WORLD BANK – UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement

The Consequences of COVID-19 on Forcibly Displaced People: A Primer on Research Activities

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FOREWORD

The COVID-19 pandemic has emerged as the most disruptive social event in the last decades. This crisis affects all the sectors of our society and the most vulnerable individuals are likely to suffer even more than others from the consequences of the pandemic.

Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) are certainly among those who are more exposed to both the sanitary and economic effects of the virus-related crisis. Their situation has already attracted the attention of many scholars and practitioners around the world, who have started to analyze how the health conditions, livelihood perspectives and social development of FDPs and host communities have changed in the wake of the diffusion of COVID-19.

The World Bank–UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC) recognizes the importance of facilitating the exchange of knowledge on these topics among researchers and practitioners. Therefore, the Center has decided to devote a space for an open and informed discussion on aspects such as research questions, methods, sources of data, analytical techniques, and policy implications of the research findings in the wake of the current pandemic.

To this aim, the JDC has solicited the submission of project descriptions by the researchers within its network. This document, which we have called a “Primer on Research Activities”, summarizes some of these contributions and offers a first overview of these projects, their aims and their (expected) outputs.

We thank all the scholars and practitioners who have responded to our call. The projects span over many geographical areas, analytical techniques and research disciplines. They provide a very interesting summary of the multiplicity of factors characterizing the way COVID-19 is shaping research activities on forced displacement.

Of all the contributions we have received, in this first issue of the Primer we have given priority to those which explicitly deal with consequences of COVID-19 on those forcibly displaced and have an important component of data analysis.
At the end of the Primer, we have included a list of websites that give some indications on the way several institutions are responding to the challenges posed by COVID-19. The list is of course not exhaustive, and it will be updated in future issues.

We hope this Primer can stimulate further research exercises and ultimately, contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of those forcibly displaced.

This Primer is a live document, which we aim to update regularly. We welcome comments and suggestions: please contact us at our email address jdc@worldbank.org.

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NOTE

Some of the contributions have been edited in the interest of brevity and clarity, and to preserve the focus on COVID-19 interventions. The inclusion of a project description in this document does not constitute an endorsement of the project’s contents and conclusions by the JDC, the World Bank or UNHCR. Any specific query related to the projects included should be directed to the respective authors.
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EAST AFRICA

Effects of COVID-19 on Refugees: Economic Resilience and Host Attitudes in Uganda

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Project timeline: This project is ongoing. The survey will be launched after the reopening of Uganda’s borders.

(Expected) Output: Academic article.

Description of the project: Refugees, already a vulnerable population prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, may now face new challenges created by the spread of the virus and consequent economic downturn. First, refugees may face higher barriers to recovery, due to differences in access to capital, government assistance measures, discrimination, and social networks. Second, host attitudes may shift against refugees if fear of the virus or job loss results in increased xenophobia. We study these questions in the context of Kampala, Uganda, home to around 100,000 refugees. We have already established contact with around 1,400 Ugandan and 500 refugee tailors and salons as part of a related project. We plan to use this same sample of micro-entrepreneurs to study our questions related to COVID-19 with a round of surveys. The earlier round of surveys, conducted in November, will allow us to document changes in economic outcomes for refugees and hosts, as well as changes in host attitudes toward refugees. Additionally, our separate project included randomized interventions to 1) facilitate contact between refugees and nationals in the form of business mentorship, and 2) increase knowledge in the host community about refugees’ effects on the Ugandan economy and support this information with direct cash assistance. The interventions were partly implemented in January and February and may be especially salient given the expected economic hardship. This design will allow us to test whether contact with refugees, information about aid-sharing with refugees, or a cash grant directly linked to refugees prior to the
lockdown affects attitudes during the COVID-19 crisis. Ideally, we would launch a first round of surveys in late May or early June, a few weeks after Uganda has reopened, and complete them over 4-6 weeks.

COVID-19 Response in the Context of the Kamwenge Graduation Study in Uganda

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Description of the project: Economic coping with COVID-19 shutdown measures directly influence households' ability to comply with public health policies such as social distancing, which may be especially challenging in a refugee setting. Researchers will collect phone survey data from participants of a USAID-funded Graduation study with refugees and neighboring communities of the Kamwenge refugee settlement in Western Uganda. The on-going study tests how Graduation-style interventions can help participants in a post-conflict setting of a refugee settlement improve food and nutrition security and self-reliance. The additional data in the context of COVID-19 will allow us to document to what extent the interventions help participants cope with extreme economy-wide shocks. We will also partner with local organizations to include survey questions that will be used directly to inform their local policy response to the pandemic.

Source of funding: UK Department for International Development.
Kenya COVID-19 Rapid Response Phone Survey for Refugees

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Project timeline: The project was initiated in April 2020 and will be completed before the end of December 2020. Data will be collected for six months, starting in May 2020.

