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**FORCED
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review

 **digest**
Issue 56



**Latin America
and the Caribbean**
building on a tradition of protection

*plus a selection of articles on other
aspects of forced migration*

Forced Migration Review digest – for easy online access to all FMR articles

The digest complements the full-length magazine. Both the digest and the magazine of FMR issue 56 are available online and in print in English, Arabic, French and Spanish.



30th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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Latin America and the Caribbean: building on a tradition of protection

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean has long demonstrated hospitality towards those fleeing conflict and persecution within the region and further afield. Faced with newer causes of displacement, such as the violence of organised criminal gangs and the adverse effects of climate change, Latin American and Caribbean countries are continuing to expand and adapt their protection laws and mechanisms in order to address these and other situations of displacement and to meet the differing needs of affected populations.

In his Foreword to this issue, the High Commissioner for Refugees applauds the region's tradition of solidarity and humanitarianism, and recognises the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action of 2014 as "an important model of honest, transparent and dedicated regional cooperation for the world". Although Latin America and the Caribbean still face significant challenges that require urgent attention, and the number of asylum applications continues to rise, there is much to commend in the region's continuing commitment to provide protection, and much to learn from its varied, often innovative approaches.

The full issue is available at www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean



Foreword: Regional solidarity and commitment to protection in Latin America and the Caribbean

Filippo Grandi (UN High Commissioner for Refugees)

At a time when over 65 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide, Latin America and the Caribbean offer examples of good practices from a region which continues to uphold a long-standing commitment to protect those in need.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/grandi



Protection gaps in Mexico

Andrea Villasenor and Elba Coria (Jesuit Refugee Service Mexico / Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico)

With Mexico a major destination – and transit – country for people displaced by violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America, the Mexican government needs urgently to improve its asylum systems and procedures if they are to be fit for purpose.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/villasenor-coria



Silencing criticism in Mexico

Ximena Suárez and Daniel Zapico (Washington Office on Latin America / OHCHR Mexico)

Journalists and human rights defenders in Mexico are being attacked in an attempt to silence their criticism. Many are forced to flee, or risk being assassinated. The consequences are both personal and of wider social significance.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/suarez-zapico



La 72: an oasis along the migration routes in Mexico

Alejandro Olayo-Méndez (Society of Jesus)

Locally run shelters along the migration routes in Mexico provide sorely needed respite and support. In the face of violence, stricter migration policies and daily obstacles, those working at the La 72 shelter strive to respect people's sense of dignity while caring for their safety.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/olayomendez



Mexico's Michoacán state: mixed migration flows and transnational links

Xóchitl Bada and Andreas E Feldmann (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Against a backdrop of unremitting violence in Mexico, traditional migration patterns in the North American corridor are being reconfigured.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/bada-feldmann



Criminal violence in Honduras as a driver of displacement

Suzanna Nelson-Pollard (Norwegian Refugee Council)

The impact of violence is felt daily in the Northern Triangle of Central America and is a major driver of displacement, yet its very nature obstructs identification of and access to those in need of protection. Honduras is now a case-study in the CRRF process, presenting an opportunity to learn from what is done, and not done, in one of the affected countries in this region.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/nelsonpollard



Factors influencing decision making by people fleeing Central America

Vickie Knox (University of London)

Interviews with people who have fled violence in Central America reveal the influences behind their decision making prior to and during flight.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/knox



Central American refugees: protected or put at risk by communication technologies?

Guillermo Barros (independent)

In a world that is more interconnected than ever, many refugees cannot obtain information or communicate when they most need to. Paradoxically, carrying a phone or connecting to the internet can put them at risk if they do not take security measures.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/barros



Unaccompanied children crossing the Darién Gap

Margaret Hunter (Heartland Alliance)

While there is much international attention paid to the treacherous journeys of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea, both the media and international aid community have overlooked one of the deadliest migratory routes in the world: the Darién Gap.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/hunter



Youth outreach centres in El Salvador: providing alternatives to displacement

Benjamin J Roth (University of South Carolina)

A growing number of youth are fleeing El Salvador, one of the most violent countries in the world, and travelling unaccompanied to the US-Mexico border. Youth Outreach Centres have been set up in El Salvador to try to improve conditions in their neighbourhoods and encourage young people to stay.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/roth

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Accompaniment by the Catholic Church

Ashley Feasley and Todd Scribner (US Conference of Catholic Bishops)

The Catholic Church is developing various initiatives to assist those fleeing violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/feasley-scribner



Colombia: durable solutions for the forcibly displaced

Amaya Valcárcel and Vera Samudio (Jesuit Refugee Service)

Colombia has a sophisticated body of law and a wealth of experience in the development of policies for the forcibly displaced. However, numerous obstacles stand in the way of attaining permanent solutions to displacement.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/valcarcel-samudio



Colombia: time to invoke the cessation clause?

