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**FORCED  
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 **digest**  
Issue 57

# Syrians in displacement



With 2018 marking the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conflict which has displaced millions of Syrians, we explore new insights and continuing challenges.

*plus articles on: Myanmar, the Gambia, the Pacific, Italy, Hong Kong and the Global Compact on Refugees.*

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The digest complements the full-length magazine. Both the digest and the magazine of FMR issue 57 are available online and in print in English, Arabic, French and Spanish.



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



# Syrians in displacement

Four years ago we published an issue on ‘The Syria crisis, displacement and protection’. In the Foreword to the issue, the former UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, Nigel Fisher, observed that “While the crisis may be prolonged, refugees and IDPs need support now for their protection, their recovery, and both their immediate and their long-term prospects.” As we mark the seventh anniversary of the Syrian conflict, Syrians are still displaced and still need that support.

Authors present new insights and reflect on continuing challenges, covering topics which include: local and refugee-led initiatives; identification and understanding of displaced people’s vulnerabilities and capabilities; stereotyping on the basis of gender, age or disability; child marriage; the contribution of education to social cohesion; legal identity; preparation for return and the challenges around restitution and property rights; and the potential of economic and development approaches.

This issue also includes six ‘general’ articles on other aspects of forced migration.

The full issue is available at [www.fmreview.org/syria2018](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018).



## Foreword: Syria in 2018 – in search of solutions

Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein of Jordan

We must support displaced Syrians to regain the chance to live fulfilling, dignified lives – to return home in peace, or to build a new life elsewhere that allows them and their neighbours to flourish together.

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



## Protecting the dignity of displaced Syrians

Kholoud Mansour (Lund University)

What does dignity mean to Syrian refugees and practitioners? And what can humanitarian organisations do – or abstain from doing – to help Syrians preserve and protect their dignity?

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



## One camp, three refugee groups: challenges for local NGOs

Olfat Mahmoud and Rebecca Roberts (Palestinian Women’s Humanitarian Organization/ Consultant)

Local non-governmental organisations in Lebanon’s Bourj al-Barajneh camp face challenges in responding to the complex needs of three different refugee groups.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/mahmoud-roberts](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/mahmoud-roberts)



## Refugee-led humanitarianism in Lebanon’s Shatila Camp

Hind Sharif (European Parliament)

Refugee-led humanitarian initiatives by ‘established’ Palestinian refugees in response to the arrival of ‘new’ displaced Syrians to Shatila camp raise key questions about the limitations of the humanitarian system and representations of refugees as passive victims.

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



## The role of municipalities in ensuring stability

Josep Zapater (UNHCR)

Responses to crises in Lebanon’s Beka’a region in 2017 show that refugee-hosting municipalities can be a pillar of peaceful coexistence and must be supported.

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



## Competing security and humanitarian imperatives in the Berm

Charles Simpson (Tufts University)

Approximately 60,000 Syrians are trapped in 'the Berm', a desolate area on the Syria-Jordan border. When security concerns are prioritised over humanitarian needs, and aid agencies turn to militant groups to deliver aid, the consequences can be deplorable.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/simpson-c](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/simpson-c)



## Categorising Syrians in Lebanon as 'vulnerable'

Maja Janmyr and Lama Mourad (University of Oslo / University of Toronto)

Vulnerability assessments are used by humanitarian actors to identify those at greater risk of harm but their use in the response to displaced Syrians in Lebanon is problematic.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/janmyr-mourad](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/janmyr-mourad)



## Rethinking the lessons from Za'atari refugee camp

Melissa N Gatter (University of Cambridge)

Humanitarian efforts to build a model refugee camp when constructing Azraq camp in Jordan – drawing on what was supposed to have been learned in Za'atari camp – missed crucial aspects of Za'atari's governance.

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



## The neglected health needs of older Syrian refugees in Jordan

Sigrid Lupieri (University of Cambridge)

Older refugees are often a neglected population, particularly when it comes to health. In Jordan, the specific health needs of older Syrian refugees tend to be overlooked, due in part to a lack of data, institutional biases and the nature of the humanitarian response.

