

# Return



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**This is a selection of articles and issues published by Forced Migration Review (FMR) focusing specifically on return, one of the three ‘durable solutions’. You will find for each article: the title, the author(s), a description or introductory sentences and links to the full issue or article online, most of which are also available in Arabic, French and Spanish.**

In addition, we have published other articles which refer to ‘return’ in passing; you can find these by using the search function at [www.fmreview.org/search](http://www.fmreview.org/search). Since ‘return’ is a frequently used word (and will therefore bring up many results) you may wish to narrow search to ‘voluntary return’, etc. Please note that we have not included articles focusing on deportation or Assisted Voluntary Return.

After clicking on the web link given for an article, use the tabs across the top of the website to access the other language versions of that article.

FMR provides a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and refugees and internally displaced people. All back issues are online at [www.fmreview.org](http://www.fmreview.org). To request FMR email alerts or print copies, please visit [www.fmreview.org/request](http://www.fmreview.org/request).

## Full issues

### **Dayton +20: Bosnia and Herzegovina twenty years on from the Dayton Peace Agreement**

FMR 50, September 2015

FMR 50 examines the case of people who were displaced from and within Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of the 1992–95 war, and reflects on the lessons that may be drawn from the successes and failures of the Agreement. Many of the articles focus on aspects relating to return.

[www.fmreview.org/dayton20](http://www.fmreview.org/dayton20)

### **Return to peace**

FMR 11, October 2011

The ten articles in the feature theme address a range of aspects relating to return, including the relationship between several concepts of truth, justice and reconciliation; women’s role in peace and in particular in Rwanda and the Balkans; and return and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Cambodia.

[www.fmreview.org/return-to-peace](http://www.fmreview.org/return-to-peace)

### **Home for Good?**

FMR 21, September 2004

This FMR discusses some of the challenges that displaced people face when making their decision to return, and highlights some of the strategies employed by authorities and agencies to ensure that return occurs in safety and dignity and that reintegration and recovery are sustainable.

[www.fmreview.org/return-reintegration](http://www.fmreview.org/return-reintegration)

### **Going home: land and property issues**

FMR 7, April 2000

The eight articles in this issue illustrate the complexity, difficulty and controversy involved in ensuring that those who have a right to return to their original homes are actually allowed to do so.

[www.fmreview.org/land-and-property-issues](http://www.fmreview.org/land-and-property-issues)

## Articles

### **Property restitution in post-conflict Syria**

Martin Clutterbuck [2018]

Although restitution of property should underpin any post-conflict agreement, in Syria this will be complex. Adherence to the Pinheiro Principles will be critical.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/clutterbuck](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/clutterbuck)

### **Balancing the rights of displaced, returning and remaining populations: learning from Iraq**

Nadia Siddiqui [2018]

The return of some 3.1 million IDPs in Iraq to their places of origin is seen as a benchmark of success in the aftermath of the recent civil war. However, the situation is complex, with critical questions related to mitigating competing rights and protection needs.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/siddiqui](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/siddiqui)

### When is return voluntary? Conditions of asylum in Lebanon

Amy Keith and Nour Shawaf [2018]

The decision of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to return to Syria must not be based on a deteriorating quality of asylum that creates physical, social and material pressures on decisions to return.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/keith-shawaf](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/keith-shawaf)

### Perspectives on the return of Syrian refugees

Leïla Vignal [2018]

Discussions about the imminent return of large numbers of Syrian refugees are premature.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/vignal](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/vignal)

### Repatriation and solutions in stabilisation contexts

Giulio Morello [2016]

So-called stabilisation contexts are risky for repatriation and therefore it is especially important to maintain the legal and practical difference between mandatory and voluntary repatriation.

[www.fmreview.org/solutions/morello](http://www.fmreview.org/solutions/morello)

### Northern Uganda: protection in displacement, protection on return

Denise Dunovant [2016]

In the absence of international or state assistance and protection, community members in northern Uganda stepped in to fill this vacuum both during displacement and throughout the return process.

[www.fmreview.org/community-protection/dunovant](http://www.fmreview.org/community-protection/dunovant)

### Peace in Colombia and solutions for its displaced people

Martin Gottwald [2016]

With the prospect of peace comes the need to find solutions for those displaced during 50 years of fighting. Solutions will not come without comprehensive attention to the factors affecting IDPs and refugees.

