



Forced Displacement Literature Review*

September 2024

* The selected works in this review are abstracts of papers that were presented at the 3rd Research Conference on Forced Displacement.

Table of Contents

Exploring the Spillover Effects of Internally Displaced Settlements on the Wellbeing of Children of the Locales	2
Refugee Return and Conflict: Evidence from a Natural Experiment	2
Attitudes and Policies toward Refugees: Evidence from Low- and Middle-Income Countries.....	3
Mentoring Small Businesses: Evidence from Uganda	3
The Effects of Civil War and Forced Migration on Intimate Partner Violence among Syrian Refugee Women in Jordan	4
Comparing Internally Displaced Persons with Those Left Behind: Evidence from the Central African Republic	5
Labor Market Effect of Granting Amnesty to Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in the Dominican Republic	6
Occupational downgrading of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia: Do work permits improve occupational mobility?	6
Caregiver Mental Health and Early Childhood Development: Experimental Evidence from a Conflict-Affected Setting	7
Vaccine on the Move and the War on Polio	7
The Power of Dialogue: Forced Displacement and Social Integration amid an Islamist Insurgency in Mozambique.....	8
Regularization Programs and the Fertility of Forced Migrants: Insights from a Panel Study of Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia	8
Does perceived labor market competition increase prejudice between refugees and their local hosts? Evidence from Uganda and Ethiopia	9
Contact in the Workplace and Social Cohesion: Experimental Evidence from Uganda	10
Stigma and Social Cover: A Mental Health Care Experiment in Refugee Networks	10
Electoral Effects of Integrating Forced Migrants: Evidence from a Southern Country.....	11

Exploring the Spillover Effects of Internally Displaced Settlements on the Wellbeing of Children of the Locales

Efobi Uchenna and Ajefu Joseph

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Ajefu.pdf>

This research examines the effect of internally displaced persons (IDPs) resettlement on the anthropometric outcomes of the host community's children in Nigeria. Our identification strategy characterizes affected children based on distance heterogeneities between the household and the closest IDP camp, as well as the child's birth year. We find that children residing within a 50-kilometer radius of the settlement with birth years after the IDP settlement in their community are less likely to be underweight, stunted, or wasted. Importantly, we contend that these findings arise because mothers benefited from changes in agricultural food prices, which led to increased agricultural productivity. Furthermore, the settlement resulted in a rise in donor-related activities in their community, namely immunization campaigns. In our data, we explore these mechanisms, demonstrating a significant likelihood of mothers participating in agricultural labor versus services or other professional employment and a significant increase in vaccination intake for affected children.

Refugee Return and Conflict: Evidence from a Natural Experiment

Christopher W. Blair and Austin L. Wright

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Blair.pdf>

We estimate the causal effect of a large-scale cash assistance program for refugee returnees on conflict in Afghanistan. The program led to a significant increase in repatriation. Leveraging historical returnee settlement patterns and previously unreleased combat records, we find that policy-induced refugee return had cross-cutting effects, reducing insurgent violence, but increasing social conflict. The program's cash benefits were substantial and may have raised reservation wages in communities where returnees repatriated. Consistent with this hypothesis, policy-induced return had heterogeneous effects on insurgent violence, decreasing use of labor-intensive combat, increasing the lethality of capital-intensive insurgent attacks, and reducing the effectiveness of counterinsurgent bomb neutralization missions.

Additionally, social capital and local institutions for dispute resolution significantly offset the risks of refugee return for communal violence. Our study provides the first causal evidence demonstrating the link between aid-induced refugee return and political and social conflict. These results are economically significant, highlighting unintended consequences of repatriation aid and clarifying the conditions under which refugee return affects conflict. Supporting social capital and legitimate, local institutions are key antecedents for safe refugee repatriation.

Attitudes and Policies toward Refugees: Evidence from Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Cevat Giray Aksoy, Thomas Ginn, and Franco Malpassi

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Ginn-1.pdf>

Exclusionary policies, such as limits on refugees' movement and the right to work, are often justified as reasons to minimize economic and social tensions with host communities. While these policies have a negative effect on refugees' economic outcomes, their ability to minimize crowd-out and tensions with host communities is unknown. Inclusionary policies, on the other hand, could foster mutual gains and positive relations. In this paper, we build an extensive dataset of natives' attitudes towards refugees, social and economic outcomes, refugee populations, and policies at the sub-national level covering 14 years (2005-2018) and most low- and middle-income countries. Using event study and difference-in-differences methodologies, it assesses the effects of the arrival of large waves of refugees and finds little evidence that large refugee arrivals have a negative effect on average attitudes or economic outcomes in the short term. There are also no significant differences between places with restrictive and inclusive policies, including de jure access to the labor market and opening camps.

