The role of cultural norms and local power structures in Yemen: Community power structures and attitudes in Yemen are key factors in how IDPs can gain access to resources and services. Mohammed Al-Sabahi and Fausto Aarya De Santis (Oxfam Yemen)

Integrating protection into disaster risk preparedness in the Dominican Republic: Understanding of local communities' experience of and strategies for self-protection, and a far greater commitment to support those communities. Casey Barrs (Center for Civilians in Harm's Way / The Cuny Center)

Refugee women as entrepreneurs in Australia: How do refugee women in Australia engage in entrepreneurial activities? John van Kooy (Brotherhood of St Laurence)

Statelessness and the refugee crisis in Europe: The European Union needs to issue a Directive on common standards for statelessness and refugee status, and to focus on the far-reaching impacts of refugee status across Europe. Josefina Osvaldo Martinez Leguizamon (University of Malta)

Rethinking gender in the international refugee regime: How can gender be effectively integrated into refugee protection? Venetie Seth (Oxfam)

Dominican Republic: The role of community in refugee journeys to Europe: Understanding of local communities' experience of and strategies for self-protection, and a far greater commitment to support those communities. Casey Barrs (Center for Civilians in Harm's Way / The Cuny Center)

Engaging with innovation among refugees and IDPs: Traditional humanitarian actors should develop mechanisms to support innovation by displaced people. Traditional humanitarian actors should develop mechanisms to support innovation by displaced people. Debanjali Das, Teresa Sadie, Amos B Lichtman (University of Oxford / University of California / Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health / University of California (Economics))

Local communities: first and last providers of protection: Refugee women as entrepreneurs in Australia: How do refugee women in Australia engage in entrepreneurial activities? John van Kooy (Brotherhood of St Laurence)

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Business as usual: How can local and community leaders in sub-Saharan Africa prevent forced migration? John van Kooy (Brotherhood of St Laurence)

How do refugee women in Australia engage in entrepreneurial activities? John van Kooy (Brotherhood of St Laurence)

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Local communities: first and last providers of protection

Challenging the established ordering: the need to ‘localise’ protection

Simon Russell (Global Protection Cluster)

‘To localise protection is to redefine the system’

This issue features themes: Local community: first and last protectors of at-risk populations; local civil society: the front line of protection; the importance of recognising the agency of refugees and their diverse hosts in providing protection; and programming; at worst, they risk undermining local communities’ capacity to avoid or survive displacement.

Women-led self-protection in Sudan

Naja Musa Kororo, Lea Kati Thiero and Nita Carsten (Roba Radio, Rehabilitation and Development Organisation / Nuba Mountains Women’s Association / Nuba Mountain Women’s Media Network)

In parts of Sudan, local Nuba and women’s groups have taken the lead in their own protection, and are working to organise and politicise the people in their communities.

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‘This group is essential to our survival’: urban refugees and community-based protection

Saeed Rahman, Simran Chaudhri, Lindsay Stark and Mark Canavera (Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health)

As Rwandan refugees in Kampala, I and others like me are uniquely placed to help newly arrived refugees find their first day, the work is demanding but vital.

A grassroots women’s organisation in Colombia is working to protect women and girls from sexual violence.

Understanding and supporting community-led protection

Nita Carsten (Local to Global Protection / Dhrucharya)

Supporting local protection strategies requires an understanding of the impact of protection interventions. External actors first need to acknowledge the role of people as independent agents themselves.

The ICRC tries to ensure that its activities on behalf of IDPs and those at risk of displacement are community-based and support local community processes.

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Direct action in the face of the threat: women in Uganda

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In parts of Sudan, local NGOs and women’s groups have taken the lead in their own protection, and are working to organise and politicise the people in their communities.
The growing recognition of protection needs of displaced indigenous peoples is becoming more urgent. Many indigenous peoples have been pushed off their lands by military actions and development projects. As a result, they have been forced into displacement without the possibility of returning home. Indigenous peoples have a unique understanding of the environment and are often the best resource for the survival and protection of communities. Their knowledge and experience can be invaluable in providing effective protection. The ICRC tries to ensure that its activities on behalf of IDPs and those at risk of displacement are consistent with the approach of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Protection. This framework emphasizes the importance of community-based approaches and the role of community leaders in protecting vulnerable populations. By involving local communities in the protection process, the ICRC can better understand the specific needs and priorities of the affected populations. The protection of indigenous peoples is a priority for the ICRC, and we are committed to working closely with local communities to ensure that protection is provided in a way that respects their cultural and traditional values.

