

Conference and Policy Forum

Impacts of Refugees and IDPs on Host Communities

June 1-2, 2017

World Bank, I-Building, Room I 2-250, 1850 I St NW, Washington, DC 20006

Concept Note and Agenda

Background

Nearly 65 million persons were forcibly displaced worldwide – within and across borders – due to conflict and persecution at the end of 2015. Forced displacement is not only a humanitarian issue, but also has important economic, social, political, and environmental impacts on the places of origin and destination. The development impacts of forced displacement, however, remain poorly understood. There is very limited sound analytical work to date on the impacts of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) on host communities. Social scientists have largely neglected these important policy and conceptual challenges. As the number of protracted displacement situations is increasing, the lack of rigorous impact assessments is a major gap that needs to be filled. Therefore, a number of case studies have recently been undertaken by the World Bank, UNHCR, independent researchers, and other actors.

Against this background, the Thematic Working Group on Forced Migration of the World Bank's Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) organized a [Methodological Workshop on Measuring Impacts of Refugees and IDPs on Host Countries and Host Communities](#) in November 2015 in Washington, DC, jointly with Oxford University's Refugee Studies Centre, the Solutions Alliance, and UNHCR. The workshop assembled important pieces of published research as well as some ongoing research, but focused on the methodological approaches, not on the results themselves. A call for papers captured further ongoing work in this growing field of impact assessments.

Based on this previous work, the conference will present the results of selected recent empirical papers that provide evidence of impacts of refugees and IDPs on their host communities in specific situations. This includes impacts on labor markets, trade and entrepreneurship, gender, prices, education, public revenue and expenditure, welfare and poverty, crime and national security, social cohesion, and environment.

The conference will be followed by a policy forum targeting policy thinkers, policy makers, and practitioners to discuss policies that can help cope with the challenges and use the potential benefits for host communities.

Objectives

The conference and policy forum aim to bring together leading researchers, policy thinkers, practitioners and policy makers to present the latest research on the impacts of refugees and IDPs on host communities, discuss the possible generalization of the results, and think about possible policy recommendations.

Key Questions

- What does the latest research on the impacts of refugees and IDPs on host communities tell us?
- Which results can we generalize (given existing methodological challenges)? What are key research gaps from a policy perspective?
- How can we translate the results into policy recommendations? What are solutions for existing challenges?

Format

- Conference with academic presentations and discussants
- Policy Forum with short presentations and discussions

Organizers

The [Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development \(KNOMAD\)](#) is a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues. KNOMAD draws on experts from all parts of the world to synthesize existing knowledge and generate new knowledge for use by policy makers in sending and receiving countries. The head of KNOMAD is Dilip Ratha (World Bank).

KNOMAD's Thematic Working Group on Forced Migration is chaired by T. Alexander Aleinikoff (New School), Ana María Ibáñez (Universidad de los Andes), Xavier Devictor (World Bank) and Volker Türk (UNHCR). The focal point in the KNOMAD Secretariat is Kirsten Schuettler (World Bank).

Agenda

Thursday, June 1, 2017 - Conference	
8.30	Registration and Breakfast
9.00	<p>Welcoming Remarks and Introduction</p> <p>Dilip Ratha, DECIG World Bank and Head of KNOMAD Alex Aleinikoff, The New School and KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration</p>
9.15	<p>1. Labor markets, trade and entrepreneurship, gender</p> <p>Moderator: Ana Maria Ibáñez, Universidad de los Andes and KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration</p> <p>Are Displacement Inflows Good for Business? The Role of Informality in Developing Countries – Hernan Winkler, World Bank</p> <p>The economic case for or against refugees: The impact on international trade flows – Anna Maria Mayda, Georgetown University</p> <p>The impact of Syrian refugees on the Turkish labor market – Mathis Wagner, Boston College</p> <p>The impact of hosting refugees on the intra-household allocation of tasks: A gender perspective – Carlos Vargas-Silva, Oxford University</p> <p>Discussant: Çağlar Özden, World Bank</p>
11.00	Coffee break
11.15	<p>2. Prices, Education, Environment</p> <p>Moderator: Xavier Devictor, World Bank and KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration</p> <p>The Impact of Internal Displacement Inflows on Rental Prices in Colombian Host Communities – Emilio Depetris-Chauvin, Pontifica Universidad Católica de Chile</p> <p>Civil War, Forced Migration and Educational Attainment in Destination Areas: Evidence From Colombia – Valentina Calderón-Mejía, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia UN-ESCWA and University of Chicago</p> <p>Environmental Impact of Refugee Camps: Lessons from Ethiopia and Djibouti – Lahra Smith and Douglas Howard, Georgetown University</p> <p>Discussant: Cynthia Bansak, St. Lawrence University</p>
12.45	Lunch

14.00	<p>3. Social cohesion, Crime Moderator: Betsy Lippmann, UNHCR</p> <p>The Effects of Refugees on Social Cohesion in Local Communities: The Case of Congolese Refugees in Rwanda - Veronika Fajth, Maastricht University</p> <p>Social Cohesion of Displaced Populations and Host Communities in Iraq – Grace Benton and Michael Cohen, Georgetown University</p> <p>Refugee Admissions and Public Safety: Are Refugee Settlement Areas More Prone to Crime? - Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, San Diego State University</p> <p>Discussant: Paolo Verme, World Bank</p>
15.30	Coffee break
16.00-17.30	<p>4. Comprehensive assessments of impacts and methodologies Moderator: Kirsten Schuettler, World Bank and KNOMAD TWG on Forced Migration</p> <p>The Economics of Hosting Refugees – A Host Community Perspective from Turkana - Harun Onder, World Bank</p> <p>Managing Changes for Host Communities - Helidah Refiloe Atieno Ogude, World Bank</p> <p>A Critical Evaluation of Methodological and Analytical Tools to Assess the Costs and Impacts of Forced Displacement – Roger Zetter, Oxford University</p>
17.30-18.00	Conclusions
18.00	Cocktail reception

Friday, June 2, 2017 – Policy Forum	
8.30	Registration and Breakfast
9.00	<p>Welcoming Remarks and Introduction Dilip Ratha, DECIG World Bank and Head of KNOMAD Alex Aleinikoff , The New School and Chair, KNOMAD TWG Forced Migration</p>
9.15	<p>Synthesis of results: What do we know about the impacts on host communities? Moderator: Kathleen Newland, Migration Policy Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of Refugees and IDPs on Host Communities: A Synthesis – Kirsten Schuettler, KNOMAD, World Bank
10.15	Coffee break
10.30	<p>Discussion: How to alleviate the negative impacts and use the potential benefits? Moderator: Alex Aleinikoff, The New School and Chair, KNOMAD TWG Forced Migration</p> <p>The session will start with short inputs before opening up for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Gonzalez Murphy, New York State Office for New Americans • Janette Uhlmann, Mediterranean Host Municipalities Network, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) and Mohammad Alzawahreh, Zarka Municipality, Jordan
12.30-13.00	Conclusions and recommendations for next steps
13.00	Light Lunch