(Expected) Output: The project will produce weekly online dashboards. Over the course of data collection, anonymized micro-datasets will be made available for each of the three waves of the survey. Short briefs specifically on the impact of COVID-19 on refugees will be produced and disseminated in a timely manner.

Description of the project: The COVID-19 pandemic has started to affect Kenya creating an even more urgent need for timely data and evidence to help monitoring and mitigating the impact of the crisis. Timely data must be inclusive and reflect the needs and vulnerabilities of all, nationals and non-nationals. More specifically, data is needed from forcibly displaced populations, namely refugees and asylum seekers, hosts populations and the community at large. However, face-to-face surveys are no longer feasible due to the risk of infection as well as mobility restrictions. Phone surveys can collect data without visiting households. They can be implemented rapidly and at low cost, form a baseline for follow-up surveys and adapted swiftly to changing circumstances. Thus, phone surveys are highly suited for rapid data collection especially in emergencies and under very rapidly changing conditions. They are key in ensuring just-on-time monitoring of the impacts of shocks, reforms and other structural changes. Therefore, the World Bank in collaboration with the UNHCR, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and University of California Berkeley are complementing the Kenya COVID-19 Rapid Response Survey with a specific component for refugees to track the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees and provide timely data to inform rapidly targeted response also specifically for refugees. The refugee component of the bi-monthly survey covers a sample of 1,250 randomly selected displaced individuals stratified by location (three camps and non-camp settings) as well as the Shona stateless population. The survey
instrument includes information on household composition (gender, age), knowledge on COVID-19 and sources of information, behavioral changes (e.g. self-isolation, social distancing), access to clinics & medicine, schools and financial services as well as food, employment (loss or reduction of work by sector), loss of income including remittances, food insecurity and coping mechanisms including safety nets. The questionnaire has been adapted specifically for displaced populations while maintaining comparability with the resident population. The collected data will be used to produce weekly online dashboards depicting descriptive statistics. The dashboard can be used by stakeholders to track impacts and rapidly address emerging needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The data can also be useful to inform a targeting tool for refugees who became particularly vulnerable by the impact of COVID-19.

Source of funding: World Bank.
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Syrian Refugee Life Study (S-RLS)

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(Expected) Output: Journal article and NRC policy brief.

Description of the project: With COVID-19 spreading across the globe, there is much debate among policymakers and academics on how best to provide for refugees’ humanitarian needs while also ensuring the health and well-being of host community populations and the stability of host countries’ political and economic institutions. As a result, many non-profits and intergovernmental organizations have quickly mobilized in response to COVID-19 to implement programs that support both refugees and host communities.

The Syrian Refugee Life Study (S-RLS) uses a randomized control trial (RCT) to evaluate the effectiveness of a specific, scalable program — the Norwegian Refugee Council Jordan’s Urban Shelter Program — in protecting refugee communities from the shocks of COVID-19 and in facilitating positive outcomes longer-term. This evaluation estimates the direct and spillover effects of shelter assistance on beneficiaries, their children, and their host communities both during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. The study will pair this novel RCT with long-term longitudinal data collection in one of the first systematic efforts to survey a large, representative refugee sample and follow that sample over time.

The RCT component will include about 2,400 refugee households — with around 1,200 (50%) of these households randomly assigned treatment and around 1,200 (50%) control — using a saturation design whereby households in certain randomly selected municipalities will have a higher probability of treatment assignment. Households in the treatment group receive about $2,000 in rental assistance, paired with physical
upgrades to their shelter, which benefit both the Syrian recipient household and the Jordanian landlord.

The end line of the RCT will serve as the baseline for the panel study, utilizing a broad range of outcomes to observe the mechanisms by which providing stable shelter access to vulnerable populations may improve families’ economic welfare and mental health. Besides the 2,400 RCT participants, we will survey 2,600 additional refugee households as part of the panel: 2,100 living in Jordanian host communities and 500 from Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps, sampling to ensure a representative sample of Jordan’s overall Syrian refugee population on important observable dimensions, including gender, age, and location.

This study will serve as the first long-term panel of Syrian refugees, providing unprecedented spatial and temporal coverage. In addition to capturing economic outcomes (consumption, assets, earnings, savings and credit), the survey will also measure migration history, education, marriage and fertility, physical and mental health, social attitudes (religion, gender, and politics), and behavior and preferences (risk aversion, altruism, and trust). This will allow us to observe and correlate rich outcomes over time with refugees’ migration decisions. A newly developed COVID-19 module will allow us to measure health practices, as well as social attitudes and behaviors of refugees during and after the pandemic. While we plan to harmonize the module with that used by other development practitioners for ease of comparison, we will ask additional questions specifically relevant to refugees (e.g. on discrimination by host communities, differential provision of services, social distancing in camps).

