Economies
rights and access to work

Forced Migration Review digest – for easy online access to all FMR articles

The digest complements the full-length magazine. Both the digest and the magazine of FMR issue 58 are available online and in print in English, Arabic, French and Spanish.
Economies and access to work

When people are forced by conflict or other circumstances to leave their homes, they usually also leave behind their means of economic activity and subsistence. In their new location, they may not be able, or permitted, to work to support themselves. This has wide-ranging implications not only for people’s immediate earning capacity and well-being but also for community relations, economic development and the capacity of future generations to lead fulfilling lives. In our main feature on Economies, authors explore the complex interactions of the constraints and opportunities involved, drawing on case-studies from around the world and highlighting the roles of new actors, new technologies and new – or renewed – approaches.

This issue of FMR also includes two ‘mini-features’, one on Refugee-led social protection and one on Humans and animals in refugee camps.

The full issue is available at www.fmreview.org/economies.

Refugees’ right to work and access to labour markets: constraints, challenges and ways forward
Roger Zetter and Héloïse Ruaudel (University of Oxford / independent consultant)
For refugees, the right to work and access to labour markets are key for becoming self-reliant, building their lives and securing dignity, and allowing them to contribute to their host communities. Host countries need to assess the potential for opening their labour markets to refugees, and enhancing access to decent work.

Supporting recently resettled refugees in the UK
Marwa Belghazi (Single Homeless Project)
Organisations supporting recently resettled refugees to find employment should focus on providing them with the tools to navigate the employment market in a sustainable way that leads to their personal development.

Integrating refugees into the Turkish labour market
Ximena V Del Carpio, Sirma Demir Seker and Ahmet Levent Yener (World Bank)
The granting to Syrian refugees in Turkey of the right to access formal work was a first step towards their economic integration but a number of challenges remain. With support from the international community, the Turkish government is taking action to overcome some of these.

From refugee to employee: work integration in rural Denmark
Martin Ledstrup and Marie Larsen (University of Southern Denmark / Danish Red Cross)
The launch of Red Cross Denmark’s Fast Track programme, which focuses on early refugee employment, offers an opportunity to explore the relationship between local employment of refugees and the sustainability of rural life.

New to QR codes? Download any QR code reader app (QR = Quick Response) and scan the square code next to an article – it will take you straight to the article online.
Integrating refugee doctors into host health-care systems
Shahla Namak, Fatin Sahhar, Sarah Kureshi, Fadya El Rayess and Ranit Mishori
(Wake Forest School of Medicine / Wayne State University School of Medicine / Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University / Georgetown University School of Medicine)
Refugee doctors face a number of barriers to practising medicine, despite the significant contributions that they can make.
www.fmreview.org/economies/namak-sahhar-kureshi-elrayess-mishori

Refugees’ engagement with host economies in Uganda
Naohiko Omata (University of Oxford)
Multi-sited fieldwork in Uganda allows for an exploration of the complex patterns of engagement between refugees’ economic activities and local economies, in urban, emergency and protracted settings.
www.fmreview.org/economies/omata

Refugees and host communities in the Rwandan labour market
 Özge Bilgili and Craig Loschmann (Utrecht University / Maastricht University)
In Rwanda, Congolese refugees have the same freedom of movement and right to work as Rwandans but the experiences and economic activities of these two populations are very different.
www.fmreview.org/economies/bilgili-loschmann

The role of rural grocery stores in refugee reception
Zachary Whyte, Birgitte Romme Larsen and Mona Schaldemose
(University of Copenhagen)
Our research with rural grocery store managers in Denmark suggests that the integration of asylum centres into the local social and economic life in rural areas is a key factor in successful refugee reception.
www.fmreview.org/economies/whyte-larsen-schaldemose

Collaboration with criminal organisations in Colombia: an obstacle to economic recovery
Christopher M Hays (Fundación Universitaria Seminario Bíblico de Colombia)
Those seeking to support economic development for internally displaced people in Colombia need to understand how and why many IDPs collaborate with armed groups and criminal organisations.
www.fmreview.org/economies/hays

Syrian economies: a temporary boom?
Ahmad Al Aijan (Bielefeld University)
Some displaced people and their host communities have benefited economically from the consequences of conflict in Syria’s Raqqa province. Others need support – and the type of support needed will change as circumstances change.
www.fmreview.org/economies/alaijan

Obstacles to refugees’ self-reliance in Germany
Elizabeth Ekren (University of Bonn)
The majority of Germany’s refugees and asylum seekers rely on government welfare and face serious obstacles to self-reliance. Integration policies must eliminate these obstacles to promote mutual long-term benefits for refugees and their new communities.
www.fmreview.org/economies/ekren
The new world of work and the need for digital empowerment
Miguel Peromingo and Willem Pietersen (Consultant and writer / Center for eGovernment Studies)
References are often made to forced migrants’ digital literacy, including their use of smartphones to organise journeys and communicate once at their destinations. Other digital skills, however, including those relating to the workplace, are of greater relevance to supporting their integration.
www.fmreview.org/economies/peromingo-pietersen

