable so they would prefer to find an alternative place to live. However, many respondents noted they did not yet have the economic resources to move.

Environmental factors also influenced decision-making, as IDPs in Honduras with an intention to relocate mentioned that floods are now occurring in areas that were previously not affected. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, IDPs who were displaced due to the rising water levels of Lake Tanganyika noted a preference to stay and build a life in their host community.

While solutions intentions were dependent on individual circumstances including cause of displacement, and varied between and within countries, the common aim expressed by all participants was to obtain safe shelter, a means of livelihood and “no more displacements.”<sup>49</sup>

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48 Male IDP FGD. Group 3, Democratic Republic of Congo. August 2024.

49 Female IDP FGD. Group 4, Honduras. August 2024.



Prior to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, Kobe was a village in El Fasher, North Darfur, a settlements where formerly internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan's Darfur region have returned. IOM is among the agencies that have supported the return with infrastructure such as water facilities.  
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Chapter

06

CASE STUDIES AND  
THE ECONOMIC  
CHARACTERISTICS OF IDP  
HOUSEHOLDS

## 6. THE ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS: A CASE STUDY APPROACH

This chapter focuses on understanding the economic characteristics of IDP households in relation to durable solutions. Economic conditions and livelihoods play an important role not only in shaping IDPs solutions decision making, but also in their progress along the solutions pathway. In PROGRESS23, analysis on livelihoods showed that economic security such as access to livelihoods is key to IDPs resilience in displacement as well as those on their solutions pathway.

In this chapter we look at IDPs in five countries: Burundi, Haiti, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Sudan using IOM Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) data collected in 2022 and 2023, and MSNA data for Mali and Niger collected by REACH in 2023.

The country case studies shed light on some of the nuances of the preceding analysis, including that most IDP households report economic concerns as the leading reason for not realizing a solution to displacement. Profiles of the economic attributes of IDPs include information about livelihoods and employment. Understanding these economic profiles can contribute to the design of programs and investments to facilitate durable solutions. Together, the analysis in this chapter is important given that livelihoods and employment are critically important factors that influence decisions about preferred displacement solutions.

### 6.1 Displacement Contexts: Overview of Five Countries

#### Burundi

Burundi<sup>50</sup> is a landlocked country in the great Rift Valley in East Africa that shares its borders with Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and United Republic of Tanzania. As of August 2024, per IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Burundi has 86,159 IDPs. This includes both those who are internally displaced (93%) and former refugees (7%) who have returned to Burundi but not to their habitual residence prior to displacement in part because their shelters were destroyed<sup>51</sup>.

While conflict and violence were the main drivers of displacement prior to 2018, natural hazards, including torrential rains, floods, and strong winds account for the displacement of more than 90% of the currently displaced population in Burundi. While all the causes of displacement are all categorized under natural hazards, the effects of the hazards include destruction of shelters and destroyed crops highlighting the multi-faceted displacement-related vulnerabilities. While the IDPs stay in different shelter types, 99% stay with members of the host community.

The return of former refugees is prevalent in the locations that share a border with the United Republic of Tanzania following from the agreement involving UNHCR and both governments to scale up voluntary

<sup>50</sup> This description is based on IOM's knowledge of displacement throughout the entire country of Burundi. Note, however, that the summary of key findings is based on an analysis of a sample of households in Burundi.

<sup>51</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM), Oct 28 2024. DTM Burundi — Internal Displacement Dashboard (August 2024). IOM, Burundi.

repatriation to Burundi.<sup>52</sup>

### Key findings from the Burundi household MSNA sample

- In the Burundi sample, disaster displacement far outweighs conflict displacement. Disaster displaced households are more likely to intend to return and less likely to stay.
- Those displaced before 2021 are less likely to return and more likely to stay, compared with those displaced more recently.
- Almost all sampled households (90%) report no security concerns in their place of displacement, but of those who do, security concerns are an obstacle to staying, especially for those displaced by disasters.
- A central barrier to return and relocation is a lack of financial resources and destroyed homes.
- Owning land in the current place of residence is positively associated with the intention to stay.

## Haiti

Haiti<sup>53</sup> is a Caribbean island country which shares its eastern border with the Dominican Republic. The internal displacement landscape in Haiti is shaped by a sustained escalation of violence and insecurity as well as a susceptibility to natural hazards. In 2023, Haiti was the country with the highest number of gang and crime-related violence displacements, with displacement figures matching those of armed conflict displacement contexts.<sup>54</sup> While violence is concentrated in the Port-au Prince Metropolitan area (MAPAP), other districts have been affected through the spread of violence or their role as host provinces.

As of September 2024, IOM DTM recorded 702,973 IDPs and 39,752 IDP returnees in the districts of West, South-East, South, Nippes, Grande Anse, Centre and Artibonite. Violence is the main driver of displacement (99%), with the remaining IDPs moving as a preventative measure or due to natural disasters. More than half (52%) of IDPs are children. Nearly three quarters (74%) of IDPs are staying with host families, primarily those in rural areas and the rest (26%) across 81 displacement sites (63% of IDPs in the MAPAP).<sup>55</sup> Displaced persons in both host communities and sites face acute needs related to a lack of appropriate shelter, livelihood opportunities and difficulties in access to food.<sup>56</sup> It is important to note that returns in Haiti are considered fragile and circumstantial, as IDP returnees are often re-displaced due to surges in violence after temporary truces.

### Key findings from the Haitian household MSNA sample.<sup>57</sup>

- Approximately 80% of IDP and returnee households reported problems related to healthcare access.
- Almost no respondents reported receiving humanitarian assistance.
- IDP households were far less likely to own the land they currently lived on compared to returnee households.

52 [UNHCR, Governments of Burundi and Tanzania agree to scale up voluntary repatriation to Burundi | UNHCR Africa.](#)

53 This description is based on IOM's knowledge of displacement throughout the entire country of Haiti. Note, however, that the summary of key findings is based on an analysis of a sample of households in Haiti.

54 IDMC, Haiti, 27 August 2024, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/haiti/>.

55 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Sep 22 2024. DTM Haiti — [Report on the internal displacement situation in Haiti — Round 8 \(September 2024\)](#). IOM, Haiti.

56 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Sep 30 2024. DTM Haiti — [Evaluations des besoins multisectoriels des PDI et leurs communautés hôtes — Focus sur la Redevabilité et la Communication \(Septembre 2024\)](#). IOM, Haiti.

57 Respondents Haiti were not asked about return intentions. Instead, data were collected from both IDPs and IDP returnees. In addition, the reason for displacement here is different from other countries in that most are displaced due to gang violence.

- Displacement was negatively associated with the quality of shelter of IDP households and was related to higher percentages of unemployment among main income earners of both IDP and returnee households.
- 75 per cent of IDP and returnee households perceived safety and security risks in their current location.

## Mozambique

In addition to its long coastline, Mozambique<sup>58</sup> shares its borders with United Republic of Tanzania, Eswatini, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Malawi in southern Africa. Mozambique is also located in one of the most cyclone prone parts of the world.<sup>59</sup> Internal displacement in Mozambique is caused by cyclones such as Idai and Freddy which caused significant displacements in the southern part of the country. Meanwhile, armed conflict and insecurity in Cabo Delgado province in the northern part of the country contributes towards internal displacement.

As of June 2024, there are 716,878 IDPs across 328 locations in Northern, Central and Southern Mozambique, primarily in Cabo Delgado province (51%). Two thirds of Cabo Delgado's IDPs were displaced between 2020 and 2021, with 82 per cent experiencing multiple displacements.<sup>60</sup> Other provinces such as Niassa also have high rates of protracted displacement, underscoring the critical importance of prioritizing integration as a viable solutions pathway for IDPs. IDPs' selection of locations of solutions is dependent upon vulnerabilities they experience on an individual basis and on widespread effects such as climate risks. In locations where violence and insecurity have been the main drivers of displacement (mainly Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa provinces), assessments in December 2023 highlighted mixed factors influencing the selection of solutions locations, while also highlighting that the majority of IDPs do not want to return to areas of origin in the short term due to continued instability.<sup>61</sup>

Vulnerabilities affecting the ability of IDPs to reach solutions are most often tenuous food security; lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene; insufficient shelter and challenges in obtaining civil documentation and health service.

### Key findings from the Mozambique household MSNA sample

- In Mozambique, the majority of conflict-displaced IDP households residing in camps reported return intentions.
- Eight of ten households who faced barriers to healthcare access reported return intentions. Respondents with disabilities reported that they were more likely to return than those without disabilities.
- Compared to those with access to land and resources in displacement, households who lack such access due to conflict or insecure land tenure were significantly more likely to return. More IDP households without access to land and resources due to unresolved disputes reported being undecided about their return decisions compared to households with access.
- IDP households who reported no coping strategies (borrowing, eating less) were slightly more likely to report an intention to return.

58 This description is based on IOM's knowledge of displacement throughout the entire country of Mozambique. Note, however, that the summary of key findings is based on an analysis of a sample of households in Mozambique.

59 <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/mozambique/>

60 [https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-national-displacement-profile-ndp-2023#:~:text=Mozambique%20%2D%20NATIONAL%20DISPLACEMENT%20PROFILE%20\(NDP\)%202023.-Share&text=As%20of%20December%202023%2C%20there,Cabo%20Delgado%20province%20\(76%25\).](https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-national-displacement-profile-ndp-2023#:~:text=Mozambique%20%2D%20NATIONAL%20DISPLACEMENT%20PROFILE%20(NDP)%202023.-Share&text=As%20of%20December%202023%2C%20there,Cabo%20Delgado%20province%20(76%25).)

61 [https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-national-displacement-profile-ndp-2023#:~:text=Mozambique%20%2D%20NATIONAL%20DISPLACEMENT%20PROFILE%20\(NDP\)%202023.-Share&text=As%20of%20December%202023%2C%20there,Cabo%20Delgado%20province%20\(76%25\).](https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-national-displacement-profile-ndp-2023#:~:text=Mozambique%20%2D%20NATIONAL%20DISPLACEMENT%20PROFILE%20(NDP)%202023.-Share&text=As%20of%20December%202023%2C%20there,Cabo%20Delgado%20province%20(76%25).)

- IDP households without access to humanitarian assistance were more likely to intend to stay.
- IDPs reporting security concerns were more likely to intend to return than those without security concerns.
- Households who reported return intentions were less likely to reside in adequate shelter compared to households who reported intentions to stay or relocate and those who reported being undecided about their intentions.

## Nigeria

Located in West Africa, Nigeria<sup>62</sup> is the most populous country in Africa and shares its borders with Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin. Since 2014, conflict and violence in the northeast of Nigeria has triggered internal displacement in Borno, Adamawa, Yobe states. More recently, climate related events and disaster as well as conflict between herders and farmers have aggravated internal displacement in some parts of the country. While there has been a decrease in the number of internally displaced populations in Nigeria in 2022, Nigeria remains in the top ten countries hosting IDPs.

As of June 2024, DTM reported a total of 3,574,430 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 1,770,744 IDP returnees, and 322,860 returnees from Abroad living in more than 3,900 locations across 14 states in Nigeria. The IDP stock figure includes 2,271,987 IDPs identified in locations covered in the North-East, while the remaining 1,302,443 IDPs were identified in locations assessed in North-Central and North-West Nigeria.<sup>63</sup> Displaced people generally encounter more vulnerabilities such as insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities and access to services compared to the resident population. Renewed violence, insecurity and flooding can be obstacles to solutions as they cause secondary displacement.

### Key findings from Nigerian household MSNA sample

- In Nigeria, households without economic stress were more likely to say they intended to return or relocate – both of which require additional resources (e.g. for transportation or housing) – and less likely to stay.
- Over half of IDP households resorted to borrowing money, spending savings and/or the purchase of food on credit as coping mechanisms to address a lack of income. Households that coped by relying on savings or on family support were more likely to intend to return than households who did not rely on these coping strategies.
- Households who were aware of security or safety incidents in their community were more likely to intend to return and less likely to stay, especially if the incidents involved bodily harm.
- Households who reported an intention to return are less likely to live in adequate shelter compared to all other intention groups. Households intending to return are also, on average, slightly smaller and have fewer children.
- Households who intended to return predominantly fall in the lowest income bracket; households who intend to relocate fall in the highest income bracket.

62 This description is based on IOM's knowledge of displacement throughout the entire country of Nigeria. Note, however, that the summary of key findings is based on an analysis of a sample of households in Nigeria.

63 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Aug 05 2024. DTM Nigeria — North-east — Mobility Tracking Round 47 IDP and Returnee Report (June 2024). IOM, Nigeria.

## South Sudan

South Sudan<sup>64</sup>, in East Africa is a land locked country bordered by Ethiopia to the east, Sudan in the north, Uganda and Kenya on the east and Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. Since its formation in 2011, after seceding from Sudan, South Sudan experienced a political crisis which led to a conflict that erupted in December 2013.<sup>65</sup> In September 2018, the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) was signed between the major warring parties. Whilst overall, there have been improvements in security since and returns are ongoing, sub-national violence between different armed groups and communal clashes (frequently linked to cattle raiding) continue to trigger new displacements and the situation remains volatile.

Conflict and instability in South Sudan have resulted in large-scale internal and cross-border displacement. Per IOM's DTM in South Sudan, as of April 2023, there are 2.2 million IDPs and 2.3 million Returnees and 1.69 million IDP Returnees.<sup>66</sup> South Sudan is currently facing a complex humanitarian crisis characterized by extensive internal displacements. The underlying causes of these displacement dynamics are varied and include insecurity, land disputes, weak governance, climate and non-climate-related disasters, lack of basic services, and cross-border movements. The displacement context is also exacerbated by the increased scale and frequency of seasonal floods and overall under-development as South Sudan is at the [bottom of the Human Development Index](#).

### *Key Findings from the South Sudan household MSNA sample*

In South Sudan, conflict displacement outweighs disaster displacement. In comparison with conflict displaced households, disaster displaced households are more likely to report that they intend to return.

- There are significant differences in intentions between disaster- and conflict-displaced households by duration of displacement. In the most recent period (2021-2023), disaster-displaced households are more likely to intend to return than those displaced before 2021.
- Overall, approximately one-third of sampled households appear to have security concerns and there are few differences between those displaced by conflict, disasters or both.
- A central barrier to return and relocation is the lack of financial resources. Insecurity is a major obstacle to return and relocation among conflict displaced households.
- Almost half of all IDP households report health needs. However, conflict displaced households with health needs are more likely to intend to relocate and less likely to stay when compared to those without health needs.
- IDP households displaced by disasters report significantly higher shares of adequate housing in their place of displacement than those displaced by conflict.

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<sup>64</sup> This description is based on IOM's knowledge of displacement throughout the entire country of South Sudan. Note, however, that the summary of key findings is based on an analysis of a sample of households in South Sudan.

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/south-sudan/>

<sup>66</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/south-sudan>

## 6.2 Economic Conditions of IDP Households and Intentions

Because 27.1% of IDP households report livelihoods and employment as the leading factor for selecting a solution to displacement (see Table 4.1), the analysis below explores how this may influence IDPs solutions intentions. Additionally, it profiles the economic conditions of IDP households. The analysis below draws from two types of data sources – a multi-country household durable solutions and intention surveys collected in five countries (Burundi, Central African Republic, Iraq, Mozambique, and South Sudan), and from IOM-led multi-sectoral needs assessments separately collected in five countries (South Sudan, Burundi, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Haiti).<sup>67</sup> This section assesses livelihood sources and solutions intentions. It then examines barriers to return and relocation, the use of coping strategies and how they are related to solution intentions, and the income distributions of IDP households.

### Multi-country: Sources of livelihood and durable solution intentions

#### Demographic Profile: Sex of IDP head of household and main source of income

**Table 6.1. Percentage breakdown of female- and male-headed households by main source of livelihood**

Sex of the head of household	Agriculture (N=11,916)	Casual labour (N=6,583)	Other (including small businesses) (N=3,488)	Skilled labour (N=1,711)	No source (N=2,591)
Female (N=8,553)	35.9*	20.9*	42.4*	12.2*	47.1
Male (N=17,691)	64.1*^	79.1*^	57.6*^	87.8^	52.9^
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: T-tests assess the difference between female and male-headed HHs within each source of livelihood (^ $p < 0.01$ ), and the difference between HHs with no source of livelihood and other sources of livelihood (within female- and male-headed HHs) (\* $p < 0.01$ ). Please note the sample sizes for each of the countries in the table above: Central African Republic (N=16,272), Iraq (N=6,841), Mozambique (N=1,855), South Sudan (N=802), and Burundi (N=474).

Table 6.1 shows the respective ratios of female-headed to male-headed households for each of the main sources of livelihoods. The sources of livelihoods where female-headed households have a lower percentage than the average (33%) include both skilled and casual labour (12.2% and 20.9%, respectively). The sources of livelihoods where female-headed households have a noticeably greater percentage than the average of 33% are

<sup>67</sup> The analyses of IDP households in these countries will be released after PROGRESS 2024 publication.

'Other (including small businesses)' (42.4%) and 'No source' (47.1%). The analysis highlights that female-headed households are less likely to depend on casual and skilled labour and are more likely to have no source of livelihood. These are findings that are in line with the finding of several of our focus group discussions (FGDs), in which women struggled to find opportunities to economically support their households. In Afghanistan, for example, female IDPs reported performing daily wage work, such as collecting scrap metal and plastic.<sup>68</sup>

Findings from some of the country case studies also reveal how displacement is related to livelihoods. For example, the high share of IDP households without a source of livelihood – especially prominent among female-headed households (see table 6.1) – underscores the disruptive effects that internal displacement may have on households' economic well-being.

## Intentions and livelihoods of IDP households

Recall that, in Chapter 4, across all surveyed households, 60.4% of IDPs intended to stay. Table 6.2 below considers whether solution intentions vary by main source of livelihood. The most commonly reported main livelihood of IDP households is agriculture followed by casual labour; more than 70% of households (or 18,638 out of 26,474) reported these livelihood sources. In addition, Table 6.2 reveals substantial variation regarding durable solution intentions across livelihood groups. For example, 75.2% of household heads whose main livelihood was agriculture reported an intention to stay, the highest share compared to all other livelihood groups, including small businesses, pensions, humanitarian assistance, and/or family support. In contrast, of those reporting no livelihood source, 61.6% intended to stay. There is also variation in the intention to return across main livelihood sources. Households with agricultural livelihoods (13.3%) were least likely to report intentions to return compared to all other livelihood groups. They were also least likely (2.7%) to report intentions to relocate.

**Table 6.2. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by the main source of livelihood**

Intention	Agriculture/ Livestock (N=12,048)	Casual labour (N=6,590)	Other (including small businesses) (N=3,492)	Skilled labour (N=1,716)	No source (N=2,628)
<b>Stay</b> (N=18,422)	75.2*	67*	64.8*	63	61.6
<b>Return</b> (N=4,533)	13.3*	19.1*	15.4*	28.8*	24.5
<b>Relocate</b> (N=1,029)	2.7*	5.6*	3.7	5.5	4.2
<b>Other</b> (N=2,470)	8.8	8.3	16.1*	2.7*	9.7

Note: T-tests assess differences between households that have no source of livelihood and the other types of livelihood sources (\* $p < 0.01$ ). Please note the sample sizes for each of the countries in the table above: Central African Republic (N=16,272), Iraq (N=6,841), Mozambique (N=2,085), South Sudan (N=802), and Burundi (N=474). Note that surveys in Burundi does not include 'no source' as an option.

The results in table 6.3 are in line with earlier findings, which revealed that while most of both conflict- and disaster-displaced households reported preferring to stay, the intention to stay was much higher among households that were displaced due to a disaster (89.3% vs. 59.8% among households displaced by conflict).

Similarly, table 6.3 shows that in each of the main livelihood groups, households displaced due to disasters were more likely to stay compared to households displaced by conflict.

**Table 6.3. Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by cause of displacement and the main source of livelihood**

Cause of Displacement	Conflict (N=23,409)					Disaster (N=2,947)				
	Agriculture/Livestock (N=10,106)	Casual labour (N=6,074)	Other (including small businesses) (N=3,192)	Skilled labour (N=1,672)	No source (N=2,365)	Agriculture/Livestock (N=1,909)	Casual labour (N=461)	Other (including small businesses) (N=281)	Skilled labour (N=35)	No source (N=261)
Intentions										
Stay (N=18,345)	71.7*	65.4*	64*	62.9	59	93.6**^	85.9^	75.1**^	65.7*	85.1^
Return (N=4,516)	15*	20.1*	15.7*	28.8	26.6	4^	6.9^	10	34.3*	5.4^
Relocate (N=1,026)	3.1*	6*	3.9	5.6	4.4	0.5**^	1.1^	1.4	0	2.3
Other (N=2,469)	10.1	8.5	16.4*	2.7*	10	1.9**^	6.1	13.5	0	7.3

Note: T-tests assess differences between households that have no source of livelihood and the other types of livelihood sources (\* $p < 0.01$ ) within the two types of displacement, and the difference between conflict- and disaster-affected households (^ $p < 0.01$ ). Data are from Central African Republic, Iraq, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Burundi.

## Haiti: Impact of Displacement on IDP and Returnee Livelihoods

Zooming in on the case of Haiti, in the table below, we compare IDP households' main livelihoods before and after displacement. Of IDP households, for example, 50.0% worked as traders before displacement but only 28.0% worked as traders after displacement. By contrast, the shares of main income earners who worked as farmers or were unemployed rose after displacement (16.1 vs. 23.2% and 12.1 vs. 33.5%, respectively). Similarly, among households that returned to their communities of origin after displacement, there was a significant decline in the share working as traders and a steep increase in those who were unemployed (32.4% vs. 23.8%, and 16.0% vs. 32.5%, respectively). After displacement, there was also a decline in the percentage of households working as employees (12.7% vs. 6.7%).

