



## **Socio-economic integration: towards solutions for displaced people and host communities**



# Socio-economic integration: towards solutions for displaced people and host communities

The quest for socio-economic integration, for both forcibly displaced people and host communities, raises fundamental questions for all those involved in forced migration policy, practice and research about how displaced people can live with autonomy and dignity.

The authors in FMR 71 share new perspectives on socio-economic integration that we hope can lead to a concrete and transformative shift in approaches. They reimagine the role of integration in responses to displacement, at a significant time of global change marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, urgent climate-related pressures and ongoing digital transformation. Most importantly, this issue includes displaced people's voices and strategies in working towards solutions.

The full issue is available at [www.fmreview.org/issue71](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71).



## Foreword - Socio-economic integration: from crisis to opportunity

Asako Okai (UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director, UNDP Crisis Bureau)

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/okai](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/okai)



## Socio-economic integration – what is it, and why does it matter?

Alexander Betts (University of Oxford)

Socio-economic integration must be understood as a broad concept, encompassing the experiences of refugees in all contexts, and as an integral part of both protection and durable solutions.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/betts](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/betts)



## Opening the global digital economy to refugees

Lorraine Charles (Na'amal) and Lana Cook (MIT Open Learning)

As we emerge from a global pandemic, we have seen an evolution of attitudes toward the digital economy and the promises it holds for employment opportunities. What might this frontier space of technology-enabled employment offer for the millions of refugees and forcibly displaced persons looking for livelihoods and prosperity?

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/charles-cook](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/charles-cook)



## Local integration, local settlement and local solutions: disentangling the conceptual confusion

Jeff Crisp (University of Oxford)

UNHCR has traditionally spoken of three durable solutions for refugees: voluntary repatriation, resettlement and local integration. But the organisation has now introduced the concept of 'local solutions'. What does this notion mean and does it have any value?

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/crisp](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/crisp)



## The role of social connections in refugees' pathways towards socio-economic integration

Marcia Vera Espinoza, Helen Baillot, Emmaleena Käkelä, Arek Dakessian and Leyla Kerlaff (Queen Margaret University)

Social connections are well recognised as contributing to integration. Research undertaken in Scotland offers useful, sometimes counter-intuitive insights into their role over time, plus learnings that could be explored in other contexts.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/veraespinoza-baillot-kakela-dakessian-kerlaff](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/veraespinoza-baillot-kakela-dakessian-kerlaff)



## **Six years after the Jordan Compact: the effect of labour market policies on Syrians' economic integration**

**Meriem Ait Ali Slimane and Shereen Al Abbadi (World Bank)**

Enabling self-reliance through the right to work is essential for refugees' socio-economic integration. The impact of the Jordan Compact presents an interesting case study for policymakers.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/aitalislimane-alabbadi](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/aitalislimane-alabbadi)



## **How schools and other public services in the US can promote refugee integration**

**Cyril Bennouna, Lindsay Stark (Brown University) and Ilana Seff (Washington University in St. Louis)**

Services and policies need to be more thoughtfully designed to enable young refugees' social and economic integration. This requires a better understanding of what constitutes sustainable integration and what factors promote it.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/bennouna-stark-seff](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/bennouna-stark-seff)



## **No financial inclusion without basic economic rights**

**Swati Mehta Dhawan, Hans-Martin Zademach (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt) Kim Wilson, and Julie Zollmann (Tufts University)**

Without access to basic economic rights, refugees will not be able to build self-reliance. Case-studies from Kenya and Jordan show that providing financial services is not sufficient if rights are absent.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/dhawan-wilson-zademach-zollmann](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/dhawan-wilson-zademach-zollmann)



## **Transforming a refugee camp into a marketplace: lessons from Kenya**

**Luba Shara (Independent)**

Donors, humanitarian agencies, development finance institutions and host countries are looking to the private sector to play a key role in supporting refugees to integrate into host communities.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/shara](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/shara)