[www.fmreview.org/solutions/gottwald](http://www.fmreview.org/solutions/gottwald)

### European Union readmission agreements

Mehdi Rais [2016]

The use of readmission agreements has prompted a debate on their compliance with international law, in particular the provisions on protection for refugees and asylum seekers.

[www.fmreview.org/destination-europe/rais](http://www.fmreview.org/destination-europe/rais)

### Returning from Iran

Armando Geller and Maciej M Latek [2014]

Understanding the factors that have an impact on refugee decision making about return and people's ability to reintegrate following return is critical in planning appropriate pre- and post-return programmes.

[www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/geller-latek](http://www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/geller-latek)

### Reframing solutions for Afghan refugees

Dan Tyler [2014]

Regional programming and advocacy in relation to Afghan refugees should be framed around supporting and responding to, rather than 'solving', protracted displacement.

[www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/tyler](http://www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/tyler)

### Afghan returnees as actors of change?

Marieke van Houte [2014]

Afghan returnees from industrialised countries are expected to contribute to development and peace building in Afghanistan. However, which category of returnee is expected to bring what kind of change often remains under-defined.

[www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/vanhoute](http://www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/vanhoute)

### The changing nature of return migration to Afghanistan

Katie Kuschminder, Melissa Siegel and Nassim Majidi [2014]

Donors and practitioners need to adapt to a changing landscape of migration and return migration in their efforts to target Afghans most in need of assistance.

[www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/kuschminder-siegel-majidi](http://www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/kuschminder-siegel-majidi)

### Anchoring return: the role of the Solutions Strategy

Pierfrancesco Maria Natta [2014]

Providing a minimum standard of living and livelihood opportunities to help anchor those who have returned is critical for the future stability and security of Afghanistan.

[www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/natta](http://www.fmreview.org/afghanistan/natta)

### Preventing re-displacement through genuine reintegration in Burundi

Lucy Hovil [2012]

Displacement is often part of a cyclical process of conflict and displacement. Preventing displacement, therefore, is not only about preventing new displacement but about ensuring that people do not get re-displaced.

[www.fmreview.org/preventing/hovil](http://www.fmreview.org/preventing/hovil)

### The bittersweet return home

Asmita Naik and Frank Laczko [2012]

Migrants left Libya in haste and in fear for their lives. Possessions and valuables were abandoned in the rush to leave. A rapid international response saved lives and facilitated the return home but a premature return may have some unwelcome repercussions.

[www.fmreview.org/north-africa/naik-laczko](http://www.fmreview.org/north-africa/naik-laczko)

### The Colombian guerrilla, forced displacement and return

David James Cantor [2011]

Colombia provides an instructive case-study of the relationship between non-state armed groups and the forced displacement – and return – of civilian populations.

[www.fmreview.org/non-state/cantor](http://www.fmreview.org/non-state/cantor)

### Voluntary repatriation and the participation of Mauritanian refugees

Leonora MacEwen [2010]

The conditions put forward by Mauritanian refugees for a successful voluntary repatriation included "a full and real inclusion of their interests in each step of the process".

[www.fmreview.org/urban-displacement/macewen](http://www.fmreview.org/urban-displacement/macewen)

### Foundations for repatriation and peace in DRC

Vanessa Noël Brown [2010]

Parties to the protracted Congolese conflict have long promoted fear of 'the other' and a thirst for revenge; these attitudes must be addressed if peace is to have a chance.

[www.fmreview.org/DRCongo/brown.htm](http://www.fmreview.org/DRCongo/brown.htm)

### Land and property disputes impeding return and reintegration

Oumar Sylla [2010]

A survey conducted by UNHCR in 2009 in IDP camps in North Kivu shows that access to land is the second factor after security which prevents people from returning to their zone of origin.

[www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/sylla.htm](http://www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/sylla.htm)

### Refugee return and root causes of conflict

Maria Lange [2010]

Since independence, violent conflicts in eastern DRC have been linked to access to land, affirmation of ethnic identities and competition for political control.

