



# Emergency humanitarian response to longer-term development in refugee crises

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## Question

*In the context of refugee crises, what is the evidence base that moving from emergency humanitarian response to longer-term development-focussed activities that promote refugee self-sufficiency and resilience reduces overall operational costs and saves money in the long run?*

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## 1. Overview

This report provides a rapid literature review of the evidence on emergency humanitarian response to longer-term development in refugee crises. While the scope of the report did not allow for complex judgements to be made about the quality of the body of evidence, or of the strength of individual pieces of evidence, an evidence table is provided in Annex A to enable the reader to undertake such analysis if needed in the future, using the DFID How to Note on Assessing the Strength of Evidence.<sup>1</sup>

This report was written in five days. This report was designed to provide a brief overview of the key issues, and a summary of pertinent evidence found within the time permitted. The author recognises that the review process was non-systematic and non-exhaustive. All the evidence included was in English, no more than 10 years old. The resources were identified through a desk-based search. A number of experts in the field were also consulted.

**No evidence was found, within the scope of this report, to either support or refute the hypothesis that, in the context of refugee crises, a shift from emergency humanitarian response to longer-term development-focussed activities reduces operational costs.**

However, some evidence was gathered, which is relevant to approaches to refugee crises with regards to longer term development outcomes. From the literature reviewed, it is clear that the current situation with regards to refugees requires action, with unprecedented numbers of people currently being displaced (UNHCR 2016, Omata 2016). Refugee crises were found to be increasingly protracted. The Syrian crisis in particular has resulted in new challenges emerging for refugees (Mitri 2015).

Humanitarian interventions have traditionally focused on ensuring a right to life for refugees in the short term (Betts and Collier 2017). The historical approach to refugees has been to organise camps (Hunter 2009, Betts and Collier 2017). Current humanitarian responses are found to be inadequate for protracted crises. Such approaches are now criticised for being short term, detrimental to human rights and dignity, and failing to offer educational and livelihood opportunities (Hunter 2009, Hyndman and Giles 2017). Camps are found to restrict the rights of refugees and limiting their economic opportunities (Hunter 2009). Strengthening refugees' livelihoods and supporting their economic self-reliance is clearly a pressing concern (Easton-Calabria and Omata 2016). Cost effective solutions must support longer-term projects. Responses must be adapted to deal with longer-term crises (Mitri 2015).

Some examples exist where sub-national administrations have demonstrated flexibility and creativity to address refugee challenges through job-matching and integration projects. However, these interventions rely on supportive national legislation to be successful. Some governments are taking steps to address refugee crises, such as the government of Jordan, who granted Syrian refugees the right to work. It should be noted though that with the Jordan example, uptake of work permits is currently low and further research is needed to understand why. Examples also exist of refugees developing informal economies. The Dadaab camp in Kenya is home to several successful businesses that provide services as well as tax returns to the Kenyan government (Lucci et al 2016).

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<sup>1</sup> DFID. 2014. How to Note - Assessing the Strength of Evidence  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-note-assessing-the-strength-of-evidence>

In terms of the international context, in 2016, UN Member States adopted the “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”, committing them to develop a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework for emergencies, as well as long-standing situations of forced displacement. Self-reliance is a major theme for UNHCR, which aims to address both the short-term humanitarian needs of displaced people, as well as longer-term development goals (UNHCR 2016). However, the UNHCR’s policies on self-reliance have been criticised for being self-serving and inadequate to address the real needs of refugees (Hunter 2009). Refugee self-reliance is reported to not be possible within the current framework of UNHCR responses to refugee situations. Policy based on the idea that subsistence agricultural livelihoods can support self-reliance for refugees is found to be misguided. To achieve self-reliance the UNHCR must adapt its refugee policy to focus on refugee rights (Hunter 2009). Self-reliance of refugees is directly related to refugee rights legislation (Hunter 2009). Also, better coordination between UN agencies is urged to better address refugee crises (Mitri 2015).

To address refugee crises, the intolerable situations from which people flee must be addressed. Approaches should be broad, and include political and humanitarian interventions to ensure rights and tackle abuses (Lindley 2011). Refugee integration will be important, as resettlement can offer a degree of protection. Adequate funding for both emergency humanitarian response and longer-term development-focussed activities is called for (Lindley 2011). Policies must focus on delivering humane, effective and sustainable outcomes. Assistance must move beyond short term aid. If refugees can work and gain an education, economic benefits can be achieved (Betts and Collier 2017).

