

IOM IRAQ

REASONS TO REMAIN (PART 2): DETERMINANTS OF IDP INTEGRATION INTO HOST COMMUNITIES IN IRAQ

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Objective and methodology

The research aims to understand:

- What impacts the likelihood of IDPs in feeling integrated within the host locations;
- What impacts the likelihood of the host community in being willing to accommodate the IDP population

Methodology and fieldwork

The research relies on data on IDPs hosted in Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah governorates from IOM Longitudinal Study and additional survey to host community in Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah. The total sample is almost 1,600 interviews.

Two contexts:

- Sulaymaniyah has maintained most of its IDP population since the start of the LS
- In Baghdad, a significant amount of IDPs have already returned

This allows for comparison of factors that may influence IDPs' decision to integrate and HC willingness to accept IDPs.



(IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions

- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons is the standard metric for determining IDP integration. Within this framework, IDPs achieve local integration (or sustainable return or relocation) when they:
 1. No longer have specific assistance and protection needs and vulnerabilities that are directly linked to their displacement
 2. Enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement
- The general indicators (8 criteria) tend to focus on the structural acquisition of rights. This includes:
 1. Enjoyment without discrimination of safety and security;
 2. Adequate standard of living including access to adequate food, housing, healthcare, and education;
 3. Access to employment and livelihoods;
 4. Access to mechanisms for the restitution of housing, land, and property or compensation if restitution is not possible;
 5. Access to and replacement of personal and other documentation;
 6. Voluntary reunification with family members separated during displacement;
 7. Participation in public affairs;
 8. Access to justice, reparations, and information about the causes of violations.



Measuring IDP Integration and HC Acceptance of IDPs

However, the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions:

- It does not account for the “identificational” aspects of it
- It is one way, and does not assess the Host Community acceptance of IDPs

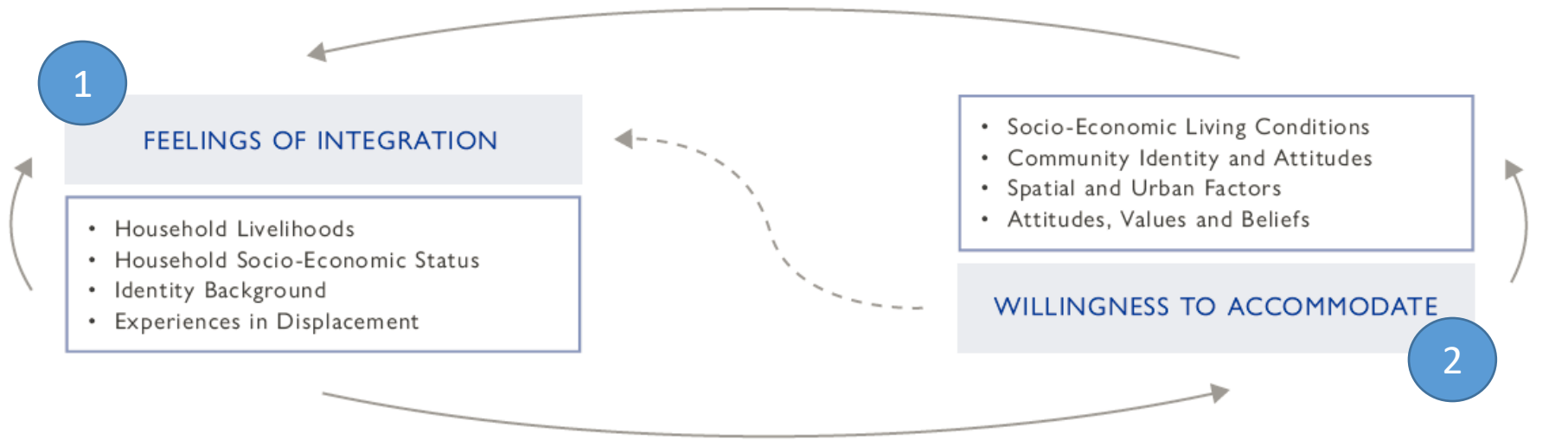
This study complements the IASC Framework:

- By looking at IDPs feeling of integration
- By looking at HC willingness to accept long-term presence of IDPs
- By looking to Integration as a two-way dynamic (IDP – HC; HC – IDP)

The indicators define a framework that might serve as blueprint for approaching local integration as a durable solution in Iraq.



