

TOWARDS MORE EQUITABLE PLANNING FOR DISASTER-DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: RECOGNIZING MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED BY IDPS IN KARACHI AFTER THE 2022 PAKISTAN FLOODS

Daud Shad



People go to collect water after a tanker delivery at Hub Chowki, a tent city on the outskirts of Karachi (image by author, Aug 2023).

INTRODUCTION

When people lose their homes during a disaster, they often evacuate to urban centers to seek shelter and support. These displaced communities face complex challenges, from experiencing the trauma of leaving home to finding accommodations in an unfamiliar setting to maintaining livelihoods under tenuous circumstances. The 2022 monsoon-season floods in Pakistan caused widespread devastation, resulting in millions of internally displaced people (IDPs) facing difficult choices. Tens of thousands of evacuees headed from rural areas to Karachi for safety,¹ with many ending up in relief camps (locally referred to as “tent cities”) that lacked basic facilities and services,² compounding the impact of livelihood losses. Although the government aimed to address the acute crisis of IDPs entering the city and promote rural rehabilitation, beyond this there was minimal ability to support those requiring or seeking longer-term support to stay in the city. Still, thousands of IDP households have chosen to stay in Karachi as they view return as neither safe nor economically feasible.³

1 Azfar ul-Ashfaq, “Of 0.5m IDPs in Sindh, 14,450 Take Shelter in Govt Camps in Karachi,” *Dawn*, 2 September 2022, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1707905>. An early source estimated 50,000 IDPs evacuated to Karachi, while subsequent counts of IDPs housed in government-run facilities were 14,450. The exact number of people who arrived in Karachi is unknown, though the amount likely exceeded 25,000, based on the aforementioned figure from public camps plus a figure from the privately-run tent cities described in this article (note that these figures contain an unknown degree of overlap).

2 See e.g., “Flood Victims in Karachi’s Relief Camp Complaint of Lack of Basic Facilities” [video report], *Aaj TV Official*, 21 September 2022, [youtube.com/watch?v=9TgUgNqSxo8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TgUgNqSxo8); Muzhira Amin, “‘This Is Not Our Country’: At Shelters in Karachi, Flood Victims Struggle to Stay Afloat,” *Dawn*, 29 September 2022, [dawn.com/news/1711611](https://www.dawn.com/news/1711611).

3 The exact population counts of IDPs are difficult to verify due to the complexities of migration and resettlement. It is certain that there were several hundred households in each of the tent cities visited during fieldwork, with an estimated combined population of 19,500 people in December 2023, based on reports from respective coordinators.

This article examines planning for the needs of IDPs who arrived in the city after the floods. As climate change is exacerbating forced migration, how can municipal authorities and humanitarian actors plan for a more equitable response for IDPs seeking support in urban settings?⁴

“Equity” is defined by a United Nations source as “the process of being fair to all individuals and groups, by addressing present and historical inequality in order to work towards equality in outcomes.”⁵ In this case, an equitable response means addressing the particular barriers that IDPs face in achieving dignified access to shelter and settlements. More integrated humanitarian and urban planning is key for Karachi to both handle and recover from a crisis in a manner that upholds the rights of IDPs.

METHODOLOGY

The investigation of the exploratory research question included qualitative methods such as desk research (searching through government reports, international documents, news articles, and social media posts), site visits, and stakeholder interviews.⁶ While in Karachi during

4 See “Research Baseline Report 2022,” *Global Shelter Cluster*, September 2022, p. 15, <https://s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/sheltercluster.org/public/docs/GSC%20Research%20Baseline%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>. The research question relates to the Global Shelter Cluster’s research priority on “how to better support disaster-affected households in the longer term.”

5 High-Level Committee on Management, “Annex I Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Glossary for the United Nations Common System,” *UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination*, 2023, <https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/DEI%20Glossary.pdf>.