Further reading:
- "Indigenous peoples and displacement: Challenging the status quo" by Emese Kantor
- "Community-based protection in Colombia: Learning from the experience of the indigenous communities of Caquetá" by Margee Ensign and Alexander Gostick
- "Women-led protection in Sudan: Fighting for their rights and dignity" by Saeed Rahman, Simran Chaudhri, Lindsay Stark and Mark Canavera
- "Community-based protection in Nepal: Lessons from the urban setting" by Michael Fanning and Ismail Kaul

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Understanding and supporting community-led protection

Nils Carstensen (Local to Global Protection / DanChurchAid)

Supporting locally led protection strategies can significantly improve the impact of protection interventions. External actors first need to acknowledge the capacity of people at risk as their insights, while other authors reflect on the subject generally or look at specific community-based protection strategies in countries such as Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, India, Nigeria and Uganda. As usual, this issue of FMR also includes – in addition to the feature theme articles – a varied selection of articles of interest on other forced migration topics.

Northern Uganda: protection in displacement, protection on return

Jennifer S Rosenberg (Women’s Refugee Commission)

Refugees hosting refugees

FMR digest

Women-led self-protection in Sudan

Magda Mama Korobo, Leda Kamir Timbo and Nils Carstensen (Roba Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organisation / Nuba Mountains Women’s Association / Local to Global Protection)

In parts of Sudan, local Nuba and women’s groups have taken on the lead in their own protection, seeking security through their own means. "Protection has become a moral imperative," says Nils Carstensen, "and these groups are adapting to the current challenges, across the sector, including how humanitarians think, and embark upon, community-based protection."

This issue’s feature theme, ‘Local communities: first and last providers of protection’, looks at the capacity of communities to organise themselves before, during and after displacement in ways that can be effective in supporting local communities as providers of first resort. A project run by Nuba Relief in the past has been both diverse and strategic.

Women at market in South Kordofan, with foxhole behind them.

Rebuilding lives in Colombia

Envia Kunter (UNHCR Colombia)

Local action to protect communities in Nigeria

Margee Ensign (American University of Nigeria)

Murgwa Eunice and Ocholi Daniel are among the displaced people in the city of Maiduguri, Nigeria. "We are living in this city since we have been displaced," says Murgwa, "but our situation is not good at all."

Local to Global Protection and DanChurchAid)

Continuing dependence on aid that waxes and wanes with time and that comes largely from the international community may be able to enhance these solutions.

Community protection in Kakuma camp, Kenya

Hanno Brankamp (University of Oxford)

Community policing in Kakuma camp, Kenya is both one of the ICRC’s priority areas and one that has been important to its overall protection strategy. The role of community centres in offering protection: UNHCR and local populations

Nicolas Martin-Achard (UNHCR) and Al Ghaith Association

Globally, the ICRC tries to ensure that its activities on behalf of IDPs and those at risk of displacement are relevant, visible and responsive to the needs of affected people, and of these communities in particular. The ICRC is thus committed to provide protection in situations where the state, either through its own decision or because of incapacity, is not fulfilling its obligations.

Collective action by displaced people in Municipal projects both has both diverse and strategic.

The role of community centres in offering protection: UNHCR and DanChurchAid in Asyam

Nicola Martin-Arthurs (UNHCR) and Ali Shahghassemi

Community-based protection programming: lessons from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Rahman Chaudhri Stark Canavera

In this issue of FMR, we present a selection of articles of interest on other forced migration topics.

Nearly 60% of all refugees now live in cities, a trend that will continue as camps increasingly lose their relevance as sites of refuge. The work is demanding but vital.

Collective action by displaced people in Municipal projects both has been a bridge between peacekeepers and our community partners. Dickon Schiller's work with local communities in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo for the ICRC provided the opportunity for others working in similar contexts to learn from them.