Refugee camps are incompatible with the needs of refugees, reducing the likelihood of refugees engaging in a sustainable livelihood (Hunter 2009). Micro-finance can empower refugees by providing them with access to credit. More research is needed in this area (Easton-Calabria and Omata 2016). Understanding refugees’ economic potential will be key to overcoming refugee crises (Omata 2016). Better knowledge of influences on refugees’ lives would assist with turning humanitarian challenges into sustainable opportunities (Betts et al 2016). Approaches must be developed to support refugees to contribute to their social and economic environment (Ilcan, Oliver and Connoy 2015). Evidence suggests in Jordan and Lebanon, cash transfers and food vouchers have effectively reduced refugee poverty. However, such interventions have not delivered economic inclusion of refugees or self-reliance. Humanitarian and development approaches must be on growth policies for both refugees and hosting populations (Verme et al 2016). A shift from refugee-centric emergency aid, towards development programs is needed, requiring greater cooperation between governments and international organisations. Responses must be context specific (Hourani and van Vliet 2015).

International management of crises have to date been inefficient. Improved strategic planning is needed. The capacity of host governments must be strengthened. Donors must work with various actors to be most effective (Mitri 2015). Refugee resilience can be strengthened by focusing on personal qualities, support and religion. Resilience can be undermined by language barriers, racism, discrimination, and labelling the trauma story (Hutchinson and Dorsett 2012).

Responses to refugee crises are reliant on funding. In the past, livelihood projects have received low levels of support, with basic needs interventions being prioritised over longer term development. Legal restrictions hinder funding for longer term interventions. Grant terms have been reported to be too short. Added pressures include European countries considering spending some of their aid budgets on refugees residing within their own borders (Jacobsen and Fratzke 2016).

Refugees in Uganda have been found to be highly entrepreneurial, with the capacity to be self-reliant and contribute to their host societies. This is facilitated by the Ugandan government allowing refugees to work through a 'Self-Reliance Strategy' (Betts et al 2016, Omata 2016). However, the strategy has also attracted criticism for failing to provide refugees with sufficient access to social support and protection, with many refugees facing restricted movement, social divisions and inadequate protection (Ilcan, Oliver and Connoy 2015). By comparison to Uganda, Kenya restricts the socio-economic freedom of refugees, resulting in many seeking work in the informal sector (Omata 2016).

## 2. Context

The global number of displaced people is rising, voluntary repatriation is at its lowest level in decades and durable solutions for refugees are becoming more elusive (UNHCR 2016). More people are currently displaced than at any other time since the Second World War (Omata 2016). The majority of current responses to refugee crises confine refugees to organised settlements where they are stripped of their rights and dignity (Hunter 2009). Strengthening refugees' livelihoods and supporting their economic self-reliance is a pressing concern (Easton-Calabria and Omata 2016). The Syrian crisis has resulted in new challenges emerging for refugees. In particular, refugee crises are increasingly protracted. There is an urgent need to adapt responses to deal with longer-term crises. Cost effective solutions must be developed to support longer-term projects (Mitri 2015).

Until recently, the default response by donor countries to refugee crises was to donate funds via the United Nations humanitarian system. Money was largely spent establishing refugee camps and providing food, clothing and shelter. The camps were only ever planned to solve the crisis in the short term. Refugees were regularly denied a right to work and often their movement was restricted. If refugees are restricted from working, they become dependent on the system, which currently is not designed to meet their long term needs (Betts and Collier 2017). Temporary humanitarian interventions have failed, as the majority of refugees live in protracted conditions where they are unable to work or establish a home. Humanitarian interventions have traditionally focused on ensuring a right to life for refugees in the short term, such as shelter, food and medicine. During this emergency phase, humanitarian assistance to refugees remains vital to people's survival. However, such interventions do not provide the right to live in the medium to long term. Long term displacement is not caused by the international humanitarian regime, but it remains its responsibility. The current humanitarian response is inadequate for people who have been displaced for a several years. During this time, livelihoods, education, access to human rights are put on hold or diminished. As the initial urgency of a refugee crisis fades away, donor fatigue increases while refugee camp conditions worsen and the risk of violence increases (Hyndman and Giles 2017). The camp system was designed to provide temporary care, yet have become permanent by default, in absence of a more suitable plan. There is no clear strategy for the future of the global refugee system (Betts and Collier 2017).

