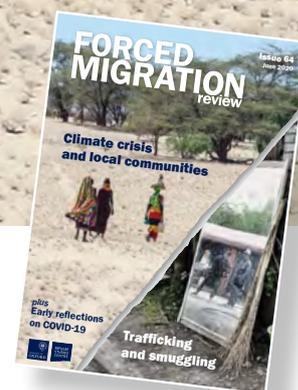


FORCED MIGRATION review



Climate crisis and local communities / Trafficking and smuggling / COVID-19

This **Editors' briefing** provides an overview of **FMR issue 64's** feature theme articles on **Climate crisis and local communities** and **Trafficking and smuggling**, plus some early reflections on **COVID-19**, with links to the relevant articles.

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CLIMATE CRISIS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities around the world have been coping with the effects of a changing climate for decades. The articles published in this feature focus on the impact on local communities, their coping strategies, lessons arising, and broader questions of access, rights and justice. (A future issue of FMR will focus on international response and policy.)

Impact on communities

Communities whose livelihoods depend on the surrounding natural resources, whether land or sea, are particularly vulnerable to the impact of the climate crisis on those resources, whether from sea level rise, inundation and salinisation ([Gini-MendoncaCardoso-PiresRamos](#); [Das-Hazra](#); [Pacific-mobilities](#); [Geiger](#)) or drought ([Porges](#); [CortesFerrandez](#); [Croome-Hussein](#); [Ndikintum-AgMalha](#); [Schoening](#)) or sudden-onset events such as flooding and storms ([Schoening](#); [Porges](#)), with accompanying reduced access to resources to sustain livelihoods. In many contexts, people's **coping mechanisms** are failing to keep pace.

As the narrow strip of land on which the Enseada community in coastal Brazil lived was reduced drastically in size by changing sea levels, the community had to make the decision to relocate ([Gini-MendoncaCardoso-PiresRamos](#)). With little or no State assistance, the community had to **manage their own relocation**. Drawing on traditional knowledge and supported by academic research, they identified a new site and reconstructed their houses, prioritising the most vulnerable and drawing on support from the extended community, including tourists, to fund their costs. The physical and emotional toll was considerable, and only their strong **collectivism**, determination and sense of urgency enabled them to continue. The legal and political invisibility of such communities hinders their protection and access to justice and assistance, despite their obvious vulnerability.

Nomadic-pastoralists such as Kenya's Turkana people have long had their own ways of tackling the impacts of climate change ([Nabenyo](#)). To protect resources, they control and rotate grazing, and share access to pasture; when necessary, they move into neighbouring regions to access greener pastures. As herders increasingly need to move more frequently and further, there are a growing number of clashes and conflict with other groups competing for the same resources. Bilateral negotiations by the countries involved to allow **reciprocal grazing** can help reduce conflict over pasture. Some Turkana have adopted agro-pastoralism and fishing as **alternative livelihoods** but more support and training are needed to help communities diversify, recover and rebuild livelihoods.

For pastoral communities in Ethiopia's Somali region, the 2015–17 drought displaced more than 300,000 people and led to huge livestock losses, forcing people to adapt. Consecutive years of drought and food insecurity have severely depleted communities' coping mechanisms and resilience; in the region there is therefore considerable focus on resilience building among committees of IDPs and host community grassroots organisations. The participation of the whole community in **disaster risk reduction committees** has had some success but in

the absence of government support many committees no longer function. A stronger commitment to local counterparts, starting with communities of IDPs and host community grassroots organisations, would facilitate greater ownership and sustainability ([CortesFerrandez](#)).

Attachment to place

Tradition and connection to the land and livelihoods influence communities' response strategies. In Western Sahara, attempts to encourage sedentary agriculture among Sahrawi refugees now living in camps in Tindouf and the Liberated Territories have met with mixed success, in part because the camp inhabitants are more familiar with animal pastoralism ([Porges](#)). Communities retain the practices, skills and cultural contexts of their **pre-displacement worlds**, and climate resilience policies must be implemented in that context. The most promising local strategy – hydroponic agriculture – has been developed from within the population itself.

