Thematic listing of Forced Migration Review articles on …

Data

January 2020

This is a selection of articles published by Forced Migration Review (FMR) focusing on data about displaced people and about situations of displacement. This list includes articles exploring the means of gathering and using data; questions around the security of data and the ethical challenges relating to its collection, application and sharing; and the identification of gaps and the resulting implications, plus the means by which such gaps might be met.

You will find for each article: the title, the author(s), the date of publication and a link to the full issue or article online. Most of the articles are also available in Arabic, French and Spanish and most articles published after 2013 are available as podcasts (English only). This thematic listing is online at www.fmreview.org/thematic-listings.

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, French and Spanish and is free of charge. All back issues are online at www.fmreview.org/issues. To request FMR email alerts or print copies, please visit www.fmreview.org/request.

Big data, little ethics: confidentiality and consent
Nicole Behnam and Kristy Crabtree [2019]
Donors' thirst for data is increasingly undermining security and confidentiality, putting both survivors of violence and staff at risk.
www.fmreview.org/ethics/behnam-crabtree

New technologies in migration: human rights impacts
Petra Molnar [2019]
States are keen to explore the use of new technologies in migration management, yet greater oversight and accountability mechanisms are needed in order to safeguard fundamental rights.
www.fmreview.org/ethics/molnar

Social media screening: Norway's asylum system
Jan-Paul Brekke and Anne Balke Staver [2019]
The growing use of data gathered from social media in asylum claim assessments raises critical yet underexplored ethical questions.
www.fmreview.org/ethics/brekke-balkestaver

The macro-economic impacts of Syrian refugee aid
Tobias Schillings [2018]
A new study on the effects of humanitarian assistance in response to the Syria crisis finds significant positive impacts for regional economic growth and job creation.
www.fmreview.org/economies/schillings

Improving IDP data to help implement the Guiding Principles
Natalia Krynsky Baal, Laura Kivelä and Melissa Weihmayer [2018]
Reliable, comprehensive data are vital for effective programming and practice. Data quality can be improved in many ways to better reflect the Guiding Principles and provide evidence to support their implementation.
www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20/krynskybaal-kivela-weihmayer

The diversity of data needed to drive design
Märta Terne, Johan Karlsson and Christian Gustafsson [2017]
The developers of the Refugee Housing Unit know every aspect and component of their design but can never know what it is like to wake up in one of them every day. Likewise, the end user does not have the tools or resources to make comprehensive changes to its design. The point is about how to work together on it.
www.fmreview.org/shelter/terne-karlsson-gustafsson

Measuring local integration in Ecuador
Santiago Cordova and Peter Janssen [2017]
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

FORCED MIGRATION review

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REFUGEE STUDIES CENTRE

Migrant arrivals and deaths in the Mediterranean: what do the data really tell us?
Frank Laczko, Ann Singleton, Tara Brian and Marzia Rango [2016]
The policy and media gaze focuses on numbers of migrant arrivals and deaths. There are problems in the data for both categories.
www.fmreview.org/destination-europe/laczko-singleton-brian-rango

A perspective from the World Bank
Joanna de Berry [2016]
The World Bank brings distinctive qualities to the role it can play in furthering the humanitarian to development transition and is significantly scaling up its engagement on forced displacement.
www.fmreview.org/solutions/deberry

Modelling displacement
Justin Ginnetti [2015]
Although those seeking a single global prediction will be disappointed, today's models of climate change- and disaster-induced displacement can provide a range of scenarios for specific countries, regions or hotspots.
www.fmreview.org/climatechange-disasters/ginnetti

The state of the evidence
Susan Martin [2015]
Researchers have much to do not only to understand climate- and disaster-induced migration but also to transmit their understanding for the use of policymakers and practitioners.
www.fmreview.org/climatechange-disasters/martin

Data quality and information management in DRC
Janet Ousley and Lara Ho [2013]
Forced migration creates special challenges to collecting data and monitoring responses in fragile states where infrastructure and systems are weak or non-existent.
www.fmreview.org/fragilestates/ousely-ho

Are refugees an economic burden or benefit?
Roger Zetter [2012]
The notion of the 'refugee burden' has become firmly rooted in the policy vocabulary of governments and humanitarian actors. Understandably, governments emphasise the negative impacts and costs but these, although undeniable and well documented, are only part of the picture.
www.fmreview.org/preventing/zetter

Predicting disasters and protecting rights
Justin Ginnetti and Nina Schrepfer [2012]
In order to prevent or reduce disaster-related displacement, we need to address some clear gaps in both knowledge and capacity by improving research on and awareness of disaster risks and associated human rights, and the capacity to address them.
www.fmreview.org/preventing/ginetti-schrepfer

