From the Editors

“We cannot see our future,” says a young Congolese refugee living in a camp in Malawi. Being displaced involves not just a change of physical location but a dislocation of many aspects of normal life, and young people – in this context we mean those between early teenage and late twenties – may be particularly susceptible to being physically and socially ‘out of place’ during this period of their lives. Families are divided, social relations are broken, education is disrupted, and access to social spaces and work opportunities can no longer be relied on at a time when young people face important changes.

But life goes on and, whether displaced into a camp or an unfamiliar urban environment or resettled to a new country, young people have to try to find ways to re-create what is lost or to find substitutes for it if they are to become fulfilled, responsible adults. The 26 articles in the theme section of this issue of FMR examine the particular stresses of ‘being young and out of place’, explore young people’s needs and coping strategies, and ask why relatively little attention is paid to the rights and needs of adolescents and young adults.

This issue also includes nine articles about other aspects of forced migration: protracted displacement, national IDP policies in Afghanistan and Nigeria, refugee-run information services, ‘tolerated stay’, psychosocial resilience, resettlement of refugees in Argentina, mental health in Lebanese refugee camps – and why some issues make it onto the international agenda while others do not.

We would like to thank Cécile Mazzacurati (UNFPA) and Jason Hart (University of Bath) for their invaluable assistance as special advisors on the feature theme. We are grateful to Save the Children, UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council/Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre for their funding support for this issue, and to our regular donors and those readers who have made donations for their continued and valuable support.
Putting adolescents and youth at the centre
If young people are to live productive fulfilling lives, the international community needs to pay far greater attention to their vulnerabilities, their potential and their rights.

Sarah Maguire (Consultant)

Unable to see the future: refugee youth in Malawi speak out
In a protracted refugee setting like Dzaleka, where multiple generations are born and raised, young refugees are struggling to hold on to hopes and dreams for a future that does not include the label of ‘refugee’.

Lauren Healy (Jesuit Refugee Service)

Not inheriting the past
Young second-generation Lebanese refugees are learning not to ‘inherit the rage of their ancestors’.

Yara Romariz Maasri (Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter)

Marrying on credit: the burden of bridewealth on refugee youth
Young Sudanese refugees may benefit from greater freedom and opportunities in camps but the need for bridewealth payments when they return to their homelands can impose severe restrictions on their choices and integration prospects.

Katarzyna Grabska (NCCR North South)

Participation of adolescents in protection: dividends for all
In order to keep children and adolescents safe, and improve their chances of living fulfilling lives, we need to listen and respond to their views and opinions on matters that affect them.

Anna Skeels and Monika Sandvik-Nylund (UNHCR)

Young and separated from their families in eastern Congo
As well as suffering the obvious side-effects such as missing parental affection and guidance, unaccompanied displaced youth also suffer from being stigmatised by some members of the host communities.

Gloria Lihemo (Medair, DRC)

From rural Colombia to urban alienation
The relationships between poverty, inequality and conflict exacerbate youth migration from rural areas. Policymakers need to consider a number of areas where efforts are needed to address the impact on young people – both in the cities and in the rural areas.

Alejandro Valencia Arias (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)

Challenging some assumptions about ‘refugee youth’
Young people who migrate without their parents develop peer networks and may not be inherently more vulnerable than those with inter-generational networks.

Christina Clark-Kazak (York University, Canada)

What it means to be young and displaced
A young adult from rural Colombia assesses feelings of loss and isolation having been forced to flee to Costa Rica.

Tamara Velásquez (former refugee)

Being young and of mixed ethnicity in Rwanda
The transition from childhood into adulthood is particularly complex for young people of mixed ethnic backgrounds who experience being ‘out of place’ twice: as young adults and as ethnically mixed. The challenges are clear in Rwanda.

Giorgia Doná (University of East London)
www.fmreview.org/young-and-out-of-place/dona.html

Intangible pressures in Jammu and Kashmir
History, inheritance and uncertainty affect the experience of being male, young and displaced in Jammu and Kashmir. Displacement has upset their life-plans, and the gulf between their immediate reality and their aspirations is considerable.

Ankur Datta (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi)

New political subjects: children of forcibly displaced Kurds
Children of displaced Kurds in Turkey have been playing an increasingly active role in political demonstrations, protesting against the discrimination and humiliation they have suffered.

Yesim Yildiz (Warwick University)

Choosing the street during crisis
Children often choose the streets during crises and then remain trapped there. Recent research in Kenya shows large numbers of children connected to the streets are IDPs.

Bridget Steffen (Wits University) and Zephania Owino (former street youth)

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian settings
Particular vulnerabilities for adolescents during times of crisis and emergency are exacerbated by lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services. Greater attention to adolescents’ needs – and the use of innovative approaches to engage them – can help mitigate often life-threatening impacts.

Brad Kerner, Seema Manohar, Cécile Mazzacurati and Mihoko Tanabe (UNFPA and Save the Children)
Young Costa Ricans and refugees working together for integration

When given the opportunity, young people can work effectively together to promote local integration. A new Network of Young People Without Borders is undertaking a variety of sensitisation and integration activities in Costa Rica.

