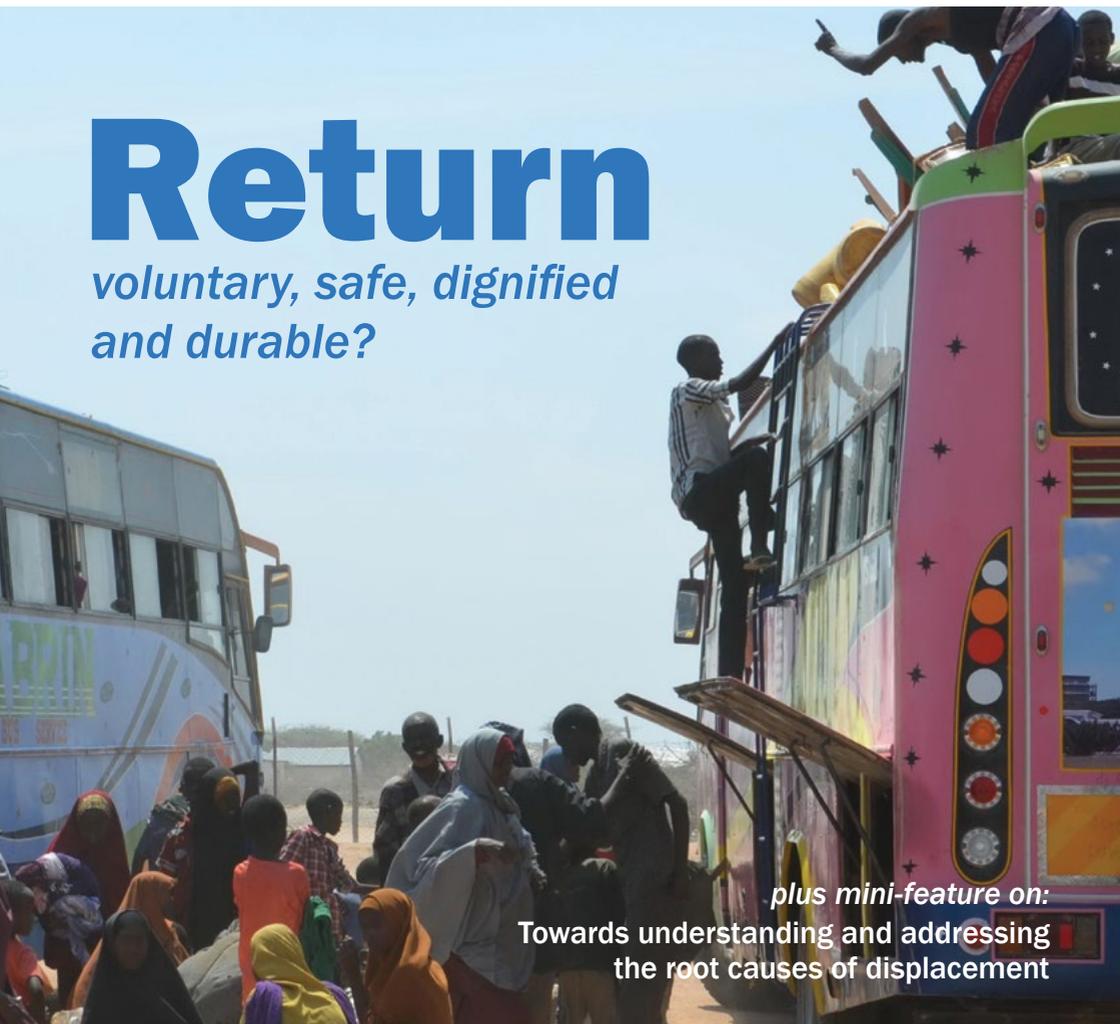


# Return

*voluntary, safe, dignified  
and durable?*



*plus mini-feature on:*  
**Towards understanding and addressing  
the root causes of displacement**

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

The digest complements the full-length magazine. Both the digest and the magazine of FMR issue 62 are available online and in print.