Early warning of mass atrocity crimes
Phoebe Wynn-Pope [2011]
The use of new technologies for early warning systems can help reduce people's vulnerability to mass violence.
www.fmreview.org/technology/wynn-pope

Women sit together outside a transit centre for women victims of sexual violence, Democratic Republic of Congo

Using technology to help save mothers and babies
Sandra Krause and Diana Quick [2011]
A new initiative called 'Mama: Together for Safe Births in Crises' uses social networking to connect frontline maternal health workers in crisis-affected areas to build a professional community of practice.
www.fmreview.org/technology/krause-quick

Remote visual evidence of displacement
Susan Wolfinbarger and Jessica Wyndham [2011]
Geospatial technologies such as satellite imagery provide a means of 'reaching' a conflict zone when on-the-ground reporting may be too dangerous, a region too remote, or access denied.
www.fmreview.org/technology/wolfinbarger-wyndham

Web-based monitoring in an insecure environment
Andrew Harper [2011]
UNHCR has developed Project Tracking and IDP databases for its work in Iraq in order to facilitate its operations at a lower risk to all stakeholders and to improve financial accountability, oversight and transparency.
www.fmreview.org/technology/harper

What Ushahidi can do to track displacement
Galya B Ruffer [2011]
Ushahidi is an interactive mapping tool for use in crisis situations, which humanitarian workers can use to help them target assistance.
www.fmreview.org/technology/ruffer

GBV data collection and sharing
Kristy Crabtree [2011]
While information can attest to the severity of need and call people to action, it can also be collected, stored and shared in a way that violates safety and ethical standards for data collection – challenges that are particularly acute when it involves survivors of gender-based violence.
www.fmreview.org/technology/crabtree

Disabled persons database after Pakistan floods
Niaz Ullah Khan [2011]
During the rescue and rehabilitation phases following the 2010 floods, Sightsavers supported its partner organisation, STEP (a disabled persons' organisation), to establish the Information Resource Center on Disability as a point for information sharing and dissemination.
www.fmreview.org/technology/khan

Mobile phones used for public health surveillance in Darfur
Kebede Deribe [2011]
In Darfur, the Ministry of Health, WHO and partners have developed a mobile phone-based infectious disease surveillance system designed for use where resources and facilities may be limited.
www.fmreview.org/technology/deribe

Android phones for mosquito net surveys
Sarah Hoibak and Marian Schilperoord [2011]
In 2010 UNHCR carried out a pilot to assess the advantages and disadvantages – including feasibility, cost, time and human resources – of using mobile phones to collect data compared to existing paper-based data collection for a mosquito net coverage survey in Dadaab, Kenya.
www.fmreview.org/technology/hoibak-schilperoord

The role of technology in family tracing in Kenya
Lucy Kiama, Christopher Mikkelsen, Caroline Njeri and Mikkel Hansen [2011]
Capitalising on the spread of mobile phones and the internet, new digital tools can help refugees trace missing family members. Security of data is a vital aspect of any such tools.
www.fmreview.org/technology/kiama-et-al

Sharing sensitive data on forced migrants
Prisca Benelli, Alessandro Guarino and Jen Ziemke [2011]
Can a collaborative web-platform for sharing critical demographic information about displaced people improve delivery and response?
www.fmreview.org/technology/benelli-guarino-ziemke

Data collection by Intersos enumerators in Umkher province, Darfur.

Country of Origin Information: old problems, modern solutions
Marco Formisano [2011]
The current multitude of sources of information paradoxically renders access to good quality Country of Origin Information for refugee status determination procedures quite cumbersome.
www.fmreview.org/technology/formisano

'Identity unknown': migrant deaths at sea
Stefanie Grant [2011]
Political unrest in North Africa has led to a resurgence in irregular migration to Europe and an increase in migrant deaths at sea, yet there is still no framework for identifying those who die or recording their numbers.
www.fmreview.org/technology/grant

The Data Centre for IDPs in North Kivu
Laura Jacqueline Church [2010]
Effective provision of aid and protection for those displaced in eastern DRC requires reliable data – which the new Data Centre in North Kivu is helping to provide.
www.fmreview.org/DRCongo/church.htm

Addressing the data challenge
Kathleen B Simmons [2010]
The humanitarian relief community needs to collect disability-specific data through rapid needs assessments, registration processes, accessing local knowledge and disability monitoring.
www.fmreview.org/disability/simmons

The numbers game
Oli Brown [2008]
Estimates of the potential number of 'climate change migrants' vary hugely. In order to persuade policymakers of the need to act and to provide a sound basis for appropriate responses, there is an urgent need for better analysis, better data and better predictions.
www.fmreview.org/climatechange/brown