Beatriz Eugenia Sánchez Mojica (Universidad de los Andes)

After more than five decades of internal armed conflict, in November 2016 the Colombian government signed a peace agreement with the FARC-EP. Does this mean that those Colombians who had been forced to leave the country must now begin to return?

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/sanchezmojica



Colombia's ex-combatant children and adolescents

Stephany Armas Contreras (UN Special Political Mission, Colombia)

Large numbers of children and adolescents recruited into the armed conflict in Colombia are now being demobilised. Lessons from the previous peace process of 2003-08 could usefully inform today's transitional justice process, in particular with regard to reintegrating ex-combatant minors into civilian life and avoiding their further displacement or co-option by armed groups.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/armascontreras



New drivers of displacement in Colombia

Alfredo Campos García (independent legal expert)

Violence and displacement have not ended with the signing of the peace agreement in Colombia.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/camposgarcia



Land restitution in Colombia: why so few applications?

Frances Thomson (University of Sussex)

Half way through Colombia's official land restitution process, questions arise as to why the number of claims is so much lower than anticipated.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/thomson



Colombia's displaced indigenous women

Gina Escobar Cuero (University of Vienna)

Indigenous peoples are one of the most vulnerable groups within Colombia's internally displaced population, and a lack of understanding of their culture and needs constitutes a major challenge to their protection and assistance.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/escobarcuero



Triggers of internal displacement in Guatemala

Sindy Hernández Bonilla (Rafael Landívar University, Guatemala)

More than 20 years since the end of the civil war, Guatemala is once again experiencing an upsurge in internal displacement. The causes are multiple, and demand attention.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/hernandezbonilla



Falling short of protection: Peru's new migration scheme for Venezuelans

Nicolas Parent (Observatory for Human Rights and Forced Migrants in Turkey)

Peru's introduction of a new work and study permit for Venezuelans fleeing violence in their country is to be applauded – but it provides only a limited, temporary form of protection.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/parent



Protection in the absence of legislation in Trinidad and Tobago

Rochelle Nakhid and Andrew Welch (Living Water Community)

The Caribbean's many small island States are grappling with increasingly complex mixed migration flows, yet few have introduced refugee legislation. Trinidad and Tobago is in the process of doing so.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/nakhid-welch



Eradicating statelessness in the Americas

Juan Ignacio Mondelli (UNHCR Costa Rica)

Considerable progress has been made towards eradicating statelessness in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2014 but there is still work to be done if it is to become the first world region to eradicate statelessness.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/mondelli



Extra-regional refugee resettlement in South America: the Palestinian experience

Marcia Vera Espinoza (University of Sheffield)

South American countries have been increasingly opening their doors to resettle extra-regional refugees. One of the most visible initiatives was the resettlement of Palestinian refugees in Chile and Brazil during 2007 and 2008.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/veraespinoza



Venezuelan displacement: a challenge to Brazil

Helisane Mahlke and Lilian Yamamoto (independent researcher / South American Network for Environmental Migrations)

Brazil must strengthen its reception and integration of fleeing Venezuelans.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/mahlke-yamamoto



The future of the Brazilian resettlement programme

Thais Silva Menezes and Stylianos Kostas (University of Brasilia / CONARE)

Brazil's resettlement programmes have been praised for demonstrating the country's commitment to refugee protection but the number resettled remains small compared with international need. Brazil needs to address the financing of such programmes if it is to ensure their sustainability and growth.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/silvamenezes-kostas



Visas and qualifications: Syrian refugees in Brazil

Gilberto M A Rodrigues, José Blanes Sala and Débora Corrêa de Siqueira (Federal University of ABC, Brazil)

Brazil's humanitarian visa programme for Syrian refugees and its efforts to recognise their qualifications could offer lessons for refugee protection and integration across the region.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/rodrigues-blanssala-desiqueira



Syrian refugees in Uruguay: an uncomfortable topic

Raquel Rodríguez Camejo (journalist)

