

# »» Current topics

## Forced migration and displacement

Supporting refugees and host communities

There are currently almost 80 million people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes, the highest figure since the Second World War. More than half of these, i.e. 41.3 million people, are internally displaced people (IDPs) who have been displaced within their own country. The causes of internal displacement may be political or conflict-related, but it may also be triggered by natural disasters such as earthquakes, drought or flooding.

### Context

Forced migration and displacement represent an extreme situation – especially for the people who have to leave their homes, but also for the countries and communities which take them in. Around 80% of refugees remain near their home country. It is therefore mainly states that are themselves affected by conflict and tensions which face this challenge. Their capacity to deal with the social, political and economic challenges is often limited and there is an increased risk of exacerbating existing social or political tensions. Forced migration and displacement situations are fluid: they can occur quickly, it is often difficult to predict where people will flee to, and they can last for a long time. An average of 10-15 years will pass before people can return home, but in some cases it can be several decades. A combination of humanitarian aid and development cooperation, while considering the prospects for peace, is therefore especially important.

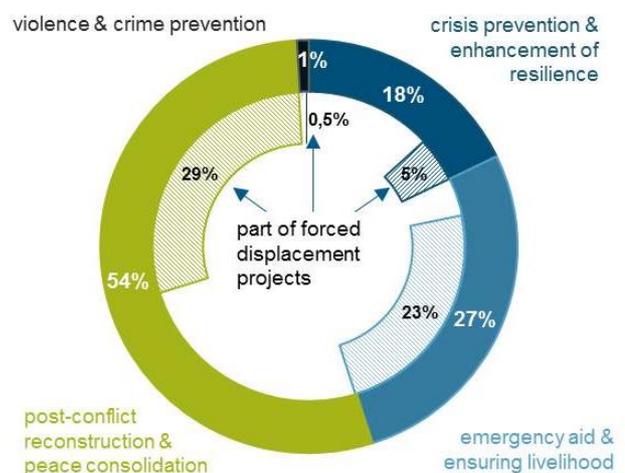
The 2018 *Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)* and the *Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)* provide the platform for the international com-

munity's response to the challenges arising from forced migration. Based on decades of experience, they set out how to enable refugees to lead independent and autonomous lives while simultaneously providing sustainable support to host countries and communities and creating the conditions for a safe return to, and reintegration into, countries of origin.

### The KfW development approach

KfW is an important partner for the German Federal Government and other donors in handling forced migration situations, including through the three special initiatives of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): “Fighting the causes of forced migration - reintegrating refugees”, “Stabilisation and development in North Africa and the Middle East” and “One World, No Hunger”. It responds quickly to new crises when they occur, but also offers medium and long-term support in long-lasting forced migration and displacement situations with a view to achieving sustainable and structural effects. Both the needs of the refugees and displaced persons, and those of the host countries and communities are taken into account. Ef-

### »» Target dimensions of the PFD portfolio



Based on total volume of projects with FS1/ FS2 marker committed from 1 Jan. 2017 to 31 Dec. 2019

Source: KfW, own data

fective and efficient working is underpinned by an approach which is sensitive to gender and conflict. This means considering the needs and potential of women, girls, boys and men to the same extent and ensuring that measures do not accidentally exacerbate local or national conflicts, but rather identify and use the potential for peace wherever possible.

In acute crises, the projects supported by KfW aim above all to make rapid and effective improvements to the situation of refugees and host communities by maintaining or restoring basic social services (e.g. drinking water, energy, basic health care and basic education). Measures like labour-intensive rebuilding, cash-for-work programmes or longer-term employment initiatives aim to create more rewarding living conditions locally and establish the basis for refugees to enjoy independent and autonomous lives.

Prevention is better than the cure. That is why many of the measures supported by KfW help to combat the causes of forced migration and displacement. It might be reducing poverty and inequality (e.g. through long-term employment measures, development of social security systems), encouraging good governance or strengthening the ability to withstand (resilience) crises of all types (for example, disaster preparation, drought resilience, insurance against climate-related risks). If the situation in the country of origin improves and displaced persons or refugees want to go home, KfW supports voluntary return and reintegration. It is an enormous challenge in itself when often traumatised refugees return to regions which have been destroyed and initially find very little by way of economic prospects. Where possible, KfW cooperates with regional, national or local partners and authorities in forced migration and displacement contexts. However, where state structures do not work properly or even at all, KfW also works with alternative partners to implement measures.

UN organisations play an important role here, as they often have high levels of capacity locally and are therefore able to implement measures quickly. Local and international NGOs (non-governmental organisations) are also key partners. Thanks to their local presence, which is often well-established, they have a good understanding of the context and have gained the trust of the local population.



Children doing their schoolwork. Source: UNHCR

### Bangladesh — Supporting children and young people in the Rohingya crisis

Around 1 million Rohingya are still seeking refuge in Bangladesh. On behalf of the German Federal Government, KfW is financing measures to support children and young people within and outside of refugee camps in the southeast of the country. One development strand concentrates on giving the children equal access to basic education and school supplies. To this end, 350 learning centres have already been built, and these provide over 35,000 children with access to a safe learning environment. 700 teachers have been recruited and trained. To prevent tension between young people in the camps and in the host communities and improve future prospects for everyone, KfW is also financing the construction of 50 multi-purpose buildings and six youth clubs in and outside of the camps. This has already enabled over 9,000 young adults to benefit from educational and qualification initiatives. These and other measures, such as psycho-social care, should put the young people in a position to peacefully and independently build lives for themselves.



#### Contact

KfW Group  
KfW Development Bank  
Competence Centre for Social Development and Peace  
Palmengartenstrasse 5–9  
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Telephone +49 69 7431 -6235  
[Julie.brethfeld@kfw.de](mailto:Julie.brethfeld@kfw.de)