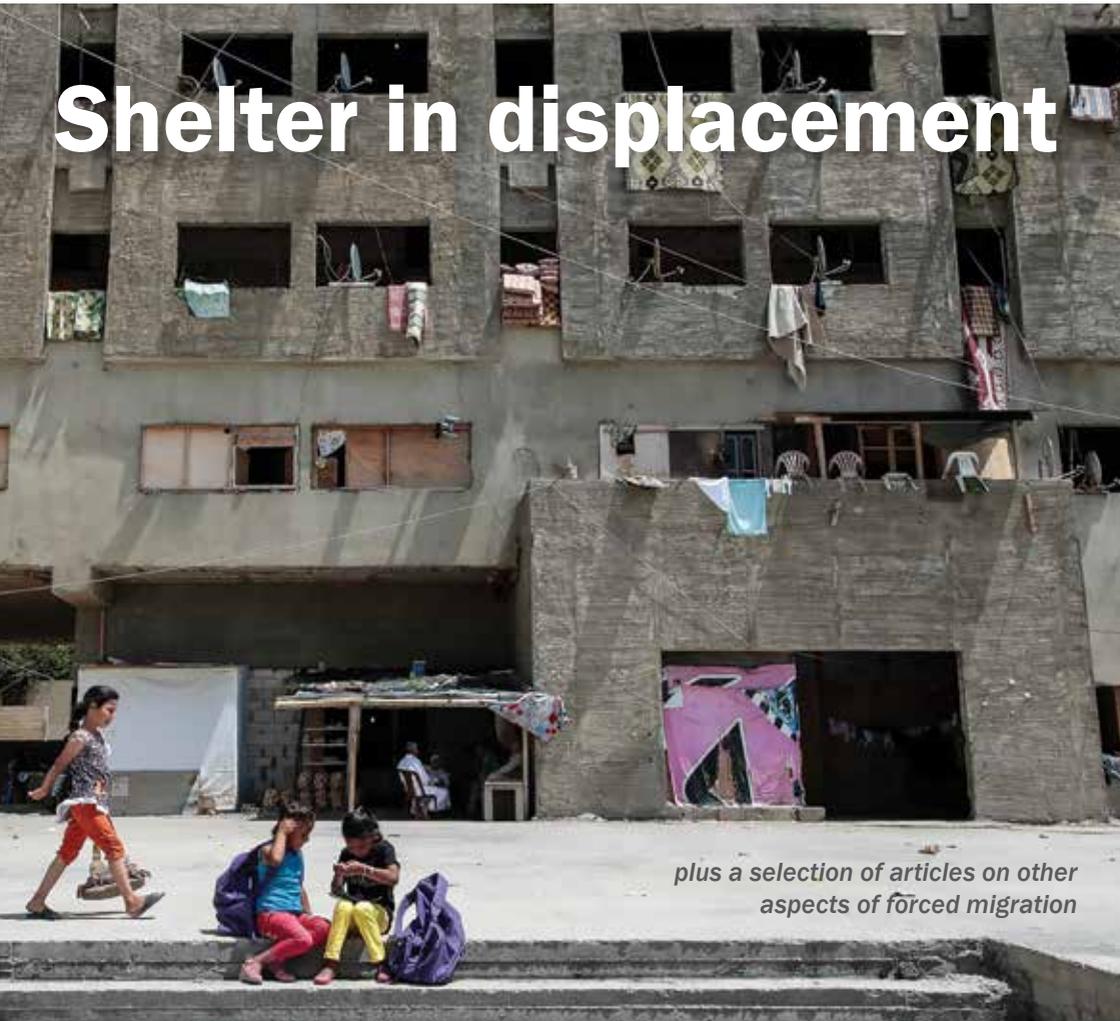


# Shelter in displacement



*plus a selection of articles on other aspects of forced migration*

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

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[www.fmreview.org/shelter](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter)



# Shelter in displacement

All displaced people need some form of shelter, and circumstances dictate that in reality not much of it conforms to the typical picture of a tent or tarpaulin nor meets official standards. The types of shelter and settlement responses found, employed and created by, and created for, displaced people profoundly affect their experience of displacement. It should provide some protection from the elements and physical security for those who dwell in it, and the articles in this issue of FMR give a glimpse of just some of the many ways this is possible.

But displaced people also seek safety, comfort, emotional security, some mitigation of risk and of the unease that accompanies being displaced, and even, as time passes, some semblance of home. Displacement also disrupts community but even a temporary shelter can conform to people's notions of home and belonging. The re-forming of community – whether from among one's own people or among other displaced people and, importantly, among those into whose place one has been displaced – is an essential part of successful, satisfactory and sustainable shelter.