Community-based protection: the ICRC approach

Antonia Martin-Arthurs

The ICRC has long been active at the forefront of displacement, and the refugee crisis is no exception. It has a well established legal framework that has assisted, and continues to assist, displaced peoples in many different ways. The ICRC’s strategy is based on a clear understanding of the structural problems that lead to displacement: in many cases, it is conflict, or the threat of conflict, that leads to displacement.

Colombia is very much part of the local context of human rights protection, and the role of the state in this context is particular important. In the Colombian context, human rights protection is not a question of ensuring the protection of displaced persons, particularly for members of those communities who have specific needs. Somali refugees in Europe are a further example of this. The role of community centres in offering protection: UNHCR and DanChurchAid

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Women at market in South Kordofan, with foxhole behind them.
Local communities: first and last providers of protection

It is often people’s immediate community that provides the first, last and perhaps best tactical efforts. Collaborative, creative initiatives in Nigeria helped protect local communities from much of the impact of Boko Haram violence. When international agencies arrived, however, they ignored these efforts. Refugees hosting refugees may fail to actively incorporate the ‘agency’ of the community into policy understand this reality. Unless they develop a greater awareness of the role of community-based protection strategies, they may fail to quickly incorporate the agency of this sector into policy and programming at an early stage, they risk undermining local community capability to avoid or avert violence and insecurity.

This issue’s feature theme, ‘Local communities: first and last providers of protection’, looks at the selection of articles of interest on other forced migration topics. As usual, this issue of FMR also includes – in addition to the feature theme articles – a varied array of commentaries, a selection of articles of interest on other forced migration topics. As usual, this issue of FMR also includes – in addition to the feature theme articles – a varied array of commentaries, a selection of articles of interest on other forced migration topics.

**Understanding and supporting community-led protection**

Nils Carstensen (Local to Global Protection / DanChurchAid)

Supporting local protection strategies in conflict-affected areas can improve the impact of protection interventions. External actors first need to acknowledge the role of people as independent agents themselves.

**Evaluating the challenging order: the need to ‘localise’ protection**

Simon Russell (Global Protection Cluster)

The growing classification of protection needs as complex and tangled with overlapping, interconnected and sometimes contradictory causes and consequences require for many people affected by or at risk of displacement. However, one definition peacekeeping or humanitarian protection interventions is that they do not ‘localise’ the conflict or the people affected by it.

The ICRC tries to ensure that its activities on behalf of IDPs and those at risk of displacement respect the principle of non-refoulement and support the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers. It also seeks to protect people at risk of displacement, in particular during displacement, and to prevent displacement whenever possible. To do this, the ICRC engages with a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations, and other humanitarian actors.

**Community-based protection: the ICRC approach**

Angela Costello (ICRC)

The ICRC has long acknowledged that its activities on behalf of IDPs and those at risk of displacement require a comprehensive, integrated approach that involves all stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, international organizations, and other humanitarian actors. The ICRC’s approach to community-based protection is based on the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits the return of refugees or asylum-seekers to a country where they face a real risk of persecution or repression.

**Community leadership in displacement, protection on return**

Rita Dabak (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

In the absence of international or state assistance and protection, community members in certain refugee settlements need to be supported with both displacement and throughout the resettlement process, if possible. Community-based protection is a key strategy for ensuring that refugees and internally displaced persons are able to access protection and assistance. This includes providing support for local community leaders and organizations, as well as training and capacity building for them.

**Rethinking support for communities’ self-protection strategies:**

A case study from Uganda

Jacinta A. areas (InAction)

Local protection strategies in Uganda are critical for the protection and safety of refugees and other displaced people. However, these strategies have been undermined by external support, which can lead to feelings of powerlessness. It can furthermore undermine family- and community-based protection efforts.

**Refugees as a first stop for protection in Kampala**

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (University College London)

Refugees can offer a first stop for protection in Kampala, in Uganda. However, their effectiveness is curtailed by the lack of a comprehensive vision, hesitant community engagement, with the potential to play a critical role in the protection of civilians. Recognising that process is as important as outcomes, a community development approach to understanding and supporting community-based protection is needed.

**Networks and ‘neighbourhood’ in Medellín, Colombia**

Jonathan Alanis Murua and James Edwin Granja Sánchez (University of Medellín)

Networks can act as a valuable resource for displaced people, and the international community may be able to enhance these networks in different ways. Effective community-based protection programming: lessons from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Richard Nunn (Oxfam)

Oxfam’s work with local communities in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo was prompted by the need to find new ways to work with communities in order to protect and support them.