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



# Return: voluntary, safe, dignified and durable?

Voluntary return in safety and with dignity as a durable solution to displacement has long been a core tenet of the international refugee regime. In the 23 articles on **Return** in this issue of FMR, authors explore various obstacles to achieving sustainable return, some of which are common to diverse situations of displacement while others are specific to certain contexts. Many of the authors discuss the need to guard against premature or forced return, and the risks that such returns may entail. They also debate the assumptions and perceptions that influence policy and practice. The examples of good practice and the reflections on research findings presented in this issue are drawn from around the world.

The issue also contains a mini-feature on **Towards understanding and addressing the root causes of displacement** which has been prepared to inform discussions at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. This collection of articles written by authors from the UN, NGOs and academia aims to enhance collective understanding of some of the root causes of displacement.

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



## Shared obstacles to return: Rohingya and South Sudanese

Daniel P Sullivan (Refugees International)

The common barriers to return in the cases of Rohingya refugees and South Sudanese IDPs prompt serious questions about how to ensure the safety and voluntariness of returns.

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



## South Sudanese returns: perceptions and responses

Catherine Huser, Andrew Cunningham, Christine Kamau and Mary Obara (Act Church of Sweden/Lutheran World Federation / Independent consultants)

Gaining insight into the experiences and perceptions of refugees can help ensure programming is better able to support refugees' durable return and reintegration.

[www.fmreview.org/return/huser-cunningham-kamau-obara](http://www.fmreview.org/return/huser-cunningham-kamau-obara)



## Return decision making by refugees

Chloe Sydney (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)

There are multiple factors influencing refugees' decisions to return to their country of origin, not all of which reflect conventional wisdom.

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



## Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India: return or integration?

Amaya Valcárcel Silvela (Pontifical University of Comillas)

For Tamil refugees, considerations of sustainability affect their decision to remain in India or return to Sri Lanka. Their views and aspirations must inform planning for both integration and repatriation.

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



## Syrians in Germany: individuals' reasons for returning or remaining

Ahmad Al Ajlan (Bielefeld University)

Syrian refugees in Europe are not one homogenous group but are individuals and families from different parts of Syria who have different experiences in exile and different expectations around return.

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



## Working with 'stayee' communities: learning from Eritrea

Georgia Cole (University of Cambridge)

Better understanding of the perceptions and living conditions of the communities into which returnees will arrive may facilitate better integration of those returning from displacement.

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



## Repatriation principles under pressure

Jeff Crisp (University of Oxford)

The laws and norms established by the international community to ensure that organised repatriation takes place in a way that protects the rights of refugees are increasingly being violated.

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



## Durable solutions for returnee children

Stefanie Barratt, Marion Guillaume and Josiah Kaplan (Samuel Hall / Save the Children International)

Durable solutions frameworks for measuring progress towards sustainable return and reintegration fail to specifically consider children's different needs and experiences.

[www.fmreview.org/return/barratt-guillaume-kaplan](http://www.fmreview.org/return/barratt-guillaume-kaplan)



## Syrian refugees' return from Lebanon

Tamirace Fakhoury and Derya Ozkul (Lebanese American University / University of Oxford)

Analysis of return practices in Lebanon reveal challenges to voluntary, safe and dignified return.

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



## Encouraging Syrian return: Turkey's fragmented approach

Zeynep Sahin Mencutek (University of Duisburg-Essen)

Turkey's approach to encouraging refugees to return to Syria risks jeopardising the safety and voluntariness of such returns.

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



## The politics of return from Jordan to Syria

Julia Morris (University of North Carolina Wilmington)

Return preparedness of Syrian refugees has become a prominent issue in Jordan, but the prospect of return raises numerous concerns.

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



## Rethinking Somali refugee solutions in Kenya

Peter Kirui and Suzanne Francis (University of Eldoret / University of Chester)

Amid uncertain return conditions, the repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya risks leading to instances of forced return. Alternative avenues, such as local integration, should be explored.

