

# FORCED MIGRATION

review

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 by the Refugee Studies Centre of the Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford.

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## Front cover photo:



Elia Kidibu, a 1972 Burundian refugee, sorting through photos as he packs his belongings for repatriation to Burundi. November 2008. UNHCR/B Bannon



from the editors

Some two-thirds of displaced people in the world today are not in classic emergency situations but are trapped in protracted displacement – situations characterised by long periods of exile and separation from home. When people remain displaced for a long period, their needs may no longer be urgent but can be just as acute. As the years pass, the challenges to be faced change as people grow up or grow old, living in a state of extended yet temporary limbo away from home. For them, as for those assisting or hosting them, there is also an inevitable tension between planning sensibly for the long term and yet not creating a long-term situation that precludes their return home.

As we are reminded by several of the contributors to this issue, neither the definition of a 'protracted displacement situation' nor the range of usual 'solutions' should constrain our attempts to resolve the causes of displacement, sometimes decades earlier, or to find ways for the people involved to cease being displaced and instead to be able to lead fulfilling, sustainable lives.

Many people in protracted displacement situations live in urban areas; however, the next issue of FMR will focus on urban displacement and therefore this aspect is not covered extensively in this issue. Similarly, some long-term refugees such as the Burmese and Palestinians are only lightly touched on, as we have previously devoted full issues to their particular situations (see <http://www.fmreview.org/mags1.htm>).

We are grateful to Susanne Schmeidl, Gil Loescher and James Milner for their support and advice on this issue. We would also like to thank those agencies who have generously provided funding for this particular issue: the Canadian International Development Agency, the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Africa.

**FMR in print or online?** We will be contacting as many of our readers as possible over the next few months to ask if you would prefer to receive a print copy or to read FMR online. Reading FMR online saves us money but of course we appreciate that for many of you FMR is more useful in print. If any readers would like to be notified by email when each new FMR goes online, please email us at [fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk), asking us to add you for email alerts.

We need to make sure our mailing list is up to date so as not to waste postage. So please do reply to any emails we may send you asking about your mailing preferences – or we may delete you from our mailing list!

We welcome comments on the content and layout of FMR – please email, write or use the feedback form on our homepage.

Finally, we would like to thank our colleague Musab Hayatli for his years as Assistant Editor of the Arabic edition (NHQ). He is leaving Oxford but will continue working with us on NHQ from afar, in a freelance capacity. We wish him well.

With best wishes.

Marion Couldrey and Maurice Herson  
Editors

## Forthcoming issues

- FMR 34 (due out February 2010) will focus on **urban displacement**. The call for articles is at <http://www.fmreview.org/urban-displacement/>.
- FMR 35 (June 2010) will focus on **disability and displacement**. Submission deadline is 31st January 2010. See <http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.htm> for details.
- FMR 36 (October 2010) will focus on **The Great Lakes/Democratic Republic of Congo**.

All issues of FMR are online at <http://www.fmreview.org/mags1.htm>