From the Editors

“New technologies are changing the environment in which we work, creating risks that we must not ignore while bringing opportunities for both displaced people and those who work on their behalf.”

We need to get used to the idea that modern technologies are reaching and affecting not only researchers and agencies but even the displaced and uprooted themselves. This issue of FMR is full of examples of how this is true. In fact it may be the agencies which – despite their own use of technology – need to catch up with the importance of technology in the lives of displaced people. Technology can have a transformative effect for displaced people and for their relationships to governments, the agencies, the diaspora and each other.

The articles in this issue cover both positive and negative aspects of the spread of technologies; the increased accountability, and the increased scope for controlling displaced people; the opening up through the internet of possibilities beyond the traditional confines of life as a displaced person; and the risks and dangers that that brings; and the potential in technological advances for assistance and protection programmes.

As ever, we hope that this issue of FMR will open up this subject for you, as it has done for us. In that spirit, please Tweet about it or re-Tweet our announcement, ‘like’ our Facebook page, add a link on Delicious, text people you know....

This issue also contains a range of articles on other aspects of the experiences of and responses to forced migration in a variety of circumstances – in Japan, in cities, at sea, in Egypt, and more. www.fmreview.org/technology/contents.html#editors
Foreword
T Alexander Aleinikoff (Deputy UN High Commissioner for Refugees)
Superficially at least, today’s refugee camps do not appear significantly different from those that existed 30 or 40 years ago. But upon a closer look, it becomes apparent that things are changing…
www.fmreview.org/technology/aleinikoff.html

Citizen initiatives in Haiti
Imogen Wall (infoasaid)
The 2010 earthquake in Haiti ushered in a new era for the role and power of technology and communication systems in disaster response – especially for how local responders used them.
www.fmreview.org/technology/wall.html

Disaster Response 2.0
Jeffrey Villaveces (UNOCHA)
The traditional disaster response community is only now beginning to assimilate the vast changes that new technologies could bring for information management in their field.
www.fmreview.org/technology/villaveces.html

The only constant is change
Mariko Hall (World Food Programme)
Can the humanitarian community’s providers of telecommunications services keep up with the pace of change – and the pace of demand?
www.fmreview.org/technology/hall.html

Technology in aid of learning for isolated refugees
Petra Dankova and Clotilde Giner (Jesuit Refugee Service)
The lack of higher education opportunities for refugees, many of whom flee before being able to complete their education, is a widely acknowledged problem.
www.fmreview.org/technology/dankova-giner.html

Early warning of mass atrocity crimes
Phoebe Wynn-Pope (Consultant with Oxfam Australia)
The use of new technologies for early warning systems can help reduce people’s vulnerability to mass violence.
www.fmreview.org/technology/wynn-pope.html

Access to information – inclusive or exclusive?
Gill Price and Linda Richardson (All In Diary)
Do new technologies increase access to information and knowledge for all – or are they deepening a technological divide?
www.fmreview.org/technology/price-richardson.html

Using technology to help save mothers and babies
Sandra Krause and Diana Quick (Women’s Refugee Commission)
A new initiative uses social networking to connect frontline maternal health workers in crisis-affected areas to build a professional community of practice.
www.fmreview.org/technology/krause-quick.html

Luxembourg-UNHCR-Skype synergies
Antoine Bertout, Marc de Bourcy and Mohammad Faisal (Skype, Government of Luxembourg and UNHCR)
A partnership between UNHCR, the Government of Luxembourg and Skype is keeping UNHCR staff in hardship locations in touch with their families and friends.
www.fmreview.org/technology/bertout-debourcy-faisal.html

Open access to scholarly research
Elisa Mason (Forced Migration Current Awareness)
Forced migration authors hold the key to enabling free and unfettered access to the full text of research articles.
www.fmreview.org/technology/mason.html

Remote visual evidence of displacement
Susan Wolfinbarger and Jessica Wyndham (the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program)
Geospatial technologies such as satellite imagery provide a means of ‘reaching’ a conflict zone when on-the-ground reporting may be too dangerous, a region too remote, or access denied.
www.fmreview.org/technology/wolfinbarger-wyndham.html