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



## Educating for return: Somali refugees in Dadaab

Ochan Leomoi, Abdikadir Abikar and HaEun Kim (Borderless Higher Education for Refugees Project / York University)

Finding a 'durable' solution for Somali refugees in Dadaab means ensuring they have the knowledge, capacity, confidence and qualifications required for meaningful, lasting return.

[www.fmreview.org/return/leomoi-abikar-kim](http://www.fmreview.org/return/leomoi-abikar-kim)



## **Forced to return? Facilitated return of refugees to Myanmar**

Yuka Hasegawa (UNHCR)

Despite recent political developments in Myanmar and difficult conditions in Thailand, there has been widespread and deep-seated reluctance among refugees to participate in the official facilitated return mechanism.

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



## **A premature attempt at cessation**

Hamsa Vijayaraghavan and Pallavi Saxena (Migration and Asylum Project, M.A.P, Delhi)

There are many lessons to be learned from UNHCR's controversial – and ultimately reversed – decision to end refugee status for Burmese Chins in India and Malaysia.

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



## **Repatriation with dignity**

Kerrie Holloway (ODI)

The Rohingya in Bangladesh and Syrians in Lebanon have different expectations of what repatriation 'with dignity' would entail.

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



## **Minority return: the way home**

Djordje Stefanovic and Neophytos Loizides (University of Adelaide / University of Kent)

Studying cases of successful minority return may help determine what policies could help other potential returnees.

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



## **Legal preparedness for return to Syria**

Martin Clutterbuck, Laura Cunial, Paola Barsanti and Tina Gewis (Norwegian Refugee Council)

Preparation in terms of legal rights is crucial for Syrian refugees who are planning to return.

[www.fmreview.org/return/clutterbuck-cunial-barsanti-gewis](http://www.fmreview.org/return/clutterbuck-cunial-barsanti-gewis)



## **Return to Syria after evading conscription**

Ahmad Araman and Shaza Loutfi (Humanitarian Field Coordinator in Syria / Independent)

Syrian refugees who have evaded military service face barriers to return which call into question the viability and sustainability of other refugee returns.

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



## **IDPs of East Beirut versus the Lebanese State**

Diala Lteif (University of Toronto)

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Taif agreement that formally ended the Lebanese Civil War of 1975–1990. Three decades later, some communities remain internally displaced because of the actions of the State.

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

**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.



### Emerging options for durable solutions in Darfur

Zurab Elzarov (UN–African Union Mission in Darfur)

IDPs in Darfur continue to face difficulties in securing a durable solution to their displacement. Recent developments may offer new hope for some, but complex challenges remain.

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



### Political and economic reintegration: key to successful return

Barbra N Lukunka and Peter de Clercq (IOM / University of Witwatersrand)

Refugees and IDPs require national and international actors to make concerted efforts to ensure that they are successfully reintegrated into the economic, social and political landscapes of their countries of origin.

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



### Returns in complex environments: the case of South Sudan

Babette Schots and Garth Smith (Danish Refugee Council)

Humanitarian agencies must be extremely cautious about how they support returns and relocations to ensure that they avoid causing harm or allowing humanitarian assistance to be instrumentalised by political actors.

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



UNHCR/Andrew McCormell

Afghan refugees at a UNHCR repatriation centre in Nowshera, near Peshawar, Pakistan, in 2018.

## Towards understanding and addressing the root causes of displacement mini-feature

This mini-feature has been prepared to inform discussions at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. With a collection of articles written by authors from the UN, NGOs and academia, the mini-feature aims to enhance collective understanding of some of the root causes of displacement.



### **Preventing displacement, addressing root causes and the promise of the Global Compact on Refugees**

Volker Türk (Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General)

Preventing displacement by addressing its root causes requires a holistic approach and engagement by a wide range of actors. The starting point must be a better understanding of root causes and their complexity.

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



### **Shifting power and changing practice to support locally led peace building**

Alex Shoebridge (Oxfam)

Building sustainable peace requires both a greater awareness of the dynamics of localised conflict and a willingness on the part of external actors to cede control to local actors.