The articles in this FMR address these factors from a range of points of view: those of hosts, of agencies, of designers and of displaced people. The complexity of approaches to shelter both as a physical object in a physical location and as a response to essential human needs has engaged many humanitarian actors and, increasingly, designers, architects and innovators too. Technical shelter guidelines are widely available, so we have not attempted to include them here; instead we have selected articles that show some of how the guidelines play out in reality. Other articles show where and how displaced people establish themselves, how design considerations relate to the social and cultural reality of those who will live in the shelters, and how people make, inhabit, transform and adapt their shelter and settlement.

The full issue is available at [www.fmreview.org/shelter](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter)



## Refugee settlements and sustainable planning

Brett Moore (UNHCR)

We need to develop refugee settlement planning processes that not only facilitate long-term planning but also allow for incremental upgrading. The case of M'Bera in Mauritania illustrates this.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/moore](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/moore)



## Shelter in flux

Charles Parrack, Brigitte Piquard and Cathrine Brun (CENDEP)

Current humanitarian guidelines do not sufficiently cover what shelter means in volatile and protracted conflict settings, particularly outside organised camps. We propose improved tools that will address that gap.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/parrack-piquard-brun](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/parrack-piquard-brun)



## An architectural investigation into the provision of refugee accommodation

Plácido Lizancos and Evaristo Zas (University of A Coruña)

When challenged to investigate accommodation options for refugees in their city, architecture students found that there are simple and plausible architectural answers for the integration of refugees in medium-sized European cities such as A Coruña.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/lizancos-zas](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/lizancos-zas)

**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.



## The case for self-recovery

Bill Flinn, Holly Schofield and Luisa Miranda Morel (CARE International UK)

Most families recovering from the catastrophe of a disaster rebuild their own homes. This practice of self-recovery by non-displaced communities has potential for displaced populations too.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/flinn-schofield-morel](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/flinn-schofield-morel)



## Low-cost, locally available shelters in Pakistan

Ammarah Mubarak and Saad Hafeez (IOM)

Flooding in 2010 affected 18 million people in Pakistan. With declining donor funds and flooding again in 2011 and 2012, the humanitarian community required low-cost solutions that could be scaled up to meet both the immediate and the transitional needs of large populations in differing geographical areas.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/mubarak-hafeez](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/mubarak-hafeez)



## Pre-fabricated or freely fabricated?

Irit Katz (University of Cambridge)

The architectural forms of emergency shelters and the ways they are created play a significant role in the ability of their inhabitants to deal with their displacement and to perhaps feel, even temporarily, at home.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/katz](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/katz)



## Shelter for refugees arriving in Greece, 2015-17

John F Wain (UNHCR)

Mass arrivals in Greece since 2015 far exceeded the supply of acceptable shelter. The attempts to provide solutions continues.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/wain](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/wain)



## From drawing-board to Jungle

Pedro Sáez and Carmen García (Suricatta Systems)

Our research and development department has been working on a shelter solution in accordance with the requirement of improving logistics, installation, flexibility, the use of natural resources and, above all, the improvement of living conditions. In the end we went back to more traditional architectural systems, combining them with advanced technological materials.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/saez-garcia](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/saez-garcia)



## The diversity of data needed to drive design

Märta Terne, Johan Karlsson and Christian Gustafsson (Better Shelter)

The developers of the Refugee Housing Unit know every aspect and component of their design but can never know what it is like to wake up in one of them every day. Likewise, the end user does not have the tools or resources to make comprehensive changes to its design. The point is about how to work together on it.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/terne-karlsson-gustafsson](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/terne-karlsson-gustafsson)



## Choice in shelter solutions in Somalia

Martijn Goddeeris and Gregg McDonald (Independent / UNHCR)

Giving future residents of shelters a choice in the style of building and getting them involved in the construction is empowering and builds capacity.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/goddeeris-mcdonald](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/goddeeris-mcdonald)



## Refugees and the city: UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda

Raffael Beier and Jasmin Fritzsche (Ruhr-University Bochum)

Special protection for refugees and displaced persons should be part of countries' housing policies.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/beier-fritzsche](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/beier-fritzsche)



## Shelter provision and state sovereignty in Calais

Michael Boyle (University of Sussex)

Government provision of shelter for Calais' migrant population over the last twenty years has prioritised the assertion of state authority over the alleviation of human suffering. Policies in 2015-16, which involved the destruction of informal shelter and the provision of basic alternative accommodation, continued this trend.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/boyle](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/boyle)



## A camp redefined as part of the city

Cyrille Hanappe (Actes & Cités)

Was what was built at La Linière in Grand-Synthe in northern France a traditional refugee camp or a new kind of urban district?