Among the RCT sample, we will measure causal effects of shelter assistance across these multiple dimensions at the individual level.

Collecting our first round of data during the spread of COVID-19 also presents a unique opportunity to measure a large, universal shock to refugees in Jordan, where we are well-positioned to track the outcomes on this population over time. For the RCT population specifically, it is entirely possible that, in light of such shocks, shelter provision plays an even larger role in fostering stability and long-term benefits than we had originally hypothesized.

**Source of Funding:** Innovations for Poverty Action, Peace and Recovery Program.
The Impacts of COVID-19 on the Economic Well-being and Migration Intentions of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

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Project timeline: Data collection ongoing, to be completed within one month.

(Expected) Output: Policy brief covering survey results regarding shelter in place, economic impacts, and migration intentions. We will also publish an academic paper.

Description of the project: How has COVID-19 affected the lives, livelihoods, and migration intentions of Syrian refugees? Building on an ongoing multi-year panel survey to study Syrian refugees in Lebanon and their return choices back to Syria, we propose to expand our survey for rapid-response data collection on the effects of COVID-19. From our survey, we will have nationally representative statistics of symptomatic prevalence, testing, shelter in place, and social distancing for Syrian refugees. We will also use our panel data to examine direct and indirect consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on refugees’ economic well-being and migration decisions. Our study population includes Syrians who were living as refugees in Lebanon as of 2019, some of whom have now begun returning to Syria. Our tracing panel allows us to stay in touch with them even as they migrate back to Syria or to third countries. We will interview people during their migration preparations and on their journey, stay in touch with them once they have returned, and study how COVID-19 has impacted their well-being and migration intentions.

Source of funding: Innovations for Poverty Action, Peace and Recovery Program.
Effective Communication and Dissemination of Critical COVID-19 Information with Syrian Refugees in Turkey

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Project timeline: Ongoing, baseline in May, intervention in June.

(Expected) Output: Academic article.

Description of the project: This study examines how to most effectively provide mitigation-related information on COVID-19 to Syrian refugees living in Turkey. Researchers are identifying small and medium-sized enterprise owners who can act as information “seeds” to the broader Syrian refugee community because they are more likely to have access to important resources, such as the internet. The study is testing how trust in the original information source (e.g. a Syrian NGO or a Turkish NGO) and enterprise owners’ autonomy in delivering the information impacts the breadth and depth of information dissemination and subsequent behavioral and health outcomes. Researchers will track sign-ups for an information service and engagement in information dissemination. High-frequency follow-up calls will capture health outcomes, information retention, and self-reported social and health behavior. The study will also track how COVID-19 impacts refugee-owned businesses.

Source of funding: Innovations for Poverty Action, Peace and Recovery Program.
Confronting the Negative Repercussions Resulting from the COVID-19 Outbreak on Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Tunisia

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Project timeline: The project is ongoing. Expected completion by the end of June 2020.

(Expected) Output: An article analyzing the national strategy, and the preventive and protection measures taken to assist refugees and asylum seekers in the COVID-19 crisis.

Description of the Project: The COVID-19 pandemic undoubtedly marks a turning point for public health and the global economy. Affecting all the sectors, the crisis resulting in the COVID-19 outbreak is more acute in countries having asymmetrical and poor health infrastructure. This crisis has affected the socioeconomic situation of vulnerable people, especially refugees and asylum seekers.

According to UNHCR (Tunisia), there are 4,494 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia (most of them are from Syria —1,719 — then Cote d'Ivoire, 1,274). After classifying COVID-19 among contagious diseases pursuant to the Decree Law No.152 of 2020, published on March 13, 2020, the Tunisian executive power has started to take exceptional measures to face the crisis, including general confinement and extended curfew. This delicate situation has resulted in a difficult social and economic situation for Tunisians as well as refugees and asylum seekers. These forcibly displaced persons, especially those who lost their incomes due to the wide containment in the country, are in serious need of financial assistance and basic services like health, food and accommodation services in order to protect them from the danger of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Using an analytic framework coupled with a synthetic approach, this academic article tries to answer the following questions: How do UNHCR and its partners (from national civil society organizations) as well as NGOs react to protect refugees and asylum seekers from the COVID-19 pandemic threats? What characterizes the national strategy to confront the negative repercussions resulting from the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic?
coronavirus on foreigners in Tunisia, including refugees and asylum seekers? What are the challenges facing the efforts of governmental actors and different stakeholders in limiting the impact of the pandemic on refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia?

