

**CHUMIR
FOUNDATION**
for ETHICS IN
LEADERSHIP

Report of the

**World
Commission
on Forced
Displacement**

World Commission on Forced Displacement – Report At a Glance

That tens of millions of faultless people are forced to flee from homes and communities for safety or survival – with millions more poised to do the same – is a tragedy. It imposes costs, burdens and market impacts randomly on neighboring poor communities; a loss of output and social contribution from idled workers; brings diverse communities into clashing interfaces and security risks from terrorist and criminal exploitation. Costs of treating the symptoms might exceed those of a bold cure.

The **World Commission on Forced Displacement**, supported by an international Steering Committee, assessed the context and consequences of the likely underestimated, but official 68.5 million and growing numbers of forcibly displaced. While under 1% of the world population, the displaced tend to arrive in a location suddenly and remain for extending periods. New strategies and actions are required. The Commission recommends:

A Development/Investment Strategy – Job creation through investment – much of it necessarily private sector – is essential to any ‘solution’, an idea increasingly endorsed, but the necessary instruments for the conditions are not present. Some 85% of the forcibly displaced (and many poised to move) are in low and middle income countries, where conditions for investment are very difficult. Available public sector resources are grossly inadequate. Policies and mechanisms are not up to the task. The Commission calls for a ‘Merchant Bank’ to establish commercial conditions, strategically channeling limited public (and potentially, philanthropic) capital to increased proactive project identification and development and to arrange and fund techniques to resolve impediments and de-risk investment projects, sectors and/or environments, in reasonable ways and fair risk/reward terms, to establish commercial investment conditions in targeted locations. The capital committed by the Merchant Bank to such needs in the pragmatic project development and transaction process, could be contractually conditioned on larger amounts of private sector commercial investment.

The Bank would take proactive and holistic responsibility for optimizing development in a location from conception to implementation – that would fill the gaps in project search, feasibility assessment, reasonable risk absorption and, occasionally co-investment – while maximizing the role of private sector activity and using public funds where private sector funds would not yet go. Existing development financial institutions were not designed, motivated and are not accountable in this way; nor as able to move nimbly on solutions as is contemplated for the Merchant Bank. Donor countries, host communities and the forcibly displaced can all benefit. The absence of adequate results in the cases addressed here is NOT due to insufficiency of capital, but of deficient instruments to deal with the impediments. (The logic applies to investment for other goals in similar market conditions – e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals.) The World Commission further recommends:

Protection/Coverage for All – Minimum protection, support and opportunities for all those forcibly displaced, or incompletely or inadequately covered – regardless of cause, location, legal regime or political status, should be provided.

Responsibility Sharing – A senior level continuing platform for advancing best practices, coordination, prevention and responsibility-sharing should be established for fairness and management of impacts. The current random allocation of responsibility to the poorest countries is unsustainable.

A Change in Narrative – A public opinion campaign, political will, and leadership are needed to affect the latitude for solution-oriented policy and social cohesiveness. The strategy must differ by location, time, conditions and local political climate.

Inclusion – Initiatives by both hosts and the displaced are called for to take responsibility for the ultimate goal of social and economic inclusion in communities.

Technology – The use of modern technologies to provide identification, services, opportunities and connectivity to the displaced should be implemented.

A new strategy of action is needed to avoid an even larger, dependent, vulnerable and desperate population. Protection, rights and social services are preconditions. Development is an opportunity for scalable constructive action with North/South and potentially South/South political consensus. Genuine resolve, more robust action in select locations and shared provision of resources could translate to real opportunity. Attitudes and leadership matter.