In Europe, cities have demonstrated greater flexibility and creativity than national governments in responding to the influx of refugees, with a number of job-matching and integration projects being launched. Urban areas in the Middle East face a far larger refugee challenge than urban areas in Europe. Examples do exist of endeavours by governments in the Middle East, in cooperation with other partners, in providing humanitarian assistance and promoting self-reliance and inclusion. For example, as part of a wider programme, Jordan granted Syrian refugees the right to apply for work permits. However, after a three month period ending in July 2016, fewer than

13,000 Syrians had obtained work permits out of an expected 50-100,000. Further research is needed to explain why. Examples also exist where refugees themselves are driving urban development through the informal economies. For example in Kenya, difficulties of leaving the camp led to refugees developing an informal camp economy. The Dadaab camp has a commercial hub with refugees running a variety of successful businesses providing services to locals as well as a substantial tax return to the Kenyan government. In addition, a number of organisations, including the Norwegian Refugee Council, are providing livelihoods support, including vocational training courses (Lucci et al 2016). No economic analysis was identified of any of these examples.

### 3. UN Response

On 19 September 2016, UN Member States adopted the “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”, committing them to develop a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework for emergencies, as well as long-standing situations of forced displacement. Self-reliance of refugees is a major theme of UNHCR’s “Global strategy for livelihoods” (2014-2018). In addition, UNHCR aims to strengthen collaborative efforts with various partners, to address both the short-term humanitarian needs of displaced people, as well as longer-term development goals for both the displaced and their host communities (UNHCR 2016).

Despite policies being developed by UNHCR to address the challenge of protracted refugee situations and increase self-reliance, such policies have been criticised as being self-serving and focus on the reduction of assistance in line with falling UNHCR budgets, instead of addressing the real needs of refugees (Hunter 2009). Self-reliance will not be achieved if asylum states continue to confine refugees to camps, restricting their rights and limiting their economic opportunities. The current self-reliance policy expects communities to become self-reliant yet fails to engage this subject beyond the individual or household level. The UNHCR is constrained by its requirement to appeal to donors and asylum states, rendering it unable and inadequate to protect and to respond to the real needs of refugees. It is thus contested that refugee self-reliance is not possible within the current framework of UNHCR responses to refugee situations. Current policy is misguided in its belief that subsistence agricultural livelihoods can support self-reliance for refugees. There is a fundamental difference between the concepts of food security and self-reliance. Although food security can contribute to self-reliance, the continued assumption within UNHCR policy that they are equal undermines refugees’ long-term welfare. Declining UNHCR budgets are no excuse for reduced assistance to refugee settlements. To achieve self-reliance the UNHCR must adapt its approach to refugee policy, recognising the practical importance of refugee rights, changing the structure of refugee assistance, and ultimately altering its own role in the provision of assistance and advocacy of refugee issues (Hunter 2009). UNHCR recognise that a dearth of formal employment opportunities mean that the majority of refugees become ‘entrepreneurs’, underscoring the importance of financial assets. They acknowledge that access to financial capital is a vital element in the pursuit of self-reliance for refugees. UNHCR situates micro-finance as part of its comprehensive livelihood support strategy for refugees. The evidence base on micro-finance and poverty reduction is well established (Easton-Calabria and Omata 2016).

There is some evidence of a lack of coordination between UN agencies in addressing refugee crises. Mitri (2015) argues that in the context of the refugee crisis in Lebanon, the UNDP would have been well placed to draft an Early Recovery Strategy, however, they were side-lined by UNHCR. International non-government organisations are unfortunately being excluded from the

process. In this context, the challenge of inter-agency coordination has led to poor exchange of information.

## 4. Solutions

Intolerable situations from which people flee must be addressed through broad based political and humanitarian approaches, as well as interventions to ensure refugees' basic rights and tackle abuses. In addition, new thinking on piecemeal, gradual, and developmental approaches to refugee integration is recommended, with resettlement recognised as a vital protection tool in a complex crisis. Adequate funding for both emergency humanitarian response and longer-term development-focussed activities is called for (Lindley 2011). The current refugee crisis offers an opportunity for positive reform. International policy-makers must focus on delivering humane, effective and sustainable outcomes - both for Europe and for countries that border conflict zones. Interventions must move beyond providing food, tents and blankets. Tangible economic benefits can be achieved if refugees are given the right to work and education (Betts and Collier 2017).

The potential to achieve self-reliance is directly related to the degree to which asylum states extend and protect refugee rights. In addition, refugee camps are incompatible with the needs of refugees, reducing the likelihood of refugees engaging in a sustainable livelihood (Hunter 2009).

Micro-finance can provide access to credit and loans for refugees, who are excluded from established financial services. Such financial services to refugees are viewed as dignified and empowering. To make micro-finance work for refugees necessitates a reflection on the specific characteristics and situations of refugee populations. Little is known of the success and failure of micro-finance for refugee populations (Easton-Calabria and Omata 2016). In the context of Syrian refugees living in Jordan and Lebanon, cash transfers and food vouchers are effective in reducing poverty but they remain short of providing economic inclusion and self-reliance. To achieve economic inclusion and self-reliance for refugees, a different humanitarian and development paradigm must be adapted. The focus must be on growth policies for areas affected by refugees where the target population is constituted by refugees and hosting populations alike (Verme et al 2016).

