

## Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD)

### Workshop on Forced Migration and Development

September 8, 2014

The World Bank, Washington, DC

#### Summary

This note summarizes the results of the one-day workshop on Forced Migration and Development held in Washington, DC on September 8, 2014, hosted by the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD).

Forced migration understood in the broadest sense is a challenging and complex topic, encompassing different groups of people, fleeing from persecution or conflict, escaping environmental change, natural or human made disasters, migrating because of development projects or being deported or trafficked. Only a sub-set of these persons fall within UNHCR's refugee and IDP mandate. More and more displaced persons are in protracted situations. Existing approaches based on humanitarian, human rights and security perspectives are failing to provide sustainable solutions on a larger scale. There are also important knowledge gaps from a development perspective. The **workshop's objective** was to brainstorm about these issues to help shape the work program of KNOMAD's newly created thematic working group (TWG) on forced migration. More specifically, in three sessions the following aspects were discussed:

- 1) Typology of forced migration, available data and existing initiatives
- 2) Development impacts of forced migration on countries/regions of origin, destination and forced migrants themselves
- 3) Short, medium and long-term policy issues when linking forced migration and development

The workshop brought together an outstanding and diverse group of experts, researchers and thought leaders at the forefront of forced migration from the humanitarian side as well as from the development perspective (see Annex 1 and 2 for the agenda and participants list).

**Overall**, the workshop highlighted the importance of looking at forced migration from a development perspective. It underlined the need for clarifying links between forced migration and development and bridging the humanitarian and development worlds, as walls exist between and within organizations. Participants stressed the benefits of including questions related to forced migration in the migration and development debate, noting that the question of how much the impacts of forced migration differ from those of economic/voluntary migration requires further exploration.

**The first session** discussed a possible typology based on (a) causes (violence/conflict, natural and human-made disasters, slower environmental changes, epidemics), (b) triggers (rapid-onset crisis,

anticipatory movements or relocation with government help), (c) phase/duration (pre-crisis, emergency period, protracted, permanent), (d) geographic scope (internal or cross-borders, distance from home), (e) legal and institutional frameworks and (f) levels and types of vulnerability and resilience. The usefulness of the term of “forced migration” was questioned and the possibility of focusing initially on refugees and IDPs was discussed. It was decided that KNOMAD should remain open to work on all types of forced migrants but that the TWG will focus initially on refugees and IDPs as it can help contribute to a paradigm shift in this area.

Reliable data on forced migration is lacking. An exception is data on refugees and IDPs displaced by conflict, generalized violence and human rights violations from UNHCR, JIPS and IDMC. Part of the data collected by UNHCR could be further adapted and used for analysis. One could also get more out of administrative and census data, and tap on non-traditional data sources, like big data. IDMC also provides estimates for displacement flows due to natural disasters. There is still huge potential to produce more reliable data on slow-onset movements; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has started the work for future estimate of migrants’ flows induced by slow-set environmental changes (such as climate change). Very little knowledge and data is available on forced migrants who returned to countries after crisis.

The workshop suggested that KNOMAD cooperate with ongoing initiatives in the field of forced migration. These include [Georgetown University’s Crisis Migration Project](#), [Nansen Initiative](#), [Solutions Alliance Research Data and Performance Measurement Working Group](#), [Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement and their work with Georgetown University and UNHCR on relocation in slow onset processes](#), the work of the Universities of Oxford and Stanford on refugee economies and the [World Bank’s Global Program on Forced Displacement](#). There are also potential synergies with KNOMAD TWGs on environmental change and migration, internal migration, integration, remittances, diaspora and data.

**The second session** discussed the short-, medium and long-term impacts of forced migration on origin and destination countries (and regions in the case of IDPs) as well as forced migrants themselves.

The existing literature provides mixed evidence on the impacts of forced migration on the host country – such as wages, prices, society and culture, security, natural resources, aid flows and public expenditure (including costs of figuring out who is accepted and who is not). Case studies lack comparability as the methodologies used are not always comparable and don’t always include macro-economic or other rigorous data. In addition, impacts are different in the short- and long-term, on rural and urban areas as well as on different groups within the population (like producers and consumers). Impacts also depend on host countries conditions (resources, laws, encampment or non-encampment) as well as on the number of forced migrants in relation to the host population size. Differentiating the impacts caused by forced migration from other impacts is challenging. Only recently a methodology to assess the costs and benefits of displacement due to conflict for the host country was developed ([Zetter et al 2012](#)) and more comprehensive case studies have been drafted ([Danida, 2010, on Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya](#), [World Bank, 2013, on Lebanon and Jordan](#)).

The workshop underlined that to be able to go beyond case studies and generalize the results, further comprehensive micro- and macroeconomic impact analysis on the level of host countries is needed, not only in middle-income but also in low-income countries. The session also identified other important research questions, including (i) refugees as economic actors, (ii) different ramifications of forced migration compared to voluntary economic migration (due to its unplanned/massive scale, profiles of people moving etc.) for host countries and forced migrants themselves, and (iii) improving the availability of data and knowledge on remittances sent to and from refugees and IDPs in host countries.

The discussion on the impact of forced migration on countries of origin focused on remittances and diaspora; the impact on the country of origin of the loss of talent, demographic consequences and return and reintegration were only mentioned briefly. Refugees and IDPs send remittances to family members or receive reverse remittances. Depending on the types of refugees and their resources (in the short- and long-term), the diaspora influences their country of origin also through social remittances, political activities and advocacy, philanthropy and forming global ties for trade and investment. This could be explored further in cooperation with KNOMAD's diaspora and remittance TWGs.