Investing in refugees: building human capital
Lili Mottaghi (World Bank)
Investing in refugees’ well-being is a global public good, and the international community should work to reduce malnutrition and increase access to education for refugees in order to help build human capital and achieve better economic outcomes for all.
www.fmreview.org/economies/mottaghi

Towards greater visibility and recruitment of skilled refugees
Leah Nichles and Sayre Nyce (Talent Beyond Boundaries)
Showcasing refugees’ skills connects refugees to global work opportunities, and also shifts the narrative from one of refugees being burdens to host countries to one in which refugees are recognised as skilled workers for whom countries should be competing.
www.fmreview.org/economies/nichles-nyce

Validating highly educated refugees’ qualifications
Katarina Mozetič (University of Oslo)
Qualification certificates play a central role in the labour market integration of highly educated refugees but validating them presents considerable challenges. Sweden and Norway have introduced some positive developments to address such difficulties.
www.fmreview.org/economies/mozetic

Refugee livelihoods: new actors, new models
Ziad Ayoubi and Regina Saavedra (UNHCR)
The international community is increasingly emphasising the need to bridge the humanitarian–development gap. But what does this mean on the ground in terms of refugees’ livelihoods and economic inclusion?
www.fmreview.org/economies/ayoubi-saavedra

The macro-economic impacts of Syrian refugee aid
Tobias Schillings (University of Oxford / Consultant to UNDP)
A new study on the effects of humanitarian assistance in response to the Syria crisis finds significant positive impacts for regional economic growth and job creation.
www.fmreview.org/economies/schillings

Quality of work for Syrian refugees in Jordan
Maha Kattaa and Meredith Byrne (International Labour Organization)
Work permits have been at the centre of the policy debate on the hosting of Syrian refugees in Jordan. This approach needs also to involve ensuring decent working conditions for all.
www.fmreview.org/economies/kattaa-byrne
The gig economy in complex refugee situations
Abigail Hunt, Emma Samman, Dina Mansour-Ille and Henrieke Max (Overseas Development Institute / International Rescue Committee)
Research with Syrian women refugees in Jordan suggests that, despite significant challenges, the gig economy has some potential to help refugees participate in host communities and to bolster their economic participation.
www.fmreview.org/economies/hunt-samman-mansourille-max

The power of markets: lessons from Uganda
Alison Hemberger, Sasha Muench and Chelsea Purvis (Mercy Corps)
Market-based approaches in northern Uganda demonstrate the benefits of supporting local markets instead of distributing in-kind aid.
www.fmreview.org/economies/hemberger-muench-purvis

Livelihoods programming and its influence on secondary migration
Richard Mallett, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Clare Cummings and Nassim Majidi (Overseas Development Institute / Samuel Hall)
Improving access to work, as well as livelihoods programming itself, is required if the lives and livelihoods of Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia are to improve.
www.fmreview.org/economies/mallett-hagenzanker-cummings-majidi

The shortcomings of employment as a durable solution
Nora Bardelli (University of Oxford)
The refugee assistance regime that prevails today seems to insist that the best, or only, solution to protracted refugee situations is firmly rooted in improving access to employment. This approach, however, inevitably favours some and excludes others, while also ignoring the deeper political and social issues at stake.
www.fmreview.org/economies/bardelli

Syrian refugees and Jordanian citizens take part in crowd work, outsourced from Western Union. Why have we pixelated their faces? See www.fmreview.org/photo-policy
**Refugee-led social protection mini-feature**

**Refugee-led social protection: reconceiving refugee assistance**  
Evan Easton-Calabria and Kate Pincock (University of Oxford)  
The help and assistance that refugees offer each other is central to the lives of many displaced people. Recognising this allows support for displaced people to be reconceived in more sustaining and empowering ways.  
[www.fmreview.org/economies/eastoncalabria-pincock](http://www.fmreview.org/economies/eastoncalabria-pincock)

**Refugee paralegals**  
Musenga Tshimankinda Christian (Refugee paralegal)  
Refugees in Kenya face multiple barriers to accessing their rights. The work of paralegals who are themselves refugees and who support and facilitate refugees’ access to justice offers a vital service that many NGOs, whose scope and budgets are limited, insufficiently provide.  
[www.fmreview.org/economies/musenga](http://www.fmreview.org/economies/musenga)

**Kobciye: empowering Somali refugees in Nairobi**  
Afrah Hassan (Kobciye)  
Established by a resettled Somali refugee and now under the leadership of his children, Kobciye resource centre works to empower Somali refugees in Eastleigh, Nairobi.  
[www.fmreview.org/economies/hassan](http://www.fmreview.org/economies/hassan)

**Syrian refugee-led organisations in Berlin**  
Jennifer Wood, Evan Easton-Calabria and Yahya Alaous (Educational consultant / University of Oxford / Journalist)  
Many of the approximately 50,000 Syrian refugees living in Berlin continue to depend largely on State assistance; some refugees have also created and found additional support in active, vibrant community initiatives.  

