



Measuring Social Cohesion among and between Refugees and Hosts in Ethiopia

Strengthening Social Cohesion: Advancing Operations, Programming and Evidence Conference

December 5, 2022

Ethiopia's urban safety net now includes refugees and their host communities



- **2nd Ethiopian urban safety net project:** US\$500m IDA-19 grant, of which US\$50m from the Window for Hosts and Refugees.
- **Component 1: poverty graduation program**, through public works and livelihood development (training, grants)
- **1.3, Refugee and Host Integration through the Safety Net (RHISN):**
 - by fielding **component 1 + social cohesion activities** in select refugee camps and host communities (22,600 hhs)
 - aims to **improve income of the poor and social cohesion.**
- Public works and livelihood trainings done in **either separate groups** (all hosts, all refugee), **or mixed groups.**

Our rapid evaluation is investigating impacts, including on social cohesion



- Focus of the evaluation are:

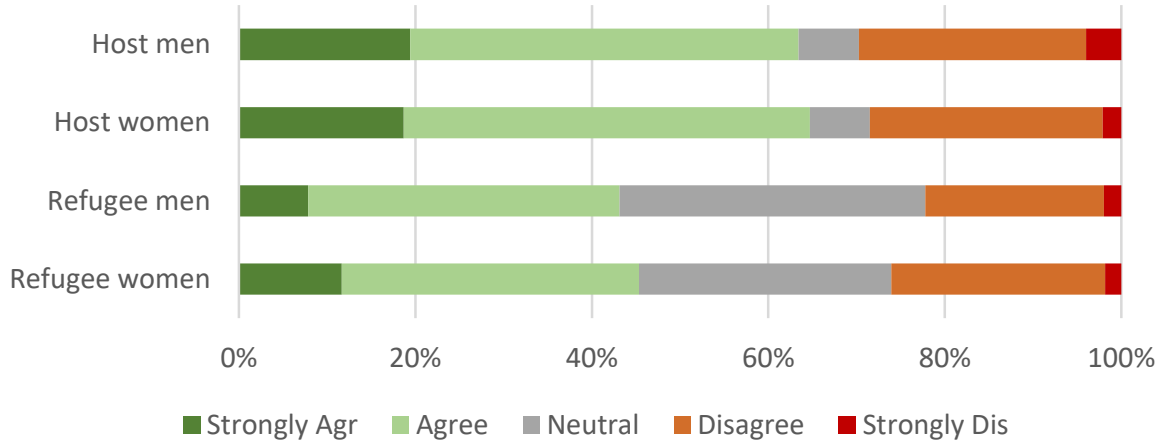
- 1) Process integrity and socio-economic impacts of RHISN (pre-post)
 - 2) Impact of mixing groups on income, social cohesion etc. (RCT).
- Baseline (surveyed May '22) and endline (exp. Feb '23).
 - **Theory of change:** working and training together (collaborative contact) will increase social cohesion among and between refugees and hosts, with potential effects on other domains (incl. labor mkt?)
 - Dimensions of social capital and social cohesion:
 - **Trust** (used Social Capital and Social Cohesion Toolkit question 5)
 - **Resources** (used Social Capital and Social Cohesion Toolkit question 2)
 - **Belonging** (changed Social Capital and Social Cohesion Toolkit question 9)
 - **Attitude toward out-group** (developed questions focusing on integration)

Some preliminary results from the baseline...



- **Attitude toward out-group:** both groups are open to their children being friends and marrying each other.
- **Resources:** both groups are more likely to lean on refugees than hosts during difficult times.
- **Trust:** both groups believe that refugees would return a lost item; hosts believe that hosts would return a lost item; but refugees are not sure if hosts would return a lost item.
- **Integration:** hosts believe that refugees should be able to integrate into the local community and Ethiopia, more generally...but they are not sure about them being able to work or having the same access to services such as education and health.

If I was at a community meeting and left something valuable behind, I believe that if local residents found it, they would return it to me.



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