**Table 6.4. Haiti: Percentage breakdown of the main source of livelihood of IDP and IDP returnee households before and after displacement**

	IDP		Returnee	
	Before	After	Before	After
<b>Trader</b>	50.0	28.0*	32.4 <sup>^</sup>	23.8*
<b>Farmer</b>	16.1	23.2*	27.0 <sup>^</sup>	27.7
<b>Unemployed</b>	12.1	33.5*	16.0 <sup>^</sup>	32.5*
<b>Employee State/Non-State</b>	6.4	5.6	12.7 <sup>^</sup>	6.7*
<b>Other</b>	15.5	9.7*	11.9	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>n</b>	<b>(1,194)</b>	<b>(1,180)</b>	<b>(805)</b>	<b>(791)</b>

Note: T-tests assess differences in each population group between before and after (\* $p < 0.01$ ) as well as between IDP and Returnee households (<sup>^</sup> $p < 0.01$ ).

Findings from FGDs with Haitian IDPs also point to the economic challenges resulting from the livelihood disruptions from displacement. Some mentioned having exhausted their savings and faced struggles securing livelihoods. "It is much harder for us now to make ends meet".<sup>69</sup> Focus group discussions in Nigeria also reveal the disruptive effects of displacement. Men highlighted the loss of businesses and income sources, "I am starting from scratch...it's not easy because I have lost my source of livelihood".<sup>70</sup> Some had to obtain services, such as healthcare treatments, on credit and "increased borrowing, which has led to most of us to becoming debtors".<sup>71</sup>

69 Mixed IDP FGD. Group 2, Haiti, August 2024.

70 Male IDP FGD. Group 6, Nigeria. August 2024.

71 Male IDP FGD, Group 6, Nigeria. August 2024.

## Burundi: Main barriers to return and relocation

In the case of Burundi, evidence suggests that a lack of sufficient financial resources acts as a barrier to durable solutions. In Burundi, where 36.1% of IDP households reported an intention to return or relocate, 73.9% of conflict displaced households and 68.8% of disaster displaced households report the lack of financial resources as one of three top barriers to return (see Table 6.5). In addition, although 70.8% of conflict households reported lacking the financial means to relocate, significantly more (88.0%) of those displaced by disasters reported not having the financial means to relocate. In addition, among the barriers mentioned by disaster-displaced household heads for both types of intentions, 82.9% mentioned destroyed housing as a barrier to return and 62.4% mentioned it as a barrier to relocation. Similarly, among those displaced by disasters, 15.2% mentioned flooding as a key obstacle for return and 26.9% mentioned it is an obstacle for relocation.

**Table 6.5. Burundi: Percentage breakdown of the main barriers to return and relocation by cause of displacement**

Barrier type	RETURN				RELOCATION			
	CONFLICT		DISASTER		CONFLICT		DISASTER	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Lacking financial means	73.9	(102)	68.8	(856)	70.8	(34)	88.0*	(206)
Destroyed home	49.3	(68)	82.9*	(1,031)	25.0	(12)	62.4*	(146)
Flooded place of origin	4.3	(6)	15.2*	(189)	2.1	(1)	26.9*	(63)
Stolen goods	15.9	(22)	7.4*	(92)	12.5	(6)	5.6	(13)
Lack of security in the place of origin	13.0	(18)	3.6*	(45)	12.5	(6)	2.1*	(5)
No humanitarian aid in my place of origin	3.6	(5)	7.4	(92)	12.5	(6)	5.6	(13)
I don't feel ready to leave yet	5.8	(8)	3.1	(38)	12.5	(6)	9.8	(23)

Note: T-tests assess differences between conflict- and disaster displaced households (\* $p < 0.01$ ); responses do not add up to 100% because respondents were asked to report their three top barriers to return or relocation; we excluded return or relocation barriers that fail to amount to at least 10 percent among either conflict or disaster displaced households.

## Nigeria and Mozambique: Coping strategies and IDP solutions intentions

IDP households can employ coping strategies to compensate for the lack of income and/or financial insecurity experienced during displacement. In Nigeria, IDP households were asked about the coping strategies they relied on in the last 30 days due to income loss and/or their inability to meet the economic needs of their households. These strategies included selling household assets/goods, spending savings, and purchasing food on credit or borrowing food. Table 6.6 summarizes the relationship between intended solutions and whether households relied on such coping strategies. Overall findings reveal that the majority (88.7%) of IDP households relied on coping strategies (3,983 out of 4,492). In addition, 44.1% of those relying on coping strategies intended to return to their areas of origin compared to 55.6% who did not rely on coping strategies. Households not relying on coping strategies were also significantly more likely to relocate than those employing strategies (7.5 vs. 2.9%). In contrast, those using coping strategies were more likely to stay in their current location than those not relying on such strategies (50.8 vs. 34.8%).

**Table 6.6. Nigeria: Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by presence of coping strategies**

DURABLE SOLUTION	COPING STRATEGIES	
	NO	YES
Stay	34.8	50.8*
Return	55.6	44.1*
Relocate	7.5	2.9*
Other	2.2	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>n</b>	<b>(509)</b>	<b>(3,983)</b>

Note: T-tests assess differences between not coping and coping (\* $p < 0.01$ ).

Table 6.7 displays the relationship, in Nigeria, between intended durable solutions and the most reported coping strategies for a lack of income or inability to make ends meet. The bottom row shows the percentage of total households that reported using specific coping strategies; 64.0% reported borrowing money, 55.2% spent savings, 54.0% purchased food on credit, 32.1% sold productive household or agricultural assets, 29.0% received support from their family, and/or 27.2% reduced expenditures on services, for example, for healthcare or education. Only 11.3% did not employ one of these strategies.

Relative to those who did not employ a coping strategy (see last column), those who reported using one of these coping strategies were significantly less likely to return and more likely to stay. For example, 39.2% of households who borrowed money and 46.3% who spent savings intended to return compared to 55.6% of those not reporting a coping strategy. Among those buying food on credit, 37.6% intended to return. Compared to those not reporting a strategy, intentions to relocate were significantly lower for all types of coping strategies. In contrast, compared to 34.8% of those not reporting a coping strategy but intending to stay in their current location, substantially larger shares of those relying on different strategies intended to remain in their current location.

**Table 6.7. Nigeria: Percentage breakdown of durable solution intentions by the top coping strategies**

<b>Durable Solution</b>	<b>Coping Strategies</b>						
	Borrow money	Spend savings	Buy food on credit	Sell assets	Family support	Cut service spending	No Coping Strategy
Stay	54.6*	50.0*	56.4*	55.0*	48.8*	50.9*	34.8
Return	39.2*	46.3*	37.6*	41.1*	45.7*	43.7*	55.6
Relocate	3.5*	2.5*	3.4*	1.7*	3.2*	3.8*	7.5
Other	2.7	1.2	2.6	2.2	2.3	1.6	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>n</b>	<b>(2,837)</b>	<b>(2,480)</b>	<b>(2,423)</b>	<b>(1,444)</b>	<b>(1,302)</b>	<b>(1,222)</b>	<b>(509)</b>
<b>% of total IDP HH</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>11.3</b>

Note: T-tests assess differences between 'no coping strategy' and each of the other listed coping mechanisms individually (\*p < 0.01). Coping strategies with N<1000 are excluded.

Table 6.8 examines the relationship between return intentions and whether households relied on coping strategies due to a lack of income in the past 30 days for conflict-displaced IDPs living in camps in Mozambique. Although households that reported no coping strategies were slightly more likely to report an intention to return than households not relying on such strategies (74.4 vs. 71.2%), the difference was not significant at p<0.01.

**Table 6.8. Mozambique: Percentage breakdown of return intentions of conflict displaced IDP households living in camps by presence of coping strategies**

<b>Return Intentions</b>	<b>Coping Strategies</b>	
	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Return	74.4	71.2
No	19.7	24.1
Undecided	5.9	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>n</b>	<b>(1,083)</b>	<b>(319)</b>

Note: T-tests assess differences between not coping and coping (\*p < 0.01).

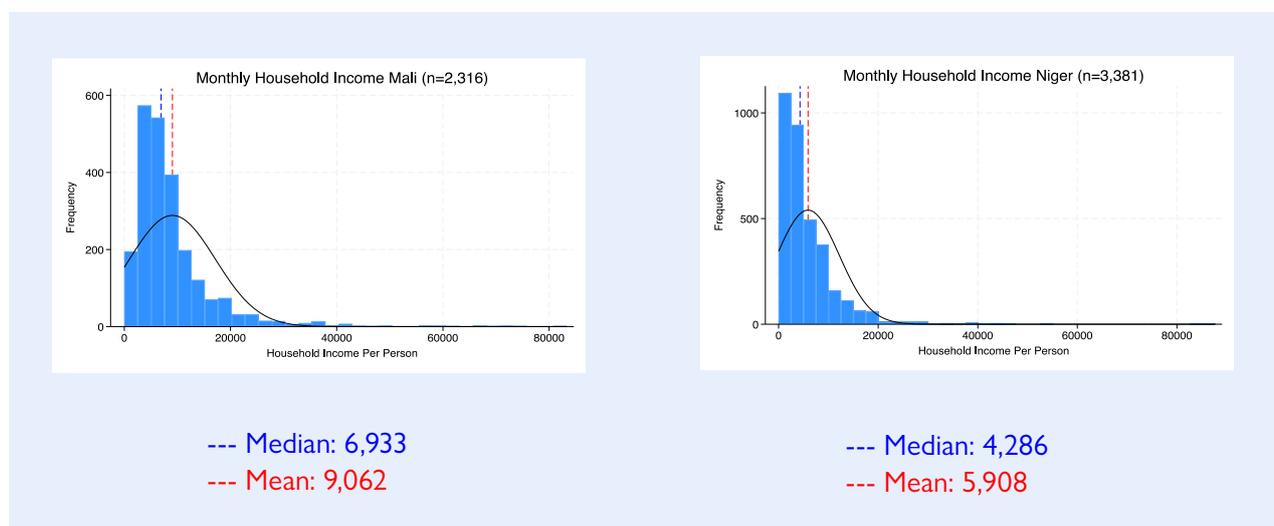
Although the results so far suggest that IDPs face difficult economic conditions, an analysis of REACH data offers an examination of IDP households' monthly incomes. Figure 6.9 displays distributions of total monthly IDP household incomes per person in two countries: Mali and Niger.

## 6.3 Mali and Niger: Impact of the household income on the intentions of IDP households

The section below looks at the impact of income level on the durable solutions intentions of IDP households. Using income data for Mali and Niger from MSNAs, the discussion below highlights the difference in intentions for IDP households in different income groups.

Compared to Niger, the mean and median IDP household incomes per person are somewhat higher in Mali. The distributions for both countries are skewed to the right, revealing that a small number of households have significantly higher incomes. In addition, in both countries, approximately 65% of all households reported monthly household incomes below the mean.

**Figure 6.1: Mali and Niger: Monthly household income per person in West African Francs**



*Note: Households were asked to estimate their total income during the last 30 days in local currency, which for Mali and Niger is West African CFA franc. To account for household size, the self-reported total monthly household income was divided by the number of members in each household.*

Table 6.9 examines country differences in specific income categories. Across all income groups, there are only two significant country differences. Among those who intend to return, 28.6% from Mali, and 22.9% from Niger, are in the lowest income category. Among those who intend to stay, 14.5% from Mali, and 19.5% from Niger, are in the lowest income group. In addition, some of the percentages in various income groups are significantly different between those who intend to return vs. stay and residing in Mali. For example, among those from Mali, significantly more of those intending to return were in the lowest income category than those intending to stay (28.6 vs. 14.5%). Moreover, significantly fewer of those intending to return were in the highest category than those intending to stay (16.5 vs. 22.5%). However, across the two countries, no other differences were significant.

**Table 6.9. Mali and Niger: Percentage breakdown of monthly household income per person by durable solution intentions**

HH Income Per Person	RETURN		STAY		RELOCATE		TOTAL	
	Mali	Niger	Mali	Niger	Mali	Niger	Mali	Niger
Lowest Income	28.6	22.9*	14.5^	19.5*	21.4	27.2	20.9	20.4
Low Income	22.8	22.0	20.4	20.1	17.1	16.0	21.4	20.4
Middle Income	15.7	19.9	19.8^	19.1	14.3	23.5	17.8	19.4
High Income	16.4	18.4	22.9^	21.2	24.3	19.8	20.1	20.5
Highest Income	16.5	16.8	22.5^	20.1	22.9	13.6	19.9	19.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
n	(1,022)	(778)	(1,224)	(2,522)	(70)	(81)	(2,316)	(3,381)

Note: To account for household size, the self-reported total monthly household income was divided by the number of reported household members in each household. T-tests assess differences between Mali and Niger within each intended durable solution (\* $p < 0.01$ ) and for each country separately the differences between Return and Stay and Return and Relocate (^ $p < 0.01$ ). For this table, the monthly household income per person is categorized into five groups: the highest income group includes the 80th to 100th percentiles, the high-income group includes the 60th to 80th percentiles, the middle-income group includes the 40th to 60th percentiles, the low-income group includes the 20th to 40th percentiles, and the lowest income group includes the bottom 20 percent.



Displaced women in a focus group discussion, Somali region, Ethiopia.  
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Chapter

07

SPOTLIGHT:  
UNDERSTANDING IDP  
SOLUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA

## 7. SPOTLIGHT: UNDERSTANDING IDP SOLUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA

This chapter outlines the complex displacement, return and local integration dynamics that are simultaneously at play in Ethiopia due to regional differences and multiple causes of displacement. The mobility dynamics in Ethiopia and the resulting needs for both displaced and non-displaced communities highlight the importance of solutions work and the role of data to assess and measure progress towards durable solutions. This chapter highlights the need for tailored approaches to deliver solutions in Ethiopia, which consider the preferences for different solutions pathways, current conditions in locations of displacement and return, as well as comparisons with non-displaced residents to assess the nature of the vulnerabilities faced.

### 7.1 Displacement and Solutions Context in Ethiopia

As of May 2024, there were over 3.3 million internally displaced persons in Ethiopia,<sup>72</sup> the largest and most populated landlocked country in East Africa. With its population of about 126.5 million people,<sup>73</sup> 41% of whom are under the age of 15,<sup>74</sup> the continuing population growth is putting additional pressure on land resources,<sup>75</sup> infrastructure, and services already negatively impacted by insecurity and climate change.<sup>76</sup>

The country's history has been marked with violence and tensions, making conflict the main reason for displacement for 68.7% of IDPs in recent years.<sup>77</sup> Twenty years after the 2000 Algiers Agreement that ended long-standing border disputes between Ethiopia and Eritrea,<sup>78</sup> another conflict between the Ethiopian federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ignited in the Tigray region and spread to neighbouring Afar and Amhara regions. A permanent cessation of hostilities was signed in November 2022, but territorial contestations have continued to cause conflict and insecurity along the regional borders. In addition, tensions and conflict in the Amhara region have been rising since April 2023, when the federal government announced it was dismantling regional forces across Ethiopia.<sup>79</sup> As of 2024, the region has remained partially inaccessible for data collection due to insecurity.

Communal violence and security threats also characterize the Benishangul Gumz region and the west of Oromia region. In addition, regional border disputes between Somali and Oromia regions, and Somali and Afar regions, persist and cause displacement. Compounded with the effects of drought and floods, displacement in the three regions is high and often protracted. In Somali and Oromia regions, as of May 2024, 61.5% and 46.5% of IDPs, respectively, have been in their location of displacement for 3 or more years.<sup>80</sup>

Further on, Ethiopia is facing a severe drought with regions such as Somali, Oromia, and Afar being the most impacted. In March 2022, eastern Ethiopia received less than 60% of the historical average rainfall, affecting

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72 Source: IOM DTM. According to [OCHA](#), an estimated 4.5 million people are currently displaced in both rural and urban locations. This figure includes IOM DTM data and partner estimates from sites that were not covered by IOM DTM.

73 [The World Bank Ethiopia, Overview](#).

74 [USAID, Developing Ethiopia's Youth](#).

75 [CIA, Ethiopia Atlas](#).

76 [World Bank Group, Country Climate and Development Report – Ethiopia](#).

77 [IOM Ethiopia – National Displacement Report 19 \(November 2023 – May 2024\)](#).

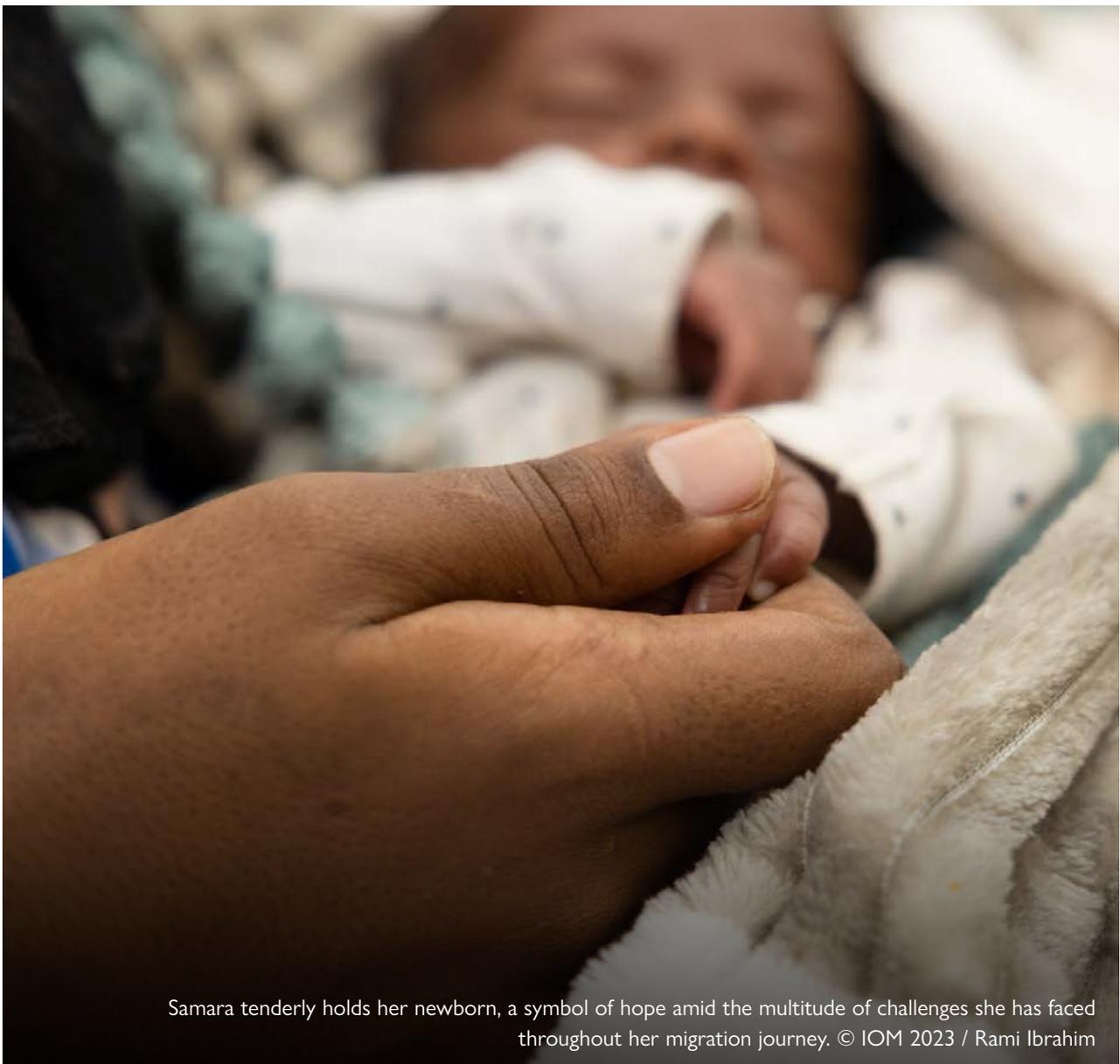
78 [https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/125337/1392\\_Algiers%20Agreement.pdf](https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/125337/1392_Algiers%20Agreement.pdf)

79 [Institute for the Study of War – Africa File, September 26, 2024](#).

