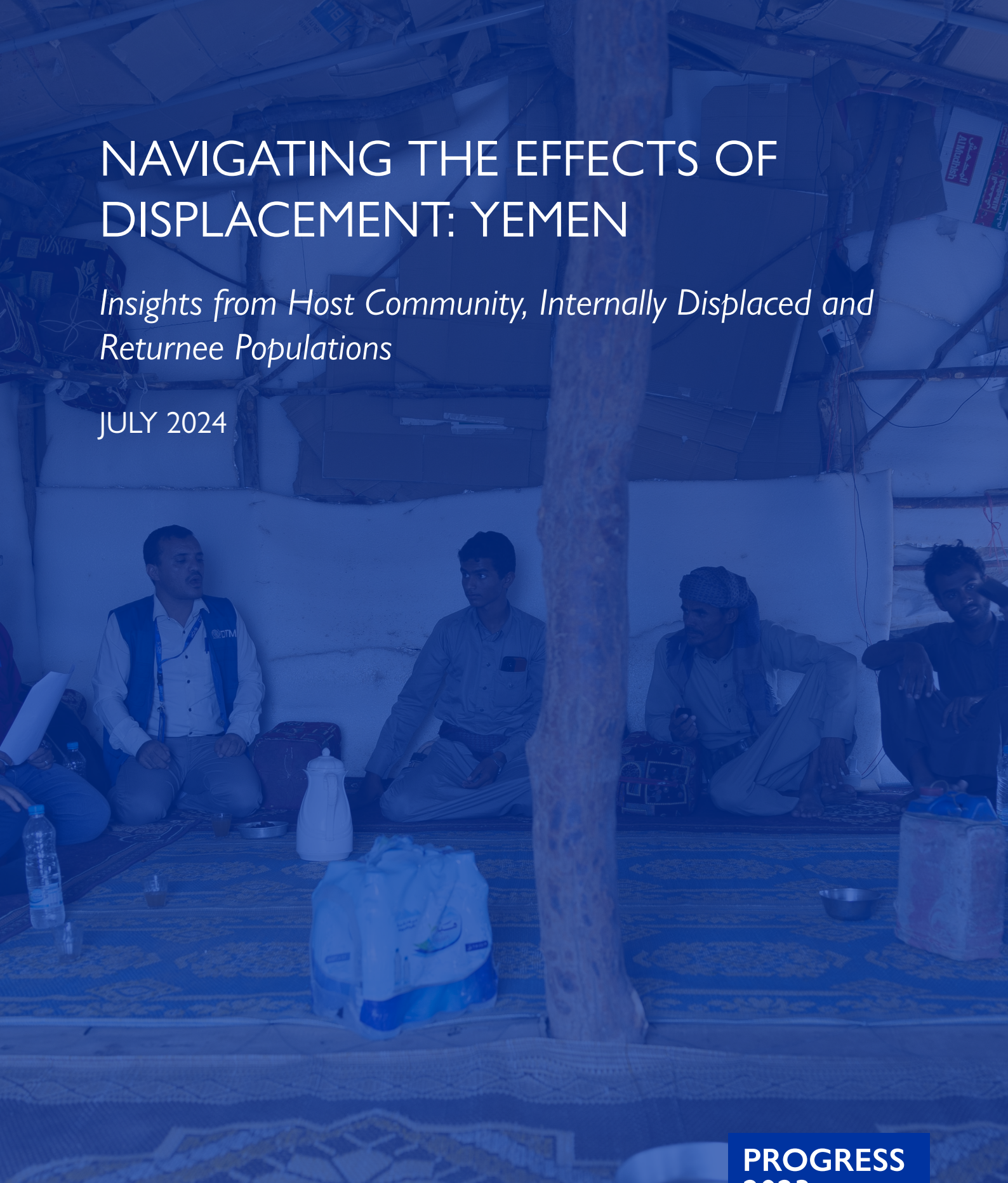


NAVIGATING THE EFFECTS OF DISPLACEMENT: YEMEN

*Insights from Host Community, Internally Displaced and
Returnee Populations*

JULY 2024



**PROGRESS
2023**

Periodic Global Report on the State of
Solutions to Internal Displacement



Effects of Displacement on Host Communities, Internally Displaced and Returnee Populations

This report presents a deeper country-specific dive into the findings of the qualitative analysis of 25 focus group discussions conducted between 1 and 15 August 2023 mostly in Ma'rib City and Harib with 281 representatives of IDPs, host community, and returnees. Just under one third (32%) of the respondents were female. Seventy-three per cent of respondents were between the age of 18 and 59, 20 per cent were under the age of 17, and 7 per cent were older than 60 years.