**Community Liaison Assistants: a bridge between peacekeepers and local communities**

Jensch Schulze-Kühten (Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences)

Community Liaison Assistants (CLA) play a crucial role in supporting local communities and protecting refugees. However, their effectiveness is curtailed by the lack of a comprehensive vision, hesitant community engagement, and the potential to play a critical role in the protection of civilians. Recognising that process is as important as outcomes, a community development approach to understanding and supporting community-based protection is needed.

**Refugee community development in New Delhi**

Linda Bartosiewicz, Mari Harni, Nims Mohamed Mawut and Kristy Ward (UNHCR)

Recognising that process is as important as outcomes, a community development approach can support the ongoing development of refugee communities in New Delhi. In this article, the authors explore the role of community-based protection in refugee communities in New Delhi.

**Community policing in Kalokota camp, Kenya**

Harriet Njoroge (University of Nairobi)

Community policing has become a familiar and more widely accepted concept within the international community. However, the implementation of community policing strategies in refugee camps and other settings can be challenging for various reasons. This article explores the role of community-based protection in refugee camps and other settings.

**The role of community centres in offering protection: UNHCR and Al Ghaith discuss their approaches.**

Martin Achard-Alghaith (UNHCR)

In this article, UNHCR and Al Ghaith discuss their approaches to community centres in offering protection. In particular, the authors explore how community centres can be used to support fellow refugees. In this article, UNHCR and Al Ghaith discuss their approaches to community centres in offering protection. In particular, the authors explore how community centres can be used to support fellow refugees.

**Women-led self-protection in Sudan**

Jassira Maja, Juma Rukara, and Nila Carstensen (REFLECT)

In parts of Sudan, local NGOs and women’s groups have taken the lead in their own protection, establishing mechanisms to support themselves and others. This ‘localising’ of protection can be critical in helping to empower and support local communities.

**Community-based protection in community centres in Uganda**

Richard Nunn (Oxfam)

In this article, Richard Nunn explores how community-based protection can be supported in community centres in Uganda. The author argues that community-based protection efforts need to be supported with both displacement and throughout the resettlement process, if possible. Community-based protection is a key strategy for ensuring that refugees and internally displaced persons are able to access protection and assistance.

**Rebuilding lives in Colombia**

Enresa Kankan (UNHCR Colombia)

Colombia is working to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence. The government is focusing on protective measures for vulnerable groups, including women and girls, and children.

**Local action to protect communities in Nigeria**

Saeed Rahman, Simran Chaudhri, Lindsay Stark and Mark Canavera (Columbia School of International Affairs)

Refugees hosting refugees may fail to actively incorporate the ‘agency’ of the community into policy. This issue’s feature theme, ‘Local communities: first and last providers of protection’, looks at the selection of articles of interest on other forced migration topics. As usual, this issue of FMR also includes – in addition to the feature theme articles – a varied array of commentaries, a selection of articles of interest on other forced migration topics.

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The role of cultural norms and local power structures in Yemen
Mohammed Al-Sabahi and Fausto Aarya De Santis (Oxfam Yemen)
The role of cultural norms and local power structures in Yemen are key factors in how IDPs can gain access to support. This project aims to find out what people need to be addressed in order for the practice to serve as a model for an enhanced instrument of protection.

Refugee women as entrepreneurs in Australia
U.K. Fisher, Anne E. Millam and Melanie McLaughlin (University of Southern California)
The 'Stepping Stones to Small Business' programme in Australia is appreciated by participants but has shown that 'entrepreneurship' is a problematic concept in the context of women from refugee backgrounds.

Humanitarian visas: building on Brazil's experience
Sara K. Caspersson (Weingart Center for Social Innovation)
Currently the instruments of refugee status determination make asylum claims depend on procedures with a view to mitigating the particular impacts of statelessness in the context of the continuing refugee crisis in Europe.

Statelessness and the refugee crisis in Europe
Richard Mallett and Jessica Hagen-Zanker (Overseas Development Institute)
The European Union needs to issue a Directive on common standards for statelessness in the context of the continuing refugee crisis in Europe.

