POLICY AND EXPERIENCE: SOCIAL NETWORKS OVER TIME AND SPACE

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Retaining Social Networks Over Time and Space

- **Policy**
  - Immediate durable solution
  - Private accommodations in new settlements within one year
  - Social network preservation

- **Rationale for preserving social networks**
  - Maintain social and economic support in displacement

- **Rationale for changing social networks**
  - Expand access to financial/economic resources through local ties
Benefits and Challenges of Preserving Social Networks

- Networks have myriad functions
  - Different network structures conducive to different functions

- Benefits - Emotional and Social Functions
  - Emotional and social support systems intact
    - Reduce emotional trauma of displacement
    - Preserve identity
  - Recommendation - Preserve the network in some form.

- Challenges - Financial Functions
  - Access to resources, livelihood limited if no ties to new community
  - Recommendation - Build the network locally.
Dynamism and Space: Network Size over Time
Dynamism and Space: Network Density over Time

The graph shows the number of fully connected networks over time for different locations: Mtekhi, Tserovani, Tsmindatskali, and Verkhvebi. The x-axis represents the survey rounds, ranging from Round 1 to Round 3. The y-axis indicates the percentage of fully connected networks, ranging from 0% to 100%.

- Mtekhi: Initially high, decreases significantly in Round 2, and stabilizes by Round 3.
- Tserovani: Shows a steady increase from Round 1 to Round 3.
- Tsmindatskali: Starts low, rises significantly in Round 2, and then decreases in Round 3.
- Verkhvebi: Starts at a moderate level, increases in Round 2, and then stabilizes.
IDPs from South Ossetia: Network Functions over Time

Emotional Functions  Social Functions  Financial Functions

% of Respondents Using Their Network

Survey Round

Mtekhi  Tserovani  Tsmindatskali  Verkhevbi
Productive Networks?

IDPs Engaged in Income Generating Activity (Percentage by Site)

- **Verkhvebi**
- **Metekhi**
- **Tserovani**
- **Tsmindatskali**

Round 1

Round 2

Round 3
What does a network look like?

- Preserved Network
- Dynamic Network
A Preserved Network

Round 1 - Female IDP from South Ossetia
Location: Mtskheta
42 years old
Does not engage in regular or irregular income generating activity

Network Size: 10 alters
Network Density: 1 (fully connected)

Node Color: gray - respondent; blue - immediate family; red - relative; black - neighbor
Node Shape: square = female, circle = male

Line Color: IDP status of alter - black = alter is an IDP; red = alter is not an IDP
A Preserved Network

Round 2: Female IDP from South Ossetia
Location: Mtikhi
Does not engage in regular or irregular income generating activity

Network Size: 12 alters
Network Density: 1 (fully connected)

Node Color: gray=respondent; blue= immediate family; red=relative; black= neighbor
Node Shape: square=female, circle= male

Line Color: IDP status of alter: black=alter is an IDP; red=alter
A Preserved Network

- Round 3: Female IDP from South Ossetia
- Location: Mtshuli
- Does not engage in regular or irregular income generating activity

Network Size: 10 alters
Network Density: 1 (fully connected)

Node Color: gray = respondent; blue = immediate family; red = relative; black = neighbor; green = friend
Node Shape: square = female, circle = male

Line Color: IDP status of alter: black = alter is an IDP; red = alter is not an IDP
A Dynamic Network

Round 1: Female IDP from South Ossetia
Location: Collective Center
Engages in income generating activity

Network Size: 15 alters
Network Density: 1 (fully connected)

Node Color: gray = respondent; blue = immediate family;
red = relative; black = neighbor; green = friend;
pink = co-worker
Node Shape: square = female, circle = male
Node Size = Year known (relative to age of respondent)

Line Color: IDP status of alter = purple = alter is an IDP;
orange = alter is not an IDP
A Dynamic Network

Round 2: Female IDP from South Ossetia
Location: Verkhwebi
Engages in income generating activity

Network Size: 7 alters
Network Density: 0.81

Node Color:
- gray = respondent
- blue = immediate family
- red = relative
- black = neighbor
- green = friend
- pink = co-worker

Node Shape:
- square = female
- circle = male

Node Size:
- Larger = year known (relative to age of respondent)

Line Color:
- purple = alter is an IDP
- orange = alter is not an IDP

Square box around node indicates it is new since last round.
A Dynamic Network

Round 3 - Female IDP from South Ossetia
Location: Verkhvebi
Engages in income generating activity

Network Size: 7 alters
Network Density: 0.81

Node Color: gray=respondent; blue=immediate family; red=relative;
black=neighbor; green=friend; pink=co-worker; yellow=other (priest)
Node Shape: square=female, circle=male
Node Size=Year known (relative to age of respondent)

Line Color: IDP status of alter: purple=alter is an IDP; orange=alter is not an
IDP

Square box around node indicates it is new since last round.
Conclusions

Policy Recommendations

- Shift in policy goals should be linked to shift in implementation
  - Separate financial functions from emotional and social functions when considering how to preserve and expand networks when integration (even temporary) is a goal

- Emotional and Social Functions
  - Recommendation- Preserve the network in some form.

- Challenges- Financial Functions
  - Recommendation- Build the network locally.
Thank You.