



# Inclusion of Displaced Persons in National Systems

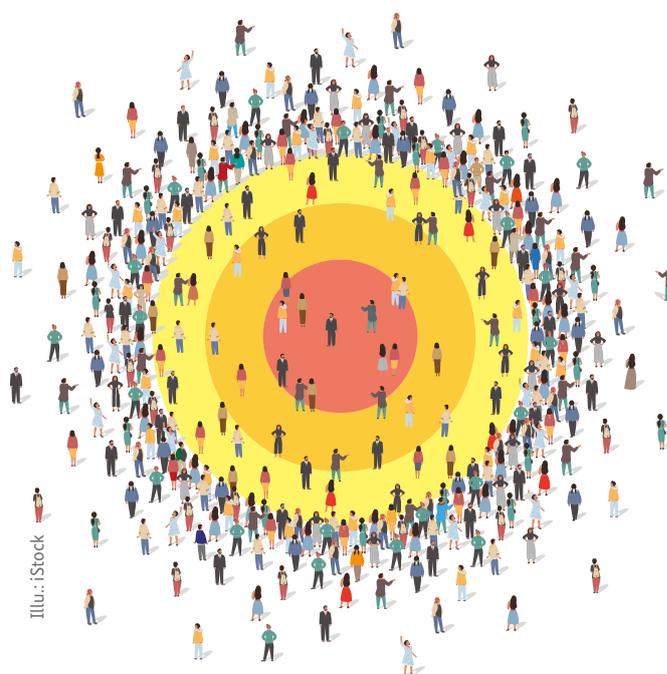
## Analysis Report Summary

## Experiences from German Development Cooperation: Special Initiative on Displacement

### Background

In 2022, over **100 million people worldwide have been displaced** as a result of conflict, persecution, violence, and human rights violations. Many of them will predictably remain displaced for many years to come. Displaced persons predominantly settle in low- and middle-income countries, and displacement situations are becoming increasingly complex and protracted. In order to provide a long-term perspective, sustainable solutions that promote the dignity and self-reliance of the people affected are needed. In this context, the **inclusion of displaced persons** – refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) – **in national systems** has gained importance. It offers an alternative to the traditional (often humanitarian-led) approach of using parallel systems to offer support to displaced persons. Inclusive development approaches must be linked with short-term humanitarian support to open up long-term solutions for displaced persons.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned an analysis report, implemented by GIZ and WINS Global Consult. The analysis report explores **the efforts within Germany's Special Initiative on Displacement** (SI Displacement) dedicated to providing displaced persons with access to national systems and services. The SI Displacement is a crisis instrument of the BMZ that uses development approaches. It supports refugees and IDPs as well as their hosting regions. As such, the SI Displacement is at the interface between short-term humanitarian needs, long-term development prospects, and peacebuilding (HDP nexus).



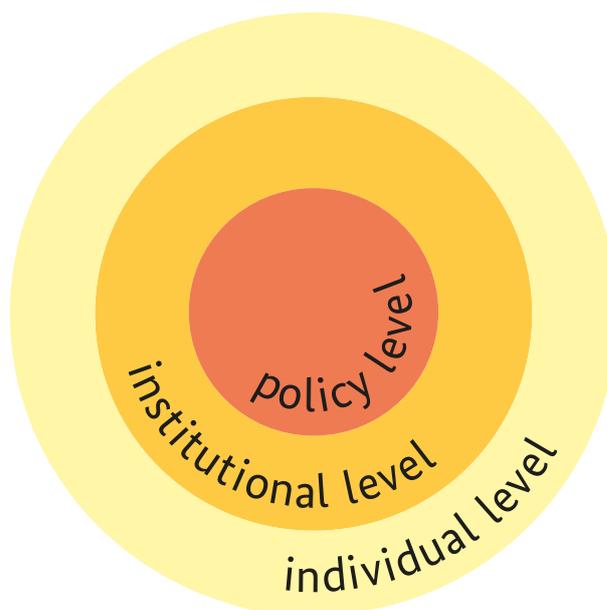
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The analysis report seeks to identify **trends, challenges, and success factors from a practitioner's perspective**. Furthermore, it aims to initiate **learning processes** for current and future projects within the SI Displacement and other actors in the field of development and humanitarian action. It encompasses an **overarching analysis of all SI Displacement projects with regards to inclusion across five sectors**: education; livelihoods and employment promotion; social protection; health and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); and infrastructure (with a focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and energy). To facilitate a more in-depth analysis, each sector is informed by projects serving as learning cases.