The negative impacts of climate change on traditional livelihoods push many in rural communities to **migrate to urban areas**. A case-study of internal climate migration in Mongolia shows, however, that adaptation strategies such as permanent resettlement from rural to urban areas may over time erode communities' long-standing connectedness to place ([Schoening](#)). Central to customs and norms in western Mongolia are beliefs relating to the local landscape. Holistic solutions for **strengthening the rural economy** in the long term – and thus countering the need for internal migration – should focus on increasing the resilience of local livelihoods systems through direct subsidy; promoting cooperative and collective organisation; and improving governance of natural resources. They must also take into consideration the needs of women and youth in accessing year-round, income-generating work.

For communities in the Pacific Islands, types of mobility are numerous and diverse. Case-studies highlight instances in Fiji of **community-initiated relocation**, whether of a whole or part of a community, and temporary or permanent rural to urban migration. Climate resilience building is a key part of Pacific Island migrants' pursuit of work opportunities offshore. Some urban migrants (or those participating in Australia's Seasonal Worker Programme) channel part of their income towards supporting **climate-resilience projects** in their home communities or for better weather-proofing their houses. Other Pacific Islanders, however, have no plans to leave; they speak about the importance of preserving their culture and health – priorities which they carefully balance against the longer-term risks of climate change. The villagers are renewing their **indigenous connections to land** while there is still time, building cultural and social as well as livelihoods resilience ([Pacific-mobilities](#)).

Even when people have moved to safer locations with better living conditions, many experience a long-lasting deep **sense of loss** beyond the immediate distress and exhaustion ([Das-Hazra](#); [Gini-MendoncaCardoso-PiresRamos](#)).

Interaction between communities

Having dealt with the negative consequences of climate change in their home country, Malian refugees in

Mbera, Mauritania are better equipped to deal with such challenges and to mitigate some of these in their host community ([Ndikintum-AgMalha](#)). They have brought with them several techniques, unknown or unused by their host community, and the results have aroused enthusiasm – and emulation – in the host community. Refugees have in turn learned from local environment-friendly practices. This **local-to-local knowledge exchange** challenges the commonly held perception that an influx of refugees because of climate change crisis or conflict – or both – is always negative ([Ndikintum-AgMalha](#)).

Climate justice

Two articles address questions of where responsibilities lie for displacement triggered by climatic factors ([Das-Hazra](#); [Geiger](#)). A case-study of communities in islands in the Indian Sundarbans, where seasonal migration has become a widely used coping strategy, highlights how support and compensation from the State has dried up. Those who lack the means to move are increasingly demanding government assistance to enable their migration to and resettlement in a safer zone. Such cases raise pressing questions about **culpability and responsibility** – and concerns about government refusal to acknowledge this migration as forced rather than voluntary. Pooling insights can promote interaction and sharing of expertise and also the better planning and implementation of grassroots action by communities on the frontline of climate change ([Das-Hazra](#)).

Elsewhere, an article highlights how civil society networks are **fighting climate injustice** ([Geiger](#)). In September 2019 an international conference in Manila brought together people who are leading the climate, development and migration conversations in their countries, demonstrating that this is one struggle with many fronts. Climate change is a social, economic, environmental and political justice issue, requiring fundamental changes on the part of the richer countries of the Global North, in terms of their own role in creating the crisis and in the need for legal recognition by the international community that those displaced by the impacts of climate change are a group in need of special protection. The Manila Initiative on the Rights of Climate Migrants, which emerged from the conference, presents a vision for the future and demands for improvements.

