How can social protection and humanitarian systems work together to meet the needs of those affected by displacement crises?

We considered this in a two-year project, drawing on primary data from Cameroon, Colombia and Greece and the wider literature.

We have learnt that to strengthen social protection responses in a context of displacement, host governments and international actors need to recognise and act on the following...
Displaced populations often have distinct needs. They will do so for a long time after having been displaced. Adaptations to programme design and delivery, as well as additional support, are needed to effectively serve displaced people through social protection systems.
Hosts often also lack access to effective assistance

Those concerned with **SOCIAL COHESION** should focus on improving **ADEQUACY OF PROVISION FOR HOSTS**, rather than on reducing or aligning provisions for displaced people.
Consider linkages in terms of effects on outcomes

Link humanitarian assistance with social protection WHEN IT SUPPORTS MEETING THE NEEDS of displaced people. Where feasible, linkages should be made in a way that helps advance strategic objectives to BUILD STATE SYSTEMS.
International funding will generally still be required even when displaced people are included in state social protection systems. 

WELL-DESIGNED INTERNATIONAL FUNDING can also help INCENTIVISE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION between social protection and humanitarian actors.
Everyone needs to work together more regardless of the linkages between the systems.

More TRANSPARENCY AND COLLABORATION are needed, both WITHIN AND BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION systems, to make sure that both displaced and host communities get the assistance they need.
To learn more, take a look at our project webpage for in-depth country reports on Cameroon, Colombia and Greece, four thematic papers with detailed analysis on issues such as social cohesion and programme implementation, four toolkits with specific recommendations for host governments and international actors and other outputs:


The project is led by ODI, who worked in close collaboration with the Centre for Applied Social Sciences Research and Training (CASS-RT) in Cameroon, the School of Government at the University of Los Andes in Colombia and the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) in Greece.

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