To answer these questions, the article uses the data presented by UNHCR based on its COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response plan in Tunisia, highlighting the assistance and basic services provided to refugees and asylum seekers from civil society organizations, companies and private citizens, as well as the required funding for these vulnerable people. This article also sheds the light on the valuable partnership and coordination between UNHCR and its Tunisian civil society partners such as the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Tunisian Refugee Council mainly through advocacy, community outreach, and provision of health, legal, psychological, and accommodation services.

Furthermore, this article analyzes the national strategy used to confront the negative repercussions resulting from the spread of the COVID-19 on refugees and asylum seeker in Tunisia. This national strategy is strengthened by the leading governmental initiatives such as the measures taken by the Tunisian authorities in favor of foreigners; the creation of a committee (composed of different Ministries, national and international organizations and civil society) to follow up the humanitarian situations of foreigners residing in Tunisia by the Tunisian Ministry of Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights; and launching an online platform for the civil society and international organizations including UNHCR to provide the lists of refugees and asylum seekers needing assistance in order to be included in the national assistance program.

These important governmental efforts are based on coordination activities with the necessary international and civil society organizations working in the field of refugee protection and engaging them in the national strategy to limit the bad effects of the virus-related crisis on refugees and asylum seekers. However, the article unveils the challenges which still exist in this context and should be met, including the emergence of cases of sexual and gender-based violence, the rise of psychosocial distress, and the limited resources to support vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia.
Prejudice towards Refugees during COVID-19: Evidence from Colombia

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Project timeline: Ongoing -- data collection is expected to be completed this summer, analysis and writing is expected to be completed in fall 2020.

(Expected) Output: Academic article, newspaper editorials, policy reports depending on funders.

Description of the project: How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected prejudice and discrimination towards refugees? In fall 2019, we surveyed about 1,000 Colombians about their opinions on Venezuelan refugees as well as about 1,600 Venezuelan refugees living in Colombia. In summer 2020, we plan to re-interview the same respondents. For Colombians, we will assess how their attitudes about the Venezuelan migrants have changed, especially in light of the additional strain presented by COVID-19 on public healthcare systems and other public services. We hypothesize that they have become more opposed to refugees, especially if those refugees are seen as vectors of disease or burdens to society. However, if refugees are seen as helping fight the pandemic, opinions towards them should improve. These effects may be moderated by the respondents' own exposure to COVID-19. For Venezuelans, we will assess their ability to access public health and welfare services. In addition, we will ask if their experiences with prejudice and discrimination have changed, and if so, how.

This project seeks to make two major contributions. First, it will provide evidence on the link between concerns about disease and xenophobia, in the context of a large refugee crisis. Second, it will provide measures of COVID-19 exposure from locals and migrants in a developing country context, which we believe will be useful for future meta-analyses and cross-country comparisons.

Source of funding: TBA.
Understanding the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health and Child-parent Relationships among IDPs and Communities Exposed to Protracted Conflict in Colombia

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Project timeline: Ongoing. Final data will be collected between June and July. Working paper will be in place by the end of the year.

(Expected) Output: Academic Article.

Description of the project: We explore the effects of the pandemic on maternal mental health and child-parent relationships among IDPs and victims of violence in Colombia. Our project is embedded within a larger experimental evaluation of Semillas de Apego, a group-based psychosocial support program that seeks to restore maternal health and protect early childhood development in Internally Displaced families and in communities affected by violence. Since 2018, we rolled out the evaluation of this program through a randomized control trial in Tumaco, a municipality severely affected by the violence in Colombia, targeting both IDPs and victims of violence. Over the course of four sequential cohorts, 1,375 primary caregivers of children 2-5 were randomly assigned to the program or to a control arm. By the end of 2019, subjects in the treatment arm had completed the program, while subjects in the first two cohorts completed the three rounds of assessments (baseline, first and second follow-ups). Unfortunately, the pandemic disrupted the timing of the final follow-up for the last two cohorts of the evaluation. However, this also allows us to understand the effects of the pandemic on outcomes such as mental health and child-parent relationships among displaced families. In particular, we will combine data collected in-person and over the phone and will leverage exogenous variation in the timing at which households completed the assessment (pre and post pandemic) to understand how the pandemic is affecting mental health among primary caregivers and the frequency and quality of the child-parent relationships. In addition, we will leverage the exogenous variation in the assignment to the program, to understand whether subjects who participated in the psychosocial support group are better able to navigate and
respond to this crisis, or whether the crisis attenuated the positive effects that were observed at the first pre-pandemic follow-up. Together, the findings of our study will highlight how displaced families, caregivers, and children are affected by the pandemic, and to assess the effectiveness of the psychosocial support program, not only on its ability to repair the negative effects of violence, but also on whether it allows families to better respond and cope with other shocks. In doing so, we aim to close an existing policy gap and protect women and children exposed to violence who are currently underserved by existing policy frameworks in countries enduring protracted conflicts.