Intersection of vulnerabilities

Pre-existing inequalities are exacerbated by climate change, resulting in differentiated vulnerabilities. Two articles explore the gendered impacts of climate crisis and local responses ([Croome-Hussein](#); [Pentlow](#)). In Somalia/Somaliland, where gender inequality was already very high, climate shocks have shifted many cultural norms and are having an **impact on gender dynamics**. The loss of livestock because of drought has resulted in men being unable to secure income for the family, causing tension and conflict in households and driving domestic violence. In some cases, men leave their families to look for work in cities or for other reasons. Caring and domestic work, traditionally the responsibility of women and girls, have become more demanding and time-consuming. Other forms of gender-based violence,

such as rape, have also been on the rise. Communities have developed a variety of coping mechanisms, and there are also many local and national NGOs who are carrying out protection and awareness-raising activities, and encouraging women's leadership and participation in decision making. However, **shifting norms** is difficult in a humanitarian system which often sees local actors as sub-contractors and where funding is short-term and project-dependent ([Croome-Hussein](#)).

For Indigenous Peoples in the Greater Mekong subregion, women are the first to experience the consequences of unpredictable and extreme weather patterns. As they seek new ways to manage food supply and livestock care they increasingly experience **'time poverty'** because of the additional roles they also fulfil within the household. Local women have developed various networks and mechanisms for supporting income-generation activities, capacity building and knowledge sharing. Emerging from the research in villages in Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam is a clear call for specific capacity building for women to increase literacy, leadership skills and local political participation ([Pentlow](#)).

TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING

Since our issue on human trafficking in 2006, increased reporting of both trafficking and smuggling has triggered renewed attention around the growing impact of, and the links between, these related but distinct phenomena.

The opening article acknowledges the challenges posed by shortcomings in guidelines governing the estimation of **trafficking prevalence** ([Youle-Long](#)). Compounded by a paucity of reliable, comparable data, these challenges not only affect the ability of trafficking researchers and organisations to make accurate estimates but also make it more difficult to assess the effectiveness of an anti-trafficking programme. The authors outline the need for **comprehensive, standardised guidelines**. Such guidelines will help groups determine which estimation method to use based on demographic factors, type of trafficking and their budget and timing constraints – thus helping donors, anti-trafficking organisations and researchers to create a scientifically rigorous, interdisciplinary response that does justice to the experiences of the victims.

Analysis of the incompleteness of trafficking data is developed in an article that challenges the assertion of a causal relationship between trafficking and terror financing – the **so-called trafficking-terror finance nexus** ([Smith](#)). Claims about the nexus developed in the context of the rise of the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, and in the wake of EU efforts to contain irregular migration. However, evidence suggests that terror groups more often use trafficking and allied crimes for **operational and ideological purposes** rather than financing. Research respondents from international organisations, think tanks and international law enforcement warn that treating trafficking as a hard security issue risks creating unintended, adverse results for international security and trafficking victims alike.

Prosecution and litigation

Two articles explore the **prosecution** of trafficking offences and the identification and protection of victims throughout the process ([DolsGarcia](#); [Wu](#)). One explores how **ritual oaths** taken by Nigerian women trafficked for sexual exploitation create powerful bonds between the women and their traffickers, which hinder their identification as victims by law enforcement actors and renders police and judicial processes more difficult. In destination countries in Europe, law enforcement actors need to better understand these practices. Prosecutions can be better supported by the intervention of psychologists and experts on spiritual beliefs, while accompaniment of women by specialised NGOs and cultural mediators can provide them with the confidence, security and tools that they need in order to cope better with criminal proceedings ([DolsGarcia](#)).

The second article reflects on the limitations of criminal prosecutions, considering whether **civil litigation on behalf of trafficking survivors** may provide an avenue for justice and accountability ([Wu](#)). Civil litigation allows trafficked persons to recover compensatory damages for loss, injury or harm suffered and, unlike criminal prosecutions, is **survivor-led**. By pursuing a trauma-informed and victim-centred approach, the process of civil litigation can be a recognition of the trafficking survivor's autonomy, and can support their journey to recovery. Models like that operated by the Human Trafficking Legal Center in the US can be replicated in other jurisdictions, building a place for civil litigation within a comprehensive, global anti-trafficking strategy.