[www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/lange.htm](http://www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/lange.htm)

### Return in the political context of North Kivu

Fergus Thomas [2010]

Durable returns of IDPs and refugees into some of the most densely populated areas in eastern DRC are never going to be a simple exercise.

[www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/thomas.htm](http://www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/thomas.htm)

### Cross-border mobility of Iraqi refugees

Géraldine Chatelard [2010]

Far more attention needs to be paid to the circulation of Iraqi refugees across the borders between Iraq and Syria or Jordan. Lack of analysis of this cross-border mobility will be to the detriment of policy planning and the search for durable solutions.

[www.fmreview.org/urban-displacement/chatelard](http://www.fmreview.org/urban-displacement/chatelard)

### To return or stay?

John Giammatteo [2010]

The views of Sri Lankan refugees in India challenge some of the assumptions inherent in promoting repatriation as the most desirable durable solution to protracted displacement.

[www.fmreview.org/disability-and-displacement/john-giammatteo](http://www.fmreview.org/disability-and-displacement/john-giammatteo)

### Safe and suitable return for women fleeing conflict in Liberia

Victoria Ijeoma Nwogu [2010]

When women migrants return, they can face daunting challenges to re-integration but can also contribute to development and transforming societies.

[www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/nwogu.htm](http://www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/nwogu.htm)

### Of tripartites, peace and returns

Steve Hege [2010]

After international agreements covering the return of refugees to Equateur and North Kivu, the challenge is to create local structures that can make the agreements work.

[www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/hege.htm](http://www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/hege.htm)

### Repatriation to Afghanistan: durable solution or responsibility shifting?

Susanne Schmeidl [2009]

Despite the return of almost five million Afghan refugees to Afghanistan since 2002, about three million still remain abroad. What are their prospects of return? More to the point, what is the prospect of those who have returned remaining in Afghanistan?

[www.fmreview.org/protracted/schmeidl](http://www.fmreview.org/protracted/schmeidl)

### Listening to the experiences of the long-term displaced

Dayna Brown and Kathryn Mansfield [2009]

Insights emerging from the Listening Project regarding prolonged displacement were specifically about challenges to returning home, who benefits from international assistance, and security.

[www.fmreview.org/protracted/brown-mansfield](http://www.fmreview.org/protracted/brown-mansfield)

### Burundi: seven years of refugee return

Andreas Kirchhof [2009]

Since UNHCR started its facilitated return programme in spring 2002, Burundi has had to reintegrate about 10% of its population. Refugee return has taken place mostly to rural areas in border provinces, in a context of widespread poverty, lack of basic infrastructure and scarcity of land.

[www.fmreview.org/protracted/kirchhof](http://www.fmreview.org/protracted/kirchhof)

### Protecting housing rights for IDPs in Sri Lanka

Todd Wassel [2009]

The return and relocation of IDPs in the East of Sri Lanka offer lessons on the critical issues that must be addressed if the housing rights of IDPs in the North are to be respected.

[www.fmreview.org/protracted/wassel](http://www.fmreview.org/protracted/wassel)

### Return and re-admission in states' migration policies

Jean-Pierre Cassarino [2009]

The role of the state in protecting its citizens and in defending their rights and privileges has become closely intertwined with its capacity to secure its borders and regulate migration flows.

[www.fmreview.org/statelessness/cassarino](http://www.fmreview.org/statelessness/cassarino)

### Landmines: reason for flight, obstacle to return

Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan [2008]

Burma/Myanmar has suffered from two decades of mine warfare by both the State Peace and Development Council and ethnic-based insurgents. There are no humanitarian demining programmes within the country.

[www.fmreview.org/burma/moser-puangsuwan](http://www.fmreview.org/burma/moser-puangsuwan)

### New housing, land and property restitution rights

Scott Leckie [2006]

The UN's Pinheiro Principles represent the first consolidated global standard on the housing, land and property restitution rights of displaced people.

[www.fmreview.org/peopletrafficking/leckie](http://www.fmreview.org/peopletrafficking/leckie)

### The right to return: IDPs in Aceh

Eva-Lotta E Hedman [2006]

Political changes are underway in Aceh but only a small fraction of those displaced by the December 2004 tsunami or by earlier conflict with insurgents have returned home.