80 [IOM Ethiopia – National Displacement Report 19 \(November 2023 – May 2024\)](#).

more than 24 million people<sup>81</sup> and over time primarily displacing an estimated 544,002 individuals.<sup>82</sup> At the same time, rains have caused flooding, including in drought affected areas, demonstrating the multi-faceted nature of the humanitarian crisis. The UN estimates that over 20 million people need humanitarian assistance in 2024, more than one-third of whom are IDPs and returning IDPs who arrived in their areas of origin (pre-displacement locations) since 1 January 2022.<sup>83</sup>

In addition, regions in the southwest and central highlands are prone to landslides. In July 2024, intense rainfall triggered landslides in the mountainous region of Gofa Zone, South Ethiopia, leading to both casualties and displacement.<sup>84</sup>



Samara tenderly holds her newborn, a symbol of hope amid the multitude of challenges she has faced throughout her migration journey. © IOM 2023 / Rami Ibrahim

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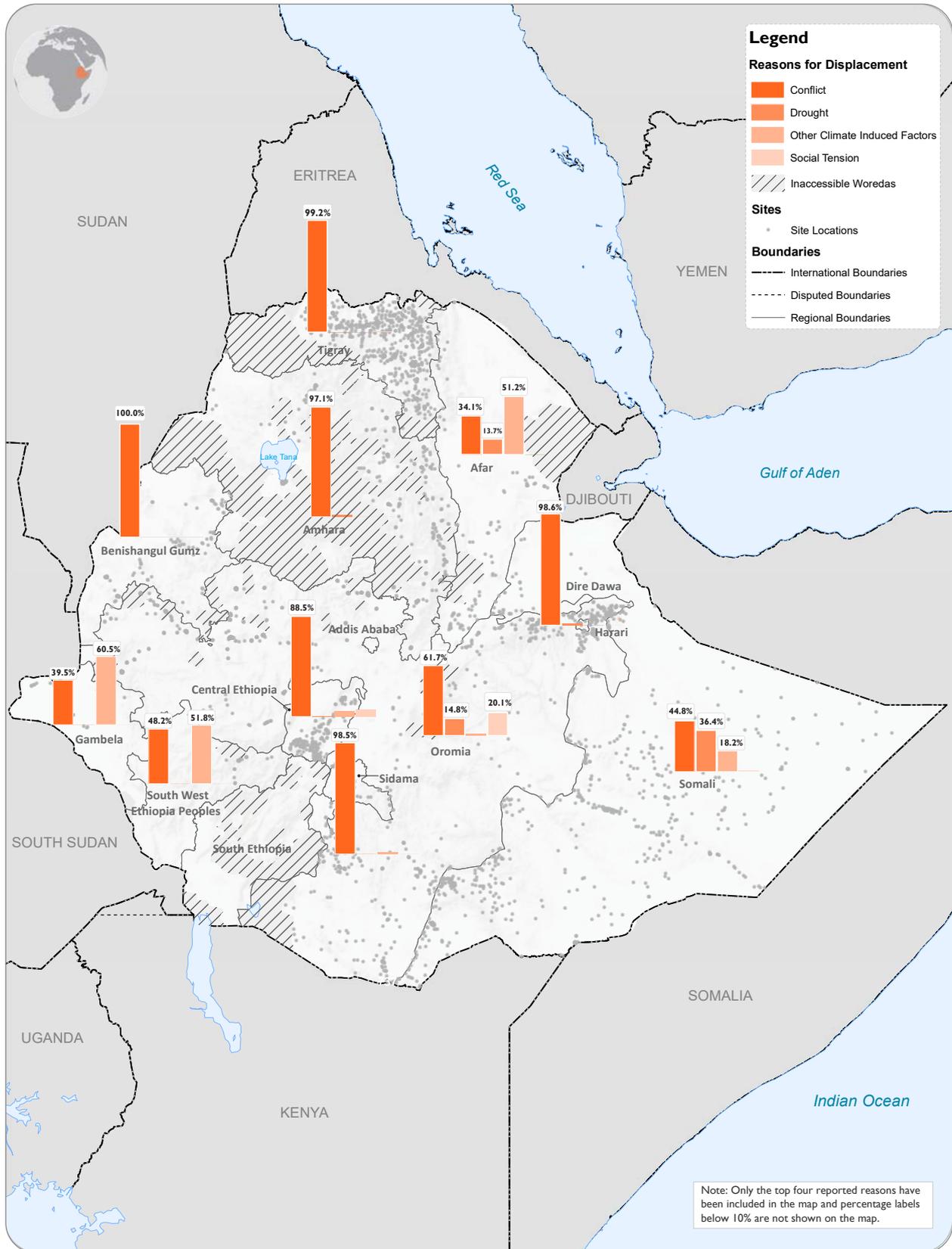
81 [IOM, A Region on the Move 2022: East and Horn of Africa.](#)

82 [IOM Ethiopia – National Displacement Report 19 \(November 2023 – May 2024\).](#)

83 [OCHA Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan, 2024.](#)

84 [ReliefWeb, Ethiopia: Landslides – Jul 2024](#)

Map 7.1. Ethiopia: Number of IDPs by cause of displacement



Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Some regions also experience return after internal displacement. As of May 2024, there were an estimated 2.5 million returning IDPs.<sup>85</sup> Internal displacement and return are complex challenges and therefore, delivering durable solutions in Ethiopia necessitates a multistakeholder approach, as emphasised in the UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.<sup>86</sup> In 2019, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), the United Nations, and international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) developed the Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) to support IDPs in finding an end to their displacement in locations of return, relocation or local integration.<sup>87</sup> Despite setbacks faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and conflict in northern Ethiopia, partner UN Agencies have continued to promote durable solutions and started supporting the regional authorities to develop regional strategies, under the leadership of the federal government, to facilitate the operationalization of durable solutions for IDPs.<sup>88</sup>

As one of the Durable Solutions Working Groups (DSWGs) co-chairs, IOM closely works with the regional counterparts to identify gaps and ensure evidence-based interventions for sustainable solutions; conduct needs assessments to inform planning in identified areas; and guide strategic priorities to influence durable solutions. These efforts are facilitated through a variety of data collection tools tailored to provide different types of information necessary to advance the understanding of displacement context across the country.

This chapter provides key findings from four data sources collected by IOM at the national and regional levels (lower-level administrative areas).<sup>89</sup> These include:

- **Baseline Assessments:** Conducted at the community level, this data provides information on the number of IDPs and IDP returnees, the reasons for displacement, the conditions in the locations in which displaced individuals reside, and the multi-sectoral needs of IDPs. Baseline assessments in Ethiopia are country-wide assessments.
- **Household data on displacement and demographics:** Conducted at the household level (country-wide) based on information from the baseline assessments, this survey gathers information demographics of IDPs and IDP returnees, reasons for displacement, displacement history, and their preferred durable solutions.
- **Household data on the intentions of IDP households:** Usually conducted at the regional level, this survey of IDP households gathers information on displacement history, preferred durable solutions, barriers toward durable solutions, factors influencing their preferences, as well as their main needs.
- **Household data on progress made by IDPs on a solutions pathway:** Usually conducted at the regional level, this is data on both displaced and non-displaced households. The data collected is in line with the IASC framework on durable solutions and compares IDPs on solutions pathways with non-displaced households to understand IDP progress towards durable solutions as well as highlight any persistent displacement-related vulnerabilities.

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85 [IOM Ethiopia – National Displacement Report 19 \(November 2023 – May 2024\)](#).

86 [UN Secretary General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, 2022](#).

87 [Ethiopia – Durable Solutions Initiative, 2019](#).

88 Durable Solutions Working Groups (DSWGs) were also established at the federal and regional levels to provide technical assistance and contribute to capacity-building for scaling up durable solutions work in Ethiopia. The DSWGs have successfully engaged and are supporting the local governments of 5 regions – Somali, Tigray, Afar, Oromia and South Ethiopia - where durable solutions strategies and costed action plans are being finalized in preparation of a national launch

89 For more information IOM Ethiopia Data and Research Unit (DRU) and DTM tools, check [here](#). Full list of datasets used for the analysis with metadata is [available here](#).

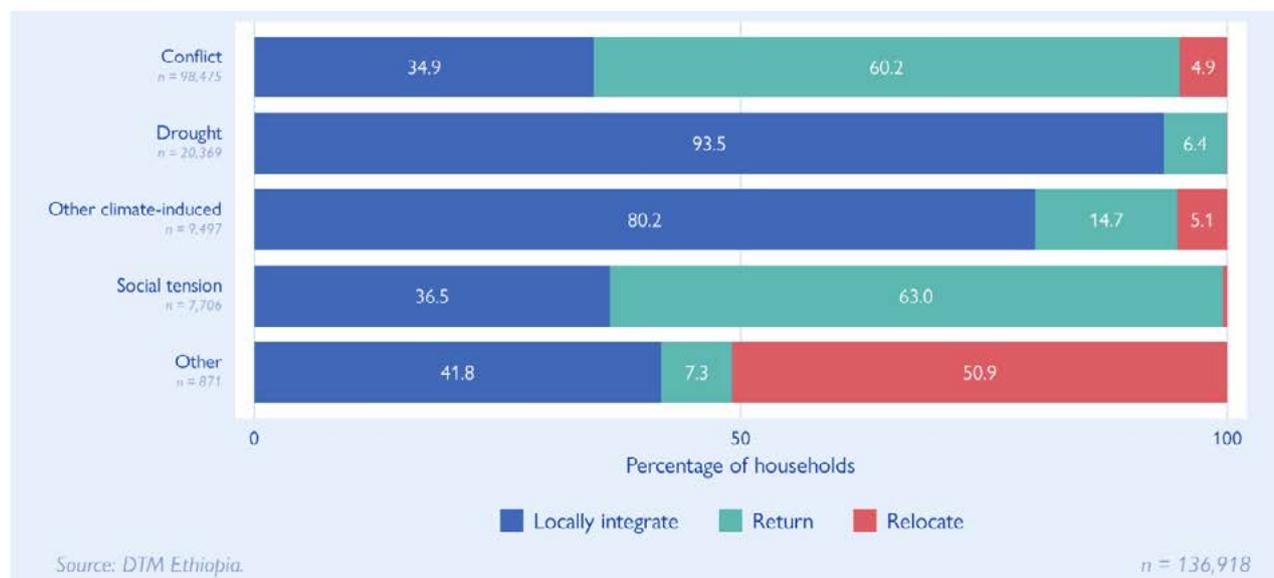
## 7.2 Preferences for displacement solutions

As discussed throughout this report, to uphold their rights, it is necessary that IDPs make a voluntary decision on which durable solutions to pursue.<sup>90</sup> Hence, surveys that showcase preferences are essential to inform programs intended to support durable solutions. In December 2023, IOM Ethiopia deployed a country-wide DTM Site Assessment (SA),<sup>91</sup> a combination of key informant interviews and a survey of 136,918 sampled households<sup>92</sup> representative of the IDP population at the displacement location level (3.2 million as of December 2023).<sup>93</sup>

More than 90% of the surveyed IDPs in Ethiopia would like to either return (48.3%) to their area of origin or locally integrate (46.9%) into their community of displacement. Only 4.2% indicated a preference for relocation. However, the data on the durable solutions preferences of IDP households varies based on the type of displacement as shown in Figure 7.2 below. As highlighted in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, it is important to reiterate that physical return or preference for local integration does not imply that solutions are achieved; rather they highlight the type of support needed to ensure that displacement-related vulnerabilities are addressed along a specific solutions pathway (return, local integration, relocation).

Disaggregating the displacement caseload by reason and duration of displacement<sup>94</sup>, is important to identify the preferred durable solutions of IDPs displaced due to various reasons and lengths of displacement, while taking into consideration the regional context in which IDPs live. The analysis below highlights the preferred durable solution, reported by IDPs primarily displaced<sup>95</sup> due to conflict, drought and other climate factors (floods, landslides and fire), the three main reasons for displacement as reported by IDPs in Ethiopia.

**Figure 7.2. Ethiopia: Percentage breakdown of durable solution preferences by cause of displacement (as of December 2023)**



<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\), May 16, 2024. DTM Ethiopia — National Displacement Report 18 \(November- December 2023\). IOM, Ethiopia.](#)

<sup>92</sup> The analysis in this chapter is based on the full sample of 136,918 households, whereas analysis on Ethiopia as part of the multi-country analysis in other chapters is based on a stratified random sample of all surveyed households for key variables present in all country datasets.

<sup>93</sup> It is important to note that reports published by DTM Ethiopia are based on a weighted sample that is representative of the whole estimated displaced caseload (3.2 million as of December 2023). The analysis in this chapter is based on the surveyed household sampled data only due to which there may be minor variations in the figures presented in this report and those in DTM Ethiopia publications.

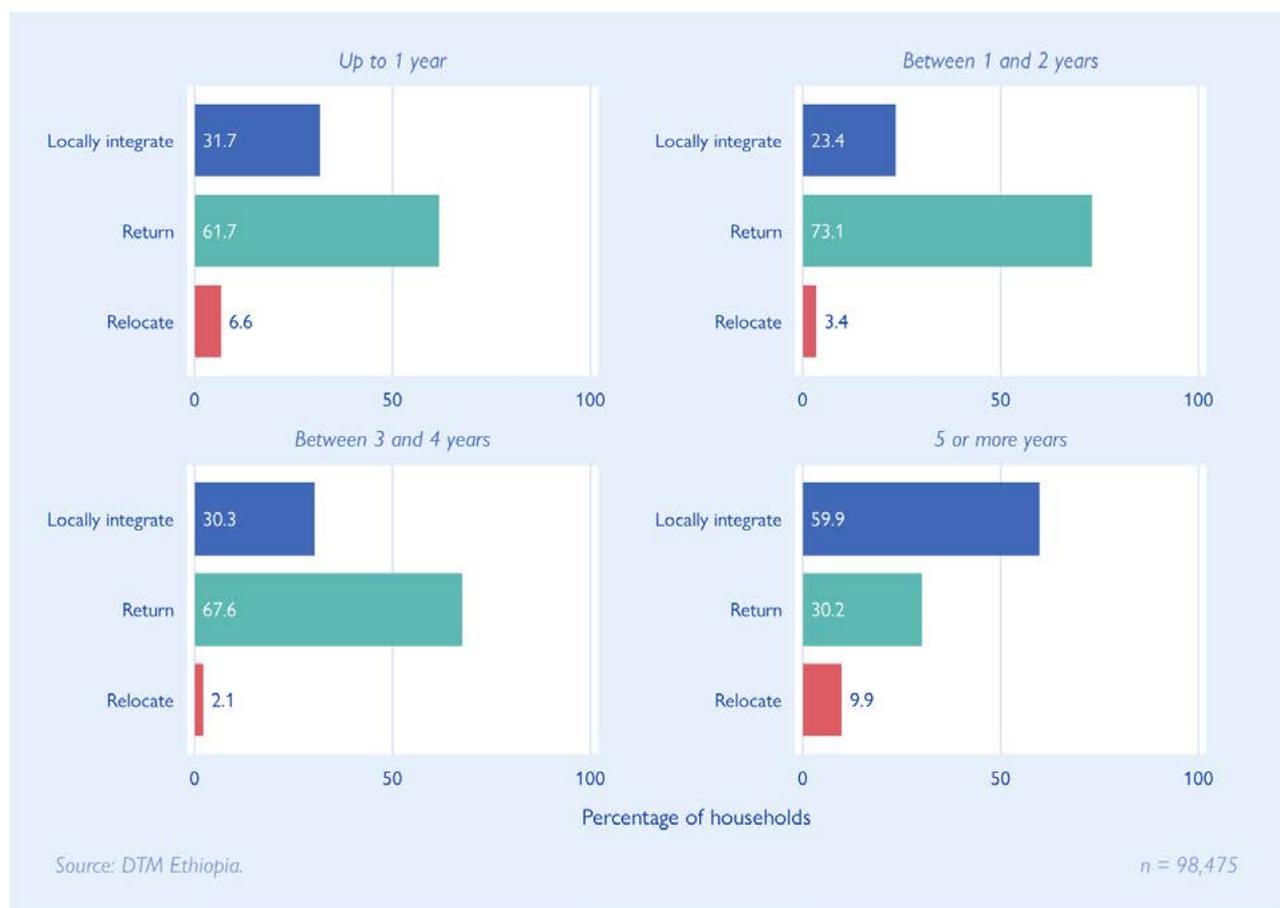
<sup>94</sup> The length of displacement figure in Ethiopia is based on the time since arrival in the displacement location.

<sup>95</sup> Please note that while multiple factors affect people's displacement, in this report there is a focus on the self-reported main reason that triggered the household's displacement.

## Conflict displacement

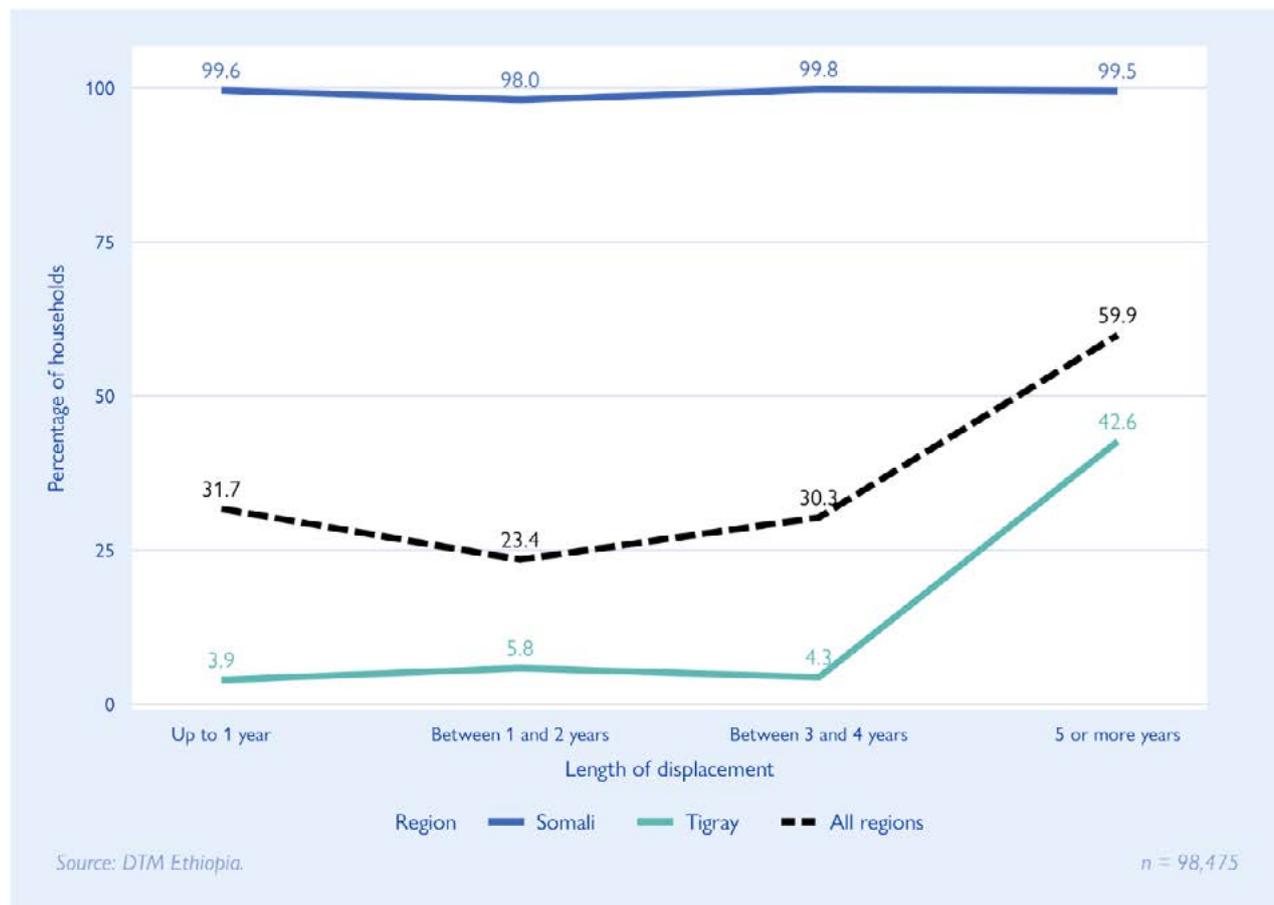
In December 2023, 98,475 of the 136,918 surveyed IDP households, cited conflict as the reason for their displacement. Among these households, return was the preferred solution for 61.7% of those who had recently arrived (in the last 12 months prior to data collection) in the current location; corresponding percentages for those who had arrived between 1 and 2 years, and between 3 and 4 years prior to data collection, were 73.1% and 67.6%. However, for IDPs who had arrived 5 or more years prior to the data collection, local integration was the preferred durable solution (59.9%) (Figure 7.3 below). For those that have been in their current location for 5 or more years, the percentage of those preferring to relocate is 9.9%, compared to only 2.1% for those who arrived at their current location between 3 and 4 years ago.

**Figure 7.3. Ethiopia: Percentage breakdown of durable solution preferences of conflict displaced IDPs by their time of arrival in the current displacement location**



Given the differences in the nature and duration of conflict across the regions of Ethiopia, there is a geographic variation in preferences towards durable solutions among conflict-IDPs. For instance, in the Somali region, almost all IDPs displaced by conflict preferred local integration, regardless of when they arrived in their current location of displacement (99.2% on average, see Figure 7.4). In contrast, in the Tigray region, most IDP households displaced by conflict prefer to return. Among the conflict displaced households in Tigray, there is a marked difference in the preference to return and locally integrate among IDPs in their current location for at least five years (42.6%, Figure 7.4 below). It is worth noting that those displaced for more than 5 years were displaced prior to the Northern Ethiopia conflict, whereas those displaced since 2020, were displaced during and in most cases because of the Northern Ethiopia conflict.

**Figure 7.4. Ethiopia: Percentage breakdown of local integration preference among conflict affected IDPs**



## Drought displacement

In less than a decade, Ethiopia experienced several droughts (between 2015 and 2017) and since 2020, yet another drought which was one of the most severe in the last forty years.<sup>96</sup>

Regarding drought-displaced IDPs, as of May 2024,<sup>97</sup> the Somali region hosted 73.1% of the estimated national IDP caseload while Oromia hosted 24.1%. Although those two regions continued to host the highest number of drought-displaced IDPs, the largest increase in the number of drought-affected IDPs between December 2023 and May 2024 was in the Afar region, where there was an increase in the number of IDPs from 6,061 to 11,166 (an 84.2% increase).

<sup>96</sup> OCHA Ethiopia – Drought Situation Update #1 – As of 10 March 2023.

<sup>97</sup> IOM Ethiopia – National Displacement Report 19 (November 2023 – May 2024).

**Figure 7.5. Ethiopia: Percentage breakdown of durable solution preferences of drought displaced IDPs by their time of arrival in the current displacement location**



Figure 7.5 shows that the majority of the 20,369 primarily drought-displaced surveyed households prefer to integrate into their current localities. While there is limited variation over time, the preference towards local integration peaks at 5 or more years in the current location of displacement (99.1%).