**Source of funding:** Saving Brains, Grand Challenges Canada. Fundación FEMSA. Fundación Éxito. United Way Colombia. Coca Cola Foundation.
Fostering Local Communities of Solidarity for Migrants and Refugees from Venezuela

UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
IOM, the International Organization for Migration,
UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

**Project timeline**: Ongoing, the expected timeline for the project is 36 months, starting from September 2019.

**(Expected) output**: The Expected Accomplishments (EA) and their related outputs are:

EA1: The host communities have strengthened their acceptance and improved economic and social inclusion for vulnerable migrant and refugee populations in transition and host communities. Furthermore, due to COVID-19 emergency, the target population has been beneficiaries of cash-based incentives, and local authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs) received technical support to address urban and socioeconomic impact during the post-crisis phase in their communities and its effect on refugees and migrants in the short and medium-term. Thus, the project will implement the following outputs:

1. Local governments are better informed and prepared to handle the transition and arrival of migrant and refugee groups in a vulnerable situation. Regarding COVID-19, the project aims to support local governments with information that allows strategic decision making to mitigate the COVID-19 post-crisis phase, especially regarding the strength of social supporting systems.

2. Inclusion of migration and asylum-related challenges and opportunities in urban strategies and planning. The expected outputs are Territorial Intervention Plans (one per city) which will provide technical assistance to urban authorities in designing a response strategy. With respect to COVID-19 emergency, the intervention plans will formulate recommendations and actions of the territorial order that will strengthen local capacities for the prevention and mitigation of this type of emergencies, especially on promoting healthy and resilient cities, governance for healthy environments, multi-stakeholder partnerships, among others.
3. A collection of documents to strengthen the local capabilities and share best practices in the region, including good practices regarding the management of COVID-19 crisis.

**EA2:** Migrants and refugees’ populations are better protected and have improved access to documentation, orientation, and basic rights.

4. Social cohesion and conflict prevention promoted between host communities and migrants/refugees. The expected outputs are the implementation of campaigns and communication initiatives against xenophobia and discrimination to prevent community conflicts with special focus on prevention of stigmatization within the COVID-19 framework, and the implementation of socio-cultural activities for cohesion and conflict prevention between host communities, refugees, and migrants.

5. Strengthened local governments’ capacity to respond to the specific needs and challenges faced by migrants and refugees, (including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic), and the inclusion of CSOs, private sector, and relevant stakeholders in ensuring transparency and inclusion of host communities in decision making. The expected outputs are (i) to provide cash-based incentives (CBI) to migrants, refugees, and host communities to strengthen their capability to satisfy basic needs in the framework of COVID-19 emergency phase, (ii) to improve capacity building for local governments to respond to the specific needs and challenges faced by migrants and refugees, and the inclusion of CSOs, private sector and relevant stakeholders in ensuring transparency and participation of host communities in decision making, and (iii) to facilitate and/or strengthen linkages with market actors to foster migrants and refugees self-employment.

**Description of the project:**

**General context**

Venezuela experiences a significantly deteriorating socio-economic situation, illustrated inter alia by increased unemployment rates, lack of ability of people to earn their livelihood, growing food insecurity, and a massive resurgence of Malaria cases for not having access to medical services. This is linked to political instability, violations of fundamental rights, including the right to peacefully demonstrate, as well as violence and insecurity, notably around mining and border areas. As a result of the emerging crisis, more than 4.5 million Venezuelans now live out of the country, with the numbers growing strongly over the last year. At present (January 2020), more than 3.8 million
have moved to Latin American neighboring countries, generating a humanitarian crisis of regional proportions. Furthermore, it is necessary to take into account the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the integration processes of refugees and migrants with a permanent vocation, with the host communities. According to PAHO / WHO, by April 15 the Region of the Americas presents a total of 645,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 25,600 deaths.

Given the described situation, the overall objective of the project is to reduce vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees and address the impact on host communities to design stable and durable solutions with a medium and long-term vision that improves the lives of host and migrant communities.

**Proposed target group / population:**
The project has a regional scope, including six countries and a total of nine cities.

**Project approach**
In regard to COVID-19 response, the project had formulated a response plan aiming to support communities and local governments within the framework of the project. Thus, the following actions have been proposed:

- **Baseline construction:** support local governments with the inclusion of information on institutional health capacity, population vulnerabilities and access to basic services, in special attention to COVID-19 emergency. Furthermore, participatory assessments with Venezuelan and host community populations will be carried out to identified specific impacts of COVID-19.

- **Communication campaigns:** messages for the prevention of stigmatization of refugees and migrants and xenophobia will be included, within the framework of the social, economic and cultural effects of the COVID-19.

- **Capacity building for local governments:** provide technical support (through guidelines, recommendations, training sessions, and systematization of good practices regarding management of COVID-19 crisis) on COVID-19 crisis management to promote healthy cities and environments.

