



# Impacts and Costs of Forced Displacement

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Professor Roger Zetter, RSC, University of Oxford

Refugee Studies Centre  
Oxford Department of International Development  
University of Oxford

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# Defining the Issues

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# Defining the Issues

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## A humanitarian and developmental challenge

- ❑ 35-40 million forcibly displaced
- ❑ majority of refugees/IDPs in protracted displacement
- ❑ impacts and costs during displacement and in durable solutions – land, livelihoods, social wellbeing, welfare services, governance, integration
- ❑ refugees/IDPs are development actors
- ❑ humanitarian crises but significant developmental (and political) dimensions



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# Defining the Issues

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≈ **\$16.7b** 2010

[humanitarian assistance only]

Global Humanitarian Report 2011

Global Initiatives [www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org](http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org)

- \$12.4b Govts. [\$0.6b non-OECD DAC]
- \$ 4.3b Private
- 65% to conflict affected countries
- 2000-2010 \$90b Govt.
- Greece baleout Stage 1 - \$159b



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# Defining the Issues

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## Measuring economic and social impacts/costs – Some strategic questions we cannot answer

- are refugees/IDPs a burden or a development asset?
- how to minimise negative economic impacts and costs, maximise positive opportunities of displacement?
- what are the economic and social costs and impacts of different strategies - eg encampment as opposed to urban self settlement?
- humanitarian assistance has expanded significantly, but what are the economic and social impacts and costs?
- what developmental strategies can best tackle the costs and impacts of displacement?



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# Defining the Issues

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- ❑ Some attempts to measure the costs to society of violence and conflict.
- ❑ **But not the costs and impacts of forced displacement.** It is unclear what these costs and impacts are, and how these compare with efforts to provide assistance and sustainable solutions for those affected by forced displacement



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# Defining the Issues

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## Measuring economic and social impacts/costs the methodological ‘black hole’

- ❑ no comprehensive data-sets on displacement impacts and costs
- ❑ lack systematic and rigorous methodologies, notably quantitative and economic analysis, to measure costs (or benefits) and impacts of displacement:
  - for displaced populations
  - on host populations and countries
  - for international community



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# Defining the Issues

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## Measuring economic and social impacts/costs

### What we have

- 'accounting exercises'
- elide with largely qualitative evaluations and 'impact studies' of local level humanitarian programmes and projects
- very limited data sets: rely on non-random, small population samples
- instruments which separate humanitarian and developmental strategies



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# The Study

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# The Study: Objective

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## Develop a methodology to assess:

- the economic and social impacts and costs of forced displacement
- the economic and social impacts and costs of operational approaches to address and mitigate forced displacement situations



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# The Study: 1. Context

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- ❑ State of the Art Literature Review: 3000 on-line and catalogue-based bibliographic sources
- ❑ Refined down to 500 reference works
- ❑ Predominantly qualitative, mixed methods and disciplines
- ❑ Measuring impacts of displacement on displaced people (vast majority of extant research), but little on impacts of displaced people on a range of stakeholders



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# The Study: 2. Methodology

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## Inductive, 'ideal type' methodology

- ❑ 'mixed methods' approach
  - ❑ emphasis on quantitative, mainly econometric methods
  - ❑ complemented by qualitative methods



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# The Study: 2. Methodology

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## Measures economic and social costs and impacts of forced displacement for:

- Displaced population (refugees/IDPs, camp/non-camp settings)
- Area/country/population hosting the displaced
- Community/area from which people are displaced
- International assistance to the displaced while in displacement and in relation to the three 'durable' solutions
  
- Costs and impacts on the three stakeholders, of humanitarian and development assistance and interventions by international agencies, donors and other actors



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# The Study: 2. Methodology

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## Examples of variables and indicators

- economic and social factors, security and coping mechanisms, nature of conflict, time since displacement, settlement locations, refugee characteristics and government policies, income wages labour market impacts and livelihoods, welfare policies



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# The Study: 2. Methodology

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## What the model does

- identifies standardised set of core phenomena
- identifies negative impacts and captures the positive contributions by refugees/IDPs
- adaptable to different settings (rural/urban; camp/non-camp; protracted/early recovery)
  
- could produce an aggregate 'bottom line' cost
- could be adjusted to weigh different stakeholder interests



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# The Study: 3. Testing the model

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- ❑ one-data-set pilot testing of the model
  - Uganda
- ❑ researchable Phase II country cases



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# Challenges and Next Steps



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# Challenges and Next Steps

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- ❑ **Methodological – data needs**
- ❑ **Political – conflicting stakeholder interests:  
social preferences v. Pareto optimal outcomes v.  
political economy**



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# Challenges and Next Steps

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## ☐ researchable Phase II country cases and collaborators

- Uganda
- Tanzania
- South Africa
- Kenya
- Afghanistan



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# Conclusion

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# Conclusion

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- Understanding the impacts, costs and benefits is important to enable governments and donors to invest in sustainable solutions for those affected by forced displacement that can produce:
  - potentially positive economic and social returns and
  - deliver significant development outcomes



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