

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

NEWS BRIEF

JULY-AUGUST 2019

This bi-monthly news brief issue provides a summary of publications on topics relating to the key areas of focus for the first Global Refugee Forum covering the July-August period. The content is for informational purposes only and does not represent the views of UNHCR.

Education

Closing the Refugee Education Gap

**Op-ed. by Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Project Syndicate, 30 August 2019**

Following the release of UNHCR's latest [report](#) about refugee education in crisis, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi highlights the rewards of investing in refugee education and raises an alarm over the existing gap between refugee and other youth, particularly in secondary education. Over the past year, the share of young refugees enrolled in school has risen, with relatively pronounced improvements at the higher-education level. However, the proportion of refugee enrollment at the secondary level (24%) is of concern, being more than two-thirds lower than the level for non-refugees globally (84%). The op-ed concludes with a strong call on governments, the private sector, educational organizations, and donors to play an active role at the upcoming Global Refugee Forum in overcoming refugee education challenges with a sense of shared responsibility that is at the heart of the Global Compact on Refugees.

[Read the op-ed.](#)

[Download UNHCR's REFUGEE EDUCATION IN CRISIS
'STEPPING UP' REPORT](#)



Lebanon. DAFI student provides homework support to refugee children. DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) is UNHCR's higher education scholarship programme design to enable refugees to attend higher education.

Recognising refugee qualifications – A virtuous circle

By **Sjur Bergan**, head of the Education Department at the **Council of Europe** and **Stig Arne Skjerven**, director of foreign education in the Norwegian European Network of Information Centres and the National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union-**ENIC-NARIC Networks**.

University World News, 8 July 2019

A recent monitoring report of the [Lisbon Recognition Convention](#)'s Committee regarding the implementation of recognition of refugees' qualifications under the Convention brings good news. The Lisbon Recognition Convention sets the standards for the recognition of qualifications in the European region and is been ratified by 53 States. The report shows that the signatory countries have, as a whole, significantly improved their practices, in line with the convention's recommendation on refugees' qualifications which was adopted in November 2017.

[Read article](#)

To read more about Education

Aneta Hayes, Derek McGhee, Natalie Garland and Brian Lally [Could refugee education in Lebanon provide a model for all?](#) **University World News** 31 August 2019

Jobs and Livelihoods



Switzerland. A refugee from Eritrea undergoes training to pave the way for a job at IKEA. © UNHCR/Mark Henley

A Generation in Limbo: Protracted Refugee Situations in Kenya Must Be Addressed

By **John Thon Majok**, Senior Program Analyst at the *Wilson Center's Global Risk and Resilience Program*

15 August 2019

A historical analysis of Kenya's encampment policy assesses the potential of the country's refugee bill to make a significant shift in refugee integration and self-reliance if signed into a law. The country has taken an encouraging livelihoods approach through the [Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme](#). This 15-year plan aims to improve the self-reliance of refugees and host Turkana populations by enhancing livelihoods opportunities to allow them to maximize their potential. The Global Compact on Refugees sets the ground for multi-sector and multi-actor collaboration in resolving protracted situations at regional level.

[Read article](#)

There is huge talent in the world's refugee camps. We must realize this overlooked potential

By Joelle Hangi, Director, Refugee Artists and Authors, Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya and Mariah Levin, Head of Forum of Young Global Leaders, World Economic Forum

25 July 2019

The article shares the benefit of overcoming barriers imposed on refugee talent, through the eyes of a member of Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp Writers' Association. Despite significant constraints, Kakuma - which houses a population of almost 187,000 people - has a GDP approaching \$56 million and is the economic engine of Kenya's Turkana County. It is a great example of the entrepreneurial spirit and power across displaced populations. The camp offers several degree programmes, many of which encourage entrepreneurship and aim to stimulate the intellectual power of displaced populations. But refugees are limited in how they can apply these talents. It concludes with a call for more efforts by different actors in connecting refugee talent to the global economy.

[Read article](#)

To read more about Jobs and Livelihoods

WFP and Turkey Red Crescent Society's report [Refugees in Turkey: Livelihoods Survey](#)

11 July 2019

David Miliband [Refugee women face unequal access to jobs. Hiring them could boost global GDP by \\$1.4 trillion](#) **CNN Business Perspectives** 13 August 2019

WEF EcoWatch [5 Ways to Be a Better Humanitarian](#) 19 August 2019

Energy and Infrastructure



Jordan. After opening of Azraq Refugee Camp's solar power plant, Syrian refugees can enjoy the evening outside their shelters. © UNHCR/Benoit Almeras

On World Humanitarian Day, it's time we finally talk about energy access

Op-ed by Rachel Kyte, chief executive officer of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and special representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All.

Devex,

19 August 2019

Rachel Kyte's op-ed stresses the challenges faced by developing regions hosting the majority of refugees worldwide in providing the displaced with access to clean energy and how comprehensive humanitarian interventions should address these.

Coordination among different actors involved in the response is key in addressing protracted refugee situations and finding longer-term solutions. It concludes by highlighting the role of the Global Refugee Forum as a milestone towards fulfilling the promise of leaving no one behind at the heart of the Global Goals.

[Read article](#)

Djibouti to become the first country with 100% sustainable energy in all refugee camps

UNITAR

28 July 2019

The [Global Plan of Action Coordination Unit](#), hosted by UNITAR, launched its first field green energy project to be carried out by UNHCR, WFP and the German Government in Djibouti's refugee camps. The ambitious project aims at reducing refugee camps' reliance on diesel, reducing costs to reinvest savings on other humanitarian priorities and leveraging energy access to foster income-generating activities for refugees. The project develops around energy as a means to improve the living conditions of people in camps. The first set of concrete results from the project will be presented to the public in late 2019.