Mentoring Small Businesses: Evidence from Uganda

Travis Baseler, Thomas Ginn, Ibrahim Kasirye, Belinda Muya, and Andrew Zeitlin

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Ginn-2.pdf>

We test a cash transfer and mentorship program for Ugandan and refugee microentrepreneurs using a randomized controlled trial. All treatment arms received a cash grant and were eligible for a lottery every two months, which provided a cash reward for having an open business at the time of the draw. In addition to the grant and lottery, some clients were assigned to a mentorship group consisting of 3 clients and a mentor. For some groups, the lottery payouts depend on their individual business performance, and for others, the payouts also depend on their group members' business performance. By giving group members a stake in the others' success, this shared fate mentorship model could encourage the group to invest additional effort in each other and disclose valuable information or techniques. Finally, some groups mix nationalities or mix genders to evaluate the value of heterogeneous groups compared to aligned groups on these dimensions. We find that all treatment arms substantially improve business outcomes, with small differences between arms on average. The shared fate addition improves early impacts in heterogeneous groups, but worsens them in aligned groups.

The Effects of Civil War and Forced Migration on Intimate Partner Violence among Syrian Refugee Women in Jordan

Merve Betül Gökçe and Murat Güray Kırdar

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4953038

This study investigates the impact of the Syrian civil war and refugee status on the risk of physical intimate partner violence (IPV) among Syrian women in Jordan, a country hosting a significant refugee population. We analyze data from the 2017-18 Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, which includes a nationally representative sample of Syrian refugees. Using the information on the timing of first violence after marriage within a discrete-time duration analysis, we examine the hazard rates of IPV exposure across different periods: prewar Syria, postwar Syria, and refugee status. Our findings demonstrate that war and refugee status increase the risk of IPV, with the most substantial impact observed in the initial years after marriage. Furthermore, the rise in IPV after the refugees' arrival in Jordan diminishes over time. The study identifies the economic strain resulting from lower household wealth and refugee husbands' employment losses as a driver of the rise in IPV. Moreover, our innovative approach utilizing GPS locations of refugee households to calculate refugee density reveals that greater social isolation, indicated by reduced proximity to other refugees, significantly exacerbates the risk of IPV among these women. In

addition, we explore whether the civil war and refugee status alter marriage patterns, which could contribute to the observed effects on IPV. Both the civil war and forced migration lower the marriage age and increase the incidence of non-cousin marriages at the expense of cousin marriages—both of which are associated with a higher risk of IPV. However, we observe no changes in age and education gaps between spouses or in polygamous marriages, which could also contribute to the observed increase in IPV.

Comparing Internally Displaced Persons with Those Left Behind: Evidence from the Central African Republic

Jonathan Lain, Gervais Chamberlin Yama, and Johannes Hoogeveen

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099745503192422251/pdf/IDU127a68af61372d14c471a1841e1555d6c7542.pdf>

Global poverty is increasingly becoming concentrated in conflict-affected settings. Therefore, assessing the welfare of those people displaced by conflict is of growing policy importance. Collecting and analyzing data on displaced people is challenging because sampling them is difficult, standard welfare metrics may not reflect their experiences, and they are highly heterogeneous. Assessing the welfare effects of displacement also hinges on constructing counterfactuals that show how internally displaced persons would have fared had they stayed in place. Displaced people typically come from a nonrandom subset of communities affected by conflict or other shocks, so comparing them with the rest of the population may be misleading. This paper addresses this issue using data from the Central African Republic, which recorded detailed information on displacement histories to isolate the communities from which those living in internally displaced person camps originated. Using these “catchment areas” for internally displaced person camps as a counterfactual suggests that although displaced households have lower monetary consumption and higher monetary poverty than the overall population, they may be no worse off on many key metrics than those left behind in the communities originally affected by conflict. Moreover, those left behind enjoy none of the benefits of being in camps, such as additional access to water and sanitation services. These results underline the importance of tailoring policies and data collection to consider those in communities originally affected by conflict, just as practitioners are doing for displaced populations.