**Refugee-led education in Indonesia**  
Thomas Brown (Researcher/Same Skies)  
Refugee-led education initiatives in West Java, Indonesia, show how refugee communities can work with supporters to overcome service gaps faced in host countries, demonstrating a community-led approach to refugee assistance that is empowering and sustainable.  
[www.fmreview.org/economies/brown](http://www.fmreview.org/economies/brown)

**Lessons from LGBTIQ refugee-led community-based organisations**  
Hester K V Moore (Consultant for RefugePoint/UNHCR N'Djamena)  
The work of community-based organisations led by and in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) refugees in Nairobi, Kenya, provides important insights into how humanitarian agencies can form effective partnerships that help to ensure access to services for all.  
[www.fmreview.org/economies/moore](http://www.fmreview.org/economies/moore)

---

**Interested in collaborating with FMR to enhance your outreach and impact?**

If your organisation is applying (or is part of a consortium applying) for funding on a theme that is relevant to FMR’s readership, please consider including FMR in your proposal narrative and budget to enhance your outreach and impact. We have had fruitful collaborations of this kind with research, UN, government and NGO partners. Please contact the Editors at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk to discuss options, whether mini-features (as in this issue) or a full feature theme.
Humans and animals in refugee camps
mini-feature

Humans and animals in refugee camps
Benjamin Thomas White (University of Glasgow)
More research is needed, across disciplines, to better understand the important and varied roles that animals play in the lives of people in refugee camps.
www.fmreview.org/economies/white

The role of livestock in refugee–host community relations
Charles Hoots (Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture)
In South Sudan, tensions arose when refugees arrived with their livestock, disrupting the existing relationships between the local population and nomadic peoples. Understanding the relations between all three groups of people and their livestock was key to finding solutions.
www.fmreview.org/economies/hoots

Working equids in refugee camps
Patrick J Pollock (University of Edinburgh)
Refugee camps offer good opportunities for cooperation between humanitarian and animal welfare organisations for the benefit of displaced people and their working animals.
www.fmreview.org/economies/pollock

Sheltering animals in refugee camps
Lara Alishawawreh (Edinburgh Napier University)
Animals play an important role in many people’s lives in displacement. Camp planners and managers need to take animals’ needs into greater account in order for displaced people to continue to benefit from this interaction.
www.fmreview.org/economies/alshawawreh

Understanding risk in human–animal interactions
Sara Owczarczak-Garstecka (University of Liverpool)
There needs to be better understanding not only of the importance of animals in the lives of displaced people but also of the potential risks incurred by human–animal interactions and how best to mitigate these risks.
www.fmreview.org/economies/owczarczakgarstecka

Animal and human health in the Sahrawi refugee camps
Giorgia Angeloni and Jennifer Carr (Veterinari Senza Frontiere Italia/VSF International Network / University of Glasgow)
Health challenges in the Sahrawi refugee camps in the Algerian desert are faced by both human and animal populations, and therefore responses must benefit both.
www.fmreview.org/economies/angeloni-carr

A field study of migration and adversity
Derek Robertson (Wildlife artist)
The migratory journeys of birds can reflect the same complexity of issues that trigger and affect human displacement.
www.fmreview.org/economies/robertson

To access all FMR podcasts (arranged by issue), go to https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series and search for ‘forced migration review’.
Forthcoming feature themes

- FMR 59: Twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (October 2018)
- FMR 60: Education (February 2019)

Details at www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.

To be notified when calls for articles and new issues go online, follow us on Facebook or Twitter or sign up for email alerts at www.fmreview.org/request/alerts.

Cover image

A 27-year-old Burundian refugee and former truck driver in front of his grocery shop, Kashoja village (Nakivale settlement), Uganda. UNHCR/Frederic Noy

We would like to thank Karen Jacobsen (Tufts University) and Khalid Koser (Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund) for their assistance as advisors to the Economies feature theme. We are also grateful to the following donors for their support of this issue: ESRC-AHRC (Economic and Social Research Council and Arts and Humanities Research Council) Global Challenges Research Fund, the Global Program on Forced Displacement of the World Bank Group, Mercy Corps, UNHCR Division of Resilience and Solutions (Livelihoods Unit) and the Wellcome Trust.

Forced Migration Review (FMR) provides a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, refugees and internally displaced people, and those who work with them. It is published in English, Arabic, Spanish and French.

Forced Migration Review
Refugee Studies Centre
Oxford Department of International Development
University of Oxford
3 Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TB, UK
fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk • www.fmreview.org
Skype: fmreview • Tel: +44 (0)1865 281700

Disclaimer: Opinions in FMR do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, the Refugee Studies Centre or the University of Oxford.

Copyright:
FMR is an Open Access publication. You are free to read, download, copy, distribute, print or link to the full texts of FMR articles, and this digest and the magazine, as long as the use is for non-commercial purposes and the author and FMR are attributed.

Authors who publish with FMR retain copyright subject to the grant of exclusive licence to FMR. All articles published in FMR in print and online, and FMR itself, are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND) licence. Details at www.fmreview.org/copyright.