Only a year after Uruguay's resettlement plan for Syrian refugees was established, the resettled families said they wanted to leave. Expectations have not been met.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/rodriguezcamejo



Measuring local integration in Ecuador

Santiago Cordova and Peter Janssen (UNHCR Ecuador)

In 2014-15 UNHCR Ecuador developed an index to measure the degree to which refugees are integrated in their host country, using three main dimensions of local integration: legal, economic and socio-cultural.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/cordova-janssen



The RCM Guide: a novel protection tool for cross-border disaster-induced displacement in the Americas

Walter Kälin and David Cantor (Platform on Disaster Displacement / University of London)

States in the Americas confront complex challenges in the face of human mobility caused by both sudden- and slow-onset disasters. A new regional guide presents practices and measures to help address the protection needs of cross-border disaster-displaced persons.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/kaelin-cantor



Disaster-induced displacement in the Caribbean and the Pacific

Mo Hamza, Ida Koch and Malte Plewa (Lund University)

People in Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to displacement by disaster. Governments in the Caribbean and the Pacific need urgently to do more risk management and planning, rather than focusing almost exclusively on response and relocation.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/hamza-koch-plewa



Towards a regional agreement on environmental displacement?

Erika Pires Ramos, Fernanda de Salles Cavedon-Capdeville, Lilian Yamamoto and Diogo Andreola Serraglio (South American Network for Environmental Migrations)

Efforts towards a regional agreement on migration in South America should be extended to recognise and protect those displaced for environmental reasons.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/piresramos-cavedoncapdeville-yamamoto-serraglio



Could Latin American citizenship be a fourth durable solution?

Valeria Llamas (Red Latinoamericana e Interdisciplinaria de Derechos Humanos)

Proposals for a regional South American citizenship put forward by the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) offer the possibility of alternative solutions for the protection of internally displaced persons and refugees in the region.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/llamas

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General articles



Turning the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework into reality

Manisha Thomas (consultant working for Plan International)

As they work towards the adoption of a Global Compact on Refugees, States are implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. How can those involved in its implementation, including new actors, best achieve this collective approach to large movements of refugees?

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/thomas



Towards a development approach to displacement

Xavier Devictor (World Bank)

To better respond to displacement, we need to adopt a medium- to long-term perspective rooted in development as well as humanitarian principles.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/devictor



ASEAN's role in the Rohingya refugee crisis

Richa Shivakoti (National University of Singapore)

The Rohingya refugee crisis has become a regional crisis. Members of the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN) must enhance regional cooperation in order to improve protection for the region's refugees.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/shivakoti



Refugees in towns: experiences of integration

Karen Jacobsen (Tufts University)

In countries of first asylum, transit and destination it is increasingly towns and cities that are absorbing refugees. We must look at what is happening at a local level to better understand urban integration as a process shared by refugees and host communities alike.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/jacobsen



Canada's Guideline 9: improving SOGIE claims assessment?

Moira Dustin and Nuno Ferreira (University of Sussex)

Asylum seekers making claims relating to their sexual orientation and gender identity often face unfair refusal. New guidance from the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada takes admirable steps towards improving claims assessment, and offers a model for practitioners elsewhere.

www.fmreview.org/latinamerica-caribbean/dustin-ferreira

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FMR's 30th Anniversary

For 30 years FMR has shared expertise, insights, research and questions from the world of policy, practice and research, and has supported the information needs of the international community.

We would like to thank all those who have engaged with us over these three decades: readers, authors, donors, advisors and colleagues.

There is as much need as ever for sharing expertise and for learning from what has been done in the past, so do please consider writing for FMR. Email the Editors at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk with your ideas.

Please also encourage colleagues and partners to sign up to receive FMR electronically or in print. See www.fmreview.org/request.

Front cover image: 24-year-old Alfredo* from El Salvador works on a farm in the Valley of Peace refugee settlement in central Belize. His mother fled El Salvador and sought asylum in Belize with her sons after her husband was killed by members of a criminal gang. Alfredo's younger brothers study at a nearby school, while the older boys work in agriculture and grow corn and beans to put food on the table. The Valley of Peace was founded in 1982 to provide a safe haven for refugees fleeing the region's civil wars.

*Name changed for protection reasons

UNHCR/Daniele Volpe



Forced Migration Review (FMR) provides a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, refugees and internally displaced people, and those who work with them. It is published in English, Arabic, Spanish and French.

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