Mo Hamza · Dilanthi Amaratunga ·
Richard Haigh · Chamindi Malalgoda ·
Chathuranganee Jayakody ·
Anuradha Senanayake *Editors*

Rebuilding Communities After Displacement

Sustainable and Resilience Approaches

Springer

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Preface

The number of people worldwide forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence, disaster risk, and environmental degradation driven by climate change is on the rise. These displacement situations are also becoming more protracted, with many lasting several years or slowly turning to a permanent form of relocation.

Forced displacement has become a significant development and humanitarian challenge. There is an urgent need to develop more sustainable and resilient approaches that can better support displaced communities and ensure a long-term prospect for such a population. But the picture is not complete without including the host communities and the kind of support they also need. Forcible displacement often results in resettle in areas that are already facing their own development challenges, which can lead to tensions between the two communities.

Sustainable and resilient approaches for rebuilding displaced and host communities go beyond addressing physical needs, including housing, safe drinking water, sanitary facilities, electricity, and transport infrastructure. The displaced have lost assets and livelihoods, and are unable to plan for the future. For some communities, such as those involved with fisheries or agriculture, land or place is both a livelihood and a strong sense of identity. No access to grazing land means indigenous people are deprived of a livelihood and a loss of local identity. No access to livelihood creates unemployment and fewer economic opportunities. This can lead to marginalisation, poverty, and further far reaching and more severe consequences such as human trafficking when vulnerable populations are exploited. Providing access to previous livelihoods or creating new economic opportunities give displaced people the opportunity for financial independence. This also helps to avoid tensions with host communities, who often view immigrants as a threat to their livelihoods or a drain on local resources.

Effective planning of settlements can help to ensure that displaced communities have access to education and training opportunities. It is crucial that new arrivals gain employability skills and match their vocational and professional qualifications with those of the host country. Access to quality language training programmes is also essential, along with orientation to help them integrate, such as financial support,

housing, rights and responsibilities, employment, culture, politics, and available services and facilities.

There is an emerging discourse on the best approaches for rebuilding displaced and host communities. This recognises that sustainable and resilient approaches for rebuilding must go beyond physical aspects. Broader needs must be addressed, including sociocultural, institutional, human capital, livelihood, and economic perspectives. There is also a need to promote social cohesion between displaced and host communities.

This book contributes to this discourse. The chapters of this book are primarily drawn from contributions made to the online International Symposium on Rebuilding Communities After Displacement, held on 13 and 14 December 2021 (http://regard project.com/portal/index.php/events/research-symposium). The symposium invited leading scientists around the world to share their knowledge and experience. The event was jointly organised by:

- Division of Risk Management and Societal Safety, Lund University, Sweden.
- Global Disaster Resilience Centre, University of Huddersfield, UK.
- Centre for Sustainable Transitions (CST), University of Central Lancashire, UK.
- Building Lifecycle Research Group, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia.
- Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SPARC), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The symposium encouraged debate and discussion on how a holistic approach to the built environment can help address the challenges associated with displacement. This included effective policies and methods for rebuilding communities and integrating newcomers after forced displacement. It also promoted knowledge-sharing among the research community and practitioners in the field and encouraged multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral interaction.

Authors of selected high-quality research articles presented at the symposium were invited to contribute to this book volume, which addresses five themes associated with displacement.

- Understanding and managing for better response provision for displaced communities.
- Governance of displacement, and efforts to prevent and respond to internal displacement.
- Economic and policy interventions for sustainable resettlement.
- Resilience and environmental consideration of resettlement planning.
- Social cohesion between displaced and host communities.

In reflecting upon these themes, this book brings together a collection of empirical research, case studies, discussion, and insights on sustainable and resilient approaches to rebuilding displaced communities.

As Editors, we hope that this important collection of scientific results will provide a valuable point of reference, reflecting our progress to date in tackling the development challenges associated with forced displacement.