6 Fieldwork was conducted in 2023 and made possible through the support of the Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Research Fellowship from USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and Habitat for Humanity International and through guidance from the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi. Interviews of the affected population were assisted by a local translator (Sindhi to Urdu), who had journalism experience in the area of study.

the summer of 2023, initial conversations with community advocates highlighted three main privately-run tent cities (Hub Chowki, Gulshan-e-Syed, and “New” Sindhabad) where large communities of IDPs were located, which formed the geographic scope of this research.⁷ Each of these sites was discussed in local news and public social media posts from coordinators and charities, and aspects were also covered by international news and relief sources.⁸ These tent cities were established near major highways, owing to the accessibility of open tracts at busy interchanges and urban peripheries.

Interviews were conducted with four stakeholder categories: affected population, public sector, civil society (i.e., charities and private philanthropists), and international actors. These categories reflected the main decision-makers who impacted the development of settlements for communities evacuating to Karachi. During site visits (July-August and December 2023), household interviews were conducted with IDPs residing in the three tent cities (key informants) to understand their experiences and the type of support they received.⁹

With interviews, it was important to note that having an outsider perspective may have led to skewed perceptions and hindered the sharing of certain information. Additionally, relief beneficiaries may have been reluctant to voice complaints against settlement management. To mitigate such realities, questions centered on lived experience, did not discuss partisan politics, and invited open-ended responses and ideas. Respondents from affected households were selected through purposive sampling and interviewed using a questionnaire that lasted about 10–20 minutes. Coordinators (including private landowners) and community leaders of the relief settlements were interviewed, as were local charity workers, municipal and provincial government officials, and international humanitarian workers, to understand their roles in supporting displaced communities.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Pakistan has a history of weather-related displacement during the summer. For instance, after a cyclone in June 2010, about 38,000 people from the coastal region were

supported across 160 relief camps in Karachi.¹⁰ The following two months, monsoon rainfall and massive flooding caused significant rural-urban migration, with an estimated 70% of IDPs then permanently resettling in cities.¹¹ Before the 2022 floods, Pakistan was classified as “low” on the UNDP’s Human Development Index, with a ranking of 161 out of 191 countries,¹² and among the 10 worst-off countries for long-term climate risks on a Germanwatch index.¹³ The 2022 flooding’s scale was not expected by the country’s disaster management authority, as the “worst case” from the preceding monsoon contingency plan came true instead of the “likely” scenario.¹⁴ The resultant rural-urban migration to Karachi, the country’s largest city and capital of Sindh, was significant in both scale (tens of thousands of people) and speed (within a few weeks).

Karachi has a history of large waves of in-migration, and socioeconomic disparities have fueled spatial segregation in the city. About 62% of the population lives in *katchi abadis* (informal settlements) and 72% works in the informal sector.¹⁵ The process of formalizing settlements (i.e., enabling access to basic utilities) in the city is focused on settlements that can prove their establishment before 2012. As such, settlements composed of recent climate migrants would not necessarily be part of these public development efforts. The current master plan of the city (Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020) – to potentially be updated to a 2047 master plan¹⁶ – was published in 2007, before three catastrophic floods, and it has no mention of displacement nor monsoon flooding.¹⁷

IDPs in Karachi navigate a landscape where access to adequate shelter remains elusive. Public accommodations during the 2022 emergency phase included schools turned into shelters and tent cities,¹⁸ including one in Malir that served thousands of IDPs who came to Karachi. However, the government goal was to promote return and end temporary shelters promptly, such as the Malir Tent City, which officially closed by early 2023 despite protests from

7 The selected sites do not represent every place where IDPs found accommodation. For instance, the resettlement of IDPs in parts of Karachi beyond the three organized settlements fell outside the scope of this research. Other sites where IDPs resettled included coastal and various peri-urban areas, as reported by Karachi Urban Lab (see Nausheen H. Anwar et al., “How Climate Change-driven Displacement is Reshaping Pakistan’s Cities,” *Dawn*, 1 September 2025, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1938893>). Earlier sources detailed conditions encountered by IDPs at the major, but since-closed, Malir Tent City that was established and run by the government (see, e.g., Nadja Sieniawski, “Pakistan’s Government is Failing Flood Victims,” *Jacobin*, 29 March 2023, <https://jacobin.com/2023/03/pakistans-government-is-failing-flood-victims>).