Web-based monitoring in an insecure environment
Andrew Harper (UNHCR)
UNHCR has developed Project Tracking and IDP databases for its work in Iraq in order to facilitate its operations at a lower risk to all stakeholders.
www.fmreview.org/technology/harper.html

Phoning home
Linda Leung (University of Technology, Sydney)
Simply having access to technology does not resolve the problem of communication between displaced people and their families.
www.fmreview.org/technology/leung.html

What Ushahidi can do to track displacement
Galya B Ruffer (Center for Forced Migration Studies at Northwestern University)
Ushahidi is an interactive mapping tool for use in crisis situations, which humanitarian workers can use to help them target assistance.
www.fmreview.org/technology/ruffer.html

Online connection for remittances
Naohiko Omata (University of London School of Oriental and African Studies)
Internet cafés in refugee camps allow refugees to maintain and create networks for overseas remittances. For those who rely on receiving money from overseas...
www.fmreview.org/technology/omata.html

We hope you will find FMR# useful. We would welcome any feedback - please email the Editors at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk
How displaced communities use technology to access financial services
Abdirashid Duale (Dahabshiil)
As drought forces hundreds of thousands of Somalis to flee, providing financial services might not seem an immediate priority. However these services are a lifeline for millions of people...
www.fmreview.org/technology/duale.html

Satellite phones help rescue of refugees
Virginia Signorini (System of Protection for Asylum Seekers and Refugees)
The first phone call came at 04.30 in the morning one day in 2006. They were in trouble out at sea in the Mediterranean and were calling for help...
www.fmreview.org/technology/signorini.html

GBV data collection and sharing
Kristy Crabtree (International Rescue Committee)
While information can attest to the severity of need and call people to action, it can also be collected, stored and shared in a way that violates safety and ethical standards.
www.fmreview.org/technology/crabtree.html

The networking Tibetan diaspora
Emma Tobin (Refugee Studies Centre)
Since the internet first came to Dharamsala in the late 1990s, Tibetan exiles have forged an active online community...
www.fmreview.org/technology/tobin.html

Disabled persons database after Pakistan floods
Niaz Ullah Khan (Sightsavers/SAIBER Foundation Pakistan)
Following the 2010 Pakistan floods, Sightsavers supported a partner organisation to establish a computerised database of people with disabilities and older persons...
www.fmreview.org/technology/khan.html

Making online connections
Jennifer Flemming (University of Colorado)
Internet-based technologies are changing the way refugees are able to remain connected to their origins while adjusting to life in a new country.
www.fmreview.org/technology/flemming.html

From the local community in Colombia into cyberspace
Juan David Gómez-Quintero (University of Zaragoza)
New technologies of communication allow new types of action and partnership between social movements in Colombia and international NGOs.
www.fmreview.org/technology/gomez-quintero.html

The role of technology in family tracing in Kenya
Lucy Kiama, Christopher Mikkelsen, Caroline Njeri and Mikkel Hansen (Refugee Consortium of Kenya and Refugees United)
The spread of mobile phones and the internet can help refugees trace missing family members. Security of data is a vital aspect of any such tools.
www.fmreview.org/technology/kiama-et-al.html

Mobile phones used for public health surveillance
Kebede Deribe (Merlin)
In Darfur, the Ministry of Health, WHO and partners have developed a mobile phone-based infectious disease surveillance system for use where resources and facilities may be limited.
www.fmreview.org/technology/deribe.html

Technology and engineering to support work with refugees
Stephanie Hunt and Geoffrey C Orsak (Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity, SMU Lyle School of Engineering)
New partnerships are being forged to encourage young engineers to use their skills in the service of refugees.
www.fmreview.org/technology/hunt-orsak.html

Community Technology Access project
Daniela Ionita (UNHCR)
In today’s world, ‘protection’ cannot be complete without access to technology. We must use new tools and technologies to empower refugees...
www.fmreview.org/technology/ionita.html