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



### **Land and conflict: taking steps towards peace**

Oumar Sylla, Ombretta Tempa, Filiep Decorte, Clarissa Augustinus and Ismael Frioud (UN-Habitat / Consultants)

Thousands of displaced Yazidis in Iraq have been assisted in making a safe, sustainable return through a project that addressed the complexity of issues around land tenure.

[www.fmreview.org/return/sylla-tempa-decorte-augustinus-frioud](http://www.fmreview.org/return/sylla-tempa-decorte-augustinus-frioud)



### **Community-level conflict prevention and peace building in DRC and Somalia**

Wale Osofisan and Shuna Keen (International Rescue Committee)

There is growing recognition of the need to address the root causes of displacement through the perspective of the humanitarian-development-peace 'triple nexus'. A locally led programme in DRC and Somalia reflects this approach and offers useful lessons and recommendations.

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



### **Gang violence, GBV and hate crime in Central America: State response versus State responsibility**

Vickie Knox (University of London)

Significant displacement is caused in Central America by gang violence, gender-based violence and hate crimes against LGBT+ people but State responses have failed to address their root causes.

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



## The Palestinian refugee question: root causes and breaking the impasse

Francesca P Albanese and Damian Lilly (Georgetown University / UNRWA)

Acknowledging the root causes of Palestinian displacement and objectively applying international law will be key to any solution to the Palestinian refugee question. Recent attempts to dismiss the Palestinian refugee issue altogether make this all the more imperative.

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



## Resilience spaces: rethinking protection

Pablo Cortés Ferrández (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)

Collaborative approaches to building capacities of urban IDPs and host communities are emerging as a more effective way of confronting the root causes of protracted and secondary displacement in informal settlements in Colombia.

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



UNHCR/Xavier Bourgeois

As the region of Minawao in Cameroon faces critical deforestation due to global warming and the impact of hosting 56,000 Nigerian refugees, UNHCR and its partners Land Life Company and Lutheran World Federation started a reforestation project in January 2019. Over the next two years, they expect to plant – with the refugees – 20,000 trees in and around the site.

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



### Forthcoming feature themes

- Cities and towns (February 2020)
- Climate crisis and local communities and Trafficking and smuggling (double feature, June 2020)
- Recognising refugees (October 2020)

Details at [www.fmreview.org/forthcoming](http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming).

To be notified when calls for articles and new issues are posted online, follow us on Facebook or Twitter or sign up for email alerts at [www.fmreview.org/request/alerts](http://www.fmreview.org/request/alerts).

### Front cover image

Somali refugees in Dadaab, Kenya, setting out to return to Somalia, 2016.

UNHCR/Assadullah Nasrullah



**We would like to thank** Jeff Crisp (Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford) and Sarah Wansa (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Beirut) for their assistance as advisors to the feature theme, and Perveen Ali, Annabel Mwangi and Emilie Wiinblad Mathez (UNHCR) for their assistance with the mini-feature. We would also like to thank Act Church of Sweden, Refugees International, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and UNHCR for their generous funding support for this particular issue.

FMR 62 has been sponsored by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung with funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany. The content of the publication is the sole responsibility of Forced Migration Review and does not necessarily reflect the position of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.

**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.

#### Forced Migration Review

Refugee Studies Centre  
Oxford Department of International Development  
University of Oxford  
3 Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TB, UK

[fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk) • [www.fmreview.org](http://www.fmreview.org)  
Skype: fmreview • Tel: +44 (0)1865 281700

**Disclaimer:** Opinions in FMR do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, the Refugee Studies Centre or the University of Oxford.

**Copyright:** FMR is an Open Access publication. You are free to read, download, copy, distribute, print or link to the full texts of FMR articles, and this digest and the magazine, as long as the use is for non-commercial purposes and the author and FMR are attributed.

Authors who publish with FMR retain copyright subject to the grant of exclusive licence to FMR. All articles published in FMR in print and online, and FMR itself, are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND) licence.

Details at [www.fmreview.org/copyright](http://www.fmreview.org/copyright).