To overcome the challenge of mass displacement, it is imperative to rethink refugee assistance and to seek ways to promote refugees' economic potential (Omata 2016). Alternative approaches to humanitarian and refugee management must be developed that enable and support refugees to self-settle, access legal and social support, and participate in and contribute to their social and economic environment in meaningful and sustainable ways (Ilcan, Oliver and Connoy 2015). A shift is required from refugee-centric emergency aid, towards development programs. Governments and international organisations must cooperate to create development programs in light of national development goals. This would create jobs and invigorate the national economic cycle. Responses must be context specific, with different intervention approaches in different areas. Geographical differences must be considered when developing policies, or designing aid programs for refugees (Hourani and van Vliet 2015). Delivery of aid must match the needs of the recipients (Mitri 2015).

The transition between emergency response and longer term protracted support implies an emphasis on development agencies, in order to target host communities in an efficient manner. Relevant data must improve, as limited data has an impact on evidence based planning (Mitri 2015). For example, there is a paucity of both theory and empirical data on the engagement of

refugees with markets. Such data would inform a better understanding of these economic systems, which is required to rethink approaches to refugee assistance. Improved understanding of resource allocation systems that shape refugees' lives and opportunities would assist with analysis of mechanisms through which these market-based systems can be made to work better and turn humanitarian challenges into sustainable opportunities (Betts et al 2016). Evidence from the Lebanese context suggests that shifting from a state of emergency response to a development-based approach to a protracted refugee crisis took too much time and solutions were not creative enough. Management of the crisis was inefficient. Improved strategic planning and contingency planning are necessary. In addition, strengthening the host Government's capacity will empower it to take a lead role in strategising and coordinating efforts. Donors must understand the context, and be prepared to work with various actors, including local NGOs, who may have useful context specific knowledge (Mitri 2015).

Refugee resilience moves beyond the Western individualised notion of resilience to a more communal construction of resilience, which includes refugee people's broader social context. Work with refugees should take an inclusive anti-oppressive strengths-based approach. Factors that were found to contribute to refugee resilience included personal qualities, support and religion. Factors that were found to impede resilience included language barriers, racism, discrimination, and labelling the trauma story (Hutchinson and Dorsett 2012).

## **5. Funding**

Both emergency and long term humanitarian responses to refugee challenges are highly reliant on external funding, and the geographic and strategic priorities of donor countries. Livelihood projects have received relatively little support, compared to interventions addressing immediate needs. By way of example, in Syria, livelihood development has consistently been the most underfunded priority area of joint UN funding appeals, receiving 6% of the required funding in the first 6 months of 2015. When funds are limited, basic needs will be prioritised over longer term development. Legal restrictions may impact on how funds are spent, with longer term interventions missing out. In Lebanon, NGO partners found funding grants were initially just three to six months long, preventing longer term interventions. The Syrian conflict, and subsequent refugee crisis, has led to greater attention being paid to livelihood schemes. Many European nations are now considering spending a proportion of their aid budget on addressing refugee challenges within their own borders, which puts further strain on limited funding (Jacobsen and Fratzke 2016).

## **6. Self-reliance and refugees in East Africa**

A case study of refugees in Uganda found that refugees had complex and varied economic lives, often being highly entrepreneurial and connected to the global economy. Refugees were found to have the capacity to be self-reliant and contribute to their host societies. A significant factor is unlike other governments in the Africa region, Uganda allows refugees the right to work and a significant degree of freedom of movement through a 'Self-Reliance Strategy' (Betts et al 2016). Uganda offers refugees a relatively high level of socio-economic freedom through its Self-Reliance Strategy (Omata 2016). However, an analysis into Uganda's Self-reliance Strategy and the Nakivale Refugee settlement reported disconnection from the social and economic relations within which refugees live in settlements. The strategy was found to fail to provide refugees with sufficient access to social support and protection. The reality is that many refugees face

restricted movement, social divisions and inadequate protection. The responsibility is put on the refugees to meet their own needs with little or no humanitarian and state support (Ilcan, Oliver and Connoy 2015).

Kenya has more stringent refugee policies than Uganda that restrict socio-economic freedom. Due to a series of restrictions imposed by the Kenyan government, refugees are required to fend for themselves in the informal sector. Despite the Kenyan Refugee Act (2006) recognising refugees' right to work, refugees are virtually excluded from participating in the formal economy (Omata 2016).