8 See e.g., “Pakistan: Urgent Health Concerns Remain Months After the Flooding,” *Doctors Without Borders*, 15 December 2022, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/pakistan-urgent-health-concerns-remain-months-after-flooding>; Duaa Sameer, Bosibori Barake, and Muhammad Arsam, “Exploring Urban Risk, Climate Change and the Emancipatory Possibilities of Climate Repair Infrastructures in Karachi and Nairobi,” *Geography Directions*, 27 November 2023, <https://doi.org/10.55203/ISSE5621>.

9 Informed consent was sought before all interviews. For interviews with the affected population, it was emphasized that responses were entirely voluntary and findings would be presented anonymously.

10 “Pakistan: Around 160 Relief Camps Set Up Across Karachi - Ibad,” *DawnNews* via *ReliefWeb*, 7 June 2010, reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-around-160-relief-camps-set-across-karachi-ibad.

11 Aamir Latif, “Climate Change Triggers Widespread Pakistan Migration,” *Anadolu Agency*, 9 December 2019, [aa.com.tr/en/environment/climate-change-triggers-widespread-pakistan-migration/1667231](https://www.aa.com.tr/en/environment/climate-change-triggers-widespread-pakistan-migration/1667231).

12 United Nations Development Programme, “Country Insights,” *UNDP Human Development Reports*, 8 September 2022, hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights.

13 David Eckstein, Vera Künzel, and Laura Schäfer, “Global Climate Risk Index 2021,” *Germanwatch*, 25 January 2021, [germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_2.pdf](https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_2.pdf).

14 “Provincial Monsoon Contingency Plan 2022,” *Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority*, 2022, p. 13, https://pdma.gos.pk/Documents/Contingency_Plan/Contingency%20Plan%202022.pdf.

15 Arif Hasan, *The Search for Shelter: Writings on Land and Housing*, Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2021, pp. 29–30.

16 Muhammad Toheed, “Karachi Master Plan 2047: Will Urban Disarray Ever End in Metropolis?” *Geo News*, 28 February 2023, [geo.tv/latest/473309-karachi-master-plan-2047-will-urban-disarray-ever-end-in-metropolis](https://www.geo.tv/latest/473309-karachi-master-plan-2047-will-urban-disarray-ever-end-in-metropolis).

17 KMP 2020, “Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020,” accessed via *Urban Resource Centre*, January 2007, <https://urckarachi.org/karachi-strategic-development-plan-2020/>.

18 Tahir Siddiqui, “Over 15,000 IDPs Housed in 30 School Buildings to Be Moved to ‘Tent City,’” *Dawn*, 26 September 2022, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1711951>.

residents.¹⁹ Relatedly, there was a gap in major post-disaster policies in terms of directly addressing rural-urban migration and shelter in the longer term.²⁰

A local charity offered a rough estimate in July 2023 that about a third of IDPs who came to Karachi after the floods stayed, notably in Hub Chowki, Gulshan-e-Syed, and Sindhabad. These sites – previously serving as, respectively, vacant land, private plot, and an informal settlement established after migration from the 2010 floods – were early hubs for relief. Local philanthropists and welfare associations helped manage and develop them to the point where more than 5,000 IDPs were residing in each by December 2023, as reported by the respective coordinators. Though having a piece of land to stay long-term in the city is significant, the IDPs have faced challenges in accessing the most basic necessities, such as safe shelter and water, and myriad uncertainties about the future.

The rights of IDPs point to the importance of recognizing and respecting varying post-disaster circumstances, as in Karachi. Tailoring responses to specific needs help to prevent placing a person or group at risk of further socio-economic or environmental harm. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement hold that IDPs have rights to “be protected against forcible return to or resettlement in any place where their life, safety, liberty and/or health would be at risk” (Principle 15), that IDPs should be able to fully participate in “the planning and management of their return or resettlement and reintegration” (Principle 28), and that planning should include the “full participation of women”

19 Define News, [Video of news report; accessed via Facebook], 26 December 2022, fb.watch/s5IRa0a83K/; Malir National Press Club, [Video of news report; accessed on Facebook], 25 April 2024, facebook.com/100010585665816/videos/803479987897980/.