Valentina Duque Echeverri (UNHCR Costa Rica)

Helping young refugees avoid exploitative living arrangements

In an urban environment, the relationship between an unaccompanied young refugee and his or her host family is critical, often making the difference between a life of protection and one of exploitation.

Martin Anderson and Claire Beston (RefugePoint)

Reintegration of young mothers

Young mothers seeking reintegration after periods of time spent living with fighting forces and armed groups face exclusion and stigma rather than the support they and their children badly need.

Miranda Worthen, Susan McKay, Angela Veale and Mike Wessells (Universities of California, Wyoming, Cork & Columbia)

Cultural reflections of Afghan youth living in Canada

Afghan refugee youth now settled in Canada reflect on the influence of Western societal norms on their inter-generational relations and how they are embracing new opportunities while retaining close family ties.

Al-Rahim Moosa (Focus Humanitarian Assistance Canada)
www.fmreview.org/young-and-out-of-place/moosa.html

Displaced girls’ participation in local youth life

Despite related cultural practices and a shared language, IDP girls in DRC are finding it difficult to be accepted by local youth.

Niklas Stoerup Agerup (Danish Refugee Council, DRC)

Early experiences of young Sudanese resettled to Finland

It has been a challenge for many young Sudanese to navigate Finnish education, traditions and habits, and for their families to make the journey with them.

Saija Niemi (University of Helsinki)

Young people and relations of power

Young forced migrants in London are challenging – and seeking to renegotiate – existing power relations. By working together, they can bring about small changes that may have profound effects.

Trupti Magecha, Shamser Sinha and Alex Sutton (Brighter Futures and EU Margins)

Assisting unaccompanied youth to integrate

With the right assistance and support, unaccompanied refugee youth can adapt and thrive in a new country while maintaining their cultural identity.

Nathalie Lummert (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Supporting the social integration of trafficked young people

When young survivors of trafficking are brought together, they can come to see that their future need not be dictated by their past.

Claire Cody (Perth College University of the Highlands and Islands)

The role of culture in mentoring

Mentors from the same cultural background can play an important role in supporting young refugees and their families.

Bernadette Ludwig (Culture Connect, Inc.)

Mentoring for resettled youth

The resettlement experience often pits high expectations against harsh realities. The greatest pressure to “succeed” in this new world is often shouldered by the younger generation but one-to-one mentoring by community volunteers can support them in a variety of ways.

Lauren Markham (Oakland Unified School District, California)

Safe spaces for adolescent girls in Haiti

Members of the Haiti Adolescent Girls Network are providing safe spaces in which girls meet regularly, find peer mentoring and build skills.

Jessica Nieradka (Haiti Adolescent Girls Network)

We hope you will find this Listing useful. We would welcome any feedback – please email the Editors at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk
General articles

Unlocking protracted displacement
If protracted – and often forgotten – situations of displacement are to be ‘unlocked’, the international community must circumvent the rigidity of existing solutions and search for new and innovative strategies.
Roger Zetter and Katy Long (Refugee Studies Centre and LSE)

KANERE: a refugee-run free press in Kenya
A refugee-led news service in Kakuma camp has had to address various challenges – including physical threats – in its attempt to provide a voice for refugees and to tackle issues such as insecurity and corruption in the camp.
Editorial staff of the Kakuma News Reflector

‘Tolerated stay’: what protection does it give?
Persons invoking the same grounds for protection may benefit from different rights, depending on the status which is granted to him/her and in which EU country.
Inês Máximo Pestana (European Commission)

Afghanistan consults on an IDP policy
A recent commitment announced by the government of Afghanistan to develop a national policy on internal displacement is timely. If carried out well in the lead-up to transition, it will help the government to better protect and meet the needs of internally displaced communities across the country.
Nina Schrepfer and Dan Tyler (IDMC and Norwegian Refugee Council)

Nigeria needs to take responsibility for its IDPs
There remain legal and policy challenges in assisting and protecting internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The Government of Nigeria has drafted a national policy on IDPs but it has yet to be officially adopted.
Bagoni Alhaji Bukar (University of Maiduguru, Nigeria)

Mental health in Palestinian camps in Lebanon
Health agencies in refugee camps face the dual challenge of, firstly, convincing both camp populations and the international community that mental health disorders deserve treatment as much as any other illness – and, secondly, building enough trust to encourage people to seek that treatment.
Fabio Forgione (MSF)

Psychosocial resilience among resettled Bhutanese refugees
Addressing high rates of suicide among resettled Bhutanese refugees calls for culturally appropriate, community-based approaches to mental health care.
Liana Chase (Transcultural Psychosocial Organization-Nepal)

Argentina: resettling refugees within the context of an open migration policy
Argentina’s human rights-based migration policy has helped regularise regional migrant flows and has also benefitted refugees with special protection needs. Far from jeopardizing the local economy or undermining social cohesion, migrants and resettled refugees have been instrumental in Argentina’s swift economic recovery in recent years.
Paulo Cavaleri (Permanent Mission of Argentina in Geneva)

Statelessness and issue (non-)emergence
The issue of statelessness highlights an important question: why do some issues make it onto the international agenda while others do not?
Lindsey Kingston (Webster University)

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