**Figure 7.6. Ethiopia: Percentage breakdown of durable solution preferences of drought displaced IDPs in Somali and Oromia regions**

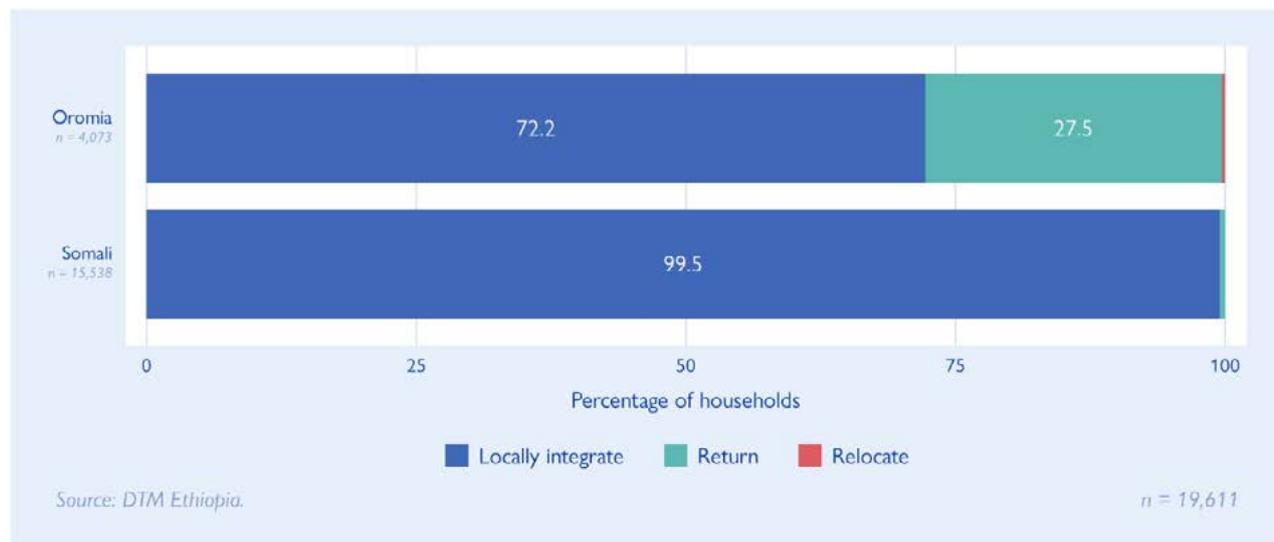


Figure 7.6 above shows that in the two regions with the highest drought-displaced IDP caseload, more than 70% of surveyed IDP households in Oromia region and almost all in Somali region prefer to locally integrate. The strong preference for local integration in Somali region aligns with findings from another detailed household survey implemented in four zones of the Somali region conducted in October 2022.<sup>98</sup>

## Other-climate factors

In December 2023, 9,497 of the 136,918 surveyed IDP households reported having been primarily displaced due to other climate-induced factors (floods, landslides or fires). This accounts for 6.9% of the IDP households surveyed, and most of these households prefer to locally integrate in their current location (80.2%) as shown in Figure 7.2.

<sup>98</sup> IOM Ethiopia – Durable Solutions for Drought – Affected IDPs in Somali region, Ethiopia – Household-Level Intention Survey (HLIS) (October 2022). A total of 2,510 IDP households were asked if they were willing to take part in potential local integration, relocation or return processes. Almost all households (97.8%) reported a willingness to locally integrate in the site where they were currently living. In line with these results, most households did not want to take part in a return (98.8%) or a relocation process (94.2%).

**Figure 7.7. Ethiopia: Percentage breakdown of durable solution preferences of other climate displaced IDPs by their time of arrival in the current displacement location**



When considering preferences by length of displacement, local integration remains the most widely preferred solution across all four durations of displacement intervals (78.5% on average, see Figure 7.7). While return is consistently the second most preferred durable solution, a difference emerges at the 3-year mark where relocation is either more or just as favourable as return (Figure 7.7).

Somali (72.1%) and Afar (15.1%) regions have the highest displacement due to other climate factors as of May 2024. In Afar (77.9%), Gambela (80.3%) and Somali (87.8%) regions more than 75% of IDPs households displaced due to other climate factors prefer to locally integrate.

## 7.3 Assessing progress towards achieving a durable solution

As mentioned previously, physical movement alone, whether return or relocation, does not constitute a successful durable solution. Instead, IRIS and DSID suggest using a “composite measure” to assess progress over time against the 8 IASC criteria for durable solutions.<sup>99</sup> Progress among displaced communities on a solutions pathway should be measured against the target population (resident or host community, non-displaced) or a subset of the general population living in the targeted geographical area).<sup>100</sup> The Displacement and Return Indices<sup>101</sup> are intended as single measures that summarize multiple variables into one numerical value for IDP and IDP returnee households, respectively. The indices provide an overview, based on multiple indicators, of the severity of the conditions in which IDPs and IDP returnees are living.

### Displacement Index (DI) and Return Index (RI)

This exercise focused on those in a situation of protracted displacement of three or more years, and those who have recently returned from displacement. As noted in the introduction, there is no universal definition of protracted displacement with a standard number of years to establish ‘protracted’ length of displacement threshold for policy and programmes. However, as an organisation IOM considers three or more years in displacement as a benchmark for estimating protracted displacement.<sup>102</sup> Since this chapter is based on IOM Ethiopia’s data and analysis, we will use IOM’s definition for this analysis.

Using the IASC criteria for durable solutions, the following three indicators were collected at the household level on:

IASC Durable Solutions Criteria	Survey Indicator	Question
Adequate standard of living	Shelter that protects from weather elements	Do you currently have a shelter to stay in that is protected from the elements?
	School attendance of school age children	How many children of school age in your household attended school in the current school year?
Access to livelihoods	Access to income generating activities for working age household members	How many adult members of your household currently have a job?

The answers from the three selected indicators were ranked and assigned a numeric value from 0 to 1. When the answer was unfavourable it was coded as 0 and when it was favourable it was coded as 1. The household results for IDPs and returning IDPs were then averaged into a Displacement Index (DI) and Return Index (RI) respectively, to measure, monitor and compare in a single value, the living conditions and socio-economic situation of protracted and returning IDPs. The indexes allow for the prioritization of locations to support multisectoral, needs-based interventions.

99 [Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement, March 2023](#). The 8 criteria are: Long-term safety and security, Adequate standard of living, Access to livelihoods and employment, Restoration of housing, land and property, Access to documentation, Family reunification, Participation in public affairs & Access to effective remedies and justice.

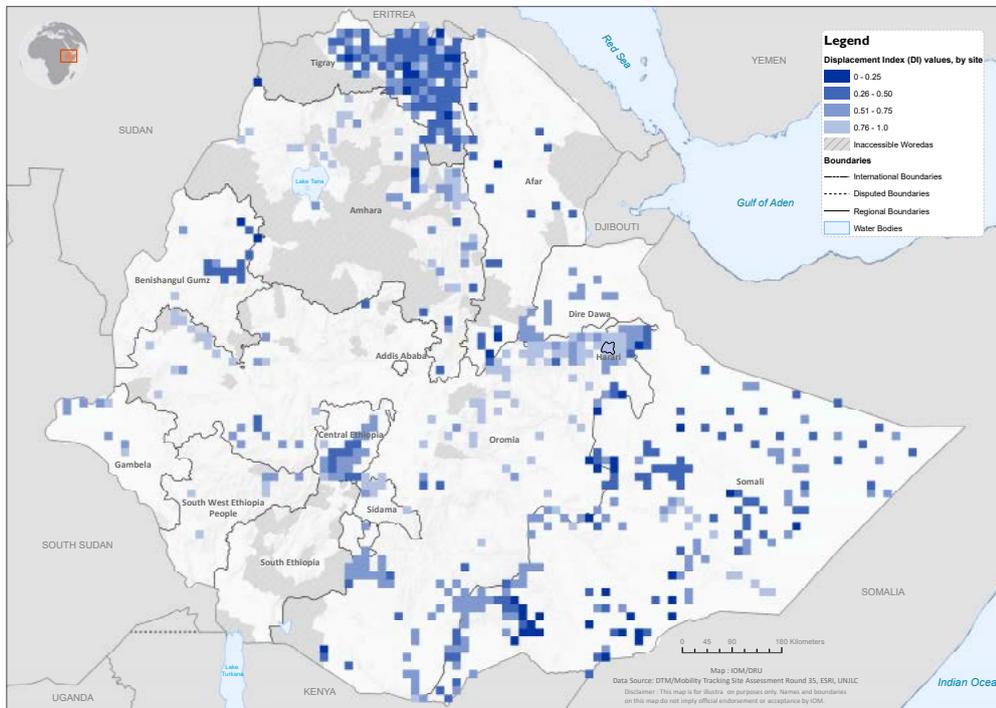
100 Ibid.

101 [IOM Ethiopia – Displacement and Return Profiles, Preferences for Solutions, and Indexes \(November – December 2023\)](#).

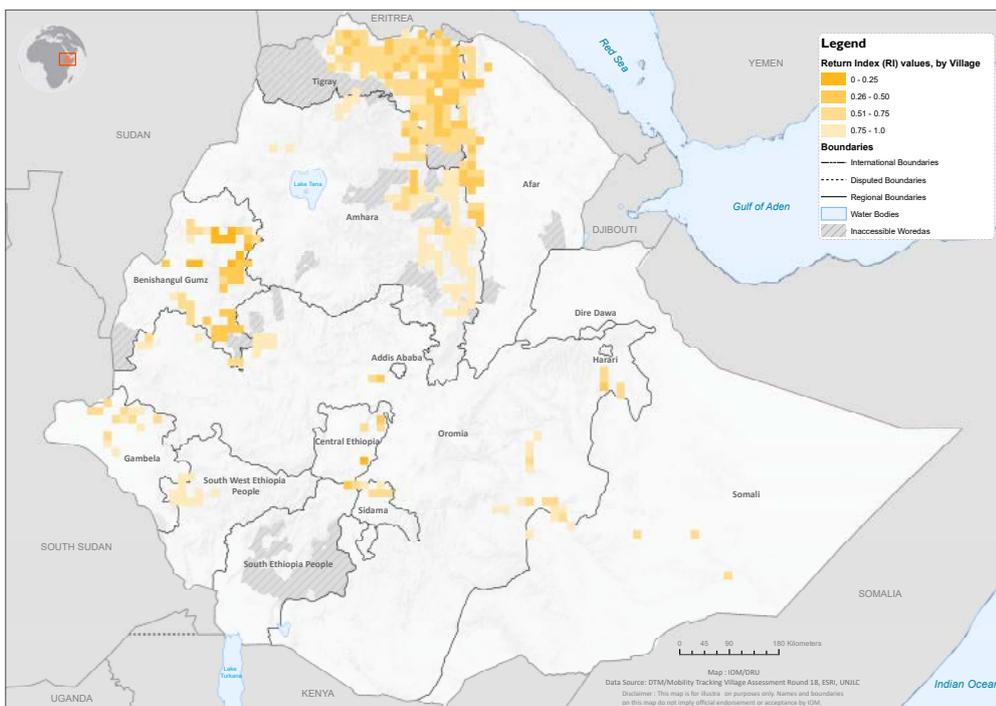
102 [IOM International Migration Law No. 34 – Glossary on Migration, 2019](#). Per the IOM glossary, protracted displacement is a situation in which refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and/or other displaced persons have been unable to return to their habitual residence for three years or more, and where the process for finding durable solutions, such as repatriation, integration in host communities, settlement in third locations or other mobility opportunities, has stalled.

Maps 7.2 and 7.3 display the two household indices aggregated at the site/village level, respectively. Values closer to 0 are in a darker shade of blue/yellow (higher severity), while values closer to 1 are in lighter shade of blue/yellow (less severity).

### Map 7.2. Ethiopia displacement index values



### Map 7.3. Ethiopia return index values



The average Displacement Index (DI) for protracted IDPs nationwide is 0.59. The regions that score the lowest are Afar (0.38), Tigray (0.44), Somali (0.47) and Benishangul Gumz (0.50). Hence, these are the regions where protracted IDPs are overall doing worse when it comes to their average access to shelter, education and income generation.

For the Return Index (RI), the average value nationwide is 0.65. The regions that score the lowest, are Benishangul Gumz (0.41), Central Ethiopia (0.45) and Afar (0.59). Low ratings for returning IDPs highlight the continued vulnerabilities that they experience after returning to their settlement of origin.

## Solutions Index (SI) Parity Survey – Progress toward local integration (Somali Region)

As discussed previously, there is a high prevalence of IDPs who prefer local integration in Somali region (99.5% Figure 7.4). To better understand the progress made toward local integration, DTM Ethiopia deployed a household survey in four zones that hosted IDPs displaced by drought (Dawa, Doolo, Nogob, and Shabelle zones). Designed to capture vulnerabilities between IDPs on a pathway to local integration and the non-displaced—consistent with recommendations from the DSID working group and EGRISS<sup>103</sup>—data from the household survey was used to develop a Solutions Index (SI), to identify and compare the needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs and non-displaced residents. Key findings for three out of seven IASC criteria are highlighted below.

### Key Findings

#### Safety and security:

According to the findings, both IDP and non-displaced residents in the four zones in Somali region, reported **similar levels of freedom of movement** in their current location and **trust in local authorities for dispute resolution**, with both groups averaging 0.92 out of 1 in this criterion. This finding suggests that **security factors were not a major barrier to local integration** in the assessed zones of **Somali region**.

#### Adequate standard of living:

On average, IDP households scored lower on the indicator on adequate shelter (0.39) compared to non-displaced residents (0.54). However, **both IDPs and non-displaced residents scored very low on sources of drinking water** (0.21 and 0.25, respectively). This suggests that unsafe drinking water is an important issue that affects both groups similarly. IDP households in Doolo zone scored the lowest with 0.11.

#### Access to livelihoods:

Regarding **access to income generating activities**, Doolo zone shows the biggest difference between IDPs (0.19) and non-displaced households (0.52) while in Nogob zone IDP households (0.17) perform slightly better on this indicator than non-displaced households (0.12). While local integration was the preferred durable solution for IDPs in the four assessed zones, various factors including displacement status may hinder access to services and participation, which ultimately impacts the ability of IDP households to progress towards their favoured durable solution (local integration).

## Categorisation of the progress of IDPs

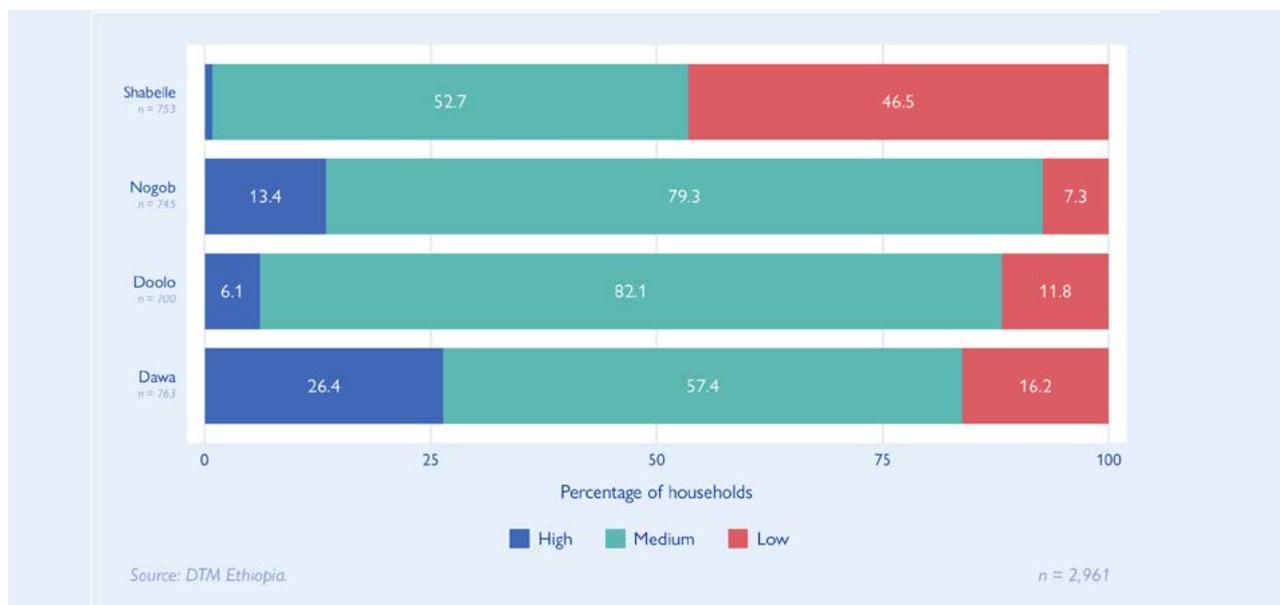
To evaluate IDPs' progress towards achieving a durable solution, IDP scorings from the Solutions Index (SI) analysed above are categorized into low, medium or high progress. To establish if a criterion has been met by

103 [IOM Ethiopia – Measuring Parity and Progress Towards Durable Solutions, IDPs and Non-displaced Residents, Household Level Survey \(HLS\), Somali region \(February 2024\).](#)

an IDP household, each IDP household index was converted into a binary of 0 or 1 during the third step of data analysis. To convert the average into a binary, if the value was  $\leq 0.74$  it was converted into 0 and if the value was  $\geq 0.75$  it was converted into 1.<sup>104</sup> The rating of 0 means that the criteria has not been met and the rating of 1 means that the criteria has been met. Thereafter, it is possible to see how many durable solutions criteria each IDP household has met. IDP households are rated according to the number of criteria they have met. The three categories include:

- Low progress: 0 to 2 criteria met
- Medium progress: 3 to 5 criteria met
- High progress: 6 to 7 criteria met

**Figure 7.8. Ethiopia: Summary of progress toward solutions in Somali region**



Across the four assessed zones, more than 50% of the IDP households on a solutions pathway (local integration) are in the medium progress category (Figure 7.8). Dawa zone has the highest percentage of IDPs in the high progress category (26.4%) while Shabelle has the highest percentage of IDPs in the lowest progress category (46.5%). For IDPs in the medium progress category in both Doolo and Shabelle zones, the lowest performing criterion is access to livelihoods. In Nogob zone, for IDP households in the medium and high progress categories, the lowest performing criterion is access to housing, land and property (HLP). In the Dawa zone, for the IDPs who had overcome all but one criterion, the lowest-performing criterion was access to documentation. This is also the case for the IDPs in the medium progress category, where access to documentation is the lowest performing criterion.<sup>105</sup>

<sup>104</sup> The 0.75 threshold selected is the top quartile of the distribution scores. National poverty line thresholds are often selected on an arbitrary or discretionary basis depending on the data. Please see: Deaton, Angus. "Measuring Poverty." *Understanding Poverty*, 2006, 3–15.

<sup>105</sup> IOM Ethiopia – *Measuring Parity and Progress Towards Durable Solutions, IDPs and Non-displaced Residents, Household Level Survey (HLS), Somali region (February 2024)*.

## 7.4 Conclusion

As shown in the analysis, preference towards durable solutions in Ethiopia is closely associated with regional contexts, reasons for displacement, and duration of displacement. While IDPs have an overall preference for return and local integration, variations in the share of solution preferences are observed in relation to the reason for displacement. For conflict-induced IDPs, return is overall the most reported durable solution preference nationwide, while disaster-induced IDPs (drought and other climate factors) have a higher preference for local integration. The cases of Somali and Tigray regions, two regions with the highest IDP caseloads, highlight that an IDP's location within Ethiopia also matters due to differences in the conditions between regional contexts. For example, IDPs displaced by conflict in Somali region see local integration as their preferred pathway, while most conflict-IDPs in Tigray region prefer to return.

When further disaggregated by time spent in their displacement location, conflict IDPs displaced for 5 or more years preferred local integration over return while for drought displaced IDPs, the preference for local integration remained consistent over time. For IDPs displaced by other climate factors (floods, landslides or fires) local integration remains the most widely preferred solution over time, with a slight variation at the 3-year mark where relocation (consistently a less preferred option) is either more or just as favourable as return.

The key findings highlighted in this analysis also emphasize the need for tailored approaches to deliver durable solutions in Ethiopia. In addition to the preferences for the different durable solutions pathways and the current conditions in locations of displacement or return, a comparison with non-displaced residents to assess whether the vulnerabilities the displaced and returned populations experience are related to their displacement or are part of a broader developmental issue in the assessed locations was done. When compared, if both population groups score low, an area-based approach that supports both displaced and non-displaced populations is recommended. However, when IDPs score lower than non-displaced residents, targeted interventions that support IDPs' progression towards local integration (their preferred durable solution) are recommended.

Overall, continued efforts towards data collection on progress towards solutions are needed, particularly through area-based approaches to further identify needs and to support targeted interventions and the prioritization of the displacement caseload. A focus on facilitating local integration is important, as a sizeable share of IDPs across Ethiopia's regional contexts who are affected by different reasons displacement indicated this as their preferred solutions pathway.