- **Capacity building for refugees, migrants, and host communities:** provide CBI to migrants, refugees and host communities in selected cities, and distribute them
proportionally according to the number of migrants in each country to support
vulnerable target populations, but also to be an instrument to socio-economic
integration of these communities in a post-crisis scenario. Furthermore,
strength the capabilities of civil society organizations of Venezuelans for access
to goods and services offered by governments and international cooperation,
to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and promote self-care.
The implementation modality foresees indirect management as a Multi-partner
agreement with UN-Habitat (lead), IOM, and UNHCR (as partners).

Data analysis scope:
UNHCR, IOM, and UN-Habitat are applying their methodologies to collect the
information that allows the analysis of the situation of the refugee and migrant
population and the state of the prosperity in selected cities. These methodologies are
City Prosperity Index (CPI), the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), and the
Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT).
The COVID-19 emergency challenges the project to identify methods for the collection
of primary information that will not involve social contact. As a strategy for resilience,
the project has proposed the development of interviews using apps for online surveys
with focal groups and the development of virtual workshops with local government staff
and community leaders. Regarding the online surveys, the main challenge is the
definition of an adequate statistical sample which includes refugees, migrants, and
host communities in equal proportions. In regard to virtual workshops and interviews,
the main challenge is to provide the community leaders and local staff with an
adequate internet connection.

Main findings:
The project will present the main findings in the following months as the baseline
construction is finalized.

Source of funding: European Union.
GLOBAL AND MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS

COVID-19 and the Lives of Adolescents from Refugee and Host Communities in Bangladesh and Jordan

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Project timeline: The project is currently ongoing with expected completion for phase 1 in August 2020, and expected completion for phase 2 in December 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>Phase 1 data collection completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2020</td>
<td>Policy brief(s): Real-time emerging findings (phase 1a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2020</td>
<td>Policy brief(s): Real-time emerging findings (phase 1b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2020</td>
<td>Phase 2 data collection completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Data processing and analysis completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2020</td>
<td>Policy brief: Slower onset findings (phase 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2020</td>
<td>Journal article(s) prepared</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Expected) Output: This project will produce four country-specific policy briefs, two country-specific journal articles and one cross-country journal article. These deliverables will share key findings from the rapid onset virtual interviews on COVID-19 and resulting government responses on adolescents, as well as their knowledge and perceptions of COVID-19 (phase 1). Subsequently, the analysis will aim to inform possible programming and policy responses post-COVID-19 to mitigate long-term impacts of the pandemic on the lives of adolescents (Phase 2).

Description of the project: The unevenly implemented lockdown in Bangladesh coupled with limited testing capacity has meant that the magnitude of COVID-19’s spread throughout the country is likely to be underreported. This is further
compounded by news that the virus has reached Cox’s Bazar district, home to thousands of vulnerable Bangladeshi host communities and close to a million Rohingya refugees living in overcrowded and critical conditions.

In comparison, the government of Jordan acted decisively to stop the spread of COVID-19 by implementing a mandatory curfew and a nationwide lockdown for the first month and half after confirming the first cases of the virus. The strict regime seems to have worked and the spread of the virus has been stalled (with no new cases over the past five days as of early May). Nevertheless, the lives of many young people have been interrupted by school closures expected to last until at least mid-June, and possibly longer. Public schools, many of which are running double shifts, cannot meet demand and the country faces severe and escalating water shortages, especially in refugee camps, which are expected to be exacerbated by the COVID-19 lockdown. The labor market is also struggling to keep up with the growing population, with most people not able to work or provide for their families.

**Measures**

In order to inform the government’s response and that of its humanitarian and development partners, it is essential to supplement the evidence base with a focus on adolescence, as containment measures will have multi-dimensional effects on young people’s well-being in the short- and medium term. The Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) program has ongoing mixed-methods longitudinal research in both Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh and Jordan’s refugee camps and host communities, and it is uniquely placed to capture both short-run impacts and longer-term concerns with its sample of adolescents aged 10-19. The mixed-methods data collected will be organized in two key phases: the first phase to understand immediate knowledge, attitudes and behavior vis-à-vis the emerging pandemic focused around the six GAGE capability domains:

- **Education and learning**: disruptions in education (including suspension to the pilot phase of the Myanmar curriculum for Rohingya refugee adolescents in grades 6–9; and suspension of all schools in Jordan and moving to on-line/TV curriculum); ability to study/learn while schools/learning centers are closed, concerns about how COVID-19 will impact education in the longer-term.