[Read article](#)

Solutions

UK Announces Refugee Resettlement and Community Sponsorship Programs Due to Start in 2020

ICMC

2 July 2019

The UK government announced plans for a new refugee resettlement program, to be implemented as of 2020. It also made a commitment to continuing and expanding community-based sponsorship schemes to receive refugees. The new UK resettlement program will receive at least 5,000 resettled people in 2020. It will expand its geographical focus to include refugees outside of North Africa and the Middle East, while increasing flexibility via a new process to improve emergency resettlement.

[Read article](#)



Thailand. Refugees prepare for their departure from Mae La temporary shelter in Tak Province to return to Myanmar. © UNHCR/Rungtiva Karphon

Lewisham Refugee Resettlement Scheme Launch

UK Refugee Council

2 August 2019

Following the UK Government's commitment to a consolidated resettlement scheme, the Refugee Council and Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network announced partnership on London Borough of Lewisham's Refugee Resettlement Programme. Refugee families displaced from their homes will be resettled in Lewisham, south east London, under an extension of the existing Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement schemes.

[Read article](#)

To read more about Solutions

Dominique Soguel-dit-Picard [Swiss start-up incubator bets on migrants and refugees](#)
Swissinfo 24 July 2019

Arrangements for burden- and responsibility-sharing



Germany. 'The Other 1%' conference was organised by UNHCR and the German Government to identify and explore opportunities to expand access to university for refugees. © UNHCR/Gordon Welters

Accepting more refugees good for Australian economy and society

OXFAM REPORT

28 August 2019

Oxfam released the '*Stronger Together: The impact of family separation on refugees and humanitarian migrants in Australia*' report, which shows that lifting the humanitarian intake from 18,750 now to 44,000 by 2022/23 will increase overall GDP, demand for goods and services, and the number of jobs in Australia. According to this report, accepting more refugees will boost the Australian economy as the 'new' Australians settle in and become productive members of our society. Oxfam is calling on the Australian Government to increase the refugee intake to create within it a visa stream of 10,000 places annually that is specifically designed to make it easier for humanitarian migrants to be reunited with their family.

[Read article](#)

[Download OXFAM's 'Stronger Together' REPORT](#)

What can the private sector do to alleviate the refugee crisis?

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Michel Botzung

17 July 2019

The analysis builds on the findings of an International Finance Corporation (IFC) report '[Private Sector & Refugees: Pathways to Scale](#)'. The study found five main pathways through which firms engage with refugees and host communities:

- 1) Sharing capabilities such as technology or technical expertise to provide access to humanitarian assistance, education or financial services
- 2) Extending services by adapting current business models to refugee needs
- 3) Enabling employment by providing job training and entrepreneurship support to refugees
- 4) Integrating into value chains by hiring refugees directly or working with smaller enterprises that hire refugees
- 5) Building a business by selling goods and services tailored to refugee populations

The author highlights the role of the private sector in realizing the market potential of refugees, which requires a transition from viewing refugees as core to business, rather than through the lens of Corporate Social Responsibility, as well as policies that enable refugees to work, move and own a business in their host country.

[Read article](#)

To read more about Burden- and responsibility-sharing

Cynthia J. Arnson [The Venezuelan Refugee Crisis Is Not Just a Regional Problem](#) **Foreign Affairs** 26 July 2019

Owen Shumba [Migration, displacement and the SDGs at the High Level Political Forum](#) **UNDP** 30 July 2019

Protection capacity



Lebanon. Syrian refugees in desperate need receive ATM cash cardsTartusi. With two young daughters she works two jobs and, so a bank card is a more practical, time-saving option than queuing for cash distributions. © UNHCR/ Diego Ibarra Sánchez

Zain Cash, UNHCR and IrisGuard introduce iris technology for cash disbursements to refugees in Iraq

Zain press release

21 August 2019

The mobile telecommunications group Zain, UNHCR and the UK-based electronic payment solutions company IrisGuard jointly launched a programme that introduces iris technology for cash disbursements to refugees in Iraq. Currently over 120,000 vulnerable Iraqi families and approximately 30,000 refugees in the country receive cash support via UNHCR. Over US\$60 million were disbursed in 2018 alone. The introduction of iris technology for payment of cash assistance will improve identification accuracy, efficiency and speed. By allowing only entitled refugees to be able to withdraw cash, the programme is likely to consistently reduce the likelihood of fraud ensuring the much-needed aid is provided to those who it is intended for.

[Read press release](#)

Working together for refugees: not exactly what you think it is

By Colin Dyer

World Vision

18 July 2019

The article reflects on the practical relevance of the Global Compact on Refugees around key objectives, such as easing the pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance and expanding access to third-country solutions, supporting conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. This offers substantial opportunities to pave the way for strengthening collaborations around different organisations towards achieving those goals. The adoption of the Graduation Approach - a sequenced, multi-sector intervention that supports the poorest and most vulnerable households to achieve sustained income and move out of extreme poverty within a specified period - will guide World Vision's efforts to build capacity and ease economic pressure on host and refugee communities, focusing on consumption support and market-driven skills development for self and wage employment.

[Read article](#)

To read more about Protection capacity

[Momentum builds as UNHCR plans first global refugee forum](#)

Refugee Council of Australia 11 July 2019

[Issue Brief: Promoting Refugee Participation in the Global Refugee Forum: Walking the Walk](#) **Refugee International** 12 July 2019

Francis Emorut [Building harmony in a refugee-hosting community](#) **New Vision, Uganda** 22 August 2019

[Congo : adhésion de Brazzaville à la campagne des villes solidaires](#) (fr) **Journal de Brazza** 31 July 2019