Displaced woman in front of makeshift shelter, Somali region, Ethiopia. © IOM Ethiopia 2024



Natividad de Jesús Martínez, a Honduran migrant, has endured significant challenges on his journey to Guatemala. *"I arrived by surprise,"* he shared. *"We were heading north when in Mexico, we were robbed by gang members and left without money."*



Chapter

08

GOVERNANCE  
OF IDPS

## 8. GOVERNANCE OF IDPS

### National governance frameworks for durable solutions: insights from Migration Governance Indicator data

This chapter offers insights into national governance frameworks on internal displacement, with a particular focus on how governments are developing legal frameworks to support durable solutions.<sup>106</sup> It draws on data from IOM's Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) and additional desk reviews to explore the policies countries have implemented. This work complements the initiative of the Global Protection Cluster's report on IDP laws and policies<sup>107</sup> and builds on earlier work done by the Brookings IDP Project setting out a framework for National Responsibility for IDPs.<sup>108</sup>

The chapter analyses institutional, policy and legislative frameworks on internal displacement, including coordination mechanisms, data collection processes, and partnerships and examines how displacement considerations are integrated within broader national policy frameworks, particularly on development. Both the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, have emphasized the importance of nationally-owned development policies in enhancing solutions for IDPs. Specific policy examples illustrate steps governments are already taking to address challenges and promote solutions in different contexts.

The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) programme is IOM's flagship initiative to support governments to evaluate the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures. This chapter analyses IDP policies for 33 countries where IOM collected data on internal displacement in 2023.<sup>109</sup>

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106 This chapter was drafted by IOM staff working on MGI. Beyond specific instruments on internal displacement, a comprehensive approach to IDPs also includes other measures, particularly policies intended to reduce the risk of displacement, not discussed in detail in this chapter.

107 Global Protection Cluster. *Global Report on Law and Policy in Internal Displacement: Implementing National Responsibility*. Global Protection Cluster. 2022. <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/publications/810/reports/report/global-report-law-and-policy-internal-displacement-implementing>. Also see the many academic works on IDP laws and policies, including Walter Kälin, *Internal Displacement and the Law*, Oxford University Press. 2023; Phil Orchard, *Protecting the Internally Displaced: Rhetoric and Reality*. Routledge. 2019; and David Cantor, 'The IDP in International Law': Developments, Debates, Prospects. *International Journal of Refugee Law* (30,1), 2018. <https://academic.oup.com/ijrl/article-abstract/30/2/191/5091323>

108 Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. *Addressing Internal Displacement: A Framework for National Responsibility*. 2005. [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/04\\_national\\_responsibility\\_framework\\_eng.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/04_national_responsibility_framework_eng.pdf). For further analysis, see Elizabeth Ferris, Erin Mooney and Chareen Stark, *From Responsibility to Response: Assessing National Approaches to Internal Displacement*. Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement. 2011. <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/From-Responsibility-to-Response-Nov-2011doc.pdf>

109 The MGI is a voluntary, rigorous and consultative assessment implemented through desk reviews and interviews with government representatives. Further information about MGI's methodology is included in the Methodology Annex. While MGI data provide valuable insights into policy inputs, institutions, and processes, the methodology does not assess policy implementation or evaluate outcomes. Additionally, cross-country and cross-time comparability is hindered by national differences in policy and legal definitions, and variations in data collection years across the countries included in this analysis.

### *Benchmarks of National Responsibility on Internal Displacement*

- Displacement prevention
- Efforts to raise national awareness of internal displacement
- Data collection
- Training on the rights of IDPs
- A national legal framework
- A national policy or plan of action on internal displacement
- A national institutional focal point for IDPs
- A role for national human rights institutions
- Participation by IDPs in decision-making
- Durable solutions
- Adequate resources
- Cooperation with international and regional institutions

*From: Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. Addressing Internal Displacement: A Framework for National Responsibility. 2005.*

**Table 8.1. Countries included in the analysis on Migration Governance Indicators**

AFGHANISTAN	HONDURAS	PAKISTAN
BENIN	IRAQ	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
BURKINA FASO	KENYA	SOMALIA
BURUNDI	LEBANON	SOUTH SUDAN
CAMEROON	LIBYA	SUDAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	MADAGASCAR	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
CHAD	MALAWI	TOGO
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	MALI	TÜRKIYE
ETHIOPIA	MOZAMBIQUE	UGANDA
GHANA	NIGER	UKRAINE
HAITI	NIGERIA	YEMEN

### *Key findings:*

The analysis shows that countries have made progress in establishing institutional frameworks to address internal displacement and promote durable solutions:

- 27 out of 33 countries analysed have adopted at least one law, policy, strategy, or action plan to tackle internal displacement.
- 24 of the 27 instruments include provisions for durable solutions, while only 17 make explicit reference to the prevention of new or renewed displacement.
- Displacement considerations are also infrequently integrated into broader plans, policies and strategies. This suggests the need for more holistic approaches to internal displacement where displacement is considered throughout the development of all relevant policy frameworks. This will, in turn, pave the way for durable solutions and sustainable development.
- Actors at the subnational level, such as local and regional governments, should be recognized and empowered to play a role in working towards durable solutions.

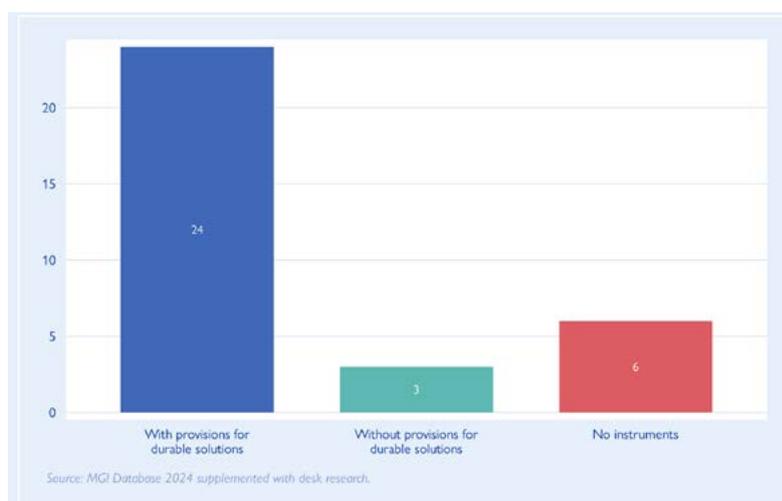
Further opportunities for improving governance frameworks include implementing a whole-of government and whole-of society approach, as well as ensuring accurate and comprehensive data collection. Coordinated and participatory responses that involve IDPs, civil society organizations, and the private sector can also ensure solutions are tailored to the specific needs of IDPs and affected communities.

## 8.1 Instruments for durable solutions

### Complementary use of laws, policies, strategies, and action plans

As of August 2024, out of the 33 countries analysed, 27 had adopted at least one law, policy, strategy or action plan addressing internal displacement, 24 of which included at least one provision towards durable solutions (Figure 8.1).

**Figure 8.1. Number of PROGRESS24 countries that have adopted laws, policies, strategies or action plans addressing internal displacement (August 2024)**



These various governance instruments—laws, policies, strategies, and action plans—are not mutually exclusive tools; rather, they may complement each other. The choice of instrument depends on the objectives, context, and needs of the displaced population and the broader policy environment. Laws tend to be more enduring and stable as they require significant legislative buy-in and represent a formal commitment by the government to address internal displacement issues comprehensively. They set the overarching vision and principles for handling internal displacement, often providing a solid foundation for further policy and operational measures.

Strategies and action plans are frequently developed to further detail and operationalize existing IDP laws or policies. For instance, Ukraine’s Law “On ensuring rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons” (2015) was operationalized through a series of subsequent strategies, action plans and programs. Conversely, numerous countries have established policies, strategies or action plans without a comprehensive legal framework in place, often to pave the way for future legislation or while awaiting the enactment of laws.<sup>110</sup>

<sup>110</sup> Brookings-LSE, IDMC, NRC, *National Instruments on Internal Displacement: A Guide to Their Development*, 2013, 36. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/national-instruments-on-internal-displacement-a-guide-to-their-development/>

## IDP-specific and IDP-inclusive instruments

Among the 33 countries featured in PROGRESS 2024, 24 had instruments with provisions designed to support durable solutions. Of these, 22 had at least one instrument that was IDP-specific, while two included such provisions in IDP-inclusive instruments only.

**IDP-specific instruments** are designed to address the unique needs and protection requirements of IDPs, offering targeted solutions and support. Notably, since 2010, there has been a marked increase in the adoption of strategies focused specifically on working towards durable solutions, influenced by key policy developments such as the African Union's Kampala Convention in 2009 and the IASC's Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs in 2010. These frameworks encouraged countries to develop comprehensive and sustainable responses to internal displacement. As one of the most recent examples, Ukraine revised its 'Strategy on the Integration of IDPs and Durable Solutions in 2021'.

In contrast, **IDP-inclusive instruments** integrate IDP issues into broader frameworks. These can include policies related to documentation, land, development, peace, disaster response, and climate change.

Both types of instruments are essential. IDP-specific ones provide targeted assistance and address specific challenges faced by IDPs, while IDP-inclusive ones ensure that IDPs are considered within wider policy areas, facilitating a more holistic approach to addressing and preventing displacement.

## Provisions on durable solutions and equal consideration of all solutions

To achieve durable solutions, national instruments must adopt a balanced and inclusive approach, recognizing return, local integration, and resettlement as equally viable options to be considered. Governance frameworks often prioritize IDP return to their place of origin, a tendency criticized by the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs.<sup>111</sup> However, the UNHCR has noted a modest decline in exclusively pro-return approaches since the adoption of frameworks like the 2009 Kampala Convention and the 2010 Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Framework on Durable Solutions, which reinforced the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.<sup>112</sup> These frameworks, along with advocacy and capacity-building, promote more balanced strategies. Nonetheless, continued efforts are needed to ensure legislative and policy instruments recognize all settlement options for IDPs.

### *Highlighted Examples: Kenya and Chad*

In **Kenya**, the *Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Act (2012)*, exemplifies a balanced and inclusive approach to durable solutions. The Act mandates that the government create conditions for and provide durable and sustainable solutions in safety and dignity, ensuring IDPs have the right to make an informed and voluntary decision on whether to return to their place of origin, integrate locally, or resettle elsewhere in the country. The Act emphasizes that these options must be provided and facilitated equally, without prioritization, and in consultation with the displaced persons themselves.

**Chad's** *Law on the protection and assistance to internally displaced persons (2023)* underlines equal consideration to all durable solutions for IDPs. The law mandates that IDPs have the right to choose freely among all three options without coercion. Support and resources must be provided equitably for all durable solutions, including legal, financial, and social assistance, ensuring that no option is favoured over another.

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111 United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, *Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future*, 2021, 9. <https://internaldisplacement-panel.org/index.html>.

112 UNHCR, *Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement*, Global Protection Cluster, 2023, 25. <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/UNHCR%20-%20Global%20Report%20on%20Law%20and%20Policy%20on%20Internal%20Displacement%20Hi-Res%20Version%20%281%29.pdf>

## Coordination mechanisms and partnerships for durable solutions

### Whole of government approach

As the UN Action Agenda underscores, achieving durable solutions for internal displacement requires high-level leadership and a whole-of-government approach, involving all relevant ministries, service providers, and judicial actors at various levels of government. Effective management of displacement depends on both horizontal and vertical coordination.

Horizontal coordination involves collaboration across different sectors and ministries, such as housing, health, education, and employment, recognizing that displacement intersects with broader issues like development, peacebuilding, human rights, and climate change. Vertical coordination ensures alignment between national, regional, and local government efforts. Since local authorities often directly manage the challenges faced by displaced populations, who increasingly settle in urban areas, vertical coordination provides these entities with the support and resources needed to implement national plans and address displacement challenges effectively.

An effective governance structure for internal displacement requires a designated focal point for IDP issues, clear responsibilities for relevant authorities, and adequate resource allocation, as outlined by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.<sup>113</sup> The Special Rapporteur's report and the Action Agenda recommend that national governments establish coordination mechanisms led by high-level focal points to facilitate horizontal and vertical collaboration across ministries and government levels to ensure comprehensive support for IDPs and host communities. These range from creating new government bodies to using existing institutions with relevant mandates.

#### *Highlighted Examples: Coordination Mechanisms in Somalia and Honduras*

In 2019, **Somalia** established the **National Durable Solutions Secretariat** to facilitate coordination across 14 government entities, including the Office of the Prime Minister. This body ensures a whole-of-government approach, aligning durable solutions with national development plans and policies.

Similarly, **Honduras** created the **National System for Response to Forced Displacement (SINARDEF)** through the *Law for the Prevention, Attention, and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (2023)*. SINARDEF integrates key stakeholders, including national ministries, municipal governments, legislative and judicial branches, civil society, and international organizations. The Interinstitutional Commission for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons is the main decision-making body within SINARDEF and leads on policy formulation, strategic planning, and setting public investment criteria. The Directorate for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons manages operational efforts through collaboration with local municipal units in at-risk and affected communities. The Fund for the Care and Protection of Forcibly Displaced People finances humanitarian assistance, essential services, and durable solutions with national and international contributions. Additionally, a specialized Durable Solutions Unit focuses on reintegration strategies, coordinating social protection programs like housing, employment, and vocational training to ensure long-term stability and address the root causes of displacement.

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113 United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, 2015, A/70/334. <https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F70%2F334&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

## Whole of Society Approach

A whole-of-society approach can effectively support durable solutions to displacement by involving IDPs, affected communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, and the private sector in designing and implementing solutions as well as governmental authorities. The private sector's role in livelihood recovery and resilience building, as well as the role of NGOs and CSOs in strategic planning and response efforts has also been highlighted in the UN Action Agenda. Given these organizations are often deeply connected to affected communities and have a comprehensive understanding of local contexts and needs, their participation in solutions can strengthen local capacities, ensuring locally owned and driven solutions.

### *Highlighted Examples: Involving IDPs in Addressing Displacement in the Niger and Ukraine*

In **Niger**, the process of drafting national legislation on internal displacement exemplifies a successful model of involving IDPs in policy development. During the creation of *Law Number 2018-74 Relative to the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (2018)*, the Nigerien government formed an inter-ministerial steering committee responsible for overseeing the drafting process. This committee organized multi-stakeholder workshops that included significant participation from IDPs themselves. The consultations sought input from IDPs on issues including security concerns, access to basic services and humanitarian needs, and helped ensure that the law addressed the real needs and challenges faced by displaced populations.

In **Ukraine**, following the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 812 “*On Approval of the Model Regulation on the Council on Internally Displaced Persons*” (2023), IDP Councils were created at regional and community levels. The Regulation mandates that internally displaced persons (IDPs) must constitute at least 50 per cent of the Council's members. Additionally, the Regulation establishes the participation of non-governmental organizations, including one representative each from public associations and charitable organizations focused on ensuring and protecting the rights of IDPs. Examples of such Councils can be found in the Lviv region and Kharkiv City.

## 8.2 Integrating displacement issues into broader policy frameworks

It is crucial for countries to integrate displacement considerations within broader national policy frameworks. Figure 8.2 shows the number of PROGRESS countries for which MGI data is available that have integrated displacement considerations into selected broader policy frameworks, for example, Disaster risk reduction strategies and Development strategies. It highlights that many countries still have significant opportunities to enhance policy integration, especially in incorporating displacement measures into climate and environmental policies and development strategies.

*Figure 8.2. Number of PROGRESS24 countries that have integrated displacement considerations into broader policy frameworks (August 2024)*



Governments at national and local levels can incorporate displacement measures into their development policies. The High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement Report<sup>114</sup> emphasizes that governments should establish qualitative and quantitative indicators and report on how their national development initiatives respond to the rights and needs of IDPs. This can ensure that displacement is considered from a long-term perspective, resources are allocated towards sustainable solutions to displacement, there is alignment between different policy goals, and that the needs of displaced populations are included alongside other development objectives. However, only six of the 33 countries analysed have included measures regarding displacement into their national development strategies (Figure 8.2). Examples from within and beyond MGI data include Somalia's *National Development Plan 2020 to 2024* (2019), Iraq's *National Development Plan (2018-2022)* (2018), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's *Development Plan* (2017).

114 United Nations. Shining a Light on Internal Displacement – A Vision for the Future. UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. 2021. <https://internaldisplacement-panel.org/>

## 8.3 Conclusion

Our analysis shows that some countries have made significant progress in establishing legal, policy, and institutional structures to support IDPs, as demonstrated by the various instruments adopted by many of the countries analysed. A positive trend towards balanced and inclusive approaches is evident, with a few countries increasingly recognizing return, local integration, and resettlement as equally viable options to be considered. Defining policy measures to foster durable solutions further reflects a commitment to transitioning from essential short-term humanitarian efforts towards more comprehensive approaches aimed at achieving sustainable long-term outcomes.

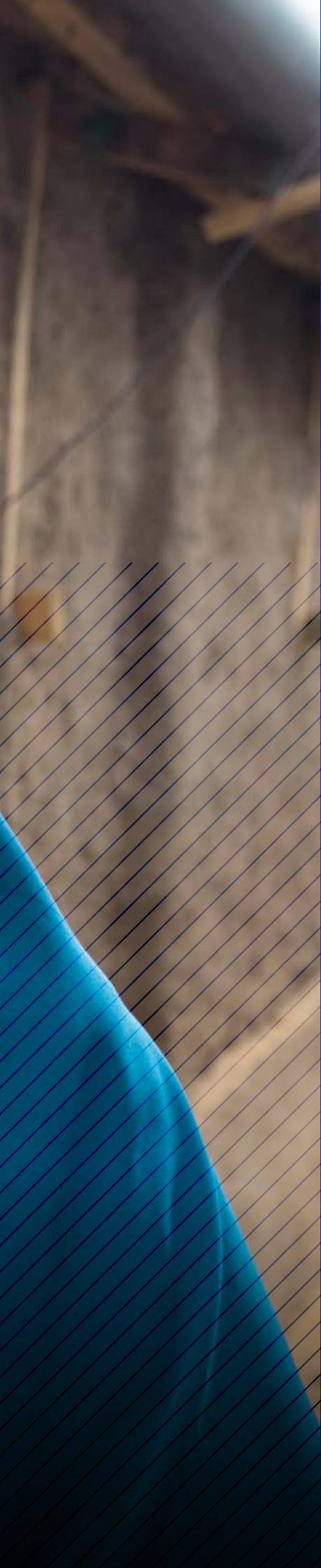
This chapter has demonstrated that many countries can further strengthen their policy frameworks, including by enhancing alignment with global and regional calls to action. Based on the insights of this analysis, governments could consider the following recommendations to strengthen their policy frameworks to ensure they are enhancing their capacity to realise durable solutions to internal displacement.

## Recommendations

- Incorporate measures focused on durable solutions within both IDP-specific instruments and development plans.
- Adopt a whole-of-government approach towards internal displacement, including by ensuring there is high-level leadership and coordination across all government levels and sectors. Sub-national and national governments should be empowered to take an active role in the response to internal displacement and development of durable solutions.
- Ensure the participation of IDPs in the design of solutions and engage with other stakeholders through a whole-of-society approach. This includes working together with IDPs, IDP returnees, host communities, civil society organizations, NGOs, and the private sector to design and implement durable solutions that consider and seek to minimise potential challenges.
- By building on existing strengths and addressing gaps, countries can create more effective and sustainable responses to internal displacement, ultimately improving the lives of displaced individuals.



IOM built mud brick shelters for Somalis displaced to Dolow region due to drought and conflict. The mud brick shelters are better suited to the dry, hot weather of Dolow region, keeping the families safe from high temperatures in summer.



Chapter

09

IMPROVING PROSPECTS  
FOR SOLUTIONS

## 9. IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR SOLUTIONS

Understanding solutions intentions can be transformative for IDP solutions. The data used in this report and its subsequent analysis reveal **promising new routes for humanitarian and development stakeholders to improve solutions outcomes for IDPs**. As well as confirming three of the four hypotheses structuring this report, an unexpected finding has emerged from across the analysis that has significant implications for solutions data users in policy, advocacy, coordination, and operational delivery of assistance programmes.

The data shows, over and over again, that a majority of IDPs wish to locally integrate over return, in a majority of contexts, from the outset of their displacement. Over half of all IDPs – approaching 100% in some settings, such as disaster-driven IDPs displaced for more than five years– seek local integration over return to their place of origin. Yet, few reported, tailored local integration support programmes are available to IDPs. Rather, most solutions-oriented programming focuses on return, meaning there is a risk that a very large proportion of IDPs may not be able to access their solution of choice, and so could remain in displacement indefinitely. This also suggests the need to devote much more attention to local integration and to strengthening relationship between IDPs and host communities. It also draws our attention to the role of national and local authorities in supporting local integration.

### A. Overarching Findings

The overarching findings are relevant to many stakeholders and data users, including affected states, partner policy makers at the national and local levels, humanitarian and development operational actors at global and country level, as well as technical experts tracking displacement and solutions at the global level.

#### A.1. A majority of IDPs (60%) wish to remain where they are

Despite variations between contexts and causes of displacement, a majority of IDPs wish to stay in their location of displacement from year one of displacement onwards. While ‘stay’ preferences dip in the third year of displacement, being briefly overtaken by a preference for return, unpacking of this data shows that the dip is caused exclusively by the data from Ethiopia. The majority of contexts show that the majority of IDPs remain desirous of staying. This suggests that supporting local integration in the first few years of displacement would correspond to IDP intentions.

