

## V. Conclusions

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The world's largest displacement crises continue to be characterized by forced displacement in fragile contexts experiencing armed violence. Several renewed displacements took place in 2016 as a result of armed conflict, including non-state armed groups and/or government forces attacking civilians. Displacement crises have led to increased insecurity, tensions and vulnerabilities in the affected communities. Some of the worst effects appear to be larger exposure to existing risks, such as severe food insecurity and sexual abuse. Based on the experiences of the ongoing displacement crises discussed in this chapter, the long-term challenges of sustaining livelihoods and resettling and reintegrating large displaced populations will continue to be a struggle. Displacement crises are more likely to be recycled, larger and more difficult to resolve going forward.

In terms of policy, a two-track approach is likely to continue: (a) the vital humanitarian, emergency response (as illustrated by the engagement of United Nations agencies); and (b) a more long-term approach aimed at supporting economic and possibly other forms of liberal development (e.g. the engagement of development banks in the Middle East and North Africa).

A relatively new trend is the role of middle-income countries (e.g. Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) as key agents in shaping the political responses to crises, due to their position as major refugee-hosting states, particularly with regards to the Syrian crisis. These countries also hold the keys to Europe's gateways due to their geographical proximity. It appears that this partial burden shift from lower-income to middle-income countries may have contributed to bringing the issues of refugees and displacement to the political arena, as the dedicated UN summit and new financial instrument for MENA suggest.

Evidently, the current two-track policy response is falling short of incorporating the actual prevention or resolution of mass displacement in fragile, violent contexts. In order to develop in such a way, there would need to be a better understanding of the relations between displacement, fragility and violent conflict, as well as a mobilization of the necessary political will and resources to develop comprehensive, and sometimes system-wide, solutions. A poor understanding of such relations may instead lead to various lockout or pushback policies, such as closing borders or forced repatriation, which are more likely to intensify fragility and/or displacement, potentially with dangerous outcomes. Another approach, which risks undermining the international legal frameworks currently protecting refugees, is to find political solutions that lack written or legal bases, such as the statements between the European Union (EU) and Turkey, and the EU and Afghanistan in 2016.