Engaging with innovation among refugees and IDPs
Danielle Robinson (Tufts University)
Two cases of technological innovation developed by Syrian refugees illustrate the point.

Statelessness
Khalid Koser and Amy Cunningham (Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund)
An initiative to help local communities build resilience against violent extremism may offer useful lessons in how to help local communities access funding to support their self-protection efforts.

Addressing protection as a key element of community-based disaster risk reduction and preparedness
Andrea Verdeja (Oxfam Dominican Republic)
Filling the funding gap for community protection
Andrea Verdeja (Oxfam Dominican Republic)

Preparing for self-preservation
Richard Mallett (Center for Civilians in Harm’s Way)
External actors need a far deeper understanding of local context and the real problems faced by people in Yemen. The instruments of refugee status determination are key factors in how IDPs can gain access to support.

The role of cultural norms and local power structures in Yemen
Mohammed Al-Sabahi and Fausto Aarya De Santis (Oxfam Yemen)

We would like to thank Riyadh Al-Haddad (Oxfam) and James Thomsen (Crisp for Peace, a member of the global ACT Alliance) for their assistance as advisers on the feature theme. We are also grateful to the Global Protection Cluster, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR for their financial support of this issue.
The role of cultural norms and local power structures in Yemen
Mohamed Ababat and Fawaz Al-Dababish (Yemen)
Community power structures and attitudes in Yemen are key factors in how IDPs can gain protection and assistance.

The role of community in refugee journeys to Europe
Richard Mallett and Jessica Hagen-Zanker (Development Studies Institute)
For Intramural and Schattmicke to focus on community networks both in the initial settlement and in their host country.

Integrating protection into disaster risk preparedness in the Dominican Republic
Andres Venteja (Dominican Republic)
Involving community in disaster risk reduction and preparedness efforts is essential to safeguarding human rights in disaster and emergency situations.

Filling the funding gap for community protection
Khalid Koser and Amy Cunningham (Global Community Engagement and Research Fund)
Community-based funding mechanisms and aid collaboration may offer a way for local communities to access funding for their own protection efforts.

References and resources
www.fmreview.org/community-protection/prepare
Preparing for self-preservation
Casey Barrs (Center for Civilians in Harm’s Way / The Cuny Center)
The concept of “safe spaces” is crucial for the protection of civilians in war-torn communities.

Preparing for self-preservation
Hannah Brien (The Development Initiative)
The image of women that are characterised by victimisation and motherhood.

General articles
Rethinking gender in the international refugee regime
Sreeni Sethi (International Centre for Human Rights and Global Political Studies)
Currently the intersection of refugee status determination makes claims depend on reference to a category of “women” that is defined very narrowly.

The role of community in refugee journeys to Europe
Richard Mallett and Jessica Hagen-Zanker (Development Studies Institute)
We refer to the next stages of the community and the importance of community networks both in the initial settlement and in their host country.

Engaging with innovation among refugees and IDPs
John Vlachonis (The Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy)
Innovative humanitarian actors should develop mechanisms to support innovation by displaced people and assist them in their self-reliance.

Statelessness and the refugee crisis in Europe
Kathleen L Long and Aliana Iulian (The University of California, Davis)
The European Union needs to look at a Directive on statelessness in order to avoid a further escalation of statelessness.

Reframing women as entrepreneurs in Australia
Nikhil Patel, Amos Lichtman, Mohit Nair and Parveen Parmar (Harvard Medical School)
The ‘Stepping Stones to Small Business’ programme in Australia is appreciated by participants from refugee backgrounds.

Community power structures and attitudes in Yemen are key factors in how IDPs can gain protection and assistance.

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We are also grateful to Rachel Hastie (Oxfam) and James Thomson (Act for Peace, a member of the Global Protection Cluster).

Integrating protection into disaster risk preparedness in the Democratic Republic of Congo
Andrew Venables (CRS/Debre Birhan, Ethiopia/CRS/Debre Birhan, Ethiopia)

Additional resources relating to communities and self-protection.

References and resources
www.fmreview.org/community-protection

Preventing and preparing for disaster in Ethiopia: An Oxfam experience
Richard Mallett and Jessica Hagen-Zanker (Overseas Development Institute)

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