#### Relevance

This finding has significant implications for stakeholders, at all levels, seeking to deliver improved solutions outcomes for IDPs. It is common for affected states to adopt a solutions position based on a preference for IDPs returning to their places of origin, often due to concerns about squeezed resources and services in the location of displacement or perhaps simply a belief that a return to the status quo is the preferred outcome.<sup>115</sup> Sometimes, the potential for tensions between displaced and host communities is cited as a reason for assuming return is the desired outcome.<sup>116</sup>

115 Megan Bradley, Durable Solutions and the Right of Return for IDPs: Evolving Interpretations, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Volume 30, Issue 2, June 2018, Pages 218–242, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijrl/eeey021>

116 This brief on IDPs and Host Communities in South Sudan highlight the importance of social cohesion in relation to limited resources. [https://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/NPSS\\_Juba\\_Case\\_Study\\_-\\_Promoting\\_peaceful\\_coexistence\\_between\\_IDPs\\_and\\_host\\_communities\\_in\\_Juba\\_1\\_1.pdf](https://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/NPSS_Juba_Case_Study_-_Promoting_peaceful_coexistence_between_IDPs_and_host_communities_in_Juba_1_1.pdf) Conflicts between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities over resources and durable solutions are a significant issue in many regions. These conflicts often arise due to competition for limited resources such as land, water, and aid, as well as tensions over social and economic integration. Some findings from the Consultations for the High Level Panel on IDPs [https://reliefweb.int/attachments/90a0131b-f82b-33e8-83e3-98d645ab4182/Consultation%20Findings%20with%20IDPs%20and%20Host%20Community%20Members\\_Final\\_22%20FEB%202021.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/attachments/90a0131b-f82b-33e8-83e3-98d645ab4182/Consultation%20Findings%20with%20IDPs%20and%20Host%20Community%20Members_Final_22%20FEB%202021.pdf)

The international community and partners often focus advocacy and coordination efforts on the principle of voluntariness and the right to return for all IDPs. This protection-centred approach means that solutions programmes and operations only commence when the time is right for returns, commonly in complex and fragile settings.

Ultimately the current posture of current solutions settings is often a return-centric one, with few examples of practice and programmes intended to support local integration, soon after displacement occurs. This suggests that a sizeable majority of IDPs may have a fundamental unmet need for a solution of their choice, and this before stakeholders assess and consider progress towards solutions, upon any technical criteria.<sup>117</sup> Rather the model seems to be to provide minimal assistance to IDPs – or care and maintenance as the IASC review has highlighted – in the expectation that at some point, IDPs will be able to return to their communities of origin. If this expectation is replaced with an assumption that most IDPs will remain where they are, then the care and maintenance model could be replaced with efforts to support self-reliance measures, particularly with a view to increasing the economic security of IDPs. Given the importance of economic security to both, IDP well-being as well as to their prospects for durable solutions, investments in livelihoods from early in displacement could be a key to preventing protracted displacement. Of course, IDPs should always have the right to return, but this does not preclude their inclusion in self-reliance efforts which – at a minimum – have the possibility of enhancing their well-being while they wait for conditions in their community of origin to improve.

## Recommendations

1. **Data:** Further intentions data is required across a range of contexts, to determine if the nine countries explored in depth in this report are indicative of a global trend. Given the scale of the preferences expressed, their consistency over duration of displacement and taking into consideration the outliers identified in this study (Burundi, Ethiopia and South Sudan), this report suggests the need for a sea-change in stakeholders' perceptions of feasible solutions for IDPs. In particular, the finding that an overwhelming majority of those displaced by disasters intend to remain in their sites of displacement, suggests a need to re-evaluate the commonly held assumption that most disaster displacement is short-term.
2. **Programmes and Operations:** Gather examples of holistic local integration programmes and operations, and identify which interventions have led to improved solutions outcomes for IDPs. The good and best practices identified in this could be prioritized for replication elsewhere.
3. **National and Sub-National Planning Authorities:** Solutions operations, whether for return, relocation, or local integration, require coordination with specific ministries and local authorities. Engagement on planning, resourcing, and delivery will have different requirements for each type of solution, with more conventional development partners needed for local integration in particular, given its peri- and urban characteristics.
4. **Global and National Policy:** Decision makers and operational actors supporting IDPs' onto pathways for solutions should consider adjusting their solutions posture from return-centric to one based on an understanding that most IDPs prefer to remain, ensuring the central importance of IDP voice and the principle of voluntariness in choosing solutions pathway. This should ideally occur at scale and lead to a change in orientation at global and country levels.

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<sup>117</sup> For example, this analysis on barriers to durable solutions in Sudan shows that the key gaps are around policies that support local integration. (JIPS, 2021) [https://www.jips.org/uploads/2021/11/Sudan-PBF2021-Thematic\\_Brief\\_1-IDP\\_solutions.pdf](https://www.jips.org/uploads/2021/11/Sudan-PBF2021-Thematic_Brief_1-IDP_solutions.pdf). This analysis from Iraq also highlights some key barriers to return. (IDMC, 2018). <https://api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/201811-iraq-case-study-report.pdf>

## A.2. Duration of displacement impacts solutions intentions

One of the hypotheses structuring the data analysis of this report is that *The longer people are displaced, the less likely they are to return to their communities of origin*. This hypothesis is corroborated by the data. However, given the unexpected majority preference for local integration in a majority of settings, from the outset of displacement, it is useful to break this data down further.

There are three broad trends observable:

1. Local integration preferences approach 100% by year 5 of displacement in disaster settings – with high percentages of conflict-displaced also expressing an intention to remain in their area of displacement.
2. Relatively tepid desire for return as a durable solution decreases progressively the longer an IDP is displaced, with only a quarter of all IDPs interested in returning after their fifth year of displacement.
3. There is a marked disinterest in resettlement or relocation to another part of the country throughout displacement.

On average, IDPs surveyed in the multi-country analysis have been displaced for 4.7 years.

Intentions to stay remain the preferred durable solutions throughout the displacement and they increase over time. For people displaced for more than 5 years, almost all (96.0%) of those displaced by disasters intend to stay in the locations to which they have been displaced. In comparison, 69.5% of those displaced for 5 or more years by conflict intend to stay.

Both Burundi and South Sudan, from our in-depth case study analyses, had a higher percentage of respondents who had been displaced by disasters wanted to return than those displaced by conflict. Nonetheless, in Burundi, the percentage intending to stay also increased over time.

As national authorities and international partners have historically practiced a returns-oriented approach to resolving displacement, this finding strongly suggests the need for a pivot by all stakeholders to improve IDP prospects for achieving the preferred solutions, in particular by making local integration support programmes widely available. While offering IDPs the opportunity to return or to relocate elsewhere remains crucial, authorities may wish to plan on the basis that many or most IDPs will remain where they are, taking the necessary steps to ensure sufficient infrastructure and to build social cohesion among IDPs and host communities.

IDPs tend to be most uncertain about their intentions when they have been displaced for a short time, representing 5.5% of those who were displaced for one year or less, dropping to 2.6% for those displaced for 5 or more years. For people displaced for more than 5 years, almost all (96.0%) of those displaced by disasters intend to stay in the locations to which they have been displaced. In comparison, 69.3% of those displaced for 5 or more years by conflict intended to stay.

## Relevance

The historical preference for returns over local integration or resettlement,<sup>118</sup> and the concomitant focus of stakeholders on supporting delivery of voluntary and safe returns, has made trajectories away from return to local integration preferences an important marker for planning purposes. If, as the hypothesis stood, IDPs had greater local integration preferences only at five or more years of displacement then, for example, state

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118 Long, Katy. 2011. 'Permanent Crises? Unlocking the Protracted Displacement of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons'. RSC Policy Briefing Series. <https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications/permanent-crises-unlocking-the-protracted-displacement-of-refugees-and-internally-displaced-persons>.

posture around returns pathways as the dominant or preferred model should begin to pivot in advance of the five-year mark towards one offering widely available local integration support programmes.

## Recommendations

International operational solutions actors and their national partners may need to start engaging with host government authorities around how best to support local integration at scale and from the outset of a displacement crisis.

### A.3. Fewer than 5% of IDPs wish to relocate or resettle as a solution

The intention to relocate or resettle to another part of the country is reducing over time— 5.5% for those displaced for one year or less, reducing to 2.6% for those displaced for more than 5 years.

The limited data (only two countries) on intentions at 10 or more years shows, however, that IDPs only then start to show a greater preference for resettlement or relocation, with that increase coming from those that had previously preferred local integration.<sup>119</sup>

## Relevance

Resettlement or relocation is an infrequently offered solutions pathway in practice which seems in line with the findings of this report. It may be that IDPs do not consider relocation as a possible solution because it is not offered to them or they do not see it as a feasible alternative. It would be useful to compare solutions intentions between those who are offered a relocation option with those who are not given the choice to do so. This would require close collaboration with governments willing to make this option available to IDPs.

## Recommendations

- 1. Programmes and Operations** should be available at a time, and on a scale, to match IDPs' solutions preferences: It would be easiest to map, on a country by country basis, the proportion of existing solutions programme portfolios offer resettlement support programmes.
- 2. Data collection:** Investigate further factors associated with relocation or resettlement, taking into consideration perspectives from IDPs and authorities, to better understand the low prevalence of this displacement solution.

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<sup>119</sup> Data showing solutions intentions of those in 10+ years' displacement was only available for two contexts, Ethiopia and Yemen, so the sample size showing this shift is very small. Further exploration of intentions in those displaced for 10 or more years should be undertaken where appropriate.

## A.4. Solutions preferences differ significantly between those displaced by conflicts and those by disasters

A higher percentage of those displaced by disasters intend to stay in their current location than those displaced by conflict. The exceptions here, from in-depth case study analyses, are Burundi and South Sudan where recently disaster displaced households are more likely to intend to return than remain in their location of displacement (44.0% versus 36.0% respectively for Burundi and 50.4% versus 28.4% for South Sudan). It would be useful to dig deeper and to consider the impact of different types of disasters – for example, flooding vs. drought – in the solutions intentions of IDPs. Conflict-affected IDPs are more likely to intend to return (32.3%) to their area of origin than those displaced by disaster (7.9%). It would be useful to consider different types of conflict – for example, communal violence, gang violence, or widespread civil conflict – on IDPs solutions intentions.

### Relevance

This data offers affected states and solutions partners a new measure for prompt initiation of solutions planning from day one of a crisis. The significant majority of disaster displaced IDPs seek to stay rather than return from the outset of their displacement. This is also observed in conflict IDPs but to a lesser extent, and with some variation context by context.

### Recommendations

This means that solutions stakeholders would be well-advised to plan for majority local integration, at scale, from the outset of any disaster-driven displacement crisis. It is also suggestive that even with lower levels of conflict-driven IDPs choosing local integration from the outset of a crisis, there is nonetheless a sufficiently high number (a majority on average across settings) that a sizeable local integration caseload of around half of all IDPs should be anticipated and planned for.

## A.5 Multiple displacement is experienced by more than one third of IDPs

In this report, 40.8% of respondents reported that they had been displaced on multiple occasions; 59.2% reported that they had been displaced only once. When considering their most recent displacement, most IDPs in the focus group discussions said that it had become 'more complicated' than earlier displacements, largely due to economic factors. It seems that multiple displacements increase economic insecurity which in turn makes finding solutions more difficult. This would seem to support the overall finding in this study on the importance of securing livelihoods for IDPs early in their displacement. While the need for engagement of development actors in supporting solutions for IDPs has been made many times – most recently by the UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement – this report not only reaffirms this but also suggests the need for their engagement early in the displacement process.

### Relevance

The quantitative and qualitative analysis reveals the negative impact of multiple displacements on resilience and IDP coping strategies. The findings that 40.8% of surveyed IDPs and 54% of focus group discussion participants experienced multiple displacements demonstrate the need for solutions from the start as a way to prevent multiple displacements and subsequently, increase in displacement related vulnerabilities.

## Recommendations

Further data should be collected to identify the size of the impact multiple displacements have on each of the three solutions options. It would be useful for solutions stakeholders on the ground to understand what if any causal links there are between multiple displacements and (i) duration of displacement, (ii) type of original and or vulnerability to subsequent displacements, (iii) how and whether solutions intentions change with each displacement. This would identify any potential clear links between say a secondary displacement leading to higher resettlement caseload, but a tertiary displacement leading to higher return preferences.

## B. Technical Findings

These technical findings are relevant to the following data users: affected states' Ministries at national and sub-national levels, coordination actors, partners delivering specific programmes and operations to IDPs, and technical experts collecting and analysing data for solutions to build the evidence base monitoring progress along the solutions pathways in-country.

The findings also speak directly to specific IASC criteria on the Displacement Related Vulnerabilities (DRVs) that an IDP must overcome to achieve a durable solution. While most used to assess IDPs' progress towards solutions the data shows that these DRV markers are also critical for IDPs when choosing a preferred solutions pathway, an essential pre-condition for a voluntary and so durable solution longer term.<sup>120</sup>

It is of critical importance that stakeholders are sighted on not just on the quantitative needs and support available on each criterion, but also understand that IDPs' perceptions of each will be instrumental in **determining the caseload** for each solution option or pathway. Safety and security (42.1%), livelihoods and employment (27.1%), and social ties (12.7%) are the three main reasons that influenced the intentions of IDP households. These accounted for over eight out of ten (82%) of the IDP households.

### B.1. Safety and Security is the most frequently cited influence on solutions intentions

Data on the perceptions of safety (of mostly conflict-displaced households) shows that most (95%) surveyed IDPs feel safe in their locations of displacement and female-headed households are just as likely to feel safe as male-headed households.

Among those displaced by conflict, 68.6% of IDPs that feel safe intend to stay in their current location. The share of those who intend to stay drops to 51.7% among those who do not feel safe. However, safety seems to be less important in affecting the intentions of those displaced by disasters. More than 90% of households displaced by disasters intend to stay in their current locations, irrespective of whether they reported feeling safe or not (92.2% vs 93.0%).

While relocation is the least preferred of the three durable solutions, 12.1% of conflict affected households who do not feel safe would like to relocate. This percentage drops to 3.9% for those who feel safe, highlighting the potential role of perceptions of safety under which relocation is considered by IDPs.

### Relevance

It is essential that solutions stakeholders account for IDPs' perceptions of safety and security for two reasons. Firstly, in a protection-centred, IDP-driven solutions ecosystem it is important that IDPs are not encouraged onto solutions pathways that they perceive as unsafe. Secondly when IDPs perceive the location of displacement as unsafe and yet wish to remain, local integration pathway needs to be weighed against the perception of safety in the location of displacement. This suggests that pull factors for local integration are stronger than commonly understood.

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<sup>120</sup> While there remains some debate about the importance of establishing when an IDP is on a solutions pathway the centrality of IDP choice in determining whether a solution will be durable or not suggests that establishing entry is indeed critical. If an IDP wishes to locally integrate but returns instead, 'progress' measured towards achievement of parity with Non Displaced Populations on the IASC criteria will, in effect, be moot.

## Recommendations

- Further exploration is needed of those IDPs that do not feel safe in their location of displacement yet nonetheless wish to remain there as a durable solution. Stakeholders will need to have a clearer understanding of how to take a protection-centred approach when IDPs themselves are choosing solutions options that they themselves deem unsafe.
- Further exploration of the relationship between these factors and their influence on IDPs' solutions' choice or preference, and later assessment of *progress* towards solutions associated with each factor in terms of barriers and opportunities.

## B.2. Livelihoods and economic opportunities are the second most influential factor on solutions preferences

Livelihoods become an increasingly important influence on solutions intentions the longer people remain displaced. Approximately 2 out of 10 of IDPs (18.1%) displaced up to a year reported livelihoods and employment as the major factor influencing solutions intentions compared to 25.2% of those displaced for over 5 years. In protracted displacement, the economic situation of IDPs is often precarious. Economic insecurity, for example, was mentioned as the main problem facing IDPs in all focus groups in all the countries where FGDs were held. Once IDPs feel safe, ensuring economic security increases in importance.

For those indicating that economic reasons were the main factor influencing their solution intentions, the lack of economic opportunities in the area of displacement was the most frequently mentioned aspect of economics/ livelihoods for selecting an intended durable solution.

Overall, the breakdown of intentions by source of livelihood is similar to the overall IDP intentions breakdown, with a majority of IDP households under each type of livelihood preferring to stay in their current location. The intention to stay is highest among those whose main source of livelihood is agriculture / livestock (75.2%) and lowest among those who reported having no source of livelihood (61.6%). The intention to return is highest among households where the main source of livelihood is a form of skilled labour (28.8%). Three quarters (75%) of households intend to remain where they are - except for households whose main source of livelihood is from a small business and other sources (pensions, humanitarian assistance, etc.) For these households, the share of intention to stay drops and there is a slightly higher preference for returns. A quarter (24.5%) of households with 'No source' of livelihood (pensions, humanitarian assistance) would like to return to their area of origin.

## Relevance

Considering that on average, IDPs are displaced for 4.7 years and the importance of livelihoods – both for IDP well-being and for intended durable solutions – development ministries and other development actors urgently need to consider how their particular expertise can be brought to bear on the issue of inclusion of IDPs into local economies by providing job and livelihood support. In order to find a durable solution to their displacement, IDPs need income that can sustain them. They need to be self-reliant, not dependent on external assistance and able to support themselves and their families.

### B.3. Social ties inform IDPs' choice of solution

While social ties are not a component of the IASC Framework on durable solutions, nor the IRIS criteria for measuring resolution of displacement an IDP's, social ties have long been understood to underpin IDP preferences when it comes to choosing a solution pathway.

Hypothesis 4 of this report's analysis was that social ties will be associated with an IDP's choice of solution. IDPs with more social ties in location of displacement will be more inclined to remain, whereas those with more social ties in place or origin will be more likely to return.

IDP participation in community activities is relatively low in the location of displacement, with only 32.3% of IDP households participating. Over 8 out of 10 (86.2%) of those that do participate in community activities intend to remain in their current location compared to 67.2% of those who do not participate. Among those who are not engaged in community activities, 25.8% intend to return and 4.3% intend to relocate, while among those who do participate in community activities the 10.2% wish to return and only 2.8% reported intending to relocate.

IDP households displaced by disaster are more likely to participate in community activities than those displaced because of conflict. Female-headed households are more likely to participate in community activities than male-headed households. Nine out of ten (91.2%) of the female-headed households that participate in community activities prefer to stay in comparison with 82.3% of male-headed households.

However, social ties are, of course, more than participation in community activities. Family ties, for example, are very important to IDPs as indicated in the focus group discussions and the relevance increases with repeated displacement. In certain contexts, family relationship may become strained and hard to maintain due to limited availability of resources and deteriorated economic situation, as reported by female focus group discussion participants in Afghanistan.<sup>121</sup>

## Relevance

Although the association between community participation and solutions intentions is strong, this does not indicate causality. The issue of social relationships with the host community, family ties, and participation in community activities is not included in the eight criteria included in the *IASC Framework for Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement* – although social ties are seen as very important in the literature on both social cohesion and integration and rank as IDPs' third most important factor in determining their solutions preferences in the data analysed in this report.

## Recommendations

Data actors should undertake a comprehensive overview to establish a set of indicators to better understand the impact of social ties across various phases of displacement and subsequently, solutions pathway, particularly as this is not included as a criterion in the existing global frameworks such as IRIS and IASC.

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121 Female IDP FGD. Group 1, Afghanistan. August 2024.

## B.4. Health variables do not have a major impact on solutions intentions

Rather than using a specific health indicator due to the lack of comparable data between different countries, this report considers households with at least one household member having a vulnerability (chronic disease, disability) as a proxy to assess the health status of the household. The evidence shows that the majority (63.9%) of households reported that there was at least one person with a vulnerability in their households, but there was no difference in solutions intentions of households having vulnerable members or more than one vulnerable member or no vulnerabilities at all. This was a somewhat surprising finding but may be due to the proxy used and further health-specific data might reveal more nuanced results.

Despite this finding for IDPs overall, differences emerge when comparing disaster-and conflict-displaced. Overall, conflict displaced IDPs with vulnerable household members are the most likely to report intention to stay (84.1%), while disaster displaced household without vulnerable members have the lowest percentage of those intending to stay (68.4%). Further on, disaster displaced IDPs without vulnerable household members are most likely to report intention to return (25.2%, Figure 4.4).

There are also some observable differences between male and female respondents. For female-headed households, having a vulnerable household member means they are more likely to report that they intend to stay where they are while those without a vulnerable member are more likely to state that they intend to return to their area of origin.

In South Sudan – where a question was asked about health needs, conflict-displaced households that report that they have health needs are more likely to intend to relocate (13.8% vs. 9.8%) and less likely to stay (33.3% vs. 39.5%) than those without reported health problems. Displacement by disasters translates into higher return intentions among those reporting health needs; they are more likely to return compared to conflict displaced households (49.3 vs. 41.9%).

## C. Enabling Environment

National authorities have taken important steps to support solutions, but more needs to be done. 27 out of 33 countries analysed have adopted at least one law, policy, strategy, or action plan to tackle internal displacement and 24 have instruments including provisions for durable solutions.

### Relevance

While in the majority of settings durable solutions policies and frameworks exist, they are commonly less comprehensive with respect to prevention of new or renewed displacement. Displacement considerations are also infrequently integrated into broader plans, policies and strategies. This suggests the need for more holistic approaches to internal displacement where displacement is considered throughout the development of all relevant policy frameworks. This will, in turn, pave the way for durable solutions and sustainable development.

### Recommendations

Further opportunities for improving governance frameworks include implementing a whole-of government and whole-of society approach, as well as ensuring accurate and comprehensive data collection. Actors at the subnational level, such as local and regional government, should be recognized and empowered to play a role in working towards durable solutions. Coordinated and participatory responses that involve IDPs, civil society organizations, and the private sector can also ensure solutions are tailored to the specific needs of IDPs and affected communities.

## Looking forward and next steps

PROGRESS24 has identified a number of clear issues impacting solutions for IDPs, largely relying on intention and other surveys carried out by IOM. The report has shed light on some of the factors that play a role in IDPs deciding to pursue particular solutions. But the report also underscores some of the gaps in our understanding.