Measuring IDP Integration and HC Acceptance of IDPs



Note: arrows indicate the flow of the impact on each dependent variable (the blue boxes).

	BELONGING	ACCEPTANCE	SATISFACTION
Comparative Category	Respondent feels strong belonging or somewhat belonging to the community of displacement.	Respondent feels very or somewhat accepted as member of this community.	Respondent feels very satisfied or pretty satisfied with life.
Base Category	Respondents feel neither belonging nor unbelonging, somewhat unbelonging or strong unbelonging to the community of displacement.	Respondent feels neither accepted nor rejected, somewhat rejected or very rejected as members of this community.	Respondent feels not very satisfied or not satisfied at all with life.



Table 2. Relative Impact of IDP Household Characteristics on IDP Integration

FACTORS INFLUENCING IDPs' LIKELIHOOD TO FEEL...	...BELONGING	...ACCEPTED	...SATISFIED IN LIFE
Displaced in same district as place of origin	+++	•	--
Respondent is female	++	•	-
Member of a national minority group	•	+++	•
In current displacement location 3 or more years	•	•	-
Experienced displacement previously (pre-2014)	•	•	--
Income source was daily labour before displacement	•	•	•
Income source was government salary or pension before displacement	+	•	•
Family is still indebted	•	•	-
Family has savings left	++++	+++	+++
Family owns property in place of origin	•	++	•
Respondent has fair or poor mental health	•	---	--
Family member with lost personal documentation	•	•	•
Living in critical shelter	•	•	•

- IDPs who are displaced within their districts of origin are twice as likely to have high feelings of belonging to the host community but are less likely to report positive life satisfaction as compared to other IDPs.
- Being protractedly displaced plays a slightly negative role in perceived satisfaction, while not affecting any other indicator of integration.
- The economic situation of IDPs when they are first displaced facilitates their feelings of integration.
- Weak correlation between poor mental health of IDPs and low feelings of satisfaction and being accepted



IDP Integration - Structural and place factors of host location

Table 4. Relative Impact of Structural and Place Factors of Host Location on IDP Integration

FACTORS INFLUENCING IDPs' LIKELIHOOD TO FEEL...	...BELONGING	...ACCEPTED	...SATISFIED IN LIFE
High level of safety felt by host community in the location	++++	+++	•
High level of strong intra-group interactions within host community	++	•	•
Large proportion of host community members living in neighbourhood or town for more than 20 years	--	-	•
High levels of host community trust in democracy and institutions	---	-	•
High level of families below poverty line	++	++	•
High level of host community members indicating that there are no jobs available	--	-	•
High level of host community members employed in public education and health sectors	•	•	•



IDP Integration - Structural and place factors of host location

- Safety is the structural factor with the highest positive contribution to integration if measured as feelings of belonging and acceptance.
- Strong social capital is positively correlated with likelihood of integration, but can have negative impacts when it is too rigid.
- IDPs living in subdistricts with higher levels of poverty and lower host community confidence in institutions and democracy report a higher degree of integration than those living in more affluent and institutionally strong areas.