20 See Sindh Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, “Pakistan Floods 2022: Post-Disaster Needs Assessment,” *United Nations Development Programme*, 28 October 2022, p. 53, <https://www.undp.org/pakistan/publications/pakistan-floods-2022-post-disaster-needs-assessment-pdna>; “Sindh Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy, 2022,” *Government of Sindh*, 30 January 2023, pp. 5-7, 11-5, and 24-5, <https://cm.sindh.gov.pk/storage/resourcePage/v2WDTRFB0XU-JqB2E50thFoaWrtOnhBiyMPN9I1MX.pdf>; “Sindh Disaster Management Policy,” *Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority*, March 2023, p. 25, pdma.gos.pk/Documents/Reports/Sindh%20Disaster%20Management%20Policy-Draft%20Forwarded%20to%20Stakeholders%20for%20Review.pdf; “Informed Disaster Management Plan: Sindh, 2023-2032,” *Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority*, 2023, p. 31, https://pdma.gos.pk/Documents/District_Management_Plans/Provincial%20Disaster%20Management%20Plan.pdf. The indicated page numbers are where there is a reference to rural-urban migration or resettlement.



The homes of IDPs who arrived in 2010 at Sindhabad, a long informal settlement that thousands of displaced people have called home (image by author, Dec 2023).

(Principle 18).²¹ Additionally, the Pinheiro Principles state that return for displaced people must be “based on a free, informed, individual choice” (Principle 10.1) and that displaced people cannot be “forced or coerced” to return and can “effectively pursue durable solutions to displacement other than return, if they so wish, without prejudicing their right to the restitution of their housing, land and property” (Principle 10.3).²² Ensuring that IDPs – including those socially marginalized – participate in planning decisions that affect them is fundamental to realizing equity, especially as disaster risks are exacerbated by climate change.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Of the 30 households interviewed, 22 arrived in Karachi in late August or early September of 2022, while 8 arrived after previous floods in 2010 or 2011. The latter 8 were within Sindhabad, where the majority of the large settlement consisted of households displaced by previous disasters,²³ while a “new” part mainly consisted of recent IDPs. Responses from households that arrived before 2022 show how the experience of recent IDPs was not necessarily novel and that even IDPs who arrived a decade earlier were still struggling to access basic utilities and services. A man who arrived at the settlement in 2010 explained how “there are a thousand difficulties here,” citing daily struggles in the neighborhood.

Based on responses from households and people involved in supporting the households, significant takeaways include that: 1) similar displacement challenges in Karachi recur in different crises and extend existing deprivations and planning challenges; 2) civil society and private individuals have played a major role in accommodating IDPs in Karachi, citing religious and social motivations; and 3) planning for IDPs is complex due to differing priorities across stakeholders, from each IDP’s own basic needs to government’s rural rehabilitation programs. These takeaways demonstrate a gap in both policy and action to consider the particular circumstances of IDPs and to center equity. Relevant findings on major interlinked aspects of equity are elaborated below.

DIRECT OUTREACH

During the chaotic conditions of displacement to an unknown setting, there is a need for consistent information and accessible engagement so that people are empowered to determine the best possible accommodations for their needs. Of the interviewed 2022 IDPs, only 9 among 22 had at least one family member who had been to Karachi before. As such, many households were unfamiliar with the city, which can be hard to navigate, especially with little to no earnings. It seems that IDPs entering Karachi were

21 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,” accessed via *Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre*, 1998, api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/199808-training-OCHA-guiding-principles-Eng2.pdf.

22 United Nations Sub-Commission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, “Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons” [“Pinheiro Principles”], accessed via *UNHCR*, June 2005, unhcr.org/us/media/principles-housing-and-property-restitution-refugees-and-displaced-persons-pinheiro.

23 See Amar Guriro, “Still Marooned After 2010 Floods in Pakistan,” *Dawn*, 21 April 2015, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1177326/still-marooned-after-2010-floods-in-pakistan>.

provided insufficient information by officials on where they could stay and for how long, and many were unaware of rural recovery efforts. For instance, no interviewed households from 2022 reported direct support from the government during displacement in the city (one from 2010 cited assistance). Some of the IDPs did allude to government support at some point in their journey; it may be difficult to distinguish support from charities and government entities during aid distribution. Additionally, IDPs arrived in different parts of Karachi at different times (e.g., before Malir Tent City was made), and many lacked access to the internet, which made gaining information inherently challenging. The interviewed coordinators of the privately-run tent cities did describe local officials' assistance in establishing the relief sites. Additionally, they detailed their own efforts in building partnerships, harnessing communal networks, and conducting outreach to support IDPs when it was apparent that more durable solutions were needed. For example, one coordinator described how he placed banners on major roads where IDPs were arriving to raise awareness about the tent city.