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/hanappe](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/hanappe)



## Appropriating buildings to house refugees: Berlin Tempelhof

Toby Parsloe (University of Cambridge)

As European cities continue to co-opt existing buildings to use as refugee shelters, the inherent spatial characteristics of these structures present significant challenges to the authorities that select the sites and to those who must reside in them.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/parsloe](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/parsloe)



## Collective homemaking in transit

Alexandra Koptyaeva (Linköping University)

The daily activities of the residents and volunteers of the City Plaza Refugee Accommodation Centre in Athens and the organisation of the space help to construct a positive notion of 'home'.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/koptyaeva](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/koptyaeva)



## Perpetually temporary shelter in Trieste

Roberta Altin (University of Trieste)

An old building that has seen displaced people in it many times over many years is being used by the latest group of arrivals, this time from outside Europe.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/altin](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/altin)



## The impact of humanitarian shelter and settlements on child protection

Nerea Amorós Elorduy (University College London)

Insufficient attention has been paid to the design of shelters and settlements in protracted refugee encampments in Eastern Africa. The results invisibly obstruct young children's development.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/elorduy](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/elorduy)



## Reducing GBV risks through better shelter programme design

Amelia Rule, Jessica Izquierdo and Alberto Piccioli (CARE International UK / IOM)

Good shelter programming must include mitigation measures throughout the project cycle to reduce GBV risks.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/rule-izquierdo-piccioli](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/rule-izquierdo-piccioli)



## Thriving spaces: greening refugee settlements

Carrie Perkins, Andrew Adam-Bradford and Mikey Tomkins (Southern Methodist University / Coventry University / The Lemon Tree Trust)

By incorporating urban agriculture initiatives within refugee camp settings, the concept of shelter can be expanded to include providing protection from the climate, addressing nutritional deficiencies and increasing levels of human dignity, place making and self-sufficiency.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/perkins-adambradford-tomkins](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/perkins-adambradford-tomkins)



## Repurposing shelter for displaced people in Ukraine

Laura A Dean (Millikin University)

Buildings in Ukraine are being repurposed to provide shelter for those fleeing conflict in the country but, as the war continues, the need for more permanent solutions must be acknowledged.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/dean](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/dean)



## Reconstructing 'home' in northern Uganda

Alice Anderson-Gough (Danish Refugee Council)

An understanding of shelter in situations of displacement and return must take into consideration both material and non-material dimensions. As well as undertaking movements in specific geographical landscapes, IDPs and returnees move in social spaces.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/andersongough](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/andersongough)



## Planning for the integration of refugee and host communities in Turkana County, Kenya

Yuka Terada, David Evans and Dennis Mwaniki (UN-Habitat)

The Kalobeyei New Settlement focuses on the creation of a spatial plan to guide settlement in both the short and the long term to the benefit of both host community and refugees.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/terada-evans-mwaniki](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/terada-evans-mwaniki)



## Poor Albanians who hosted displaced Kosovars

Beryl Nicholson (Independent)

The experience of hosting displaced Kosovars is one that at least one Albanian village would prefer not to repeat.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/nicholson](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/nicholson)



## Hosting the displaced – and being hosted

Cynthia Caron (Clark University)

A local family hosting a displaced family in their home is becoming a well-recognised form of shelter for families in displacement. Understanding how displaced persons and their hosts experience hosting can help governments and humanitarian agencies design programme activities to promote its success and sustainability.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/caron](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/caron)



## Security of tenure in the urban context

Neil Brighton, Kirstie Farmer and Øyvind Nordlie (Norwegian Refugee Council)

Addressing the lack of secure tenure and the risk of forced eviction is one of the defining characteristics of urban shelter response.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/brighton-farmer-nordlie](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/brighton-farmer-nordlie)



## The pavements and slums of Dhaka

Nellie LeBeau and Hugh Tuckfield (Emerson Henry Partners / University of Sydney)

Almost half a million people every year seek refuge in Dhaka, compelled by a nexus of climate change, poverty and environmental degradation. Many end up on living on the pavements.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/lebeau-tuckfield](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/lebeau-tuckfield)



## Mass shelters: inappropriate in displacement

Alena Koscalova and Yann Lelevrier (MSF / Independent)

Mass shelters appear to be an inappropriate shelter solution even in the acute onset of a crisis, creating problems of dignity and security and having significant health consequences.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/koscalova-lelevrier](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/koscalova-lelevrier)