Improving health and mortality data for IDPs
Robert Lidstone [2007]
Accurately measuring mortality rates and other indicators of health is an important means for targeting assistance for IDPs and evaluating the impact of humanitarian responses. Yet data on health and mortality among IDPs are often non-existent, inaccurate and incomplete.
www.fmreview.org/capacitybuilding/lidstone

Challenges of collecting baseline data in emergency settings
Jennifer Schlecht and Sara Casey [2007]
Although the humanitarian community acknowledges the need for good quality data in programme design and monitoring, the challenges and demands of field settings have too often led to the argument that "we just don't have time" or "it is too difficult". Yet without the allocation of time and resources to the collection of baseline and monitoring data, project activities cannot be grounded in strong evidence from programme evaluation.
www.fmreview.org/humanitarianreform/schlecht-casey

Gender and reform: getting the right data right
Henia Dakkak, Lisa Eklund and Siri Tellier [2007]
The international community has been mandated to mainstream gender into humanitarian response ever since the landmark Beijing conference in 1995. The current humanitarian reform process provides unique opportunities to accelerate this integration.
www.fmreview.org/humanitarianreform/dakkak-eklund-tellier

Improving IDP data: prerequisite for more effective protection
Elisabeth Rasmusson [2006]
Information on the number, locations and demographic characteristics of IDPs is scarce and chronically unreliable. Lack of information is a key impediment to a more effective response to internal displacement crises.
www.fmreview.org/brookings/rasmusson

The value of transparency, replicability and representativeness
Loren B Landau and Karen Jacobsen [2005]
We are troubled by Graeme Rodgers' criticisms [in FMR 21] of what he calls positive social research, i.e., attempts to make 'value-free' descriptive and causal inferences about an existing reality.
www.fmreview.org/education-emergencies/landau-jacobsen

'Hanging out' with forced migrants: methodological and ethical challenges
Graeme Rodgers [2004]
Despite recent suggestions to the contrary, small-scale qualitative research involving interpersonal 'hanging out' with forced migrants is relevant, important and ethically desirable.
www.fmreview.org/return-reintegration/rodgers

Where there is no information: IDP vulnerability assessments in Sri Lanka's borderlands
Danesh Jayatilaka and Robert Muggah [2004]
A third of the estimated 600,000 IDPs in Sri Lanka live in areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE). Displaced people within these so-called 'un-cleared' or 'liberated areas' (terms used by the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE respectively) are at especial risk. Their situation highlights the difficulties of assessing protection and assistance in the context of conflict.
www.fmreview.org/sustainable-livelihoods/jayatilaka-muggah

Marrying logistics and technology for effective relief
H Wally Lee and Marc Zbinden [2003]
Logistics links all the stakeholders in the relief delivery process. Timely and accurate availability of information is key.
www.fmreview.org/logistics/lee-zbinden

Ethical questions relating to data

While ethical challenges relating to data form part of the analysis in many of the articles above, a number of articles focus specifically on the ethical challenges around the collection, storage and use of data in both academic- and practitioner-led research. Below are a selection of articles that examine such questions in depth.

Developing ethical guidelines for research
Christina Clark-Kazak [2019]
The IASFM has agreed an international code of ethics to guide research with displaced people. Challenges that arose during its development merit continued discussion.
www.fmreview.org/ethics/clarkkazak

'Over-researched' and 'under-researched' refugees
Naohiko Omata [2019]
A number of ethical issues emerge from working with 'over-researched' and 'under-researched' refugee groups.
www.fmreview.org/ethics/omata

Research fatigue among Rwandan refugees in Uganda
Cleophas Karooma [2019]
Refugees in Nakivale refugee settlement demonstrate research fatigue, yet a return visit by one particular researcher reveals an interesting twist to the tale.
www.fmreview.org/ethics/karooma

Over-researching migration 'hotspots'? Ethical issues from the Carteret Islands
Johannes M Luetz [2019]
The situation of the Carteret Islanders, often characterised as the first 'climate change refugees', has attracted much research interest. What is the impact of such interest? And are standard ethics compliance processes appropriate?
www.fmreview.org/ethics/luetz

Ethics and accountability in researching sexual violence against men and boys
Sarah Chynoweth and Sarah Martin [2019]
Researching sexual violence against men and boys in humanitarian settings requires navigating multiple ethics- and accountability-related tensions.
www.fmreview.org/ethics/chynoweth-martin

Ethical primary research by humanitarian actors
Prisca Benelli and Tamara Low [2019]
As humanitarian agencies increasingly follow the example of academia in establishing ethics review committees, one such agency reflects on the benefits and drawbacks.
www.fmreview.org/ethics/benelli-low

Research in conflict zones: ethics and accountability
Jonathan Goodhand [2000]
This article focuses on the ethical challenges arising from research in areas of conflict.
www.fmreview.org/accountability-and-displacement/goodhand