TENURE SECURITY

Displaced populations tend to be at risk of eviction and repeated displacement due to land insecurity, economic instability, and inexperience with local systems. At each of the three tent cities, each interviewed household reported having a plot allocated for them (two tent cities even guaranteed long-term plot ownership). This provision was significant for IDPs, most of whom had previously rented land in their villages. Plot ownership offers relative security, at least within the confines of the settlement, and a potentially stable path forward if IDPs choose, or can ever manage the expenses, to develop the land. Coordinators described providing each household with an allotment document and affirmed their communication with local officials.²⁴ There have been issues in the establishment of tent cities due to disputes over land, which is often a severely contentious resource in Karachi.²⁵ For instance, a dispute about land encroachments around Gulshan-e-Syed in December 2023 led to violence, with a child being shot dead. IDPs are unlikely to know about the land issues in the places where they are residing but are especially vulnerable to such dangers.

SOCIOECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Navigating a new socioeconomic system presents clear challenges for IDPs, as they generally end up settling in underserved parts of the city. Karachi can present fresh economic opportunities that provide a lifeline to IDPs who might face extreme debt if they return to work as tenant farmers.²⁶ Interviewed IDPs reported daily household incomes up to 6 USD (about 1,600 PKR at the time), though this varied based on household size. However, the lack of affordable transit, especially as the tent cities were far from many job opportunities, made it more difficult for IDPs to access stable employment. Of the interviewed IDPs,

jobs included day labor (logging and construction), artisanry (jewelry), and street sweeping. Additionally, at each of the tent cities, education for children was either nonexistent or insufficient. The coordinators described their efforts to provide education: each settlement had classrooms but hiring consistent teachers to meet the population's needs had proven difficult. Even before displacement, many of these children did not attend school. In spite of the socioeconomic challenges IDPs have faced in Karachi, one coordinator emphasized how IDPs chose to stay because of the relative freedom and employment prospects they found in the city as compared to rural areas, where rigid labor and social structures often proved stifling.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

It is unclear to what extent provisions were made to accommodate IDPs based on considerations such as gender, religion, and disability within government-run shelter facilities. However, the Sindh Disaster Management Policy, created after the 2022 emergency, mentioned that the creation of camps (which can no longer be in education and government facilities) would include "special care" for "women, children, elderly, and disabled persons."²⁷ But the implementation of that policy for relevant shelter programming remains to be seen as does any process for fair camp closure. Within the private tent cities, coordinators did express concerns for disadvantaged residents, such as people with disabilities, but specific courses of action were not described. It is worth noting that the inner coordination circles of each tent city seemed to only include men. At Hub Chowki, a notable example of gender equity was evident as property documents were placed under women's names, empowering women in decision-making and preventing social exclusion. Each of the tent city coordinators expressed their pride in the religious diversity and tolerance in the camps. No issues around religious practice were raised by the interviewed IDPs, though it was not directly asked.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All of the interviewed IDPs planned to resettle in Karachi, with no intent to return, at least at the time. The most common rationale was that they had nothing left in the village. This finding relates to comparable international evidence that a vast majority of IDPs a year after

²⁷ "Sindh Disaster Management Policy," p. 71.



Sindh's Hindu communities were among the most flood-affected people, with some settling in New Sindhabad and building mandirs (image by author, Jul 2023).

²⁴ It was beyond the scope of fieldwork to investigate municipal land registration and property records.

²⁵ Arif Hasan et al., "Land Ownership, Control and Contestation in Karachi and Implications for Low-income Housing," *International Institute for Environment and Development*, London, March 2013, pp. vi-ix, <https://www.iied.org/10625iied>.