Labor Market Effect of Granting Amnesty to Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in the Dominican Republic

Craig Loschmann, Marta Luzes, Alejandra Rivera Rivera, and Cynthia van der Werf

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0013117>

This paper examines the impact of a recent amnesty on the labor market outcomes of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the Dominican Republic. We compare the outcomes of those who received and did not receive ID Cards before and after their issuance, leveraging the unexpected timing of the ID Card distribution. Our findings reveal negligible effects on the extensive margin, such as participation in the labor market or employment, but indicate positive effects on the quality of employment, particularly in the formal sector. However, no discernible impact is observed on the likelihood of being overqualified for one's job or on salaries. The results suggest that the amnesty has benefited Venezuelan migrants, but additional reforms, such as title validation, may be necessary to address the remaining barriers to their effective integration.

Occupational downgrading of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia: Do work permits improve occupational mobility?

Andres García-Suaza, Angie Mondragón-Mayo, and Alexander Sarango-Iturralde

https://doi.org/10.48713/10336_42255

Immigration policies prioritize labor market integration, aiming for high employment rates and leveraging migrant skills to enhance host country productivity. However, migrants often face entry barriers and human capital misallocation. This article examines the occupational downgrading of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia and assesses the impact of work permit policies on mitigating this trend. Our empirical findings highlight significant occupation downgrading, prompting an exploration of the role of work permits. The analysis indicates that permits have expanded employment prospects for migrants who were previously unemployed or engaged in blue-collar jobs, mainly for females and the youngest population. While permits do not significantly reduce occupation downgrading, they are associated with more formal

job search mechanisms. Moreover, our findings show no significant impact of work permits on the intensity of routinization; instead, there is an increase in the intensity of non-routine analytic and interactive tasks among the youngest workers. This suggests that permits could be complemented with additional instruments to enhance migrant matching in the labor market.

Caregiver Mental Health and Early Childhood Development: Experimental Evidence from a Conflict-Affected Setting

Andrés Moya, María José Torres, Juliana Sánchez-Ariza, Arturo Harker, Alicia Lieberman, Blasina Niño, and Vilma Reyes

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Moya.pdf>

We report the results from a cluster-randomized control trial of a psychosocial program that seeks to promote caregiver mental health as an outcome and as a pathway to protect young children from the effects of conflict and forced displacement. We implemented the program in Colombia with caregivers who had suffered conflict-related violence or had been forcefully displaced. Eight months after the program ended, we found positive intent-to-treat effects of 0.17 standard deviations (sd) on caregiver mental health; 0.31 and 0.15 sd on the quality and style of child-caregiver interactions, respectively; and 0.10 and 0.23 sd on early childhood mental health and development, respectively. Our findings speak to the importance of addressing caregivers' mental health as a binding psychological constraint for early childhood development in conflict-affected settings and other environments of adversity.

Vaccine on the Move and the War on Polio

Laura Muñoz Blanco and Federico Fabio Frattini

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Munoz-Blanco.pdf>

The rising number of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) in developing countries presents new challenges for vaccine distribution and the spread of diseases. How do IDP inflows affect polio incidence in host communities? Can a policy intervention that vaccinates IDP children during their migration mitigate the impacts? To answer these questions, we examine the Pakistani mass displacement from the conflict-

affected Federally Administered Tribal Areas in 2008. Using a difference-in-differences approach, we compare new polio cases in districts near and far from the conflict zone before and after 2007. The spatial distribution of districts relative to the historical region of Pashtunistan allows us to design a sample of comparable units. We show that a standard deviation increase in predicted IDP inflow leads to a rise in the new polio cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Poorer vaccination levels among IDP compared to native children are one of the main mechanisms. Implementing a vaccination policy targeting IDP children during their migration journey helps bridge this gap.

The Power of Dialogue: Forced Displacement and Social Integration amid an Islamist Insurgency in Mozambique

Henrique Pita Barros

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Pita-Barros.pdf>

With global forced displacement at an unprecedented level, there is an increasing demand for low-cost interventions that can reduce tension between displaced persons and host communities. This study undertakes a novel field experiment designed to improve the social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into host communities under conditions of scarce resources and low state capacity. The experiment was conducted in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique's northernmost province, where an Islamist insurgency has resulted in over one million IDPs. Hosts and IDPs participated in joint community meetings in which they discussed topics related to the collective life of both groups, and IDPs also narrated their stories of escape from insurgents. Analysis of survey data, list experiments, the Implicit Association Test, and lab-in-the-field games shows that the community meetings produced immediate and sustained positive effects on the relationship between hosts and IDPs. Religious tolerance also improved, and religious-extremist beliefs decreased, highlighting the potential of intergroup contact to support counterinsurgency efforts. As a novel insight, this study finds that even brief but structured intergroup interactions can have a beneficial long-lasting impact on social cohesion.