Being sensitive to vulnerabilities

In an article focusing on **reception conditions in Italy** for vulnerable asylum seekers, authors from the Swiss Refugee Council call into question the legitimacy of **Dublin transfers to Italy** of those who have been trafficked ([DellaTorre-Romer-Zoetewejj](#)). Italy lacks a general screening for vulnerabilities within its asylum system and the recent deterioration of reception conditions has also had a negative effect on trafficking survivors. The authors conclude that unless guarantees of proper reception of trafficked asylum seekers are given (or if it is doubtful that these can be fulfilled), States should refrain from instigating Dublin transfers of these asylum seekers to Italy.

An author from the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women urges that **sex workers and their organisations** must be recognised as key partners in the fight against trafficking ([Gerasimov](#)). They provide information about laws, rights and conditions of work – an established good practice to reduce vulnerability to exploitation and abuse – and conduct public activities to combat the criminalisation or stigmatisation of sex work, which facilitates the identification (including self-identification) of victims of trafficking. Traditional anti-trafficking measures – such as 'raid and rescue' operations – are typically violent and traumatic, whereas **peer-led interventions** are person-focused and sensitive. Ultimately, the agendas of sex worker organisations are not incompatible with those of

anti-trafficking organisations and such organisations should be included at institutional and policy levels.

Elsewhere an author draws on experience of working with survivors of gender-based violence to explore how those who provide assistance to survivors of trafficking can build **survivors' capacity to engage in treatment and support** ([McQuaid](#)). Survivors of sexual exploitation may develop a mistrust of care-giving individuals and systems, which can severely hinder service delivery. Clinicians and humanitarian aid workers can incorporate an understanding of the effects of (and responses to) complex trauma into their approach and provide opportunities for survivors to exercise choice and autonomy. Providing opportunities for social support groups can also offer survivors a means of combating the isolation, learned helplessness and mistrust created by exploitation.

Advances in digital technology including blockchain, radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, QR codes and geolocation tools can help to detect exploitation, protect individuals and help prosecute perpetrators. In exploring several types of such **'technology for freedom'** used in Southeast Asia in the context of two common forms of exploitation – **online child sexual exploitation** and **exploitation at sea** – two authors also sound a note of caution about how these advances may also be used to facilitate exploitation. Technology for freedom must therefore be harnessed for the greatest good and led by community needs, while mitigating the most avoidable harms ([Crawford-Kafton](#)).

Distinct but related phenomena

Two independent trafficking experts describe the **complex, fluid phenomenon** of the smuggling and trafficking of Vietnamese people to Europe, where a course of action that begins as smuggling can also involve trafficking and other forms of exploitation en route ([Vu-Sebtaoui](#)). The collection of comprehensive data about victims of trafficking across Europe and the adoption of a multi-country, multi-agency approach could improve authorities' responses, while first responders require specialised, contextualised training. Furthermore, there is a need for **awareness-raising campaigns** to make clear the increased risks of exploitation and trafficking that accompany the accumulation of debt.

High-level policies

The effects of **anti-smuggling policies** are examined in two very different contexts – Niger and the Balkans ([Moser](#); [Simpson](#)). In 2015 Niger passed comprehensive national-level anti-smuggling legislation which, coupled with the EU development funding directed towards anti-smuggling efforts in the country, has led to a significant decrease from pre-crackdown rates. However, it has also hindered the ability of ECOWAS nationals to circulate freely, thereby severely affecting the economy in northern Niger and the **economic opportunities** available to migrants and asylum seekers; it has also created numerous **security risks**, in part because of a shift towards less safe or less well-known smuggling routes ([Moser](#)).