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Huddersfield, UK — Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga
Huddersfield, UK — Prof. Richard Haigh
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About the Editors

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Part I
Response Management for Displaced Communities

Chapter 1
Rebuilding After Displacement: Identifying the Needs of Displaced Communities from the Perspective of the Built Environment

Andrew Carmichael, Champika Lasanthi Liyanage, Felix Villalba-Romero, Temi Oni-Jimoh, and Chathuranganee Jayakody

Abstract The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)'s submission on the inadequacies of policies imposed by certain international initiatives strongly confirms the need to focus on built environment programmes when rebuilding displaced communities. This chapter identifies the needs of internationally displaced communities in the United Kingdom (UK) within the past decade (2009–2019), in the context of the built environment. This will assist in their progress towards successful resettlement and integration. The chapter is based on the findings of qualitative analysis of interviews with experts working with the displaced in the UK. The interviewees were from different groups responsible for managing different aspects of the refugee experience. Research results reveal that the UK government's standards vary across the range of different categories of displaced persons. This creates a deprived group within the displaced communities with numerous needs. Some of these are built environment-related needs that should be met to enable successful integration into the UK.

Keywords Built environment (BE) · Displaced communities (DC) · Integration · Resettlement · UK

1.1 Introduction

In recent times, the world has witnessed an increase in mass displacement of communities from one geographical area to another, due to the rise in armed conflicts

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and disasters caused by climate change. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) highlights that there is a dearth of built environment policies within international initiatives to help resettlement of displaced communities (UNHCR 2018). Thus, there is a need to include a mission of rebuilding communities after displacement with particular focus on the built environment. In the 1951 Refugee Convention (UNHCR 2010), the rights of the displaced were ratified by 145 states including the United Kingdom (UK). This included the obligation to protect refugees within their borders, in accordance with the terms of the convention, and ensure their resettlement and integration.

While the UK has hosted many immigrants during its history, it has supplied even more migrants to the world, only registering a higher net number of arrivals from the mid-1980s (DEMIG 2015). These included asylum seekers with a well-founded fear of persecution, and it was beholden on the country to be responsible for their welfare in line with their international commitments. Asylum seekers are those people who have left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum and protection, but whose application is yet to be concluded. Currently, most of these people are settled in London and the South-East by the government's dispersal programme. There is then a period of waiting for them until a decision has been made concerning their asylum claims. Those whose claims have been successful become refugees, a legal recognition of their status. Until such time, however, the lives of asylum seekers appear on hold in the UK, as they are not permitted to work, study, or volunteer until their claim has been granted (Mahamed 2016; Mayblin and James 2019).

1.1.1 Resettlement and Integration of the Displaced Communities in the UK

Resettlement of a displaced person in the UK depends on the path through which the displaced person enters the country. This study identifies and concurs with Mahamed (2016) that there are two routes (Fig. 1.1) to becoming refugees in the UK; the resettlement channel and the asylum channel. The key difference in the application process is the origin of the request, either external, before arriving in the UK (resettlement) or on arrival in the UK (asylum). This research observes this as a significant factor, with implications for the current experience of both types of displaced persons.

Notwithstanding the route chosen, there is a desire for integration of displaced persons with their host communities. Integration, enabling the displaced person to live harmoniously with their host communities, is considered a two-way process, thereby placing demands on both the incoming and host communities (ECRE 2005). In the year 2000, the UK's Labour government established an integration policy which expressed a wish to make refugees aware of the provisions available to them; assist them in gaining access to these provisions, such as housing, employment, and