- **Health and nutrition**: self-reported health, health symptoms related to COVID-19, impact of COVID-19 on food security, changes in risky behavior (e.g. smoking).
- **Psychosocial well-being**: measures of mental health, worry/fear about COVID-19.
- **Economic empowerment**: disruptions in vocational training and/or paid work, and taking on additional work.
- **Mobility, voice and agency**: movement during the past seven days, ability to remain connected with friends.
- **Bodily integrity**: coping mechanisms by the adolescent and her/his family, changes in violence in the community.

The second phase will assess change across each of the six domains above but pay particular attention to the following:
- Effects on education;
- Coping strategies given the economic fallout, including impacts on nutrition and substance use;
- Effects on age- and gender-based violence, and ability to seek protection and justice;
- Effects on child marriage;
- Adolescent perceptions of gender and generational differences of the impacts of COVID-19 and governmental/humanitarian responses including social protection.

Ongoing panel data collection will also allow us to assess sustained impacts post-pandemic.

**Sample**

In Bangladesh in Cox’s Bazar, a representative sample of 1,071 Rohingya adolescents living in camps and 1,209 Bangladeshi adolescents living in host communities will be surveyed, and a total of 32 adolescents will be engaged via in-depth qualitative virtual interviews. In Jordan, our quantitative sample consists of over 4,000 adolescents and young adults from camps, host communities and ITS (informal tented settlements) and includes vulnerable Jordanians and refugee populations (Syrian and Palestinian), with a subsample of adolescents with disabilities and married girls. Qualitative virtual sessions will be carried out with more than 100 adolescents.

Our research will aim to contribute to policy and programming firstly by collecting age- and gender-disaggregated data on the impact of COVID-19, to fully grasp the inequitable losses affecting adolescent girls and boys in both the immediate and longer-terms. We will also contribute to policy discourse on expanding social protection packages and shock responses that consider the specific constraints faced by adolescents, including household economic resilience to circumvent reliance on
negative coping mechanisms adversely affecting girls and boys (child marriage, permanent school drop-out and disproportionate roles in informal sectors). We will also contribute evidence to programming surrounding virtual educational resourcing and virtual protection, justice and referral mechanisms (including protection from gender-based violence and domestic violence).

**Source of funding:** The Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) programme is funded by UK aid from the UK government, Department for International Development (DFID). For the COVID-19 related work we are also seeking complementary funding.
COVID-19 Watch: Expert Analysis of COVID-19’s Impact on Refugees and Other Forced Migrants

Editor: Professor Jane McAdam, Scientia Professor and Director Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, Faculty of Law UNSW Sydney, kaldorcentre@unsw.edu.au

Project timeline: COVID-19 Watch has been live since April 06, 2020. New contributions will be published on an ongoing basis until further notice.

(Expected) output: COVID-19 Watch is a blog published on the website of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law. Selected blog posts will be revised and updated for a special commentary section in the International Journal of Refugee Law.

Description of the project: The Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW has created a watching brief of the impact of COVID-19 on the world’s displaced people. COVID-19 Watch is a hub for expert analysis on the impacts of coronavirus on the world’s displaced people. Sharing insights from scholars, humanitarians, practitioners and refugees themselves, it is a go-to resource for both policymakers and the general public. COVID-19 Watch is published on the Kaldor Centre website, and features expert analysis and commentary from refugees, scholars, humanitarians and practitioners. Contributions are informed by data drawn from existing scholarship, legal instruments, reports by UN bodies or NGOs, and/or authors’ own lived experience of displacement or professional experience in humanitarian settings. Through publication on the Kaldor Centre website and promotion through Kaldor Centre mailing lists and social media channels, the findings presented in each piece of expert analysis and commentary are made available to an international audience of academics, policy makers, practitioners, and the public. By drawing attention to the impact of COVID-19 on displaced people around the world, the COVID-19 Watch project highlights the international refugee and human rights law principles that policy makers should take into account in future pandemics and humanitarian emergencies.

Source of funding: Not specifically funded – part of general Kaldor Centre work.
The COVID19 Crisis and International Asylum and Migration Norms

Lama Mourad, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, lmourad@upenn.edu
Stephanie Schwartz, University of Southern California, srschwar@usc.edu

**Project timeline:** Ongoing, expected time to completion TBD.

**(Expected) output:** Academic article.

**Description of project:** Historically, states have enacted increasingly restrictive migration policies during pandemics that outlast the health emergency (Kenny 2020). Amid the COVID-19 crisis, many states are issuing emergency policies such as closing borders to refugees and asylum seekers, halting asylum registration, and canceling asylum hearings. Some of these emergency restrictions arguably amount to *refoulement* or violate other long held principles of international refugee law such as non-discrimination and access to courts. The strength of the international refugee regime depends, in part, on states’ compliance with these principles and state sanctioning of norm violators. If norm violations are more frequent, and do not incur international sanctioning, there is opportunity for norm erosion. This article seeks to examine how the novel coronavirus affects international asylum norms in the short term, with an eye to additional long-term data collection. Research design is currently in development.
COVID-19-RELATED PROJECTS BY SAMUEL HALL

The following section provides a short summary of seven current and upcoming research projects related to forced displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic designed by researchers from Samuel Hall.