Research into securitisation efforts by the EU between 2015 and 2017 along the **Western Balkans** transit route

offers lessons for other contexts where State institutions are attempting to **restrict border movements** and prevent smuggling ([Simpson](#)). Findings suggest that the impact of State enforcement fell mainly on migrants rather than on smugglers. For example, smugglers began using old unreliable vessels to minimise their operating costs (should the boat be apprehended or destroyed), overcrowded their vessels, increased the cost of a passage and launched boats late at night when the risk of detection was lower. State institutions also began **targeting humanitarian NGOs** that were perceived to be facilitating smuggling operations in attempting to prevent drownings or by offering services and information to refugees. Instead of trying to shut smugglers down, the author argues, States could instead offer safer, lower-cost profit-making migration options in order to **draw demand away from illicit actors**, and should consider humanitarian civil society as potential allies instead of criminalising them.

The criminalisation of **migrant 'caravans'** and their human rights defenders is brought to light in an examination of the Mexican government's response to these large gatherings of groups of people travelling together ([TorreCantalapiedra](#)). Although this new form of mobility is largely an alternative to crossing borders using smugglers (a practice widely used by migrants from low-wage regions as a survival strategy), the Mexican government has linked the arrival of the caravans with the war that it is waging on people smuggling. In doing so it is seeking to legitimise its control and containment of the caravans while at the same time criminalising this type of mobility, those who participate in it, and those activists who have supported and accompanied the caravans.

COVID-19: EARLY REFLECTIONS

In a short collection of articles, authors explore the implications of COVID-19 for displaced people and **initial responses** to the pandemic. Two articles highlight the central role that refugee-led organisations are playing in responding to the consequences of the outbreak. They emphasise the importance of **refugee leadership** in responses to the crisis and the pressing need for the international refugee system to follow up on its commitment to localisation by recognising and supporting refugee-led organisations, during but also – critically – beyond the pandemic ([Betts-EastonCalabria-Pincock](#); [Alio-Alrihawi-Milner-Noor-Wazefadost-Zigashane](#)). Another two articles focus on the need for **robust, timely data** to inform authorities' responses to the pandemic. A case-study shows that a general failure to collect data on urban refugees in Uganda makes it very difficult for cities to adequately plan and provide for all their residents, and is exacerbating the challenges faced by **urban refugees** during the pandemic ([Lozet-EastonCalabria](#)). But although the challenges of gathering data about displaced people and host communities are further complicated in the context of the pandemic, an author from the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement explores how the need to assess the impact of the pandemic is also driving **innovations** in collection, methodology, analysis and the sharing of expertise ([Tabasso](#)).

CLIMATE CRISIS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Resilience, adaptation and learning: Malian refugees and their Mauritanian hosts

Fouada Ndikintum and Mohamed Ag Malha (UNHCR / Refugee Council, Mbera Camp)

Malian refugees in Mbera, Mauritania, have brought with them the skills and experience they gained in managing the effects of climate change in their home country, and are learning new skills in exile. Both refugee and host communities are benefiting.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/ndikintum-agmalha



Environmental challenges and local strategies in Western Sahara

Matthew Porges (University of St Andrews)

Sahrawi refugee-nomads are finding ways to tackle the interconnected climate-related challenges that they face. Their responses show the importance of flexible, refugee-driven initiatives.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/porges



Climate-induced involuntary migration: nomadic-pastoralists' search for elusive pastures in Kenya

Ekai Nabeny (Article 43)

As the impacts of climate change grow more severe, Turkana nomadic-pastoralists are increasingly being forced to move, rather than choosing to move. Their voices must be heard at the local and international level, and their knowledge and insights must inform policymaking.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/nabeny



Community strategies for diversification in Ethiopia

Pablo Cortés Ferrández (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)

The 2015–17 drought in the Horn of Africa displaced more than 300,000 pastoralists in the eastern part of the Somali region of Ethiopia. Many who lost their livestock have instead engaged in grassroots action to improve livelihoods recovery and to build resilience.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/cortesferrandez