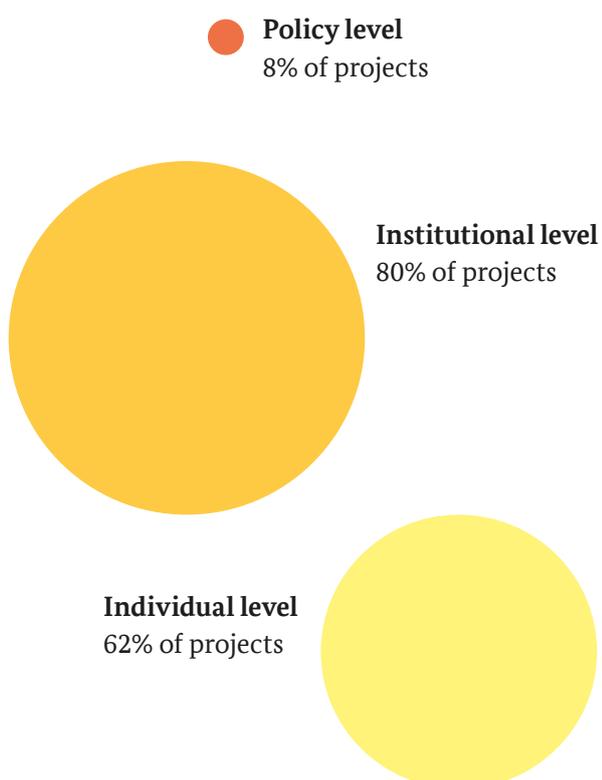
## Conceptual Framework

A working definition of inclusion was developed for the analysis that spans across three elements: displaced persons themselves at the **individual level**, capacities of institutions at the **institutional level**, and the policy framework at the **policy level**. To be included in national systems, displaced persons must be able to access national services, and there must also be sufficient capacity among the relevant institutions at all governance levels. This is to ensure that the needs of both the displaced and the host communities are met through the provision of national services. All efforts have to be embedded in a conducive policy framework that creates the legal access to these systems and reduces existing barriers.

Moreover, the analysis report leans on the conception that **inclusion must be understood as a continuum**. In their approach to displaced persons in relation to the national population, systems can take different forms, ranging from *parallel, stand-alone systems* to an *alignment and harmonisation*



of parallel and national systems to *partial inclusion* limited to specific national services and, finally, to *full inclusion* with a fully planned and budgeted consideration of displaced persons.

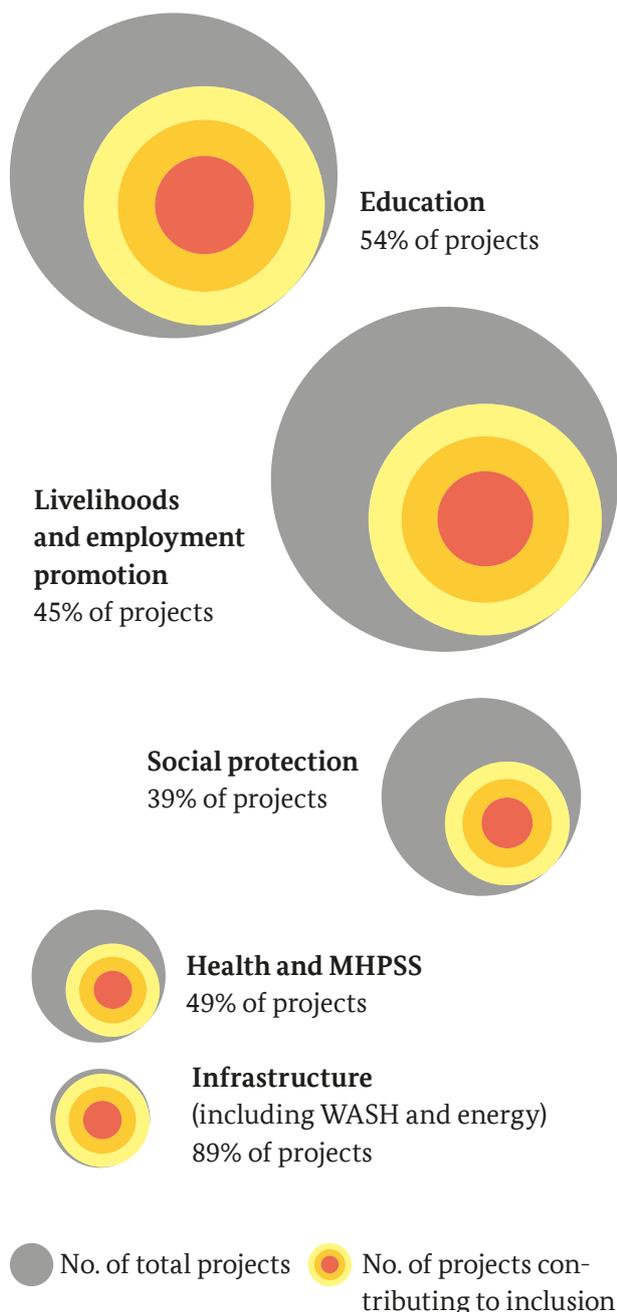


## Key Findings

In sum, around **45% of all projects commissioned under the SI Displacement since 2014 explicitly promote the inclusion of displaced persons in national systems**, most of them located in the MENA region and in Sub-Saharan Africa.