## **Public-private initiatives for local integration: evidence from Afghanistan and Kenya**

**Nassim Majidi and Camilla Fogli (Samuel Hall)**

Public-private partnerships are laying the foundations to enable sustainable and ethical value chain approaches to be used in displacement-affected communities.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/majidi-fogli](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/majidi-fogli)



## **Addressing challenges to integrating refugees in the Turkish labour market**

**Özlem Gürakar Skribeland (University of Oslo)**

Turkey's large refugee population faces major challenges in accessing legal employment. Several legal measures could improve their situation.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/skribeland](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/skribeland)



## **Barriers to socio-economic integration in India**

**Hamsa Vijayaraghavan (Migration and Asylum Project)**

The lack of defined systems of asylum management in India and other South Asian countries means that those in need of protection have been left without any legal avenues for integration.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/vijayaraghavan](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/vijayaraghavan)



## **“We are well able to stand on our own if we are given the opportunities”: perspectives from affected populations in Uganda**

**Mulemangabo Bisimwa (Refugee Led Research Hub)**

Persons affected by forced displacement undoubtedly know what solutions are best for them, yet their voices and ideas are rarely included in policy discussions at national levels.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/bisimwa](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/bisimwa)



## **Resilience against all odds: socio-economic integration of IDPs in Burkina Faso**

**Amédée Bamouni (National Council for Social Protection in Burkina Faso)**

Of the almost 2 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Burkina Faso, most have been settled in reception sites but others have chosen to integrate into host communities. This article explores the determining factors that have led to their successful integration.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/bamouni](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/bamouni)



## **Integrating Afro-descendant and indigenous internally displaced women in Colombia through their own cultural practices**

**Gina Paola Escobar Cuero (University of Vienna)**

Supporting Afro-descendant and indigenous internally displaced women to develop initiatives based on their particular culture could contribute to their integration and to host communities.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/escobarcuero](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/escobarcuero)



## **Socio-economic integration of Syrian women in Turkey: benefits and challenges of the cooperative model**

**Boel McAteer (IIED) and Deniz Öztürk (University of Bakırçay)**

Women's cooperatives can help enable the socio-economic integration of Syrian women in Turkey and address gendered barriers to the labour market. Obstacles remain, however, if the cooperative model is to be sustainable in the long term.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/mcateer-ozturk](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/mcateer-ozturk)



## **Boosting donor engagement to achieve refugees' socioeconomic inclusion**

**Samuel Davidoff-Gore and Camille LeCoz (Migration Policy Institute)**

The international donor community has already moved towards integrating a development approach into its response to protracted refugee situations. Donors now need to enhance their engagement with all partners to overcome the remaining obstacles to the sustainable socio-economic inclusion of refugees.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/davidoffgore-lecoz](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/davidoffgore-lecoz)



## Engaging development actors in supporting the socio-economic integration of forcibly displaced persons in Southern Africa

Gloria Muhoro (UNHCR)

UNHCR in Southern Africa has been collaborating with development actors to support the socio-economic integration and durable solutions for displaced people in the region. Various considerations and lessons emerge from this work to date.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/muhoro](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/muhoro)



## Measuring and facilitating self-reliance

Kellie C Leeson (Independent Consultant) Amy Slaughter (RefugePoint) and Dale Buscher (Women's Refugee Commission)

With durable solutions available only to a very small proportion of the global refugee population, self-reliance programming and the measurement of self-reliance outcomes are increasingly important topics in re-thinking the quality and sustainability of socio-economic integration.

[www.fmreview.org/issue71/buscher-leeson-slaughter](http://www.fmreview.org/issue71/buscher-leeson-slaughter)



A Congolese refugee in Nairobi who earns about \$50 profit per month from his retail shop after covering his living expenses. RefugePoint provided medical care, food and rent support, livelihoods training and a business grant before he 'graduated' from the agency's services. (Credit: Alexis Felder)

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**Front cover image:** Iman, a Syrian woman from Jordan's Al-Mafraq governorate, received a revolving loan to fund her small home appliances shop, under UN Women's 'Spring Forward for Women' project. (Credit: UN Women/Christopher Herwig)

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