HOST COMMUNITY

The host communities in Al Jamiah Neighbourhood and Ma'rib City noted problems associated with overcrowding since the arrival of IDPs including difficulty accessing educational and health services, more competition for jobs, and pressures on the water and sewer systems. They said that prices rose precipitously for rent, food, and goods. To progress toward solutions, they said housing was the most basic right needed, along with basic services and infrastructure to support the displaced and the host community. Ultimately, they hoped for a stable security situation so that all people could return to their places of origin in the next decade.

In the urban setting of Hay al Ziraa, men and boys discussed heavy consequences of hosting IDPs including loss of jobs and severely strained resources. They said that before displacement they lived easily, but after the arrival of IDPs they could not gain necessities. They hoped all IDPs could return. In Ma'rib City, community members shared a negative perception of the consequences of hosting IDPs, including social and psychological effects and the disintegration of the family. They felt sidelined since IDPs could access community services but were also given aid. Equal access to support was a clear desire of the men and boys and they said that within five to ten years they hoped IDPs would return because they could not achieve their goals so long as the displaced were there.

Women and girls in Ma'rib City shared a different perception, saying they had a strong relationship and shared "the same fate" with IDPs, so all they needed were services and support to ensure everyone could integrate and live together well. Men and boys in the host community in Ma'rib Al Wady also described a positive relationship with IDPs despite added pressures on infrastructure and services. In the next five to ten years, they hoped to be more economically stable, noting that they gave jobs to IDP youth and gained business from the increased population.



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Before their arrival, the situation was stable and services were available and easily accessible at reasonable prices. After their arrival, the host community was excluded from the picture, and the host community was unable to obtain basic services due to the crowding of the displaced.

Focus group discussion with male host community, Yemen,

August 2023.

IDPs

Camp life and temporary shelter in government buildings were significant factors in IDPs' decision making shared in focus group discussions in Yemen. If the security situation improved, many said they would choose to return. In Imarat Al Qadi Camp, women and girls wanted to return but could not because of security concerns. In the Saylat al Mayl camps, women said they lived without rights or necessities. Their family networks were under the same conditions and could provide little support. Men and boys in Maktab Al Ziraah camp shared their initial belief that the war would be short, allowing them to return, but as it lengthened, they considered settling. Overcrowding and eviction threats in temporary housing further strained the situation. Like women in the camp, they feared expulsion from the government building that sheltered them, in which case they would feel forced to return. In Hosoon Al Hadi, men and boys said they had hoped to return, but the longer they remained displaced, the more they were integrating. They said they needed food, health, education and a decent life. The peace they found in displacement kept them there, describing how they made their decisions for their children because their protection took the greatest priority. Overall, safety concerns for children and women in Yemen, fear of being detained or arrested upon return, and the need for health security due to family members' medical conditions influenced decisions to stay.

Men and boys in Maktab Al Ziraah camp expressed the feeling of growing rifts between them and the host community. In Hama camp, ill treatment by the host community and reduction in aid were the worries men and boys shared would reduce their wellbeing. They hoped to create a "spirit of coexistence" (FGD 64, August 2023, all male IDP) with the host community and find jobs and housing to be able to settle and integrate. They also described a feeling of disbelief at the new reality imposed on them in displacement, which caused psychological challenges they had to work against.

On the other hand, men and boys in Imarat Al Qadi Camp intended to stay because they felt they could not coexist with the community in their area of origin. To settle, they needed their own housing and income, since they were relying on a host community member who gave his apartment building to IDPs to live in. They said their relationship with the host community was good, particularly because of shared culture and customs. Still, they wanted to return, but would first need the "other side" (FGD 61, August 2023, all male IDP) expelled from the area and mines cleared. In displacement, job opportunities and housing were seen as the clearest support, along with cultural integration with the host community. IDPs needed housing and civil documentation. In five to ten years, most hoped to be self-sufficient, not relying on any one for help, and in their own homes whether in their areas of origin, or displacement. They also hoped that separated families would be reunited and there could be a restored sense of normalcy.



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It is to stay in the displacement site, and we hoped to return soon, but with the passage of time and the increase in suffering and the length of the war, we became integrated with the host community because the conditions in our area of origin are still not safe and there are great fears, and we cannot return until after the end of the war and finding peace and stability.”

Focus group discussion with male IDPs, Yemen,

August 2023.

IDP RETURNEES

Men and boy returnees in Harib described the pull of safety in their area of origin and the push of high rent in displacement that led them to return. They needed immediate support with food and funds and longer-term support to find jobs. They had lost everything in displacement and expressed suffering in their conditions. They also felt strongly that they were discriminated against as displaced people, which they contrasted with a sense of welcome and joy on return. Food security often hinged on agricultural possibilities in the place of origin, while damaged infrastructure hindered access to services upon return, including concerns about water wells, damaged houses, mosques, schools, and health centers.