There is a clear focus on project interventions at the institutional and/or individual level with only a minority of projects operating at the policy level. Most projects address more than one engagement level, using a multi-level approach. **Holistic project approaches** that operate on all three engagement levels have been found a suitable way to promote inclusion in national systems. **Cooperation with and support from relevant actors** on all levels is needed for creating long-term perspectives for inclusion.

Most projects within the SI Displacement work across multiple sectors. The majority of them work in the fields of education as well as livelihoods and employment promotion. In the SI Displacement, about half of the projects in the sectors of education, livelihoods and employment promotion, health and MHPSS promote inclusion, compared to almost all projects in the infrastructure sector.



Overall, inclusion seems to work better in sectors such as health than in other sectors, such as employment promotion. Promoting inclusion becomes more difficult the more limited the resources are within a certain system.

Projects working at the **policy level** (e.g. advisory services on the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)) were found to be especially conducive to inclusion. Most of these projects operate successfully at the other engagement levels too. At the **institutional level**, exemplary approaches to support inclusion include capacity development and funding mechanisms for actors at the national, sub-national, and local levels to reduce access barriers to existing national services. General project approaches at the **individual level** include support measures for displaced persons and host communities to enable them to make use of public services (e.g. by offering language classes to enable children to participate at school).

Furthermore, the study identifies several **success factors** that benefit inclusion efforts in displacement settings, including:

- **Cross-sectoral engagement** to allow for flexibility and minimise the risk of silo thinking.
- **Close cooperation with government actors** at the national, provincial, and district levels.
- **Effective coordination** among international, national, and local actors in the humanitarian and development fields – ideally led by the national government.
- A consistent application of the **integrative approach**, which envisages an equal consideration of both displaced persons and host communities whenever feasible – as well as specific social cohesion measures to increase the acceptance of inclusion measures.
- Strictly pursuing **gender and conflict-sensitive and participatory approaches** throughout all project interventions.
- **Inclusive capacity development** of partners (e.g. through trainings on inclusion and social cohesion), community committees, participatory activities, and skill-development measures with the target groups (e.g. vocational training for jobseekers to match the needs of employers).

In an effort to extract the general influencing factors that enable or challenge inclusion efforts, the analysis report identifies overarching context factors across sectors and regional contexts, including:

- **political events** (e.g. elections);
- **economic developments** (e.g. high inflation rates);
- **geographic distance** between displaced and host communities, as well as fragility, instability, and conflict;
- the **COVID-19 pandemic**, which has deepened inequalities and undermined health, human rights, protection, education, livelihood opportunities, and gender equality for displaced persons with severe socio-economic consequences and thus hampered inclusion;
- **coordination and cooperation** among international and national stakeholders and their interventions;
- the **existence of parallel systems** set up by external actors, including humanitarian actors.

Furthermore, specific aspects have been identified that particularly influence how conducive interventions on certain levels of engagement are to inclusion efforts. **Key influencing factors** at the different levels include ...

... at the **policy level**: the political will of the host government to support long-term inclusion of displaced persons, reflected in a conducive legal

framework and the availability of legislation and policies that guarantee displaced persons the same rights as national citizens. In addition to their *de jure access*, displaced persons' *de facto access* to services is equally important, referring to the availability of government services, the government's ability to reach all areas of its territory, and whether these national systems are designed to include displaced persons at their core.

... at the **institutional level**: nascent national systems in the host countries, insufficient consideration of the rights and needs of displaced persons among the staff of the relevant institutions, and dependence on individual commitment in these institutions are important determinants.

... at the **individual level**: the attitude among the host community towards displaced persons, the costs of the services provided through national systems, language barriers, and gender-specific discrimination all affect inclusion efforts.

## Overall

The SI Displacement proves to be a good instrument in promoting the inclusion of displaced persons in national systems. This is both quantitative, with almost half of all projects contributing to inclusion, and qualitative with numerous good practices on inclusion approaches. The analysis of the approaches to promote inclusion within the SI Displacement emphasise the need for highly contextualised interventions that strengthen specific enabling factors, based on a prior assessment of displacement-specific barriers and challenges regarding inclusion.

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