## 7. Other resources

**UNHCR. 2005. Handbook for Self-reliance. UNHCR, Geneva.**  
<http://www.unhcr.org/44bf7b012.pdf>

This handbook is designed to provide UNHCR field-based staff and their partners with an operational tool for formulating and implementing self-reliance strategies. Based on the realisation that employment and the opportunity to make a sustainable income are building blocks not only for self-reliance but also for local economic growth, the Handbook also contains practical material that will guide Field Offices to promote employment-oriented strategies in conflict-affected settings. These were developed with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It is expected that the Handbook will be put to use in the initial phase of the planning of all operations to support the development of multi-year self-reliance strategies.

It should be noted that the handbook was written in 2005, so falls outside of the inclusion criteria. Recent events, including the Syria crisis, have dramatically transformed the international landscape and the situation faced by refugees.

**Crisp J. 2017. The case against refugee camps. Refugee International Blog.**  
<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/blog/refugeecamps>

This blog post argues the case against keeping refugees in camps. It reports that camps absorb a huge amount of donor funding without offering their inhabitants the opportunity to become self-reliant and to find a solution to their plight. The following are the main reasons that the refugee camp approach is coming under increasing scrutiny:

- 1) Refugees in protracted situations living in camps are often denied basic rights. Camps are often remote, isolated and inhospitable areas, making it hard for refugees to grow their own food and contribute to the local economy.
- 2) Camps can be dangerous, especially women and children. Refugees in camps may suffer trauma, psycho-social problems and inter-generational issues.
- 3) The reality is that many refugees don't want to stay in camps (even if they are obliged to). Work prospects and other factors draw refugees to urban centres.
- 4) Camps make it hard for refugees to integrate and prevent them from acquiring the skills they will need if they are eventually to return and contribute to the rebuilding of their own country.

Although this post does not qualify as evidence under the criteria set out in DFID's how to note on assessing the strength of evidence, it has been included here as it was deemed highly relevant to this query and was written by a subject expert.<sup>2</sup>

**Hakiza R, Easton-Calabria E. 2016. (Loan) cycles of innovation: researching refugee-run micro-finance. ODI Humanitarian Practice Network, UK**  
<http://odihpn.org/magazine/loan-cycles-of-innovation-researching-refugee-run-micro-finance/>

This article published on the ODI Humanitarian Practice Network argues that refugees across the global South are increasingly choosing to venture into cities rather than staying in camps. Half of global refugees now live in non-camp settings. Increasingly, these urban refugees are undertaking their own entrepreneurial initiatives, often in sectors in which they have no prior experience. Most also lack access to the micro-loans that could help them start businesses. Few refugee-serving organisations have comprehensive loan programmes, and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) rarely target refugees as beneficiaries. Lack of legal status often prohibits refugees from becoming MFI clients or opening bank accounts in host countries, and lenders' fears of refugees leaving the host country increase uncertainty about loan repayments and sources of collateral. Refugees in receipt of free assistance have sometimes perceived loans as handouts, and may not have adequate community or other support to successfully repay loans. Despite these obstacles, and the fact that the majority of urban refugees survive without institutional assistance, little research exists on whether and how they access micro-finance. This article introduces a research project, funded by the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF), which aims to illuminate not only the current state of micro-finance for urban refugees but also how refugees' own communities and networks can act as sites of innovation for bottom-up micro-finance programmes.

**Rohwerder B. 2016. Sustainable livelihoods in Ugandan refugee settings. GSDRC Helpdesk, UK.**  
<http://www.gsdrc.org/publications/sustainable-livelihoods-in-ugandan-refugee-settings/>

This helpdesk report considers what the factors are that help or inhibit sustainable livelihoods in refugee settings. It has a focus on Uganda. It found some research, which suggests that self-employed refugees are somewhat more successful than employed refugees, but there is little concrete evidence from Uganda that current refugee livelihood strategies are successfully fostering self-reliance and sustainable solutions. Most of the literature included was grey literature. The factors supporting or inhibiting sustainable livelihoods in Ugandan refugee settings included:

- The policy environment, particularly the right to work, freedom of movement, and access to services. Uganda's refugee assistance has development-orientated components aimed at supporting the self-reliance and resilience of entire communities. However, livelihood strategies need to be diverse: a focus on agricultural self-reliance alone is not enough.
- Social capital and networks. Ethnic ties seem to play a particular role in Uganda, as does refugees' ability to integrate into local communities.