By focusing on IDP households, we gathered evidence about the concerns and the intentions of IDPs, but we have largely excluded the characteristics of the host community which are likely to influence the extent to which IDPs are able to find durable solutions. The social and economic characteristics of the host community – whether they speak the same language as IDPs or are economically distressed, for example – are likely to play a role in determining whether IDPs are able to integrate locally or feel compelled to either return or to try to relocate elsewhere. The extent to which local authorities are failing – or struggling – to meet the needs of IDPs and to support solutions for their displacement where their preference is local integration is an area where further evidence is needed, particularly by and for development actors.

Intention surveys are snapshots of IDP attitudes at a particular moment in time. While PROGRESS24 has included duration of displacement by considering how long IDPs have been displaced, more robust longitudinal data analysis is needed – surveying the same IDPs over time as they progress toward solution. Moreover, it is essential that IDPs who are asked about their solutions intentions, are also informed about available support from authorities and partners that will help reducing their displacement related vulnerabilities.

PROGRESS24 has highlighted important differences between those displaced by disasters and by conflict but more attention is needed on how different types of disasters influence intentions. This would be helpful for various data users, including authorities and partners, to better understand the impact of climate change and support anticipatory action. For example, are people displaced by floods and landslides (sudden onset) less likely to return than those displaced by drought (slow onset) or vice versa?

Although space has precluded analysis of the implications of some of the findings from PROGRESS24 for current discussions of climate mobility, there are many. For example, the finding that for most IDPs, economic insecurity is a major problem is directly relevant to current discussions on loss and damage. The fact that most IDPs intend to remain in the locations of their displacement means that the economic and social cost to host communities needs to be factored into discussions on loss and damage.

The next iteration of PROGRESS will seek to address some of these evidence gaps, perhaps in collaboration with other UN agencies, particularly in order to incorporate data on development indicators.



Burundi, Muyinga, 2023-11-30. Performance by drummers organized as part of a social cohesion activity.



Chapter

# 10

GOOD PRACTICES FROM  
GOVERNMENTS AND  
PARTNERS ON USING DATA  
FOR SOLUTIONS

# 10. GOOD PRACTICES FROM GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNERS ON USING DATA FOR SOLUTIONS

The [UN Action Agenda](#) reiterates that long-term solutions to internal displacement necessitate a collaborative approach and concerted effort. The PROGRESS 2023 report included unique perspectives on data for solutions from a range of actors. Their contributions highlighted the multifaceted ways in which data can have a tangible effect on achieving lasting solutions for displaced populations and addressing vulnerabilities associated with protracted displacement. The Action Agenda further emphasizes that the solutions process should be led by national and local authorities.

Highlighting the vitality of government owned solutions, this section outlines the pivotal role of the government in leading, supporting or coordinating long term solutions to displacement in eight countries. These examples demonstrate diverse perspectives of evidence-based leadership to support displaced communities in setting solutions pathways at the national and sub-national levels.

## 10.1 Government Contributions

### Burundi



The commitment of the Government of the Republic of Burundi to finding lasting solutions to the protracted internal displacement of the population has led to the development of several best practices.

Through the National Statistics Institute, the Government of Burundi has brought together various stakeholders<sup>122</sup> to ensure that decision-making on durable solutions is comprehensive and inclusive. This includes local authorities, civil society, displaced communities and host communities. This has been achieved by strengthening local coordination through meetings on durable solutions and improving technical capacity on early warning systems, as well as creating a multi-hazard atlas and a disaster risk web platform. These are crucial in the context of environmental hazards.

The use of data through IOM's Stability Index, multi-sectoral assessments have enabled government partners to better understand the stability of communities affected by displacement, and to develop policies and interventions, including those focused on durable solutions. The analysis provides concrete recommendations for programmes, on the need to strengthen the resilience of the more than 79,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) living in these areas. After each cycle of the stability index, a workshop is organised to validate the data

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<sup>122</sup> Stakeholders include: The Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security through the Directorate General of Repatriation, Reintegration and Reinsertion (DG RRR) and the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender through the General Directorate of National Solidarity and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

and analyses under the leadership of the General Directorate for Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration (Direction Générale du Rapatriement, Réinstallation et Réintégration, DG RRR), with the participation of stakeholders involved in sustainable solutions in Burundi.<sup>123</sup>

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the solutions implemented have helped to identify needs and gaps. Data collection in humanitarian situations, facilitated by the government with IOM support, has improved coordination between stakeholders. This approach has led to concrete and targeted actions to address the vulnerabilities of displaced populations, demonstrating the importance of data in effectively guiding humanitarian responses and promoting sustainable solutions.

National ownership of data in Burundi is key. The government continues to build its data management capacity through IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix support and to foster partnerships to increase the impact of its interventions using partner data. Building on the successes to date, there is a clear path towards achieving durable solutions for displaced people, guided by data and driven by collaborative efforts.

Future initiatives include training government players in the analysis and interpretation of data collected during surveys and adoption of planned activities to the new administrative division that will come into force from 2025.

## Honduras



In 2022, the Government of Honduras adopted a landmark legislation establishing a legal framework for internal displacement response including the production of statistics on forced displacement. In 2023, the National Statistical Institute of Honduras (*Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)*) conducted the first module on forced displacement through the Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey (*Encuesta de Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EPHPM*<sup>124</sup>), which carried out four surveys at the national level (each with a sample size of 7,200 selected households), covering the 18 departments of Honduras. Survey implementation will continue in 2024. The main objectives of this data collection are:

- a. to produce annual statistics on internal displacement
- b. to analyse the causes of displacement among populations at risk; and
- c. to strengthen the capacity of the INE to implement the International Recommendations on Internal Displacement Statistics (IRIS).

A legal framework is a crucial step because recognising IDPs means better representation of displaced communities in national statistics, which is essential to understanding displacement and subsequently to plan for sustainable solution.

The INE also coordinates the Working Group and Practical guide for the production of harmonised statistics on forced displacement and migration, for the 2024 – 2025 period of the Statistical Conference of the Americas

<sup>123</sup> For example, to help design solution programmes, IOM is implementing the stability index in eight provinces: Cankuzo, Cibitoke, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rumonge, Rutana and Ruyigi. The data collection is designed and carried out in collaboration with government counterparts at national and provincial levels.

<sup>124</sup> Honduras Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey (*Encuesta de Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples, EPHPM*) <https://ine.gob.hn/v4/ephpm/>.

of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEA-CEPAL).<sup>125</sup> The conference was established to strengthen the capacities of NSOs in the Latin American and Caribbean region for the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), in complementarity with the framework of migration, internal mobility and transit statistics.

## Mali



In Mali, a working group on durable solutions was established with the Government along with support from IOM and UNHCR as co-facilitators and UNDP. The main objective of the Working Group on Durable Solutions in Mali is to coordinate and operationalize initiatives on durable solutions for displaced persons and other populations affected by displacement, including the mobilization of resources from the Government of Mali and its partners. The steering committee of the working group is responsible for coordinating the implementation of durable solutions intention surveys and the mapping of areas of return and/or convergence of populations in displacement for the effectiveness of the implementation of durable solutions.

The Government of Mali, through its technical department of the National Directorate of Social Development (DNDS), has conducted surveys<sup>126</sup> and assessments<sup>127</sup> in accessible areas affected by the crisis, to identify, together with partners, avenues for sustainable solutions for the affected populations. In August 2024, the government planned intention surveys and an assessment of the socio-economic needs of households who have been displaced for two or more years. The results will help identify key sectors to strengthen community resilience and recovery. These interventions will also strengthen stability and social cohesion. These operations are targeted localities located in the regions of Sikasso, Segou, Koulikoro, Mopti, and Gao.

Since 2021, IOM in coordination with DNDS and development partners, has implemented in Mopti, Gao, Segou, and Tombouctou regions, IOM's Stability Index and Socio-Economic needs household survey in n Mopti, Gao, Segou, and Tombouctou regions. The results allowed the government and its partners to have a solid basis for optimal intervention in areas of prolonged displacement. In addition, the surveys identified and analysed the economic activities of IDP and IDP returnee households in the targeted localities as well as their needs to improve their economic situation.

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125 Practical Guide for the Production of Harmonised Statistics on Forced Displacement and Migration <https://rtc-cea.cepal.org/es/grupo-trabajo/guia-practica-para-la-produccion-de-estadisticas-armonizadas-sobre-desplazamiento>

126 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Feb 07 2023. DTM Mali — Rapport d'Intentions de Retours des Personnes déplacées internes (Décembre 2022). IOM, Mali.

127 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Nov 30 2022. DTM Mali – Evaluation des besoins socio-économiques des populations déplacées et communautés hôtes (Août 2022). IOM, Mali.

## Mozambique



The Government of Mozambique, through the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD) and in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), has made significant strides in addressing internal displacement and promoting durable solutions in Mozambique. DTM has been instrumental in advancing these efforts, particularly following the impacts of natural disasters and displacement by a conflict in the northern Mozambique.

IOM's diverse contributions include co-leading the Solutions Working Group together with UNHCR and UNDP, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, alongside the INGD. Within this framework, IOM chairs the Workstream on Data for Solutions, specifically focused on IDP data. These efforts enhance coordination among data actors and ensure the integration of displacement data into official statistics. This collaborative approach provides a solid foundation for promoting durable solutions and is crucial for accurate data collection and analysis, which are essential for informed development planning and the strategic implementation of solutions-related activities.

A notable achievement in this process was the Symposium on Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement in November 2023, co-organized by INGD and relevant UN agencies (IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and RCO), where data for solutions, good practices and relevant challenges were discussed among relevant government agencies, UN organizations, academic institutions, and the like. The subsequent workshop in February 2024, co-chaired by IOM and the INGD, continued this dialogue, facilitating government ownership and endorsement of relevant solutions indicators identified by the Workstream on Data for Solutions.

DTM's durable solutions surveys and analyses<sup>128</sup> have played a pivotal role in shaping national and sub-national strategies, ensuring that they are informed by the needs and aspirations of the displaced populations. For example, the Durable Solutions Survey conducted between October and November 2023 across six districts in Cabo Delgado (Macomia, Mocimboa Da Praia, Montepuez, Mueda, Muidumbe, and Palma) highlighted both progress made and ongoing challenges, particularly the impact of sporadic armed attacks on durable solutions efforts and the findings were used in the Internal Displacement Management (PEGDI) inputs on IDPs section for guidance.

Moreover, DTM's timely data collection supports the implementation of durable solutions action plans, including relocations, returns, and local integration. The pilot Solutions Index survey in Northern Mozambique and the assessment on Progress Towards Achieving Durable Solutions in Central Mozambique are key examples, informing the development of action plans that address vulnerabilities, particularly for children and women who face heightened security risks. Examples include the Policy and Strategy for the Internal Displacement Management (PEGDI) that has used such data as a basic reference point. These government-led initiatives focus on fostering stable income opportunities and adequate housing solutions for displaced communities, setting a positive example of evidence-based leadership at both the national and sub-national levels.

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128 DTM Mozambique. <https://dtm.iom.int/mozambique>.

## Nigeria



The Federal Government of Nigeria (GoN) has made significant progress in addressing the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs). In 2022, it introduced a National IDP Policy and ratified the African Union's Kampala Convention, with plans to implement it nationally. IOM and its partners supported the development of a National Implementation Plan focused on prevention, protection, and sustainable solutions. In Adamawa State, IOM and UNHCR collaborated with the state government to establish a Durable Solutions Coordination Mechanism and create a State Solutions Action Plan requiring \$1.2 billion.

IOM has also forged partnerships to tackle the root causes of the humanitarian crisis in northeastern Nigeria, working with UN agencies on food security, water and sanitation, peacebuilding, and climate change. At the national level, IOM contributes to coordination efforts led by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and the Durable Solutions Advisor. Additionally, IOM has engaged the private sector, securing a Memorandum of Understanding with CISCO International to promote digital inclusion for IDP youth and exploring partnerships with MTN and the Dangote Foundation. A three-year Joint Programme with UNHCR and UN-Habitat is being developed to support local integration in urban areas across Adamawa and Yobe. Meanwhile, IOM has launched a housing design competition to address local challenges and is mobilizing diaspora youth for resource generation.

IOM has taken a crucial step by working with the Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, and Benue States governments on several IDP data initiatives and recently on data custodianship linked to solutions.<sup>129</sup> Plans are underway to assess the government data custodian agency's capacity, including building its data management capacity. This will empower the government to take the lead in producing data for solutions linked to intentions of the IDPs towards return, relocations, and local integrations, understanding the perception of the host communities towards IDPs' return, relocation, and local integrations, and generate data on solutions and the mobility index.

## Somalia



The Durable Solutions Progress (DSP) survey was a highly collaborative initiative that united the Government stakeholders at all levels, IOM, and key partners. For the first time the Federal Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development's (MoPIED) Department for Poverty Reduction and Durable Solutions provided strategic leadership, ensuring durable solutions stakeholders were actively engaged in every phase of the survey.

129 DTM Nigeria. <https://dtm.iom.int/nigeria>.

This included the involvement of government institutions at the federal, state, and district levels.

The Department played a key role in developing the terms of reference for the survey, the questionnaire, and data collection tools, creating a strong foundation for the survey. Government supervisors were appointed at the federal level, while data collection was coordinated across state and local governments. This unified approach, with government authorities working closely with IOM and its partners, resulted in the successful gathering and analysis of data critical to advancing durable solutions.<sup>130</sup>

This collaborative process not only produced a comprehensive DSP report but also ensured the alignment of the government policies such National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS) and it contributed to the development of the Somalia's National Solutions Pathways Action Plan.<sup>131</sup> It will serve as a valuable resource for data-driven decision-making and stands as a model for other partners and countries managing solutions-oriented data.

## South Sudan



In South Sudan, the collection and coordination of data enables the development and delivery of several government led initiatives in country. Mobility tracking assessments conducted by IOM are a vital source of information for government, humanitarian and private sector partners. Particularly in Western Bahr el Ghazal state, the population estimates of returnees and IDPs support decision-making by the State Level Task Force (SLTFS) and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) for humanitarian support advocacy, security planning and the provision of services like education and water.

The intentions survey conducted by DTM supported the State Level Task Force in organising the return of more than 500 households and 2,000 individuals from Naivasha and Masna IDP sites. The housing land and property (HLP) survey conducted together with RRC coordinators was utilised to assist IDPs in Naivasha and Masna to access solutions assistance after being evicted from rented houses or whose homes had been occupied during displacement. The HLP assessment also contributed to the reduction of land disputes in Wau town which facilitated IDP reintegration in their respective host communities as they moved from displacement camps.

Biometric registration data such as fingerprint verification was used for determining household sizes and identifying present vulnerabilities to ensure accuracy of the population size for assistance during the return process. Given the importance of accurate population estimates, it is recommended that DTM conducts regular surveys and assessments<sup>132</sup> to ensure that the government and partners have the necessary information for decision-making.

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130 DTM Somalia. <https://dtm.iom.int/somalia>. <https://dtm.iom.int/somalia>.

131 Somalia National Solutions Pathways Action Plan 2024-2029. <https://mop.gov.so/national-solutions-pathways-action-plan-2024-2029/>. <https://mop.gov.so/national-solutions-pathways-action-plan-2024-2029/>.

132 DTM South Sudan. <https://dtm.iom.int/south-sudan>.

## 10.2 Partner Contributions

### EGRISS



Given the multi-dimensional and non-linear nature of durable solutions in situations of internal displacement, measuring its achievement or progress towards its attainment, is a complex challenge. Various methodological approaches at sub-national, national and global level have been developed and rolled out over the years, often rooting their analysis in the definition and criteria outlined in the 2010 IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs.

Ensuring that available data and statistics also enable a more standardized analysis of progress towards durable solutions, on the one hand, and facilitate the measurement of the end of displacement (at least for statistical purposes), on the other, is a critical part of this story. Taken together, these analytical outputs will enable more evidence informed action and prioritization of investments, whilst presenting more realistic population figures of displacement.

In this context, the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)<sup>133</sup>, developed by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2020, provide an important starting point. As the world's first internationally agreed-upon framework and guidance to improve the production of official statistics on IDPs, they include an initial methodology to statistically measure progress towards durable solutions and determine exits from the national IDP stock once key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome.

Both measures, the “progress” measure and the “composite” measure are rooted in the IASC Framework and center around a) a list of sub-criteria that describe the eight criteria from this framework, and b) a methodology to compare the situation of displaced and non-displaced populations for, c) aggregated statistical analysis. For the composite measure, a prioritized list of five criteria and ten sub-criteria are identified as the basis for exiting the national stock.

The IRIS acknowledges that this measure is not yet fully operational, and EGRISS members are continuing to work on its methodological development under the Group's mandate from the UN Statistical Commission. A methodological paper<sup>134</sup> published in 2023 by EGRISS' Technical<sup>135</sup> Subgroup 2 (TSG2) further explores a series of methodological challenges that need to be addressed to finalize the measure. Using empirical data from Colombia, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan, the paper applies different computations to demonstrate their implication for IDP population datasets.

With strong encouragement from EGRISS' High-Level Steering Committee<sup>136</sup>, the Group are accelerating

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133 EGRISS – International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), 2020. <https://egrisstats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/The-International-Recommendations-on-IDP-Statistics.pdf>

134 EGRISS – Methodological Paper 2 on a harmonized statistical measure for exits from the stock of internally displaced persons, 2023. <https://egrisstats.org/resource/methodological-paper-on-a-harmonized-statistical-measure-for-exits-from-the-stock-of-internally-displaced-persons/>

135 EGRISS – Technical Subgroup 2 : Methodological Research and Guidance Development. <https://egrisstats.org/about/subgroups/subgroup-2-methodological-research-and-guidance-development/>

136 EGRISS Governance structure. <https://egrisstats.org/about/governance/>

efforts to take this work forward. A dedicated IDP subgroup, which will include countries affected by internal displacement and other interested EGIRSS members such as the World Bank, UNHCR, IOM and UNDP, will work together during 2025 to fully develop the measure which will ultimately inform future official revisions of the IRIS. As a priority, the work will build upon the IRIS as a foundation and aim to develop a coherent measure that can be applied in different displacement contexts. Looking ahead, as the measure is increasingly implemented by National Statistical Systems and other relevant stakeholders, it will influence IDP statistics at national, regional and international levels, as well as future interventions related to durable solutions.

FAO



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

A significant proportion of internally displaced people (IDPs) worldwide originate from and are resettled in rural areas, where many depend on agriculture for their survival, often having agricultural backgrounds. For instance, in countries like Nigeria and Mozambique, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that approximately 60% and 45% of IDPs, respectively, are located in rural regions.<sup>137</sup>

Despite their reliance on rural areas and agriculture, IDPs and IDP returnees frequently face significant challenges in accessing and utilizing productive agricultural land. These obstacles hinder the achievement of durable solutions, such as local integration or successful return and reintegration. In response, since 2023, FAO has piloted Land Availability, Accessibility, and Use studies in Mozambique<sup>138</sup> and Nigeria. These studies aim to better understand the barriers, land-use arrangements, disputes, and other issues that IDPs and returnees encounter when trying to access land, thereby informing programs designed to facilitate durable solutions.

The scope of these studies extends beyond mere land accessibility. They also seek to explore other critical factors, such as livelihood backgrounds, urgent needs, and preferences regarding assistance. Additionally, the studies investigate the intentions of IDPs—whether they wish to remain in their current locations or return to their places of origin—and the conditions under which they would make these decisions, including security. Furthermore, the studies examine the types of assistance necessary to support these choices.

Social cohesion is another key focus, as the studies aim to understand interactions between communities, identify potential drivers of conflict and disputes, and develop initiatives that foster improved relationships and harmony among these communities.

These insights are crucial for better informing durable solutions initiatives, ensuring they are tailored to the specific needs of IDPs and returnees, and ensuring we can achieve lasting integration and reintegration outcomes.

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137 IOM, DTM Mozambique – Mobility Tracking Assessment Report 20, January 2024. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-mobility-tracking-assessment-report-20-january-2024?close=true>

138 FAO Land Availability, Accessibility and Use By Internally Displaced People (IDPs), Returnees and the Host Communities in Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces, Mozambique. 2023. <https://fsccluster.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/Land%20Availability%2C%20Accessibility%20and%20Use-EN-DIGITAL.pdf>

## IDAC – International Data Alliance on Children on the Move



According to UNICEF analysis, between 2016 and 2023, there were 62.1 million internal displacements of children linked to weather events such as storms, floods, droughts and wildfires. Children have been recognized as particularly vulnerable to these impacts of climate change. However, none of the most widely cited predictions on internal displacement and climate change are age-specific, which means the specific circumstances of children remain poorly understood – a critical data and child-rights issue explored in a recent report<sup>139</sup> by the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC).<sup>140</sup>

Collecting and analysing data on populations on the move in the context of climate change introduces a host of complexities. Attributing internal displacement to human induced-climate change alone is not a straightforward process and this movement is often strongly linked with other circumstances, such as conflict, food insecurity or poverty. Furthermore, displacement related to climate change does not always fit neatly into a ‘voluntary’ or ‘forced’ classification. When it comes to understanding how children’s well-being may be undermined by climate-related internal displacement, the gaps in the evidence base are particularly pronounced. Rigorous efforts are needed to produce quality quantitative and qualitative data to better understand the different needs and challenges, particularly displaced children are vital to include and shape policies to support sustainable solutions. PROGRESS 2023 analysis underlined the importance of education for integration process wherein education was the third most reported need by IDP returnees previously displaced by natural hazards.