IDP Integration - IDP experiences and perceptions vis-à-vis their host community

Table 3. Relative Impact of IDP Experiences and Perceptions vis-à-vis their Host Community on IDP Integration

FACTORS INFLUENCING IDPs' LIKELIHOOD TO FEEL...	...BELONGING	...ACCEPTED	...SATISFIED IN LIFE
Respondent trusts direct neighbours	++	*	++
Trusts other people in the neighbourhood	++	*	++
Trusts local officers	*	*	+++
Feels cultural compatibility with host community	++++	++++	+++
Reports not having freedom of movement	---	*	---
Feels safer now than pre-2014	*	*	+
Experienced exclusion from buying or renting housing	*	*	---
Experienced exclusion from accessing public services	---	--	+
Experienced exclusion from accessing employment	+	*	--
Member of an ethno-religious group that is not found in the host community	---	*	*
Chose the location because of the presence of extended family or friends	*	*	*



IDP Integration - IDP experiences and perceptions vis-à-vis their host community

- Different measures of social capital reported from the IDPs perspective, including trust in their host community and perceived cultural affinity, are strongly linked with all measures of integration.
- Barriers to IDP movement are also critical barriers to integration
- Negative experiences and interactions IDPs have in displacement, including exclusion from housing, public services, or employment, are correlated with low integration.



How to measure Host Community acceptance?

	IDP RESIDING IN LOCATION	IDPS REMAINING INDEFINITELY IN LOCATION	IDPS BEING ABLE TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY WISH TO LIVE IN LOCATION
Comparative Category	Respondent feels happy or not bothered by IDPs in location.	Respondent is supportive or not bothered by IDPs remaining indefinitely in location.	Respondent feels that IDPs should be able to choose freely where they would like to live in displacement.
Base Category	Respondent feels resigned or frustrated by IDPs in location.	Respondent feels resigned, upset, or completely against IDPs remaining indefinitely in location.	Respondent feels it is better for the community if IDPs live altogether in camps.



Table 5. Relative Impact of Host Community Household Characteristics on Acceptance of IDPs

FACTORS INFLUENCING HOST COMMUNITY'S LIKELIHOOD TO HAVE POSITIVE FEELINGS ABOUT...	...IDPs IN LOCATION	...IDPs REMAINING INDEFINITELY IN LOCATION	...IDPs BEING ABLE TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY WISH TO LIVE IN LOCATION
Respondent is female	--	-	-
Not a homeowner	--	•	•
Unemployed (either looking for work or inactive)	•	•	•
Household income source includes daily labour	•	-	+
Economic situation for family is same now as before 2014	+	++	+
Feels very marginalized socially or politically	•	•	•
Feels marginalized by NGOs	---	•	•
More belonging to ethno-religious group than Iraqi identity	•	--	•
Indicates that diversity makes society stronger	•	++	+
Unsatisfied with how past experiences of violence have been dealt with	-	--	•
Satisfied with how past experiences of violence have been dealt with	•	•	•
Experienced conflict or repression-related violence pre-2003	•	--	•
Indicates that democracy makes society stronger	+	•	•





Host Community Acceptance: Household characteristics

- Host community residents who do not own their homes are less likely to hold positive views in relation to the IDPs living in their locations. They view IDPs as competitors for accessing housing.
- Relative economic wellbeing is associated with higher acceptance of IDPs across all indicators, particularly with regard to IDPs remaining indefinitely.
- Perceived marginalization by NGOs, UN, and international community has negative effect on host community views of the IDPs living in their locations.
- Positive views on diversity and greater sense of a national identity among host community members increases the likelihood of acceptance of IDPs for the long-term.
- Hosting the displaced brings previous receiving community grievances related to violence and conflict to the fore, negatively impacting the willingness to accept IDPs in the short- and long-term.