Policy issues on the international level, for host and origin countries as well as forced migrants themselves were explored **in the third session**. The focus was on IDPs and refugees due to conflicts and violence. Participants saw protracted displacement as the key policy challenge as two thirds of refugees live in protracted refugee situations.

On the level of host countries there is a consensus in the international community today that self-reliance and non-encampment are good practices where feasible. More than 50 percent of refugees live in urban areas. Some host countries, however, still deprive refugees of the right to work and favor encampment as they believe it fosters earlier repatriation. They seek to underline the temporary character of displacement and the need for further aid. Against this backdrop, the following policy questions would require further research from the point of view of the participants:

- How can we reduce the transaction costs of managing forced migration and of forced migration itself?
- What determines refugees' self-reliance? What development tools can be borrowed to promote self-reliance? How can data be used to better understand refugee profiles and what they can offer to host countries in terms of skills and resources?
- What are the development impacts of host countries policies regarding refugees' self-reliance (freedom to move, freedom to work, access to land) on the national level? What are the impacts of integrating refugees in existing health and education systems?
- What are the implications of local integration for the willingness to return?
- What influences public perceptions on asylum seekers and refugees?
- What influences host country policy decisions towards refugees (political economy)? Would evidence of positive development contributions have an impact (as host countries stress negative impacts to show the need for burden-sharing/aid)? How to integrate policies relating to refugees and IDPs in national development policy?

Participants agreed that the priority for forced migrants themselves is to be able to work as well as to assure a better future for their children. Lack of education and perspectives for youth also has broader security implications in the future. While the focus of the workshop discussion was on challenges which host countries are facing, it was stressed that is important to address how the situation in countries of origin and the conditions for refugees and IPDs to return and resettle can be improved.

Participants also thought it important to consider governance questions at the international and regional level, where gaps in protection exist. Legal frameworks and institutional mandates are lacking especially for cross-border movements related to other causes than conflict and violence. Participants discussed possibilities for burden-sharing and cooperation as asylum-seekers move on from their country of first asylum. The question of how to get development actors better engaged in addressing forced migration was also raised. It was mentioned that the challenges related to cross-border migration do not gain sufficient attention from development actors because they often fail to adequately address problems which affect two or more countries, or fail to see the impacts of forced migration as significant ones in terms of a country's overall development. Lebanon and Jordan are clear exceptions.

As development actors lack knowledge on forced migration, KNOMAD's new TWG would have to take stock in its first year. Participants proposed that the TWG may wish to identify a limited number of hot spots and issues or research questions that are salient for host, origin countries and refugees/IPDs. The idea of a guide book on policy issues in different phases of displacement (early warning to spot potential forced migration and preventive measures, during displacement, until return and reintegration) was raised.

The **concluding remarks** noted that workshop was useful in defining KNOMAD's priorities for its newly established TWG. **Next steps** will be to formally start the work of the TWG. Based on the workshop's results the Chair and Co-Chair will develop a work program for 2014/2015. Workshop participants will stay involved as part of the expert network of the TWG that will have quarterly virtual meetings.

## Annex 1: Agenda

8h30 – 9h00 Registration and Coffee

9h00 – 9h15 **Welcome remarks and objectives for the workshop**  
Dilip Ratha  
Head of KNOMAD

9h15-9h30 **Forced migration and development: Setting the scene**  
T. Alexander Aleinikoff  
Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

9h30-11h00 **1<sup>st</sup> session: Typology and scope of forced migration**  
  
Moderator: Sarah Rosengaertner, UNDP  
Introductory remarks: Susan Martin, Georgetown University

- a) Who is a forced migrant? What do they have in common with each other and with other types of migrants? Where are the differences?
- b) What are the causes and the scope and scale of forced migration?
- c) Who is working on what aspects of forced migration and development?

*Coffee Break 11h00 – 11h30*

11h30-12h30 **2<sup>nd</sup> session: What do we know about development impacts of forced migration?**

Moderator: Peter Bonin, GIZ  
Introductory remarks: Alexander Betts, Refugees Studies Centre Oxford

- d) What do we know about impacts of forced migration for the development of destination countries/regions?
- e) What do we know about short, medium and long-term implications of forced migration for forced migrants themselves?

*Lunch 12h30 -14h00*

14h00-15h00

2<sup>nd</sup> session (continued)

Introductory remarks: Kathleen Newland, Migration Policy Institute

- f) What do we know about impacts of forced migration for the development of countries/regions of origin?
- g) What are the key knowledge gaps in these areas and how can KNOMAD support filling them?

15h00-15h30

**3<sup>rd</sup> session: What are the short, medium and long-term policy issues when linking forced migration and development?**

Moderator: Uri Dadush, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Introductory remarks: Jeff Crisp, Refugees International

- h) What are policy issues for countries/regions of origin?

*Coffee Break 15h30 –16h00*

16h00-17h30

3<sup>rd</sup> session (continued)

- i) What are policy issues for countries/regions of destination? What are their perceived costs and benefits in hosting forced migrants? Are these aligned with real costs and benefits (for example with regards to allowing refugees to work and eventually to locally integrate)?
- j) What are policy issues for forced migrants themselves?
- k) How can governments be incentivized to help solve protracted displacement situations and prevent new situations from becoming protracted?

17h30-18:00

**Conclusions and way forward**

T. Alexander Aleinikoff and Dilip Ratha

## Annex 2: Participants list

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