Trapped or resettled: coastal communities in the Sundarbans Delta, India

Shaberi Das and Sugata Hazra (Jadavpur University)

When local communities face the brunt of the impacts of climate change, how able are they to make choices in their response? And whose responsibility is it to provide support?

www.fmreview.org/issue64/das-hazra



Climate crisis and local communities in South East Asia: causes, responses and questions of justice

Laura Geiger (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung)

Civil society networks with experience, knowledge and passion are fighting climate injustice and promoting the rights of those displaced by the impacts of climate change.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/geiger



Lessons from internal climate migration in Mongolia

Simon Schoening (Consultant/Humboldt University of Berlin)

Rural communities in western Mongolia are increasingly abandoning their traditional livelihood systems. Strengthening the rural economy may lessen the need to migrate to urban areas but must take into account the long-term impacts of climate change.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/schoening



Climate crisis, gender inequalities and local response in Somalia/Somaliland

Amy Croome and Muna Hussein (Oxfam in Somalia/Somaliland)

Various factors intersect when looking at the gendered effects of climate crisis on local communities in Somalia/Somaliland.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/croome-hussein



Indigenous perspectives on gender, power and climate-related displacement

Sarah Pentlow (Consultant/Cuso International)

Across the Greater Mekong subregion, Indigenous Peoples are employing a range of strategies to respond to the effects of climate change and climate-related displacement.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/pentlow



Multiple mobilities in Pacific Islands communities

Fanny Thornton, Karen McNamara, Olivia Dun, Carol Farbotko, Celia McMichael, Merewalesi Yee, Sabira Coelho, Tim Westbury, Sharon James and Frances Namoumou (University of Canberra / University of Queensland / University of Melbourne / Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation / IOM / UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific / Pacific Conference of Churches)

Types of mobility in the Pacific Islands are numerous and diverse. Case-studies from the region offer insights into the actions and agency of people, households and communities in the face of accelerating climate vulnerability.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/Pacific-mobilities



When the two seas met: preventive and self-managed relocation of the Nova Enseada community in Brazil

Giovanna Gini, Tatiana Mendonça Cardoso and Erika Pires Ramos (Queen Mary University / Enseada da Baleia community / University of Sao Paulo/RESAMA)

A collaboration between community members and researchers examines how a traditional coastal community in Brazil overcame environmental and legal challenges to manage their own relocation.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/gini-mendoncacardoso-piresramos

TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING



The same ruler for everyone: improving trafficking estimates

Joshua Youle and Abigail Long (Everwatch Solutions Corporation/Cherokee Nation Mission Solutions/US State Department)

Current guidelines for measuring the prevalence of trafficking are inadequate. Improving the accuracy of trafficking estimates will require comprehensive, standardised guidelines which have been rigorously tested in the field.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/youle-long



Understanding the psychological effects of sex trafficking to inform service delivery

Jennifer McQuaid (Yale Center for Asylum Medicine)

Those providing assistance to survivors of trafficking should focus not only on the delivery of services but also on building survivors' capacity to engage in treatment and support.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/mcquaid



Addressing trafficking in the sex industry: time to recognise the contribution of sex workers

Borislav Gerasimov (Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women)

Efforts to combat trafficking in the sex industry must respect sex workers' decisions and agency, and recognise them and their organisations as legitimate stakeholders in the anti-trafficking movement.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/gerasimov



The return of vulnerable asylum seekers to Italy: protecting victims of trafficking

Lucia Della Torre, Adriana Romer and Margarite Zoetewij (Swiss Refugee Council OSAR)

The inadequacy of Italy's reception conditions for vulnerable asylum seekers raises serious questions about the legitimacy of Dublin transfers of those who have been trafficked.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/dellatorre-romer-zoetewij



Trafficking, ritual oaths and criminal investigations

Ana Dols García (Independent)