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



## The importance of social capital in 'protracted displacement'

Ana Uzelac, Jos Meester, Markus Goransson and Willem van den Berg (Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael / Stockholm School of Economics)

By understanding the role that social capital plays in the lives of Syrian refugees in Lebanon – how it is created, sustained, converted and what happens when it breaks down – we hope to generate discussion about ways to further tailor assessments, targeting and programming in this and other situations of protracted displacement.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/uzelac-meester-goransson-vandenberg](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/uzelac-meester-goransson-vandenberg)



## From vulnerability to resilience: improving humanitarian response

Emma Pearce and Boram Lee (Women's Refugee Commission)

Lessons from responses to the Syrian displacement crisis can inform broader discussions on how to build responses that better address vulnerability, support resilience and include displaced women, children and young people, in all their diversity.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/pearce-lee](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/pearce-lee)



## Syrian refugees: thinking beyond gender stereotypes

Michelle Lokot (SOAS University of London)

The dominant gender narratives among NGOs responding to Syrian refugees, and their subsequent interventions, are based on sometimes simplistic understandings of the 'traditional' Syrian household and power dynamics.

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

**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.



## How migration to Europe affects those left behind

Megan Passey (Independent consultant)

Families are frequently separated as a result of migration and displacement from the Middle East to Europe, yet humanitarian aid is often difficult to access and insufficient to meet the needs of those left behind.

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



## Peace education and psychosocial support for social cohesion

Ruth Simpson (International Alert)

Evidence from psychosocial support-based peace education work with young displaced Syrians shows that addressing trauma is critical in overcoming psychological barriers to social cohesion.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/simpson-r](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/simpson-r)



## Private sector engagement in refugee education

Zeena Zakharia and Francine Menashy (University of Massachusetts Boston)

The involvement of the private sector in providing education for Syrian refugees has much to commend it but greater consideration needs to be paid to the ethical and practical concerns that may arise.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/zakharia-menashy](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/zakharia-menashy)



## Caring for male and LGBTI sexual violence survivors: learning from local organisations

Sarah Chynoweth (Women's Refugee Commission)

Local organisations responding to the Syrian humanitarian crisis are at the forefront of providing care for both male and LGBTI survivors of sexual violence in the region.

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



## Child marriage in Jordan: breaking the cycle

Georgia Swan (ICMC Jordan)

In seeking to combat the growing phenomenon of child marriage among Syrian refugees, it is vital to engage the whole range of actors involved, and to recognise that girls and boys have the capacity to address this issue in their own communities.

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



## Expanding economic opportunities in protracted displacement

Miki Takahashi, Michael Moroz, Jonathan Peters, Jason Pronyk and Richard Bartrop (UNDP / UN Volunteers / consultant)

Welcome progress has been made towards realising commitments made by international donors and host country governments to expand economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries. However targets and commitments also bring new challenges, and evidence must underpin new policies.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/takahashi-moroz-peters-pronyk-bartrop](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/takahashi-moroz-peters-pronyk-bartrop)



## Learning from the Jordan Compact

Katharina Lenner and Lewis Turner (University of Bath / SOAS University of London)

Analysis of the implementation of the Jordan Compact offers three key lessons: governmental approval is important but not sufficient, the incorporation of critical voices is crucial, and meeting numeric targets is not the same as achieving underlying goals.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/lenner-turner](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/lenner-turner)



### **Designing refugee compacts: lessons from Jordan**

Cindy Huang, Nazanin Ash, Katelyn Gough and Lauren Post (Center for Global Development / International Rescue Committee)

Analysis of progress to date under the Jordan Compact highlights a number of shortcomings that need to be addressed if the model is to be used effectively elsewhere.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/huang-ash-gough-post](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/huang-ash-gough-post)



### **Turkey: between hospitality and hostility**

Margarite Helena Zoeteweij-Turhan (National Centre of Competence in Research for migration and mobility studies / University of Fribourg)

Recent political developments and changes in Turkey's asylum law have had a significantly injurious impact on the safety and legal certainty of refugees in Turkey.

