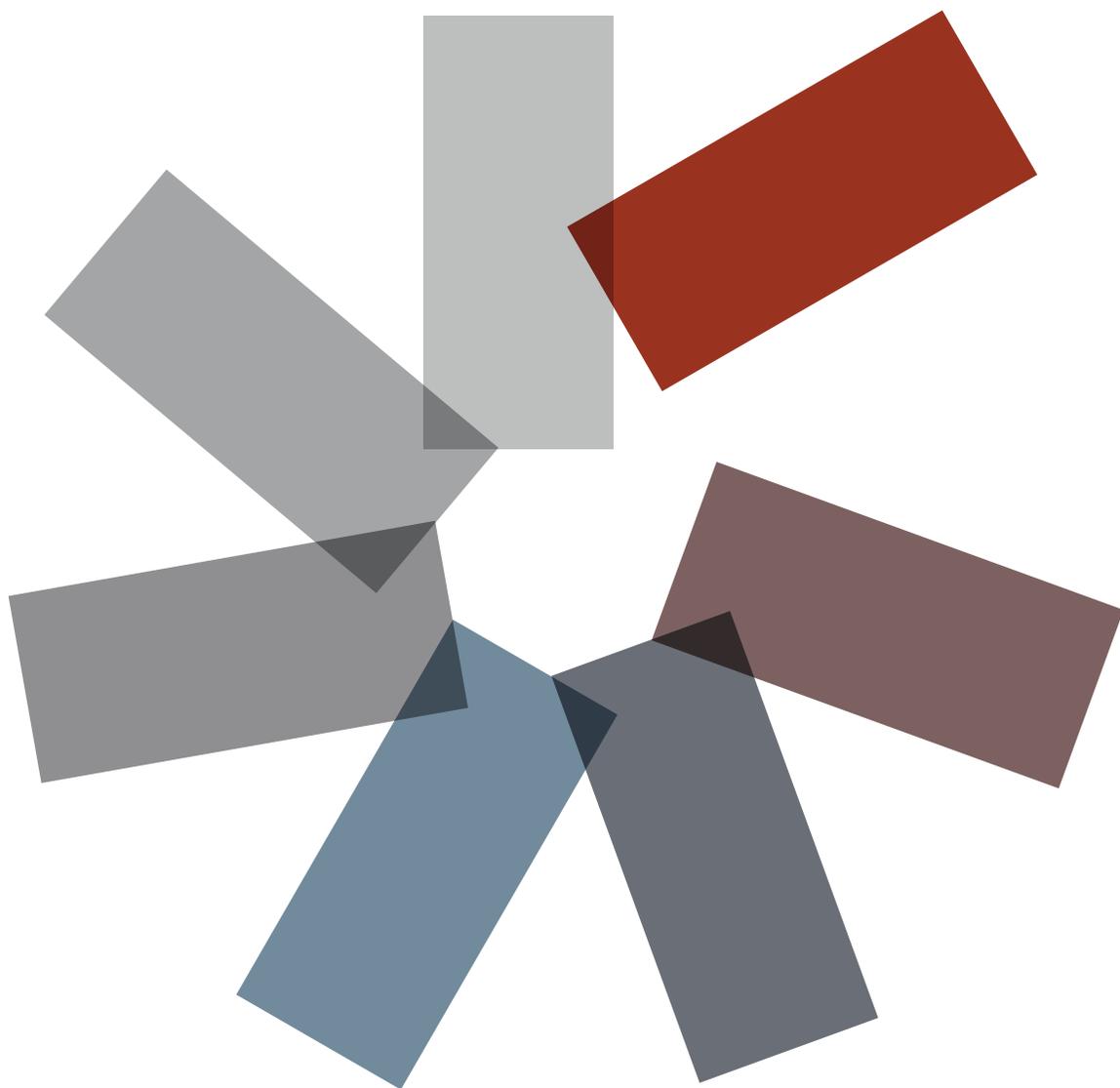


SOCIAL COHESION AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT

A DESK REVIEW TO INFORM PROGRAMMING AND PROJECT DESIGN



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Acronyms

CDD	Community-Driven Development
DfID	Department for International Development (UK)
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EU	European Union
FCV	Fragility, Conflict and Violence
ICG	International Crisis Group
IDA	International Development Agency
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ITT	Intergroup Threat Theory
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OECD	Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VALCOS	VALeurs et COhésion Sociale
WBG	World Bank Group

Executive Summary

Forced displacement changes social relations; the arrival of displaced persons is often associated with social disruption, tension, grievance, social fragmentation and economic upheaval. In this context, host governments are increasingly seeking advice from the World Bank Group (WBG) on how to target and design policy and operations for displaced persons in ways that do not exaggerate social tension and instead promote social cohesion.

This desk review aims to contribute toward a stronger conceptual and practical understanding of social cohesion in the context of forced displacement. The review includes reflection on the current portfolio of WBG forced displacement projects, many of which have a stated aim to improve social cohesion. The review identifies a number of gaps in current practice including a lack of clear definition of social cohesion; a lack of analysis on the political and historical context; (which determine social relations in the context of forced displacement); a lack of coherence in project design with a tendency to be over-optimistic about the extent to which a project by itself can promote social cohesion; and a lack of monitoring and evaluation to establish changes and influences on social tensions.

The review finds that a lack of clarity around the concept of social cohesion is not unique to the World Bank. Indeed, within the wider academic literature, there is variety in how the concept is deployed and understood. Recently, however, investment has been made in clarifying the composite attributes of social cohesion in the context of conflict. The desk review presents three such indexes of social cohesion, which could have application in the context of forced displacement for improved definition of the context.

Similarly, the review finds that literature is thin. What the literature does conclude is that social relations in the context of forced displacement

are mediated by important factors such as pre-existing relationships between the displaced and host communities, perceptions of identity, relative disparity between different groups affected by forced displacement, spatial arrangements and the duration of displacement. How these factors inter-relate and which ones prove more salient is, however, a product of historical and political influences. The literature focusses on social relations between displaced and host and neglects other dimensions such as dynamics within the respective communities, returnees or those who stay behind.

The need for further investment in political and historical analysis of the social dynamics around displacement is a key recommendation of the review. Without clear analysis of the social context, points of pressure and social strain around forced displacement, programming to address social cohesion can be based on assumptions about what works. Two prevailing assumptions are that addressing inequity in service provision between host and displaced persons will produce social cohesion and that community driven development can foster collective action and solidarity. But theories of change, which root choice of these approaches in a clear contextual identification of the problem to be addressed, are often lacking in programmatic and project design, so the logic behind programmatic approaches can remain obscure. In addition, very little monitoring and evaluation has taken place, which would provide evidence of the effectiveness of these approaches.

In general, the review finds that attempts to foster social cohesion at the project level are often over-ambitious. Social cohesion should be identified at the contextual level and addressed through a comprehensive programmatic response, in which project activities make a contribution.