Table 6. Relative Impact of Host Community Perceptions of Community and Place on Acceptance of IDPs

FACTORS INFLUENCING HOST COMMUNITY'S LIKELIHOOD TO HAVE POSITIVE FEELINGS ABOUT...	...IDPs IN LOCATION	...IDPs REMAINING INDEFINITELY IN LOCATION	...IDPs BEING ABLE TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY WISH TO LIVE IN LOCATION
Indicates multiple ethno-religious groups living in the location before 2014	+	•	+
Reports no jobs available for people between the ages of 16 and 40 in the location	--	--	•
Perceives high levels of economic inequality across families in the location	•	•	•
Frustrated with current level of public service provision in the location	--	-	•
Frustrated with levels of aid provision provided to host community	--	•	•
Not very comfortable to very uncomfortable moving around location day or night	•	•	•
Resides in governorate capital	-	•	•



Host community Acceptance: Community and place

- Greater perception of ethno-religious diversity in hosting locations pre-2014 increases the likelihood of host community members to have positive feelings about IDPs in general and in their ability to choose where they wish to reside in displacement.
- Host communities who are frustrated with current levels of public service provision or with aid provision directed toward them are less likely to accept IDPs across two indicators—residing in their locations in general and staying indefinitely.
- The view that there are no job opportunities available to working age populations in a location also decrease the likelihood of host community members accepting IDPs' presence in their locations in general and indefinitely.



Host Community Acceptance: Perception and configuration of IDPs

Table 7. Relative Impact of Host Community Perceptions of IDPs and their Configuration on Acceptance of IDPs

FACTORS INFLUENCING HOST COMMUNITY'S LIKELIHOOD TO HAVE POSITIVE FEELINGS ABOUT...	...IDPs IN LOCATION	...IDPs REMAINING INDEFINITELY IN LOCATION	...IDPs BEING ABLE TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY WISH TO LIVE IN LOCATION
Subjective measures:			
Feels that IDPs are not well integrated	---	---	---
Perceives that the arrival of IDPs to the location is a security threat	---	---	---
Feels marginalization is worse for host community than IDPs	--	-	.
Feels marginalization is less for host community than IDPs	.	.	.
Has IDP neighbours	.	.	.
Objective measures:			
Member of the same ethno-religious group as the majority of IDPs in the location	.	.	+
High percentage of IDPs who have extended family/friends in the location	.	.	+++
High percentage of IDPs that come from rural places of origin	.	-	---
IDPs live in enclaves rather than spread throughout the subdistrict	.	.	--
Higher proportion of non-camp IDPs over host community in the location	.	.	---



Host Community Acceptance: Perception and configuration of IDPs

- Host communities who feel they are more marginalized than the IDPs residing in their locations are less likely to accept their presence, regardless of time period.
- Host communities who feel IDPs are not integrated or are a security threat tend to hold more negative views across all three acceptance indicators.
- In more specific terms with respect to compatibility, host communities are more amenable to IDPs being able to choose where they live if the IDPs have extended family or friends already there, if the IDPs come from the same ethno-religious group as them, or their places of origin are of a similar urban or peri-urban character as the hosting location.
- Spatial patterns and urban morphology also influence acceptance of IDPs in that in those areas where IDPs are enclaved or that have a high proportion of IDPs relative to the rest of the population, host community members prefer the displaced to live in camps.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Interventions in locations hosting people who remain displaced for a lengthy time need to better and more meaningfully **put the host community into the picture**, ensuring their needs are also considered.
2. Economic factors remain one of the biggest determinants to integration. In areas where there are socioeconomic disparities and scarce opportunities, interventions should not only address immediate needs or creating short-term impact, but rather, **tackling structural concerns to address overarching urban poverty**.
3. IDPs, by a wide margin, feel they are culturally compatible with their host communities while host community residents have much more rigid and specific criteria for what compatible looks like for them. Bridging this gap through policy and programming is critical. More emphasis needs to be placed on interventions that are specifically oriented around **social cohesion and finding common narratives**.
4. Lack of justice and / or formal acknowledgement of both IDPs and host communities' experiences of violence and displacement is an obstacle to integration. Host communities who feel unsatisfied with the way conflict-related violence in the past was dealt with tend not to accept IDPs. Processes aimed at **accountability** and redress for violations of this most recent conflict should not overlook past unresolved issues that could lead to collective blame.