[www.fmreview.org/peopletrafficking/hedman](http://www.fmreview.org/peopletrafficking/hedman)

### Uncertain return to southern Sudan

Graham Wood and Jake Phelan [2006]

The return of Sudanese refugees who arrive with very little inevitably compounds the poverty of their hosts. Without greater sensitivity, aid could exacerbate deep divisions.

[www.fmreview.org/peopletrafficking/wood-phan](http://www.fmreview.org/peopletrafficking/wood-phan)

**Europe and the rebuilding of Somalia**

Kithure Kindiki [2005]

As Somalia stumbles towards peace, should Europe assist in refugee repatriation and reconstruction?

[www.fmreview.org/europe/kindiki](http://www.fmreview.org/europe/kindiki)

**The great land theft**

Scott Leckie [2005]

If housing, land and property rights are put at the heart of a post-disaster plan – rather than cast aside as too complicated or expensive – the chances are that it will succeed. If these rights are ignored or, more ominously, systematically violated, not only will rights be abused but also reconstruction will fail.

[www.fmreview.org/tsunami/leckie](http://www.fmreview.org/tsunami/leckie)

**IDPs in the Balkans – the challenges of sustainable return**

Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement [2005]

By 2005, much has been achieved in enabling persons displaced in the 1990s to return to their original places of residence in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo. A large number of property disputes have been resolved and houses and apartments have been repossessed by, or at least re-allocated to, their previous owners.

[www.fmreview.org/sudan/brookings](http://www.fmreview.org/sudan/brookings)

**The reality of return: IDPs in Darfur**

Mathijs Le Rutte [2005]

Despite continuing insecurity, IDPs in Darfur are starting to return home. UNHCR and other agencies involved in their assistance and protection must ensure that the principles of voluntariness, safety and dignity are adhered to.

[www.fmreview.org/sudan/lerutte](http://www.fmreview.org/sudan/lerutte)

**Sustainable IDP/refugee return depends on collaborative approach**

Sajjad Malik [2005]

The Livelihoods and Social Protection cluster of the Joint Assessment Mission forms the basis of the plan for the return and reintegration of some 6.7 million Sudanese by 2011. Success will depend on commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Process and sustained international support.

[www.fmreview.org/sudan/malik](http://www.fmreview.org/sudan/malik)

**Assisting the return of displaced Dinka Bor**

Paul Murphy [2005]

The issues involved in supporting the return of internally displaced Dinka Bor communities highlight the complex, and often ignored, challenges of addressing the consequences of South-South conflict.

[www.fmreview.org/sudan/murphy](http://www.fmreview.org/sudan/murphy)

**Peace in the Middle East: getting real on the issue of Palestinian refugee property**

Scott Leckie [2003]

Why are Palestinian refugees treated so systematically differently from all of the world's other refugee groups when it comes to return and the restoration of housing and property rights?

[www.fmreview.org/african-displacement/leckie](http://www.fmreview.org/african-displacement/leckie)

**Why did they return? The mass return to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran**

Peter Marsden [2003]

Over the spring and summer of 2002, Afghanistan received a reported 1.8 million refugees returning from Pakistan and Iran. This was widely perceived as a vote of confidence in the new Afghan government but studies suggested rather that the reasons for return were far more complex and that refugees had returned to a situation which could barely sustain them.

[www.fmreview.org/african-displacement/marsden](http://www.fmreview.org/african-displacement/marsden)

**Return to Prijedor: politics and UNHCR**

Ayaki Ito [2001]

As Yugoslavia disintegrated, the town of Prijedor in north-west Bosnia and Herzegovina witnessed one of the worst examples of ethnic cleansing during the 1992–1995 war.

[www.fmreview.org/unhcr-convention-50/ito](http://www.fmreview.org/unhcr-convention-50/ito)

**Myth and reality: the return of Kosovan Albanians**

Peter Marsden [1999]

In 1999 there were concerns over potentially premature returns of refugees after the signing of the NATO–Yugoslav peace agreement, and the impact on the remaining refugees and their environment.

[www.fmreview.org/kosovo/marsden](http://www.fmreview.org/kosovo/marsden)



Bosnian refugees return from Kuplensko camp in Croatia to Velika Kladuša in BiH, December 1995.