²⁶ Haroon Janjua, "Pakistan's Female Agriculture Workers Suffering Since 2022 Floods," *Al Jazeera*, 31 March 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/31/pakistans-female-agriculture-workers-suffering-since-2022-floods>.

disaster-caused displacement prefer to stay than return.²⁸ Despite this well-documented trend, the IDP experience in Karachi seemed distant from both short- and long-term planning processes. There was a significant power differential between those who made impactful decisions on where IDPs stayed and what accommodations they had (i.e., local government, landowners, and charities) and the IDPs themselves. Across interviews, no accountability mechanism nor participatory approach was mentioned that would provide connection between IDPs settling in Karachi and public authorities. Within the privately-run settlements, each had a committee or council structure to handle community matters, though the extent to which all IDPs participated was not assessed during fieldwork. As a general observation, the IDP positionality in Karachi made it very difficult for displaced communities to advocate for even basic education, medical services, and utilities.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Equitable planning for IDPs who migrate to cities after disasters is certainly a challenge for municipal authorities and humanitarian actors alike, but it is necessary to promote fundamental rights and further urban resilience. This reality is especially pertinent as Pakistan faces existing and projected challenges with climate change. Recognizing the unique situations faced by rural-urban IDPs and planning from their perspective – by improving systems for direct outreach, tenure security, socio-economic integration, social protection, and public participation – is critical for a more equitable humanitarian response.

This research recommends that key actors in Karachi plan for a comprehensive and flexible array of shelter and settlements programming to meet the varied needs of people after disaster displacement and ensure housing stability. Documentation from the perspective of IDPs, including their lived experience with sheltering, is critical for safeguarding their rights amid an already complex political context. Humanitarian responders should offer appropriate accommodations that anticipate different types of decisions, from temporary evacuation to permanent resettlement. Relevant programming can have options beyond well-maintained relief shelters and tent cities, such as local rental arrangements and partnerships with welfare associations.

These urgent programs should be part of a strategy to integrate IDPs into urban networks. Pertinent elements include resources for secure employment, extension of public transit systems to relief sites, and access to medical and psychosocial care. Relatedly, figuring out ways to plan structural improvements for IDPs and for local communities at once is useful for easing tensions and fostering inclusivity.²⁹ At all stages of planning, the affected population should have robust involvement in ideation and decision-making.

IDPs in 2022 could have been better served through more accessible information on housing options across the city, which requires proactive outreach and multi-lingual communication systems that endure beyond the initial crisis period. This information should be created via public-private partnerships so that all types of relief facilities are transparently catalogued and made available to all IDPs, regardless of existing social connections.

Government and civil society actors can more thoroughly assist IDPs by safely sharing data and resources between all stakeholders, providing incentives for landowners to support relief work, and identifying service and funding gaps. Partnerships are critical for surging response efforts and addressing varied needs, so mutually defining partnership goals and building mechanisms to resolve conflicts is needed for sustainable management.

IDPs still living in tent cities should also be kept informed of any new efforts that support a dignified return, such as economic development programs, as well as affordable housing in the city. Humanitarian actors have an important role in monitoring and evaluation, as well as advocating for particularly marginalized groups within displaced communities, due to their independent position.

Overall, equitable approaches avoid oversimplified solutions and recognize that upholding rights involves tailoring policies to the particular situations present within a population. Such approaches to urban planning may reduce the uncertainty inherent in a humanitarian crisis and thus better assist people that are devastated by circumstances beyond their control. Lessons from the 2022 shelter response, as well as previous and subsequent crises within the city, must be used to improve disaster preparedness and dignified housing for all in Karachi.



The view from a school being built along Gulshan-e-Syed's main road (image by author, Dec 2023).

28 International Organization for Migration and Georgetown University, "Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS)," IOM, Geneva, December 2024, pp. 22-3 and 106-7, <https://dtm.iom.int/products/progress-2024>.

29 MIT Displacement Research Action Network and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, "Home Sweet Home: Housing Practices and Tools That Support Durable Solutions for Urban IDPs," IDMC, Geneva, March 2015, p. 17, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/home-sweet-home-housing-practices-and-tools-that-support-durable-solutions-for-urban-idps/>.

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