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<sup>2</sup> DFID. 2014. How to Note - Assessing the Strength of Evidence  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-note-assessing-the-strength-of-evidence>

- Training and skills development can provide a foundation for self-reliance, but alone are insufficient. Access to capital, markets and credit are also important.
- Refugee profiles, as refugees of different ethnicities, ages, gender, ability, education, duration of stay, have varying levels of access to social networks, land and credit. For example, negative gender stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes towards refugees with disabilities can prevent women refugees and those with disabilities from finding work, or push them towards negative coping strategies.

The report concludes that refugee livelihood programming needs to involve local contextual awareness, refugee and local input, partnerships with host institutions, and long-term predictable funding. As a non-systematic review of the grey literature, this report does not qualify as evidence under the criteria set out in DFID's how to note on assessing the strength of evidence. However, it has been included here as it provides a useful overview on sustainable livelihoods in Uganda.

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## Annex A - Evidence table

### Evidence table

| Reference (with URL)   | Format | Type   | Focus                        | Abstract   |
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| <p> <a href="#">Betts A, Bloom L, Kaplan J, Omata N. 2016. Refugee Economies: Forced Displacement and Development. Oxford University Press, UK.</a> </p> | Book   | <p>           Mixed. Includes primary research and empirical findings (primary/secondary). An inter-disciplinary approach is adopted, based on original qualitative and quantitative data         </p> | Global (sub-focus on Uganda) | <p>           Refugees have rarely been studied by economists. Despite some pioneering research on the economic lives of refugees, there remains a lack of theory and empirical data through which to understand, and build upon, refugees' own engagement with markets. Yet, understanding these economic systems may hold the key to rethinking our entire approach to refugee assistance. If we can improve our knowledge of the resource allocation systems that shape refugees' lives and opportunities, then we may be able to understand the mechanisms through which these market-based systems can be made to work better and turn humanitarian challenges into sustainable opportunities. This book adopts an inter-disciplinary approach, based on original qualitative and quantitative data on the economic life of refugees, in order to begin to build theory on the economic lives of refugees. It focuses on the case of Uganda because it represents a relatively positive case. Unlike other governments in the region, it has taken the positive step to allow refugees the right to work and a significant degree of freedom of movement through its so-called 'Self-Reliance Strategy'. This allows a unique opportunity to explore what is possible when refugees have basic economic freedoms. The book shows that refugees have complex and varied economic lives, often being highly entrepreneurial and connected to the global economy. The implications are simple but profound: far from being an inevitable burden, refugees have the capacity to help themselves and contribute to their host societies - if we let them.         </p> |
| <p> <a href="#">Betts A, Collier P. 2017. Refuge: Transforming a Broken Refugee System. Penguin Allen Lane, UK</a> </p>                                  | Book   | <p>           Mixed. Includes primary research and empirical findings (primary/secondary)         </p>   | Global                       | <p>           Europe is facing its greatest refugee crisis since the Second World War, yet the institutions responding to it remain virtually unchanged from those created in the post-war era. As neighbouring countries continue to bear the brunt of the Syrian catastrophe, European governments have enacted a series of ill-considered gestures, from shutting their borders to welcoming refugees without a plan for their safe passage or integration upon arrival. With a deepening crisis and a xenophobic backlash in Europe, it is time for a new vision for refuge. Going beyond the scenes of desperation which have become all-too-familiar in the past few years, Alexander Betts and Paul Collier show that this crisis offers an opportunity for reform if international policy-makers focus on delivering humane, effective and sustainable outcomes - both for Europe and for countries that border conflict zones. Refugees need more than simply food, tents and blankets, and research demonstrates that they can offer tangible economic benefits to their adopted countries if given the right to work and education. An urgent and necessary work, Refuge sets out an alternative vision that can empower refugees to help themselves, contribute to their host societies,         </p>  |