Male respondents in Harib said their acceptance on return was mixed, “the first was a negative, inappropriate, and cruelty toward us, and the other was a welcome to our return and a mutual sense of joy” (FGD 68, August 2023, all male returnee). Women in Harib described the context the same way, adding that acceptance came from family and friends, but the rest of the community was not accepting. The presence of family and social networks influenced return decisions. Returnees mentioned that some family members chose to return together, while others returned individually. Male respondents noted variations in initial intentions to return, with heads of households motivated by economic and security concerns, while many women had no intention of returning.

Consequently, families sometimes moved together, while individual family members made different choices based on their circumstances. Destruction of property and crops and the deaths from prolonged conflict affected returnees significantly in their efforts to reintegrate. Aid organizations were seen by returnees as a necessary source of support, although in some areas they were difficult to reach. Returnees hoped for diversified support to compensate for losses or to provide new economic benefits.

Women and girl returnees in Harib described contempt and reproach from the host community in displacement, which was replaced with joy and acceptance in return, particularly from family they said were glad to find them alive. On return they had difficulty finding employment and hoped that in the next five to ten years, there would be job opportunities and training for young men and women.



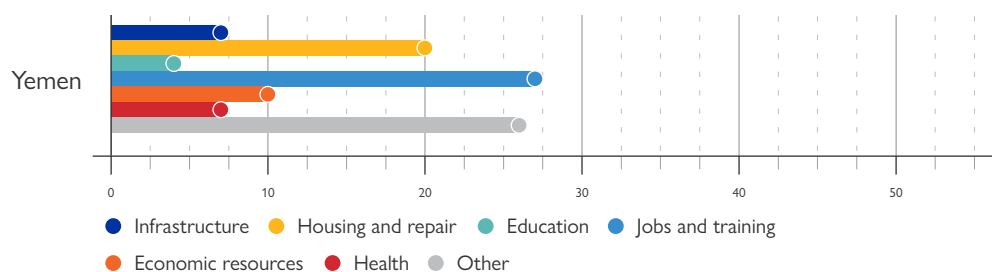
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Each of us wants something specific in his heart and wishes to achieve it. Some people want to travel outside the country and live with their families and enjoy a decent life there because they have lost hope that conditions in Yemen will improve soon. But the majority of us want the conflict to end and peace, security and safety prevail in the homeland, and for us to live a decent life in our homeland and among our families and loved ones, and for livelihoods, job opportunities and all services to be available in all fields.”

Focus group discussion with male returnees, Yemen,

August 2023.

MENTIONS OF SUPPORT NEEDED FOR SOLUTIONS IN YEMEN



The chart above shows the number of times each sector was mentioned by host communities, IDPs and returnees in each focus group discussion. In Yemen, the main themes that emerged were support with jobs and training, housing and repair, followed by economic resources.

Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS 2023)

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions acknowledges three accepted approaches for addressing internal displacement: the return and sustainable reintegration in the community of origin (referred to as “return”), integration in areas where internally displaced persons (IDPs) seek refuge (referred to as “local integration”) into local communities, or sustainable integration into another part of the country (referred to as “settlement elsewhere”). However, integration is also a fundamental part of all three solutions and overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities; for returnees it entails becoming reintegrated in their communities, and for IDPs it signifies inclusion and access to livelihoods, jobs and basic services on par with the other members of the community.

As a contribution to addressing displacement challenges, the collaboration between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Global Data Institute (GDI) and Georgetown University’s Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) has produced the Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS). PROGRESS aims to be people-centered and operationally relevant, providing evidence-based analysis of factors facilitating internally displaced persons (IDPs) in moving towards and achieving durable solutions. It is designed for governments, development and humanitarian actors, and IDPs themselves, offering practical steps to enhance realistic opportunities for approaching solutions. Given the global focus on resolving internal displacement, there is a crucial need for the international community to unite efforts in supporting solutions for over 70 million IDPs, a number of whom have experienced prolonged displacement.

The report focuses on 15 countries, providing an analysis of operational quantitative data, mostly collected by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) on the challenges and opportunities faced by IDPs. It shows the importance of job creation, security, and fostering a sense of belonging within communities for overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities and, subsequently, reduce disparities between IDPs and their host communities. In addition, focus group discussions were carried out in 10 of these countries to include perspectives of people who were displaced, had returned, or were part of communities that hosted IDPs. The published PROGRESS report highlights the commonalities across countries and regions – such as the strong focus on economic recovery and security as fundamental to durable reintegration. The conversations also exposed the range of experiences within families, communities, and national contexts. Additionally, these discussions provided a platform to express perspectives typically overlooked by conventional data collection methods, such as affected communities’ views on the cultural and gender-related impacts of displacement in their countries.



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