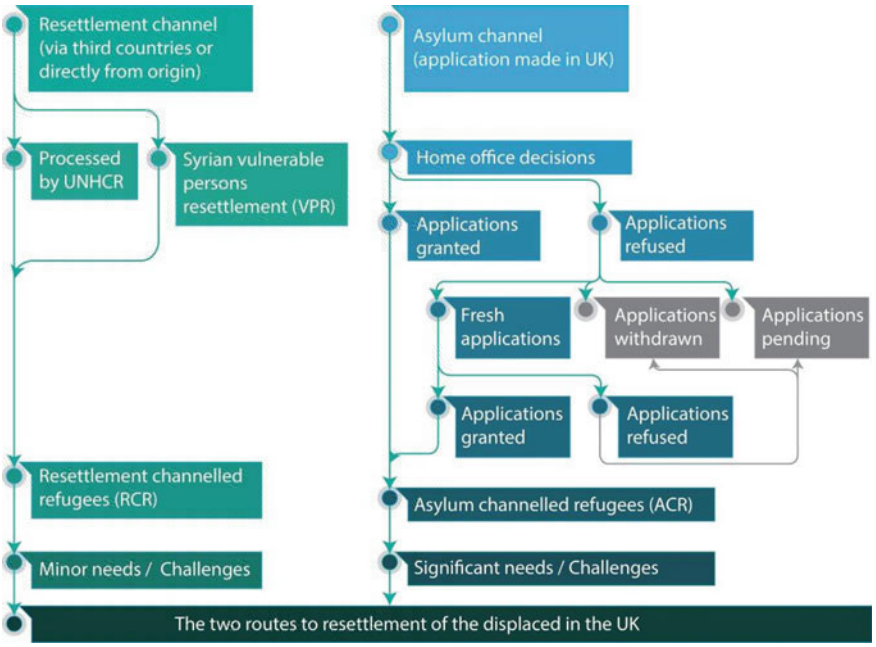

Fig. 1.1 Two routes to resettlement of displaced persons in the UK

English language services; enable them to realise their potential as equal members of the society; and motivate them for community participation (Broadhead and Spencer 2020). Yet two decades, and various changes of government, since this policy, there remain some attendant barriers to resettlement with most displaced persons in dire need of fundamental daily provision (Mayblin and James 2019; Fitzpatrick et al. 2016). Moreover, more recent work (Hamza 2021) notes that scholars question the success of such policy in the face of these challenges and highlights the trauma faced by displaced persons and the perception of them as either a threat, burden, or both, by the host population. This chapter in identifying the extent of the needs of displaced persons, and the experience of all parties engaged in the provision of those needs, advances the debate on the success of policy initiatives and where redress may be made.

1.2 Methodology

Data collection utilised both primary and secondary sources of data. Initially, secondary data collection, comprising of a broad literature review of existing publications, was undertaken. This was conducted using both searches of the Scopus database using relevant keywords to identify academic literature and more general web-based

and citation searches for government publications, and publications of both national and international organisations. This provided an in-depth understanding of what is known and unknown about resettling the displaced and allowed for coding and thematic analysis in accordance with established techniques (Miles and Huberman 1994; Saldana 2013). The identification of themes assisted in structuring the primary sources of data collection.

Primary sources of data collection utilised the qualitative approach drawn from the constructivist paradigm (Allen 1994). Primary data collection was carried out using semi-structured interviews where participants were asked to respond to open-ended questions. This offered opportunity to examine how they interpreted the question and allowed them to be expansive with their provision of information. Participants were recruited using purposive sampling, a rational and effective method when wanting information-rich data (Patton 1990). The sampling focused on people in organisations that work with displaced communities because it is not only difficult in the UK to approach groups of displaced persons directly, but it may also be undesirable to subject them to additional interviews given their experiences and psychological status. Interviews were transcribed and the findings again analysed, coded, and themes identified.

Twelve interviewees (identified as UK INT followed by their number in the interviewing stage) were drawn from six different types of organisations: national government, local authorities, voluntary organisations/NGOs (international), voluntary organisations/NGOs (local), academia, and displaced persons representatives. Some of the organisations co-operate with each other towards outcomes, for example, voluntary organisations work with local authorities, which are ultimately funded by the national government. Hence, an interviewee might be recognised as a stakeholder with more than one organisation (Fig. 1.2). Of the twelve interviewees, seven are described as working with voluntary organisations (6 local and 1 international). Six interviewees work with local authorities, four of them being included in the national government category as well due to the funding of their activities, with the other two also belonging to the voluntary organisation category. Two interviewees are purely focused on research work, while two more are displaced persons themselves and additionally work with voluntary organisations.

The interviewees were acknowledged as working with effectively three (although officially four) different types of displaced persons. Initial asylum seekers arriving in the UK are one group. Those who have been processed through the resettlement channel a second, and the third is those persons who have been in the asylum channel (which includes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children). Five of the interviewees (UK INT 1, 3, 7, 9, and 12), work with all these different types of displaced persons, while another three (UK INT 2, 4, and 5) work with three of them (Fig. 1.3). Two further interviewees (UK INT 10 and 11) are dedicated to working with the resettlement group, while the final two (UK INT 6 and 8) work with internally displaced persons. This latter type of displaced person lies beyond the scope of this research, but awareness of which provides interviewees with an understanding of community