## More design, less innovation

Mitchell Sipus (Design and innovation specialist)

Those working in international agencies to develop shelter solutions for displaced populations can learn much from human-centred design practices of professional architects and planners.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/sipus](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/sipus)



## The humanitarian-architect divide

Tom Scott-Smith (University of Oxford)

Humanitarians and architects can fail to find a common language, characterising each other in unhelpfully schematic terms. It is time to bridge the divide and encourage greater collaboration between these professions. By learning from each other's way of thinking they may also become more relevant to displaced people seeking shelter.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/scottsmith](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/scottsmith)



## Using public schools as shelter for IDPs in Yemen

Mohammed Al-Sabahi and Ghaidaa Motahar (UNOCHA / UNDP)

Given the protracted displacement, most IDPs now living in public schools have managed to organise themselves and develop a system with shelter managers and IDP representatives.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/alsabahi-motahar](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/alsabahi-motahar)

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**To access all FMR podcasts (arranged by issue), go to <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series> and search for 'forced migration review'.**



## General articles



### Cash transfer programming: lessons from northern Iraq

Yvonne Deblon and Patrick Gutekunst (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ)

Cash transfers can be a powerful tool in situations of conflict and forced migration. However, the need to adopt a context- and conflict-sensitive approach is of great importance.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/deblon-gutekunst](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/deblon-gutekunst)



### Facilitating ‘reasonable hope’ with refugees and asylum seekers

Greg Turner (Global Community Consulting)

The loss of hope over time has led to despair and a mental health crisis for refugees and asylum seekers on Manus Island and Nauru. The use of the principle of ‘reasonable hope’, however, can support their mental health and well-being.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/turner](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/turner)



### Vulnerability of refugees with communication disabilities to SGBV: evidence from Rwanda

Julie Marshall, Helen Barrett and Angelo Ebengo (Manchester Metropolitan University / Communicability Global, Rwanda / Initiative for Refugees with a Disability, Rwanda)

Refugees with communication disabilities are particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, in part because of their limited ability to report abuse.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/marshall-barrett-ebengo](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/marshall-barrett-ebengo)



### The power of education in refugees’ lives: Sri Lankan refugees in India

Antony Jeevarathnam Mayuran (OfERR Ceylon)

In their determination to take control of an uncertain future, Sri Lankan refugees living in the camps of Tamil Nadu, India, have prioritised education. The story of how they did this, and the crucial role of the host government in supporting them, may inspire other refugee communities who wait in uncertainty for a durable solution.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/mayuran](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/mayuran)



### Children of rape of refugee women, and statelessness, in Egypt

Mohamed Farahat (The Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights)

The facilitation of birth registration procedures for children born from rape – particularly of refugee women – is necessary in order to prevent statelessness.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/farahat](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/farahat)



### Proving torture: demanding the impossible

Lucy Gregg and Jo Pettitt (Freedom from Torture)

New research demonstrates that errors by Home Office asylum caseworkers in their handling of expert medical evidence of torture can make it almost impossible for survivors of torture seeking asylum in the UK to prove that they were tortured.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/gregg-pettitt](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/gregg-pettitt)



### Giving birth in transit through Greece

Raquel Esther Jorge Ricart (University of Valencia)

Pregnant refugee women en route through Europe are having to give birth in extremely difficult conditions. They face appalling choices, and their babies risk being stateless.

[www.fmreview.org/shelter/jorgericart](http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/jorgericart)

## The value of learning

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**Front cover image:** Throughout this issue of FMR we have used images depicting a wide variety of types of shelter, including shelters constructed by displaced people, architect-designed housing units, and urban structures ‘re-purposed’ for refugees’ use. Some of the shelters are based on the concept of ‘building back safer’. Others reflect the paucity of suitable materials available. In other images displaced people are being hosted in local families’ homes, while elsewhere they are clearly renting sub-standard accommodation. There is no one image that defines ‘shelter in displacement’.

So how did we decide what image to use on the front cover of this issue? We wanted to avoid the classic image of the destitute refugee living in a makeshift twig shelter covered in rags and bits of plastic – although for some people such shelters are still their only option. And yet the neat prefabs springing up in various locations around the world are also not the reality for most IDPs and refugees. In the end we decided to reflect the fact that over recent years displaced people increasingly find their own shelter, particularly in urban areas, where their comparative invisibility may be both an asset and a risk.



Housing for Syrian refugees, who are being supported by CARE International Lebanon. Fulvio Zanettini/Aktion Deutschland Hilft

**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.

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