Sharing sensitive data on forced migrants
Prisca Benelli, Alessandro Guarino and Jen Ziemke (Tufts University and INTERSOS)
Can a collaborative web-platform for sharing critical demographic information about displaced people improve delivery and response?
www.fmreview.org/technology/benelli-guarino-ziemke.html

Android phones for mosquito net surveys
Sarah Hoibak and Marian Schilpieroord (UNHCR)
UNHCR has been investigating the advantages and disadvantages of using mobile phones for a mosquito net coverage survey in Dadaab in Kenya.
www.fmreview.org/technology/hoibak-schilpieroord.html

Country of Origin Information: old problems, modern solutions
Marco Formisano (UNHCR)
The current multitude of sources of information paradoxically renders access to good quality Country of Origin Information for refugee status determinations quite cumbersome.
www.fmreview.org/technology/formisano.html

Refugees enjoy freedom to surf
Angella Nabwowe-Kasule (Refugee Law Project)
The Refugee Law Project in Uganda has set up an internet café to enable refugees to link up with family and friends back home and those resettled to other countries.
www.fmreview.org/technology/nabwowe-kasule.html

Technology: bringing solutions or disruptions?
Paul Currión (www.humanitarian.info)
Most of our discussions still focus on how responding organisations can use technology more effectively, rather than how disaster-affected communities might use those same technologies.
www.fmreview.org/technology/currión.html
New technologies – always an improvement?
Lisbeth Pilegaard (Norwegian Refugee Council)
Technology is supposed to enhance our collective ability to recognise, describe, coordinate, resource and respond to crisis-affected people.
www.fmreview.org/technology/pilegaard.html

General Articles

‘Identity unknown’: migrant deaths at sea
Stefanie Grant (University of Sussex)
Tens of thousands of migrants and asylum seekers have lost their lives on dangerous sea crossings yet there is still no framework for identifying those who die or recording their numbers.
www.fmreview.org/technology/grant.html

Nearly a refugee: thoughts from Cairo
Shaden Khallaf (American University in Cairo)
Turbulence in North Africa and the Middle East has forced many to flee. One woman in Cairo, on the brink of flight, considers her options.
www.fmreview.org/technology/khallaf.html

Language training in the Czech Republic:
Markéta Bačáková (Charles University, Prague)
Language skills are crucial for the integration of refugees. In the Czech Republic, all persons granted international protection have the legal right to language tuition...
www.fmreview.org/technologybacakova.html

Forgotten and unattended: refugees in post-earthquake Japan
Katsunori Koike (Japan Association for Refugees)
Despite being a world leader in disaster preparedness, Japan paid scant attention to the needs of one of its most marginalised social groups after the 2011 earthquake.
www.fmreview.org/technology/koike.html

A new strategy for meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas
Roger Zetter and George Deikun (Refugee Studies Centre and UN-HABITAT)
Significant challenges remain across key humanitarian operational approaches relating to the needs of growing numbers of IDPs and refugees who migrate to cities.
www.fmreview.org/technology/zetter-deikun.html

Preventing partner violence in refugee and immigrant communities
Greta Uehling, Alberto Bouroncle, Carter Roeber, Nathaniel Tashima and Cathleen Crain (LTG Associates)
For many refugees and other forced migrants, sexual and gender-based violence does not necessarily stop after resettlement; for some, that may be when it starts.
www.fmreview.org/technology/uehling-et-al.html

Kenyan refugees included in transitional justice processes
Bernadette Iyodu (Makerere University)
In the complex relationship between forced migration and transitional justice, a visit by the Kenyan Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission to a refugee settlement in Uganda seems to mark a significant step...
www.fmreview.org/technology/iyodu.html

Protracted internal displacement: is local integration a solution?
Elizabeth Ferris and Kate Halff (Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement and Norwegian Refugee Council’s Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)
Local integration should be given greater consideration as a desirable settlement solution for IDPs, particularly in situations of protracted displacement. Recent research in six countries...
www.fmreview.org/technology/ferris-halff.html

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