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



### **Refugee youth, unemployment and extremism: countering the myth**

Drew Mikhael and Julie Norman (Queen's University Belfast)

Refugee youth unemployment has been linked to increased risk of extremism and/or exploitation. Research indicates, however, that unemployment is just one of many factors triggering frustration among young refugees.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/mikhael-norman](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/mikhael-norman)



### **Establishing legal identity for displaced Syrians**

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

Seven years of conflict have had a serious detrimental effect on many Syrians' ability to prove their legal identity.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/clutterbuck-cunial-barsanti-gewis](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/clutterbuck-cunial-barsanti-gewis)



This Syrian refugee now works for a Jordanian farmer, having obtained (with help from his employer) a work permit from the government.



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

Amy Keith and Nour Shawaf (Oxfam Lebanon)

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)



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

Nadia Siddiqui (Social Inquiry)

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)



## Property restitution in post-conflict Syria

Martin Clutterbuck (Norwegian Refugee Council)

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

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



## Perspectives on the return of Syrian refugees

Leïla Vignal (University of Rennes-2)

There are many reasons why discussions about the imminent return of large numbers of Syrian refugees are premature.

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

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<http://rdpp-me.org/RDPP/index.php>

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## General articles



### **A vision for restitution in Myanmar**

José Arraiza and Scott Leckie (Norwegian Refugee Council Myanmar / Displacement Solutions)

People displaced in Myanmar during decades of civil conflict, as well as more recently displaced persons, need accessible legal pathways and assistance to regain access to and ownership of their land and properties. Myanmar needs a clear vision on restitution to end its civil wars and displacement.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/arraiza-leckie](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/arraiza-leckie)



### **The Gambia: a haven for refugees?**

Franziska Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute)

Although not usually thought of as a haven of refugee protection, the Gambia has a fairly sizeable refugee population and some sophisticated legal frameworks and protection mechanisms. However, the political context of its refugee protection should not be underestimated.

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



### **Enhancing the protection of women and girls through the Global Compact on Refugees**

Eileen Pittaway and Linda Bartolomei (University of New South Wales)

The consultative process involved in drafting of the Global Compact on Refugees presents an ideal opportunity to ensure that gender equality is integral to this new international policy framework.

[www.fmreview.org/syria2018/pittaway-bartolomei](http://www.fmreview.org/syria2018/pittaway-bartolomei)



### **Italy's 'Zampa' law: increasing protection for unaccompanied children**

Joseph Lelliott (University of Queensland)

Italy has enacted comprehensive legislation to protect the rights of unaccompanied children arriving in Italy. While flaws remain in Italy's treatment of these particularly vulnerable migrants, the country's protection-focused approach sets an example to other countries.

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



### **Voluntary immobility: indigenous voices in the Pacific**

Carol Farbotko (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation)

In recent years, the international community has been paying increasing attention to the movement and planned relocation of people affected by climate change. In the Pacific region, however, many indigenous people are saying they intend to remain on their ancestral lands.

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



### **The role of civil society in Hong Kong**

Roy Njuabe (The Vine Community Services Limited)

Local organisations can significantly assist with service provision, integration and advocacy.

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

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<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series>  
and search for 'forced migration review'.



### Forthcoming feature themes

- FMR 58: Economies, work and displacement (June 2018)
- FMR 59: Twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (October 2018)
- FMR 60: Education (February 2019)

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

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### Interested in writing for FMR?

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### Front cover image

Some families fleeing Syria brought with them their prized homing pigeons. “I look at them and I remember home,” says one refugee at Mar el Kokh informal settlement, in Lebanon, where it is common to see homing pigeons flying overhead.

UNHCR/Ivor Prickett.

► The June issue of FMR will include a mini-feature on the relationship of humans and animals in refugee camps.



**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

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