Nassim Majidi, Samuel Hall, nassim.majidi@samuelhall.org
Marion Guillaume, Samuel Hall, marion.guillaume@samuelhall.org

Project timeline: Ongoing.

(Expected) output: Research or policy brief; blog/article.

Description of the project: In 2019, Samuel Hall worked with War Child on a study laying out the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) regarding unsafe child migration from Afghanistan to Iran. Primary data collection was conducted in Herat and Badghis provinces. The research targeted children, parents and communities of children at risk of unsafe migration or experienced unsafe migration. In light of the developments related to the Coronavirus pandemic, a rapid assessment of related child protection needs will be conducted in April / May 2020.
COVID-19: Impact on Returns from Europe to Afghanistan and Iraq

Nassim Majidi, Samuel Hall, nassim.majidi@samuelhall.org

**Project timeline**: Ongoing.

**Expected output**: Report, research or policy brief; blog/article.

**Description of the project**: Samuel Hall is working with DELMI on a research project focusing on returns to Afghanistan and Iraq from Sweden. A module will be added to the research tools to gauge the impact of the current environment on return procedures as well as outcomes. The sample is 120 returnees targeted with in-depth qualitative interviews.
Designing a COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index for Afghanistan and Somalia

Stefanie Barratt, Samuel Hall, stefanie.barratt@samuelhall.org

**Project timeline:** Planned.

**Expected output:** Research or policy brief; blog/article.

**Description of the project:** Following the example of the Surgo foundation’s COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI), the team will design a COVID-19 Vulnerability Index to identify provinces and, to the extent possible, districts, which are prone to particularly high COVID-related vulnerability. In addition, using random dialler, we will conduct a very short adaptive survey inquiring as to COVID-related experiences and practices amongst the general population, which would provide snapshots of the epidemic’s reach in real time.
COVID-19 Impact on Refugee Livelihoods in Jordan

Stefanie Barratt, Samuel Hall, stefanie.barratt@samuelhall.org

Project timeline: Planned.

(Expected) output: Report, research or policy brief; blog/article.

Description of the project: The Samuel Hall team will work with UNHCR Jordan to use the opportunity of Post-Distribution Monitoring of COVID-19 related cash grants to insert a module to gauge the impact of the shut down on the livelihood strategies of Syrian refugees in Jordan. The sample for this survey will consist of 400 urban refugees who benefited from the COVID-19 Cash grants, but not the unconditional “classic” UNHCR cash grant. A control group might be integrated into the sample to allow for richer counterfactual analysis.
Impact of the Pandemic on Reintegration and (Re)migration Decision-making in Senegal, Guinea and Morocco

Nassim Majidi, Samuel Hall, nassim.majidi@samuelhall.org
Camille Kasavan, Samuel Hall, camille.kasavan@samuelhall.org

Project timeline: Ongoing.

(Expected) output: Report, research or policy brief; blog/article.

Description of the project: Samuel Hall is working with the International Organization of Migration (IOM) to assess the reintegration outcomes of certain types of IOM programming (namely, the mentoring approach) in Senegal, Guinea and Morocco. Questions on COVID-19 and impact on reintegration/migration decision making have been included in interviews across all three countries, with returnees as well as stakeholders.
Labour Market Impacts of COVID-19 in Ethiopia

Hervé Nicolle, Samuel Hall, herve.nicolle@samuelhall.org

Project timeline: Ongoing.

(Expected) output: Report, research or policy brief; blog/article.

Description of the project: Samuel Hall is currently working with the International Labour Organization on rapid assessments with the host and refugee/IDP communities in four areas in the Somali and Tigray region on the impacts of COVID-19 on local socioeconomic environments, with a particular focus on jobs and livelihoods. Interviews are conducted with 200 members of the host communities and 100 members of the IDP and refugee communities.
Rapid Assessment of COVID-19’s Impact on Afghan Women and Children in Conflict

Marion Guillaume, Samuel Hall, marion.guillaume@samuelhall.org

Project timeline: Ongoing.

(Expected) output: Research or policy brief; blog/article.

Description of the project: Using our random dialer technology, Samuel Hall is conducting phone interviews with 400 randomly selected women and youth across Afghanistan to ascertain the level of knowledge surrounding, and effects felt due to the coronavirus pandemic and related lockdown, by this particularly vulnerable cohort.
SOME ONLINE RESOURCES

- Inter-American Development Bank: The IDB Group In Response To Covid-19 (Coronavirus); https://www.iadb.org/en/coronavirus