

Module II

Typologies of Displacement and Resettlement as Processes in Development: Causes, Types, Concepts, Size, and Frequency

Introductory Note

Development-caused displacement is only one type among several types of forced displacement population movements. To understand better the considerably different nature of development-caused displacement from any other type, its characteristics, its specific risks, and the resulting necessity of managing such severe risks, it is important to place development-displacement and resettlement within the general typology of population displacements.

This module is devoted to the explanation of the typologies of forced populations displacement: first the general typology, than several ways/typologies apt to classify and organize our thinking about the various kinds and displacement occurring specifically in development projects. The module enables us to understand the relevant differences of displacement in development projects from displacement caused by civil war situations and other conflicts, or by natural disasters (e.g. floods, tsunami, volcanic eruptions, etc.) or by environmental projects and other types. Managers who have worked on refugee situations are often called to work also on development projects which cause displacement and they need to understand the differences, the new problems they confront, as well as the new opportunities they encounter in the context of a development project.

The module explains the typology first with respect to two fundamental criteria:

- (a) **the cause of displacement**, and
- (b) **the location where and the manner in which the displaced people are resettled.**

The cross-correlation of these criteria produces a basic typology of seven types for displacement and resettlement.

Further, the lecture briefly presents the basic conceptual apparatus, signals lexical confusions and emphasizes why correct and transparent concepts are indispensable for practical project operations. The module/lecture also discusses the example of country differences in the basic terminology for Development-Induced Displacement and Resettlement (DIDR). The Indian terminology of R&R is explained and questioned.

But not all displacement and resettlement processes are the same. Therefore, moving to the internal typology of DIDR itself, the lecture specifies the criteria and options for distinguishing types and sub-types of DIDR processes, by agent of displacement (public sector or private sector projects), by macro-sectors of the national

economy (urban, agriculture, transport, etc.) and other criteria, including the discussion of the “eminent domain” principle in public or private sector projects. Sub-types of DIDR sponsored by the state are identified as well. An alternative DIDR typology results from using the location at arrival site as criterion for classification.

Each of these classifications can be seen as another lens that illuminates the same range of displacement and resettlement processes each time from another angle and perspective. Thus, each typology contributes toward building a more differentiated and nuanced body of knowledge, superior to a wholesale depiction. In turn, this pays off richly in practice, when specifically tailored problem-solving proves always superior to standard approaches.

Throughout the module, the implications of sub-typological distinctions for operational risk management are highlighted. The conclusions focus on why typologies are important for risk management in on-the-ground operations, for decision makers and for project managers. Differentiated knowledge is essential for taking different approaches. Opportunities can be identified in each setting for transferability of risk-countering approaches between different types/sub-types of DIDR.