The influence of traditional beliefs in the trafficking of Nigerian women for sexual exploitation must be better understood in order to help identify and protect victims and to properly inform judicial processes.

www.fmreview.org/issue64/dolsgercia

 **Civil litigation on behalf of trafficking survivors: a new approach to accountability?**
Henry Wu (University of Oxford)
Criminal prosecutions of trafficking offences are limited in scope. Civil litigation may provide an avenue for justice and accountability within a victim-centred, trauma-informed framework.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/wu

 **Challenging the so-called trafficking-terror finance nexus**
Craig Damian Smith (Ryerson University)
The assertion of a causal relationship between trafficking and terror financing is called into question by poor evidence and weak data, and its troubling policy implications.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/smith

 **Tackling exploitation through ‘technology for freedom’**
Christa Foster Crawford and Ashley Kafton (Freedom Resource International / Ohio University)
Examples from Southeast Asia show both the promise and the pitfalls of emerging technologies and platforms that are being used to tackle forms of exploitation.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/crawford-kafton

 **Smuggling and trafficking from Vietnam to Europe**
Mimi Vu and Nadia Sebtaoui (Independent trafficking experts)
Vietnamese migration to Europe is a complex, fluid phenomenon where a course of action that begins as smuggling can also involve trafficking and other forms of exploitation.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/vu-sebtaoui

 **Migrant ‘caravans’ in Mexico and the fight against smuggling**
Eduardo Torre Cantalapiedra (Cátedras Conacyt-El Colegio de la Frontera Norte)
The treatment of the migrant and asylum seeker caravans travelling through Mexico shows the negative consequences that the fight against people smuggling has had for those making these journeys and their defenders.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/torrecantalapiedra

 **The adverse effects of Niger’s anti-smuggling law**
Colleen Moser (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies)
The criminalisation of human smuggling in Niger has had a range of negative effects on migrants and asylum seekers, as well as on their former smugglers and host communities. Alternative avenues must be pursued.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/moser

 **Tackling smuggling in the Balkans: policy lessons**
Charles Simpson (Tufts University)
Across the world, restrictive border security policies are being pursued in an attempt to tackle smuggling yet there is relatively little discussion of the evidence around what actually happens when these policies are enacted.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/simpson

COVID-19: EARLY REFLECTIONS

 **Refugee-led responses in the fight against COVID-19: building lasting participatory models**
Alexander Betts, Evan Easton-Calabria and Kate Pincock (University of Oxford / ODI)
The formal structures of humanitarian aid are struggling to respond to the consequences of COVID-19. The work of refugee-led organisations is now more relevant than ever, and they need to be far better supported – both now and in the longer term.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/betts-eastoncalabria-pincock

 **By refugees, for refugees: refugee leadership during COVID-19, and beyond**
Mustafa Alio, Shaza Alrihawi, James Milner, Anila Noor, Najeeba Wazefadost and Pascal Zigashane (Jumpstart Refugee Talent / Global Refugee-led Network / Carleton University / Asia Pacific Network of Refugees / URIS Initiative for Africa)
The response to COVID-19 calls for meaningful and substantive refugee participation and leadership.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/alio-alrihawi-milner-noor-wazefadost-zigashane

 **Counting urban refugees during COVID-19**
Florence Lozet and Evan Easton-Calabria (Cities Alliance / University of Oxford)
A case-study from Uganda demonstrates that authorities cannot provide the services and assistance that refugees need if they do not have good data on the refugee population. The COVID-19 pandemic highlights this issue while exacerbating the challenges facing urban refugees.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/lozet-eastoncalabria

 **Supporting evidence-driven responses to COVID-19**
Domenico Tabasso (Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement)
The challenges of gathering data about displaced people and host communities are further complicated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the need to assess the impact of the pandemic is also driving innovations in collection, methodology, analysis and the sharing of expertise.
www.fmreview.org/issue64/tabasso

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