Protracted crises, resilience and basic services – Humanitarian Innovation and Evidence Programme (HIEP)

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Humanitarian-development nexus

1. **Protracted crisis**: Conflict and the increasingly protracted and recurrent nature of crises, combined with high numbers of displaced persons, at a time when climate-related shocks are more frequent and intense, means that **humanitarian crises are primarily long term in nature, as is mass displacement** (average length of displacement - 17 years).

2. **Leave no one behind and the SDGs**: Development actors have become much more involved in what were seen as traditional humanitarian contexts. (i.e. the World Bank Group - UN Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations).

3. **Fragile and conflict affected contexts**: there continue to be countries where institutions and governance are unable to deliver development to their populations. **In these contexts, aspects of the way humanitarian agencies work need to be deployed.**

4. **Global Compact for Refugees and Migration**: a new approach to refugees and migration was agreed in 2016, treating the displaced as potentially productive. This is now an emerging area of policy and practice.

Holistic approaches which encourage humanitarian-development programming and longer-term funding are needed to support the self-reliance and livelihoods of people in protracted displacement. Yet without political support and integration of the displaced within national and local development frameworks that provide links to sustainable, national systems, positive livelihood outcomes are unlikely for the staggering caseload of displaced persons.
The HIEP programme
2013 – 2020: More than £50 million, DFID commitment to improving humanitarian effectiveness through research, evidence and innovation

Number of projects funded (as of March 2019)

2 large grant making funds

Portfolio of 24 projects

Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC)

Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF)

Funded over 120 grants

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HIEP’s portfolio Service delivery in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

Systematic reviews and evidence

- WASH Interventions (Humanitarian Evidence Synthesis and Communication (HESC), Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window (HATW))

- Food security, food assistance and nutrition/malnutrition (HESC, HATW)

Cash transfers in emergency response (REFANI - cash responses and nutrition, Shock-Responsive Social Protection)

Improving outcomes for people displaced by conflict for long periods: a programme of research and innovation (Protracted displacement)

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Key Findings

• **Energy and education provision in emergencies not seen as priorities** – in contrast to other basic needs such as food, water, health and shelter
  - MEI - 5% of humanitarian agencies’ expenditure - diesel, petrol and associated costs - $1.2billion on polluting fuel in 2017.
  - HEA - just 4% of the humanitarian aid budget is spent on education

• To find truly durable and economically viable solutions would imply permanence and be politically impalpable. But this is the new normal. We need to think outside the box whilst also being pragmatic. Build on innovations that work and push beyond traditional approaches.

• **Greater appreciation of the agency and self-determination of displaced persons** who are making their own way (including the private sector - e.g. HESC, MEI) but may need support to maintain these activities. (e.g. Valid).

• **Avoid generalising about the needs of people in protracted displacement**: Refugees and displaced people are a heterogenous group with differing and changeable needs (e.g. Protracted displacement)