

# Writing your FMR article



## Step 1: Writing your article

FMR aims to be accessible to all those working in the international research and humanitarian communities. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the sort of articles we publish, by looking at some [back issues of FMR](#).

What are we looking for?

- Clearly structured articles that, for example, briefly introduce the context of your article, present the issue you are addressing, examine approaches taken to address the issue, explore the outcomes, discuss good/poor practice, and present conclusions and recommendations.
- Articles that challenge readers to think how recommendations and good practice might be applicable in other contexts.
- Articles that include examples of good and/or poor practice. Part of the rationale for FMR is to enable authors to share failures and challenges as well as successes, in order to learn from each other and to promote a culture of learning and transparency.

What are we **not** looking for?

- Articles that are primarily descriptive of a situation without analysing problems / approaches / opportunities / learning.
- Articles that cover lots of topics but nothing in depth.
- Articles that are too simplistic or basic (most of our readers already have a good understanding of forced migration issues).
- Articles that primarily or only tell the author's personal story but without at least some commentary on the wider issues illustrated by the personal story and their implications for policy and practice.

### **Note for practitioners:**

Please remember that although your article may be an opportunity to disseminate your agency's analysis and thinking, you should avoid any direct promotion of your agency.

### **Note for researchers:**

Please keep any description of your methodology to an absolute minimum, refrain from extensive quoting of other researchers (unless it is critical to acknowledge certain work upon which your article draws), and do not include keywords, Harvard-style referencing or a bibliography.

### **New to writing for publication?**

We are very helpful editors! We will be happy to advise you, and to edit your article (including language) in consultation with you. Please do not go to the expense of employing a proofreader prior to submission. We understand that many authors will be writing in a language that is not their first language. The fact that there may be work to do to improve the language does not affect our decisions about suitability for publication.

### **Language and editing**

The language you use should be relatively simple, non-academic and free of jargon. If your subject matter requires the use of technical or legal terminology, please add an explanation in an endnote (but try to keep such usages to a minimum). Please check the relevant call for articles for information on which languages you may write/submit your article in.

### **Step 2: Submitting your article**

We are a small team with limited capacity, and we receive a large number of articles. We ask you to follow our guidelines above and also **ensure your article complies with our submission requirements checklist**.

Please follow the submission requirements as directed by the FMR Editors if you are invited to submit a full article.

### **Step 3: Reviewing and editing**

All articles submitted will be reviewed and we will notify you whatever the decision after the review process is completed.

**Please note** that the editorial team cannot guarantee publication of any submission, even when authors have been invited to submit a full article. We receive a large number of high-quality submissions and when we select articles for each issue we must ensure a balance of representation of different types of viewpoints, geographic coverage, and discussion of different aspects of the theme.

All accepted articles will be edited, sometimes to a significant extent – to avoid overlap with other articles, to bring them in line with FMR house style and to ensure clarity for our generalist readership. We often also have to reduce articles in length because of space constraints. We will liaise with you on the edited version, and we will always get your approval of suggested changes before going to print.

If you have a question about any aspect not covered in these guidelines or in our [FAQs](#), please [email the Editors](#).