As the climate crisis takes root in communities around the world, many States, organizations and practitioners have recognized the urgent need to prioritize internally displaced children in data-related work. In Colombia, Nepal and Tonga, national data collection mechanisms are being designed and leveraged to protect children on the move for climate-related reasons. Save the Children, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the Mixed Migration Centre are collecting quantitative and qualitative data among disaster-affected populations to capture the impacts on children’s rights. IDAC is working hand in hand with States and other stakeholders to ensure similar rights-based, child-centred investments in data and statistical systems take shape around the world. This endeavour aligns with the UN Action Agenda calling for stronger engagement of national statistical offices and visibility of displaced communities in national statistics. This is central to ensure durable solutions for children at risk of being displaced by climate change, monitor their well-being and enact the necessary policies to uphold their rights.

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139 International Data Alliance for Children on the Move, [Climate Mobility and Childhood: Examining the risks, closing the data and evidence gaps for children on the move](#), United Nations Children’s Fund, New York, 2024.

140 The [International Data Alliance for Children on the Move \(IDAC\)](#) is a cross-sectoral global coalition that aims to improve data and statistics and support evidence-based policymaking for migrant and displaced children.



With over 25 years of experience monitoring and analysing internal displacement in over 200 countries and territories, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) has come across multiple examples of country-level initiatives producing and using data for solutions in various conflict-, violence- or disaster-related contexts and in specific areas.

IDMC provides estimates on the number of people still displaced at the end of each year and the total number of displacements that occurred within a year. From 2023, these estimates are spatially disaggregated to support area-based assessments.

IDMC also offers a variety of tools to assess the impacts of displacement on IDPs and host communities namely the severity assessments, socioeconomic impact assessments and the Internal Displacement Index (IDI).<sup>141</sup>

The severity assessment<sup>142</sup> uses IMPACT/REACH's Multisectoral Needs Assessments to assess the living conditions of IDPs. Between 2022 and 2023, this assessment was run in 13 countries in various displacement contexts, contributing to the identification of critical areas of interventions where more progress and investments for solutions are needed.

The socioeconomic impact assessment<sup>143</sup> quantifies socio-economic impacts of displacement. It has been used in 15 country contexts since 2015 to inform and raise awareness on the losses and damages associated with the displacement including in the context of climate change.

The IDI contributes to measuring progress on internal displacement, by combining information on the impacts of displacement, the context in which it happens and governments' efforts to address it.

To encourage national ownership and support state's capacities to generate better data and evidence, IDMC provides guidance to in-country data producers on methods and indicators to measure progress towards solution. For instance, in Sudan, IDMC supported humanitarian partners in designing and rolling out a tailored multi-sectoral needs and impacts assessment to guide emergency support for people displaced by conflict. Finally, IDMC's Global Repository of Good Practices<sup>144</sup> provides a platform to facilitate sharing of practices supporting solutions.

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141 [IDMC Internal Displacement Index](#)

142 [IDMC Severity Assessment](#)

143 [IDMC Socioeconomic impacts of internal displacement](#)

144 [IDMC Global Repository of Good Practices](#)

# JIPS



The Government of Colombia advances towards the endorsement of a 2025-2031 Durable Solutions National Plan for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It builds on nearly 30 years of institutional commitment to provide protection and assistance to 8 million IDPs, victims of the armed conflict. As part of this process, the government has embarked on a multi-stakeholder mission to agree on a durable solutions measure (DSM) to focus interventions at the local level and to assess the extent to which IDPs progress towards sustainable solutions.

The Plan focuses on five components: income generation, housing, reconstruction of the social tissue and peace building, participation and security. Interventions will be planned conducting area-based analysis of the capacities of the territories where IDPs live, as well as assessing rights-based vulnerabilities of IDPs in comparison to host communities. The DSM will assess whether IDPs with specific characteristics in certain locations will be targeted with humanitarian response, development interventions and/or peacebuilding programs.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Colombia together with the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) are supporting the process through the Data Component of the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF) in Colombia, granted to the UN Country Team in December 2023. The support has been provided to the Colombia's Victims' Unit, the National Planning and the Social Prosperity Departments to:

- Agree on the use and scope of a DSM in Colombia in complementarity to existing internal displacement related measures and monitoring tools of the government.
- Conceptualise the inclusion of new components to the DSM in addition to the existing displacement related vulnerability assessment of the Victims' Unit.
- Facilitate collaborative work to develop the methodology of the DSC, based on the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPS and the country's public policy on internal displacement.

Consultations are taking place with government actors, including leading agencies and line ministries, as well as UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. The objective of the consultations is to agree on a conceptual framework to define the DSM in Colombia and discuss the addition of the following contextual components to the population level indicators of the IASC Framework:

- Community relationships and social cohesion
- Livelihood options and resources
- Services and built environment

The following steps are the agreement on the criteria and indicators to assess these territorial components and the definition of a metric to aggregate population level indicators to territorial and contextual analysis into the DSM. The methodology for the measure is intended to be endorsed by the government in 2025 as the Durable Solutions National Plan initiates implementation.

## Platform on Disaster Displacement



The project 'Action and Support to Avert, Minimize and Address Displacement Related to the Effects of Climate Change' (PAMAD), funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) is piloting interventions to better understand and assess displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change as loss and damage.

Under the project and in collaboration with the country's Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, IOM Bangladesh is leading a series of activities to develop a disaster displacement data collection framework, comprising data collection and analysis tools that should lead to a standardization of displacement data gathering at local level, and compilation at national level, to better understand displacement occurrence, duration and impacts. The suite of tools was tested in May 2024 in coastal areas, in the aftermath of Cyclone Remal, and then again in the Summer in the North-East, following devastating floods and landslides.

In partnership with the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), IOM Bangladesh is also working to establish an estimated baseline of disaster displacement in the country, as well as to integrate displacement and migration questions in the monthly surveys that BBS uses to gather socioeconomic data at the household level throughout the country.

These two complementary approaches should allow the collection of better, more comprehensive and comparable data in the event of acute, sudden-onset hydro-meteorological disasters, as well as to gather a better understanding on human mobility in the context of slow onset events, on the duration of displacement, and on its impacts on displaced persons and other affected communities.

In Guatemala, IOM carried out preliminary studies to understand the intersection of displacement and loss and damage in disaster-affected communities. Based on almost a thousand household surveys in 65 communities at risk of disasters in Morales, Panzós, Cobán and Camotán municipalities, this work investigated past patterns of displacement and incurred loss and damage at the household level.

The activity showed that in the study area 65% of households reported experiencing displacement due to a meteorological or climatic disaster at least once in the period between 2019 and 2024, with peaks of over 90% of the surveyed households in Morales. In more than 90% of the cases, these movements are very short-distance, with people staying in their municipality of residence - but some permanent outmigration of household members exists in about 10% of the cases.<sup>145</sup> Displacement is also associated with negative impacts on livelihood security and access to services, which show the ways it drives loss and damage for affected communities.

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145 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Nov 19 2024. [Línea de base: Desplazamiento por desastres hidrometeorológicos, pérdidas y daños](#). IOM, Guatemala.

## REACH



To address data gaps on displacement and durable solutions, REACH aims to enhance existing frameworks and tools that inform humanitarian actors at the country level. This includes refining the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) to better capture displacement data and assess progress towards solutions. As a collaborative tool for needs assessments, MSNAs guide multi-sectoral responses, planning, and resource allocation through HNOs and HRP in coordination with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). Since MSNAs collect data on both displaced and non-displaced populations, they are well-positioned to support durable solutions analysis. Along with DTM, REACH is harmonizing durable solutions indicators to ensure MSNAs capture both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term recovery efforts, including those led by governments. In 2024, these efforts contributed to an enhanced focus on Durable Solutions in MSNAs in several countries, including Burkina Faso, Central African Republic and Mali. MSNAs track macro-level progress, operational actors need more detailed, context-specific evidence to address local barriers and enablers in their solutions programming. Therefore, REACH is developing a more tailored approach for durable solutions programming at the local level by adapting its Area-Based Assessments Toolkit for that purpose, through a consultative process. This includes ensuring local authorities contribute to research design and are able to use the findings to inform their decisions.

## UNDP



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) has developed a proposed analytical approach, set of indicators and methodological considerations to support national level systems to assess whether the conditions that allow solutions to be possible and sustainable are in place, to identify (development) investments needed to create and sustain these conditions and allow governments with humanitarian and development partners to monitor progress over time.

It is a contribution to the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and its recommendations on the need to strengthen data for solutions to inform collective action. The framework builds on UNDP's 2022 *Turning the Tide on Internal Displacement: A development approach to solutions* report<sup>146</sup> which reconceptualized solutions to internal displacement in human development terms and outlined five key pathways to solutions.

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<sup>146</sup> United Nations Development Programme, 29 November 2022. *Turning the Tide on Internal Displacement: a development approach to solutions*.

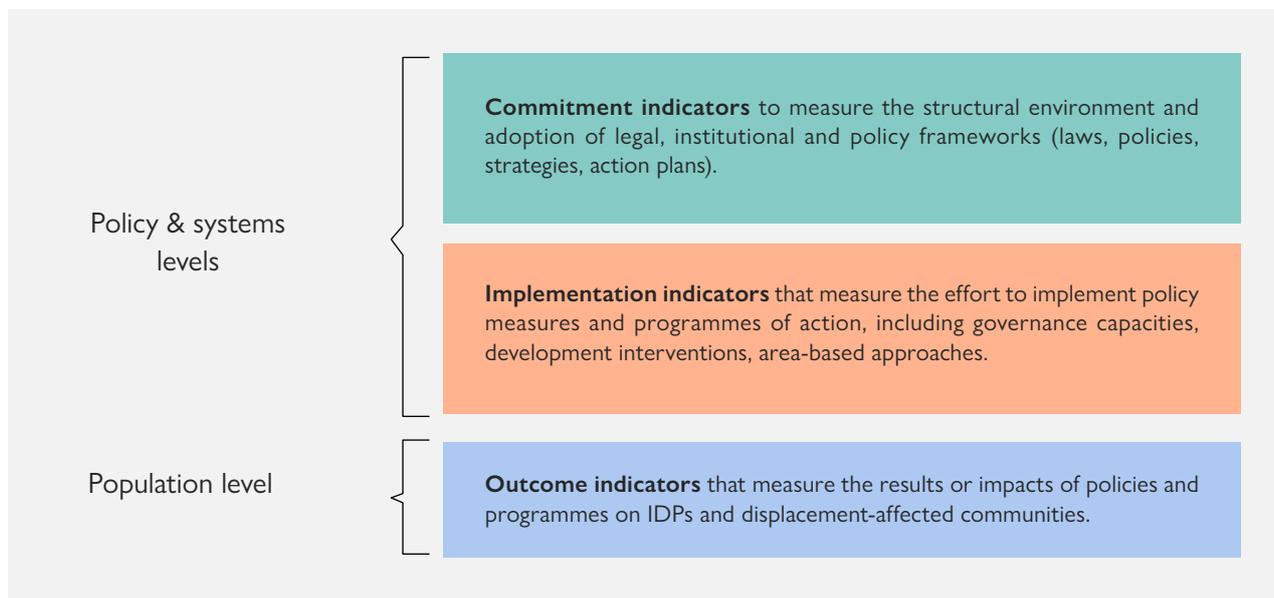
UNDP’s pathways to development solutions



This proposed indicator framework would allow more comprehensive measurements towards solutions ensuring tracking and assessment of linkages between the governance and enabling environment on the one hand and the lives of those affected by internal displacement on the other. It proposes an additional set of indicators to measure states’ commitments and intermediary efforts to provide insights into the structural changes need to reach desired sustainable solutions for IDPs.

Three levels of indicators

Developed in 2023 and 2024 through a series of workshops and consultations involving 70+ organizations and through country level workshops in Colombia, Iraq and Somalia it builds on existing frameworks including the Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Framework, National Responsibility Framework, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions and the International Recommendations for IDP Statistics.



In 2025, piloting and testing will focus on the country level in order to incorporate key dimensions in national development planning and solutions strategies monitoring and evaluation frameworks in partnership with governments, UN Country Teams and data partners.



As the causes of internal displacement are complex, UNHCR believes that a joined-up approach is necessary. UNHCR's unique expertise with forcibly displaced populations places it at the center of prevention, response and solutions with three distinct areas of added value and expertise:

- **Protection, Law and Policy:** UNHCR will provide support to governments with IDP policies, laws and national protection strategies, ensuring government ownership and leadership.
- **Solutions Planning:** Leveraging UNHCR's field presence and existing partnerships (including with development actors, IFIs etc.) will drive "solutions from the start".
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR's protection expertise will support countries with IDP populations and reinforce the leadership of governments in driving solutions.

Data plays a key role in enabling these priorities and UNHCR has made investments and developed expertise over the last decades to advance this agenda:

On the one hand, UNHCR produces data and insights into IDP situations through

- Protection monitoring
- Socio-economic surveys or
- Intention surveys

Intention surveys are particularly critical in the context of solutions and is being expanded and strengthened from a statistical perspective. Moreover, UNHCR is a leader in making survey datasets publicly available after anonymization on its microdata library<sup>147</sup>. It will be important for all partners and governments to make similar commitments to public microdata, which is a key to overcoming data silos and supporting a joined-up approach.

On the other hand, there are long-standing and more recent investments in key actors in the IDP data space.

- UNHCR together with the Danish Refugee Council in 2009 co-founded and continues to co-host the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS).
- UNHCR has been a key stakeholder of the Expert Group in Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRSS) and continues to support the work by providing its secretarial functions.
- In addition, UNHCR partnered with the World Bank to create the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC), which is focusing strategically on IDP data.

All three of these initiatives underscore UNHCR's commitment in different ways to government ownership and leadership in IDP data for solutions.

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<sup>147</sup> The UNHCR Microdata Library can be accessed [here](#)

## World Food Programme



WFP is committed to increasing data availability and analysis on food security and essential needs of forcibly displaced people, including IDPs, to support evidence-based programming, partnerships and advocacy for durable solutions, under the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Solutions to Internal Displacement as well as the Global Refugee Forum. This includes working jointly with partners, such as IOM and UNHCR. A promising approach is the implementation of the new WFP-UNHCR Joint Analytical Framework (JAF) to understand and quantify needs, collect comparable data on food security and essential needs and improve targeting and programming of forcibly displaced populations. The framework provides well tested joint tools that build on indicators already used by both partners – including a self-reliance module – and facilitates joint data collection and analysis.

This builds on WFP's existing efforts. For example, In Mozambique, where conflict in the northern province of Cabo Delgado since 2017 has resulted in a large-scale and protracted internal displacement crisis, WFP supports the displacement data workstream of the Durable Solutions Working Group to coordinate and promote greater transparency and coherence in data on IDPs. WFP has also implemented the Vulnerability Based Targeting (VBT) exercise to enable the targeting and prioritization of humanitarian food assistance for displaced populations to ensure the most effective use of limited resources, while also identifying vulnerable hosting families in need of assistance to contribute to communities' social cohesion. Further, the VBT data allowed for identification of IDP and host community households who would benefit from livelihoods support with the aim of reducing humanitarian needs. This support included strengthening community resilience and contributing to the humanitarian to development transitions under the Mocimboa da Praia programme, with a specific focus on women, youth, small holder farmers. The programme is embedded within the Government's efforts for the reconstruction and stabilization of the Cabo Delgado province. It pursues a climate change adaptive transition system from humanitarian assistance to self-reliance introduced through a Local Change Agents (LCAs)-based model and is complemented with access to renewable energy to strengthen livelihoods.

# ANNEX. METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

## Methodology annex.

The analysis uses quantitative analysis (including testing for statistical differences), and qualitative focus group discussions (FGDs) to assess factors that affect IDPs on their solutions pathway with a focus on differences between conflict- and disaster-induced displacement. PROGRESS 2024 quantitative analysis is based on household survey data (from IOM and REACH). **Please note that some of the datasets used in the analysis are country-wide datasets while others are regional datasets.**

### *Multi-country analysis (Chapter 4)*

**Four types of IOM household level surveys are used:**

- **Progress Towards Durable Solutions:** This data contains IASC/IRIS durable solutions indicators that are used to measure the progress of IDPs towards a durable solution, i.e. a solutions pathway. The population categories included in this data always include non-displaced households, a key population group to which IDPs are compared to understand the progress they (IDPs, returned IDPs, or relocated IDPs) are making towards overcoming displacement related vulnerabilities and achieving a durable solution. This data is usually collected at a regional (admin 1) level.
- **Intention Surveys:** This is a detailed data source that focuses on IDPs and their preferred durable solutions, as well as barriers and support required by those on a solutions pathway to overcome displacement vulnerabilities.
- **Demographic and Displacement Calculator:** This source is a country-wide representative sample of IDP and IDP returnee households. This data provides information on demographics, household size, displacement history (including reason for displacement and duration of displacement), and the durable solutions intentions of each household.
- **Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNAs):** MSNAs provide an overview of the demographics, multi-sectoral humanitarian needs and displacement dynamics of affected populations in localities hosting IDPs. These data are used by humanitarian partners for decision-making on resource allocation, service provision and evaluating access.

#### Terminology for local integration

Due to differences in language used for local integration intentions across different countries, the term 'stay' was used throughout this analysis to indicate the potential for local integration in their current location of displacement. It is important to note that within the DTM durable solutions methodology, while the language is often interchanged, the intention to stay refers to local integration. For example, stay was the term used in Iraq for IDP intentions of individuals displaced, of which most which were displaced by the 2014-2017 crisis, indicating long-term intentions to locally integrate.

### *Case Studies (Chapters 4 and 6)*

In 2023, REACH facilitated 20 MSNAs across 15 countries from around 175,000 household interviews. The overarching goal of the MSNAs was to enhance the availability of evidence on the multi-sectoral needs of populations affected by crises. In PROGRESS24, we use MSNA data from two countries, Mali and Niger,

to describe the income profiles of IDP households. Note that, while the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide guidance on the definition of IDPs, data collection in humanitarian and fragile settings is often driven by operational needs and does not always clearly align with the IASC guidance. For example, a difference in defining IDP population category was observed during the analysis of IOM and REACH data.

### Focus Group Discussions (Chapter 5)

As part of the PROGRESS24 data collection, DTM country teams conducted a total 43 focus group discussions (FGDs) between 18 and 31 August 2024 with IDPs across 28 locations in 5 countries, namely Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Honduras and Nigeria. Participants were 56% female and 44% male. The majority (88%) were between the ages of 18 and 59, 10 per cent were 60 years or older, and 2 per cent were youth between the ages of 12 and 17.

All FGDs were conducted in local languages and translated by DTM country or global support teams. Data collection covered IDPs as the main population group with sub-groups by sex and age. Open-ended focus group questionnaires focused on factors shaping IDPs' displacement experiences (shelter, livelihoods, education, health), changes in these conditions over time, social ties with relatives and the host community, and future solutions intentions.

To consider the impact of multiple displacement, content analysis was conducted on 40 of the FGD transcripts to examine the themes that emerged as part of IDPs' reflections about their latest displacement as compared to the previous one(s). These perception statements were categorized as less complicated, more complicated, less unpredictable, more unpredictable, and no difference. Additional coding was done to identify the key factors that influence these perceptions. These include education, future plans, health, housing, livelihoods, safety, social ties and other.<sup>148</sup>

The primary reason for displacement reported by participants was conflict (96%), including armed conflict, community clashes and gang violence. The remaining participants cited disasters (2%) and other reasons (2%). More than half (54%) of IDPs reported being displaced more than once – two times (35%), three times (13%) and more than three times (5%).

## Coding

NVIVO qualitative analysis software was used to align, code and analyse the FGD data. This study used thematic analysis with a hybrid approach through a deductive method with pre-determined themes on the experience of displacement, social ties, multiple displacement, and solution intentions with the ability to adjust and add codes based on additional themes that emerge from the data.

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<sup>148</sup> The other category includes the loss and/or need of household items, personal belongings, adaptation, emotional impact and impact on duration of displacement.

## THEMATIC ANALYSIS CODING OUTLINE

### I. Experience of Displacement

- Living conditions, shelter, livelihoods, health, education, safety

### II. Impact of Displacement (changes over time)

- Changes over time in living conditions, shelter, livelihoods, health, education

### III. Social Ties

- Relationship with own family
- Relationship with host community
- Changes in social ties over time

### IV. Multiple Displacement

- Differences in displacement experiences for those displaced multiple times
- Impact on future plans/intentions

### V. Intentions

- Intentions of IDPs (stay, relocate, return, other)
- Factors influencing intentions: livelihoods, safety/security, social ties

## *Migration Governance Indicators (chapter 7)*

The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) consist of approximately 100 questions focused on policies and structures at the national and local levels, across six policy domains corresponding to the three principles and three objectives that comprise IOM's Migration Governance Framework (2016) and in line with IOM's Strategic Plan.<sup>149</sup> One of these domains focuses on effective responses to the mobility dimensions of crises, which analyses measures to better prepare for migratory movements, including internal displacement, in areas at risk or affected by conflicts or disasters.

In 2022, new questions on internal displacement and durable solutions were added to the MGI methodology as part of IOM's efforts to support the implementation of the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. The data analysed in this chapter were collected through MGI assessments at the national level conducted between 2018 and 2024.<sup>150</sup> MGI data were available for 22 of the 33 countries featured in this Report<sup>151</sup>, supplemented with desk research for the additional 11 countries. MGI questions focus on the existence of policy frameworks, institutional and coordination mechanisms relevant to various aspects of migration governance. Responses to MGI questions are categorical ("yes", "no", "partially") with detailed justifications explaining the rationale behind the chosen responses.

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149 IOM. *Migration Governance Framework*. 2016. <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-governance-framework>; IOM. *Strategic Plan 2024-2028*. 2024. <https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-strategic-plan-2024-2028>.

150 To date, MGI assessments have been conducted in 111 countries worldwide.

151 Annex 1 provides a list of countries included in the analysis.

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