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|   |  |  |                | and even rebuild their countries of origin.  |
| Easton-Calabria E, Omata N. 2016. Micro-finance in refugee contexts: current scholarship and research gaps. RSC Working Paper Series, 116. Oxford, UK | Working paper                              | Literature review, personal observations and field experiences (primary/secondary) | Global South   | Strengthening refugees' livelihoods and supporting their economic self-reliance is one of the most pressing and daunting challenges in the forced migration arena. Most refugees are obliged to become 'entrepreneurs' due to the dearth of formal employment opportunities in their place of asylum, underscoring the importance of financial assets. This paper surveys the existing literature on the use of micro-finance with refugee populations in the Global South and identifies some gaps in current scholarship. Both authors have worked as researchers and practitioners in forced migration and possess extensive experience running and evaluating micro-finance programmes for refugee populations in the Global South. Thus, the paper also draws upon our personal observations and field experiences regarding micro-finance assistance.  |
| Hourani G, van Vliet S. 2015. Regional differences in the conditions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Civil Society Review; 1                           | Journal article (unclear if peer reviewed) | No clear methodology   | Syria, Lebanon | Lebanon has entered its third year as a country hosting the highest number of Syrian refugees in the region. All geographical areas with a high concentration of Syrian refugees in Lebanon share a similar protracted marginality, underdevelopment, and weak infrastructure. Syrian refugees experience different levels of legal and political conditions, security and protection, freedom of mobility, access to aid and relief services, access to labour, socio-economic conditions, and prices of goods and rent, all depending on their geographical settlements. These geographical differences are of eminent relevance that affects not only the Syrian refugees and their hosting communities, but also refugee policies and aid programs. This paper explores these variations by analysing, first, differences among host communities and, second, by examining the dissimilarities among geographic settlements. The paper reveals that the conditions of Syrian refugees depend on the geographical areas of their settlement within Lebanon. Host-refugee relations also show a direct relationship to the variant geographical areas and their socio-demographic compositions. This paper concludes that geographical differences are of vital importance to be considered when studying the living conditions of refugees, developing policies, or designing aid programs. |
| Hunter M. 2009. The Failure of Self-Reliance in Refugee Settlements. POLIS Journal; 2   | Journal article (unclear if peer reviewed) | Secondary (methodology unclear)  | Global         | Current responses to refugee crises confine refugees to organised settlements where they are stripped of their rights and dignity. The UNHCR has developed self-reliance policies in an attempt to address the long-term needs and economic security of refugees in settlements. However, these policies are self-serving, unambiguously focused on the reduction of material assistance in line with falling UNHCR budgets rather than addressing the real needs of refugees.   |
| Hutchinson M, Dorsett P. 2012. What does the literature say about resilience in refugee people? Implications for practice. Journal of                 | Journal article                            | Literature review (Secondary)  | Australia      | Refugee people experience many trials prior to arriving in Australia and face ongoing challenges associated with re-settlement. Despite facing such difficulties many refugee people demonstrate enormous strength and resilience that facilitates their re-settlement process. The authors' experience however  |

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| Social Inclusion; 3 (2)  |                 |   |   | suggests that professionals working with refugee people tend to focus on the trauma story to the neglect of their strengths. At times this means resilience is overshadowed by a dominant Western deficits model that defines refugee people as traumatised victims. Pathologising the trauma story of refugee people may further alienate refugee people from full inclusion into Australian life by denying their inherent resilience in the face of extraordinary life experiences. This article reviews Australian and International literature to explore factors that contribute to refugee resilience such as personal qualities, support and religion. The review also identifies elements that may impede resilience including; language barriers, racism, discrimination, and labelling the trauma story. The literature suggests refugee resilience moves beyond the Western individualised notion of resilience to a more communal construction of resilience that includes refugee people's broader social context. The literature highlights important practice implications and the authors respond to the findings by reflecting on their own practice experience and considering implications for a more inclusive anti-oppressive strengths-based approach to work with refugee people. |
| Hyndman J, Giles W. 2016. Refugees in Extended Exile: Living on the Edge. Routledge  | Book            | Mixed. Includes primary research and empirical findings (primary/secondary) | Includes research on refugees in Iran, Kenya and Canada | This book argues that the international refugee regime and its 'temporary' humanitarian interventions have failed. Most refugees across the global live in 'protracted' conditions that extend from years to decades, without legal status that allows them to work and establish a home. It is contended that they become largely invisible to people based in the global North, and cease to remain fully human subjects with access to their political lives. Shifting the conversation away from the salient discourse of 'solutions' and technical fixes within state-centric international relations, the authors recover the subjectivity lost for those stuck in extended exile.  |
| Ilcan S, Oliver M, Connoy L. 2015. Humanitarian Assistance and the Politics of Self-Reliance Uganda's Nakivale Refugee Settlement. Cigi Papers No. 86          | Grey literature | Mixed. Review of material plus interviews (primary/secondary)               | Uganda  | Increasingly, refugees residing in refugee camps are living in protracted situations for which there are no quick remedies. Existing attempts to address protracted situations for refugees engage with the concept and practices of the Self-reliance Strategy (SRS). This paper focuses on the SRS in Uganda's Nakivale Refugee Settlement. It draws attention to the strategy's disconnection from the social and economic relations within which refugees live in settlements, and its inability to provide refugees with sufficient access to social support and protection.   |
| Jacobsen K, Fratzke S. 2016. Building Livelihood Opportunities for Refugee Populations: Lessons from Past Practice. Migration Policy Institute, Washington, DC | Grey literature | Secondary (methodology unclear)   | Global  | This report outlines the types of livelihood efforts that aid agencies have undertaken in countries of first asylum and explores the challenges they face in realising the full promise of these approaches. In the face of little rigorous evaluation of such programs, the authors offer a range of recommendations to improve effectiveness.   |
| Lindley A. 2011. Between a Protracted and a Crisis Situation:  | Journal article | Mixed. Review of material plus interviews (primary/secondary)               | Kenya, Somalia  | Two decades since the Somali Republic collapsed, the Somali regions are still suffering from chronic political uncertainty, violence and high levels of displacement. Since 2006 protracted regional displacement   |