Regularization Programs and the Fertility of Forced Migrants: Insights from a Panel Study of Venezuelan Migrants in Colombia

Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, Ana María Ibáñez, Sandra V. Rozo, and Salvador Traettino

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Rozo.pdf>

How do regularization programs shape the fertility of forced migrants? Using data from a unique panel study of more than one thousand forced migrants from Venezuela residing in Colombia, we address this question through a quasi-experimental design. We compare changes in childbearing patterns of regularized migrant households, vis-a-vis those experienced by non-regularized but eligible to do so migrant families, before and after the launch of a regularization program that granted full access to social services, as well as work permits. We find that regularized migrant households reduced their childbearing, vis-a-vis their nonregularized counterparts. The impacts appear to be driven by program beneficiaries' improved access to labor market opportunities and family planning services.

Does perceived labor market competition increase prejudice between refugees and their local hosts? Evidence from Uganda and Ethiopia

Julie Bousquet, Anna Gasten, Mark Marvin Kadigo, Jean-Francois Maystadt, and Colette Salemi

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Salemi.pdf>

We study whether perceptions of labor market competition negatively influence out-group attitudes between refugees and their local hosts using a survey vignette experiment conducted in urban and rural Ethiopia and Uganda. Our vignette consists of a short story about a fictional job-seeker in which we randomize the citizenship (refugee/national) and occupation (same as/different from respondent). Our estimates suggest that host attitudes are significantly more negative when the vignette character is a refugee in the same occupation. Such prejudice against the out-group is not confirmed among refugees. Exploring the context-dependency of our results, evidence suggests that the perception of labor market competition, rather than actual competition between refugees and hosts, contributes to prejudicial sentiments. The mediating effect is also stronger in localities and occupations with high competition for labor. Additional heterogeneity analysis based on prior contact and ethno-linguistic proximity provides suggestive evidence that cross-group interactions may ameliorate concerns over out-group competition.

Contact in the Workplace and Social Cohesion: Experimental Evidence from Uganda

Mariajose Silva-Vargas and Francesco Loiacono

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Silva-Vargas.pdf>

Social cohesion is a driver of trust among members of the same community and consequently it is key to local economic development. A high influx of outsiders such as refugees might disrupt this cohesion, as the arrival of foreigners may change social relations. Therefore, how to construct social cohesion in refugee-host countries is both desirable and necessary for policy. We conduct a randomized control trial with refugee job seekers and native workers in locally owned and managed firms in Uganda. We measure social cohesion through a compound measure incorporating attitudes, implicit and explicit biases, and behaviors in real and hypothetical activities. Does inter-group contact in the workplace promote social cohesion between people from two different communities? Our sets of findings are two. First, explicit bias decreases for both groups, while implicit bias increases only for native workers. Second, both groups of workers improve their behaviors towards the opposite group, but in a slightly different way: while local workers want to have more refugee business partners, refugee workers want to be more employed by Ugandan firms. These findings underscore the role of workplace-based contact in developing social cohesion by reducing explicit biases and increasing positive behaviors among people from different communities.

Stigma and Social Cover: A Mental Health Care Experiment in Refugee Networks

Emma C. Smith

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Smith.pdf>

People might withhold useful information from others to avoid being associated with a stigmatized product or service. In a field experiment with 847 Syrian refugee friend groups, I investigate whether an external excuse can increase the exchange of information on a stigmatized topic – specifically, mental health services. First, I document simultaneously significant local knowledge about who may be depressed,

positive beliefs about mental health treatment efficacy, and a reluctance to share information about services: only 22% of friends receive information. The study's main finding is that giving individuals social cover, by encouraging them to disclose that they are compensated to share information, raises sharing rates by 37%. Consistent with a social cover mechanism, these effects are strongest for senders who are prior mental health care users. In a reversal of the common prediction that financial incentives may crowd out prosocial behavior, I instead find that in this setting with stigma, increasing the visibility of financial incentives crowds in prosocial behavior. In a follow-up experiment I show that senders can use the excuse of being paid without decreasing recipients' interest in the services.

Electoral Effects of Integrating Forced Migrants: Evidence from a Southern Country

Sandra V. Rozo, Alejandra Quintana, and María José Urbina

<https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Urbina.pdf>

How does easing the economic integration of migrants affect voting behaviors? We assess how the regularization of half a million Venezuelan migrants affected the electoral behaviors of Colombians by comparing election results in municipalities with higher and lower program take-up rates. We document negligible impacts on native voting behavior. We also conducted a survey experiment to investigate the lack of voter response. Even after receiving information about the program, voters showed no changes in voting intentions or prosocial views toward migrants. Hence, their indifference did not stem from a lack of awareness about the program.