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| Policy Responses to Somali Refugees in Kenya. Refugee Survey Quarterly; 30 (4)   |  |  |                | situations initiated in the 1990s have been overlaid by new crises. This is particularly evident in Kenya, where the number of Somali refugees has nearly trebled since 2006 and the refugee regime is undergoing important institutional change. This article draws on interviews carried out in 2011 in Nairobi and Dadaab, exploring the dynamics of displacement and responses by both policy-makers and refugees, and offers some suggestions regarding emerging and potential policy approaches. The article calls for different broad-based political and humanitarian approaches to tackle the intolerable situations from which people flee in Somalia; improvements in the Kenyan Government's refugee protection capacity and independent monitoring to ensure refugees' basic rights and tackle abuses; new thinking on piecemeal, gradual, and developmental approaches to refugee integration; and the maintaining of resettlement as a vital protection tool in a complex crisis.  |
| Lucci P, Mansour-Ille D, Easton-Calabria E, Cummings C. 2016. Sustainable cities: internal migration, jobs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ODI, London                          | Briefing paper                             | Synthesis of the evidence (secondary)                      | Global         | This policy briefing focuses on the economic integration of internal migrants arriving to cities in rapidly urbanising countries. It has a section on access to work for refugees.  |
| Mitri D. 2015. Challenges of aid coordination in a complex crisis: An overview of funding policies and conditions regarding aid provision to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Civil Society Review; 1 | Journal article (unclear if peer reviewed) | No clear methodology                                       | Syria, Lebanon | With a refugee population that accounts for more than a quarter of its population, Lebanon faces an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and it is the most affected host country in the region. The unexpected numbers of the crisis community has raised numerous challenges for aid donorship. The aim of this paper is to take stock of and critically assess the state of aid provision for Syrian refugees. In order to do so, it will begin by identifying the numerous actors, donors, and their funding mechanisms and implementation strategies, which constitute the very heterogeneous Lebanese aid landscape. It appears that the traditional – mainly Western – humanitarian actors are now being challenged by so-called non-traditional donors – mostly from the Gulf States. This major switch in humanitarian aid has an important impact on most of the identified challenges, which will be analysed in the second section; challenges that range from coordination shortcomings to Lebanese terrain specificities. The paper will conclude by emphasising the dangers of ultra-politicisation of aid provision and its ultimate, negative impact on coordination efforts. |
| Omata N. 2016. Refugee economies in Kenya: preliminary study in Nairobi and Kakuma camp. Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) Working Paper, UK  | Working paper                              | Comparative analysis based on preliminary primary research | Kenya, Uganda  | This working paper is based on preliminary fieldwork in Kenya conducted as part of 'Refugee Economies' research led by the Humanitarian Innovation Project based at the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC). The research strand of refugee economies at the RSC is driven by an imminent need to better understand and support the economic lives of refugees.  |
| UNHCR. 2016. Global Appeal 2017 Update - Pathways to solutions.  | Chapter - Grey literature                  | Position paper   | Global         | This chapter sets out UNHCR's position on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways to solutions</li> <li>• Livelihoods and self-reliance</li> </ul>   |

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| UNHCR, Geneva  |                        |   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding alternatives to camps</li> <li>• Providing access to energy</li> </ul>  |
| Verme P, Gigliarano C, Wieser C, Hedlund K, Petzoldt M, Santacroce M. 2016. The Welfare of Syrian Refugees: Evidence from Jordan and Lebanon. World Bank, Washington, DC | Book - Grey literature | Uses survey and registry data (secondary) | Syrian refugees living in Jordan and Lebanon | The book focuses on: the Syrian refugee crisis. It exploits a wealth of survey and registry data on Syrian refugees living in Jordan and Lebanon to assess their poverty and vulnerability status, understand the predictors of these statuses, evaluate the performance of existing policies toward refugees, and determine the potential for alternative policies. |