

Annotated Bibliography:

# Urban Refugee Management in Indonesia and Southeast Asia

Nino Viartasiwi (ed.), Jean Sonia P Langi (ed.),  
Akino Tahir, Risye Dwiyani, Ayu Prestasia,  
Febrianty Hasanah, Yohana Rosendra



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## Foreword

This is an annotated bibliography prepared by the Resilience Development Initiative – Urban Refugee Research Group (RDI-UREF) team. This document, titled *Annotated Bibliography: Urban Refugee Management in Indonesia and Southeast Asia*, aims to guide readers into the world of works of literature on urban refugees and related themes in Indonesia specifically, and within the broader Southeast Asian context. Urban refugees is a growing issue in migration studies that is still receiving little scholarly attention. Definition of the term urban refugee is still subject to debate, as each concerned entity has its distinct definition of the term depending on the practical use and objective of their work. This annotated bibliography seeks to promote an understanding of urban refugees by presenting brief summaries of studies related to refugee management in urban areas. With that, hopefully, readers will be able to form a working definition of the term urban refugee, and identify the challenges of refugee management at national and city levels. This publication is a part of RDI-UREF 2020 research project on Refugee Management in Indonesian Cities funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan.

This annotated bibliography curates work on the urban refugee management and urban development nexus by scholars, students, and organizations. The raw materials were collected through browsing online publications using the terms “urban refugees,” “refugee management,” and “city welcoming refugees,” as well as through visits to university libraries in Indonesia. We then categorized the materials and ranked them based on relevance to the targeted themes. We summarized the articles and provided a short review of each article. However, the thematic organization of the bibliography does not reflect the intersection of the various foci in the pieces of literature. We hope that this work helps those interested in Indonesian and Southeast Asian urban refugee management to navigate the enormous body of literature available on refugees and forced displacement.

This annotated bibliography includes books, journal articles, and other materials on urban refugees specifically or on refugee issues from perspectives relevant to urban studies, covering Indonesian cases and select Southeast Asian regional cases, specifically Malaysia and Thailand. The materials classification is organized as follows. First, Indonesia-specific themes on urban refugee management, categorized into peer-reviewed journal publications, reports or non-peer-reviewed articles, and selected opinion pieces, blog entries, or articles. Second, urban refugee management in Southeast Asia with a highlight on Malaysian and Thai cases, categorized into peer reviewed journal publications and non-peer-reviewed publications. Third, selected topics on urban refugees under the following themes: remaking of urban space; shelters, camps, and housing of refugees in urban areas; social integration; and refugees and COVID-19. We also provide selected titles for further reference. The organization of each chapter is by alphabetical order.

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# 1

## Urban Refugee Management in Indonesia



## 1.1 Peer reviewed papers

**Afriansyah, Arie. 2019. “Indonesia and the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration.” *International Journal of Refugee Law* 30 (4): 684–86. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijrl/eey066>.**

The article evaluates the implications of Indonesia adopting the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration. The author suggests that as a country that is a non-signatory of the 1951 Refugee Convention and a transit country since the 1970s, Indonesia’s adopting the Global Compacts is a significant commitment to supporting international human rights instruments. The author concludes that adoption of the Global Compacts may boost Indonesia’s mechanisms to better protect refugees.

The article acknowledges that by adopting the Global Compact on Refugees, Indonesia will be more flexible in providing support and protection. Not all four objectives of the Global Compact have been fully implemented within Indonesia’s policy and practices. The objectives of “easing pressures on host countries” and “enhancing refugee self-reliance,” for example, are not explicitly stipulated in Indonesia’s policy and other legal frameworks. Thus, adopting the Refugee Global Compact could be considered a commitment to international cooperation, but it will not guarantee a change in national law and policies on refugees, and may not ensure that effective practices beneficial to refugees are adapted.

**Agus, Alamsyah, Intan Slipi Lia, and Muhammad Akbar. 2018. “The Role of Social Worker in the Context of Refugees and Asylum Seekers Rights in Indonesia.” *Asian Social Work Journal* 3 (5): 39–47. <https://msocialwork.com/index.php/aswj/article/view/60>.**

The article describes social workers’ role as the front line of social services in assisting refugees and asylum seekers on refugee issues in Indonesia, and provides a conceptual framework that may help inform the government to ratify the 1951 Convention. The article



also addresses three main problems concerning refugee issues in Indonesia: legal rights, detention conditions, and biological, psychological, social, and spiritual (BPSS) aspects. The research methodology includes integrative literature reviews, semi-structured interviews, and exploratory studies focusing on social workers' roles in working on refugee and asylum seeker issues. According to the study, social workers play an important role in helping refugees and asylum seekers' adjustment process in the transit country. Their roles include motivator, advocate, and counselor, as well as brokers for other social and health services. Recommendations are directed to the government from a social work perspective, with a caveat that those recommendations may not be fully achieved since Indonesia has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The authors assert that their aim is to encourage the government to ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention through analysis and consideration from a social work perspective. Nevertheless, the discussion does not include Indonesia's recent Presidential Decree on Refugees, which in our opinion, renders it insufficient as a basis for recommendations to the government to ratify the convention.

**Alam, Andi Samsul. 2019. "Pemenuhan Hak Mendapatkan Pelayanan Kesehatan Dan Makanan Bagi Deteni Di Rumah Detensi Imigrasi Makassar [Fulfilling the right to receive health services and food for detainees at the Makassar Immigration Detention Center]." *Phinisi Integration Review 2 (2)*: 201–17. <https://doi.org/10.26858/pir.v2i2.9992>.**

This article aims to describe the regulations that govern the fulfillment of medical services and food provisions to illegal foreigners or detainees in Rudenim Makassar and explore factors influencing the mechanisms of fulfilling detainees' basic medical services needs daily food. Using descriptive qualitative research, the study collects data through literature and document reviews, observation, and interviews with Rudenim staff and detainees for two months. There are three international legal instruments concerning medical services and food provisions to detainees, namely Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, and the 1974 World Food Declaration. At the national level, three legal instruments cover the detainee rights on medical and food services: Article 28H UUD 1945, UU No. 39/1999 about human rights, UU No. 36/2009 about medical assistance as well as regulations from Immigration regarding the standards and procedures of Rudenim in managing the detainees. Several factors influencing the fulfillment of medical and food services to detainees are the adequate number of Rudenim staff, insufficient budget, limited medical facilities, and limited infrastructure and facilities for food services.

The article is useful in providing information regarding the international and national legal instruments and the standard and procedures of Rudenim in regards to the fulfillment of detainees' basic rights (medical services and food provisions). However, the results

and discussion presented is repetitive. There is no full elaboration in the findings on supporting factors. The analysis would be more convincing if there was further information and explanation regarding the correlation between the inadequate number of Rudenim staff and the mechanisms for distributing and preparing medical and food services.

**Ahdiyanti, Istika. 2018. "Solidaritas Sosial Masyarakat terhadap Migran Rohingya (Studi Kasus Migran Rohingya di Kota Makassar) [Community Social Solidarity with Rohingya Migrants (Case Study of Rohingya Migrants in Makassar City)]." *Sosiorelijius* 3 (2): 79-95. <http://repositori.uin-alauddin.ac.id/12826/>.**

The article explores the solidarity of the Makassar community towards Rohingya refugees in Makassar while also analyzing factors that support or hinder solidarity. The research is qualitative. Data is collected through direct observations and interviews in three Rohingya refugee centers, namely Wisma Baji Rupa, Wisma Mustika, and KPI. The analysis suggests that the solidarity of the local community is still limited to collective actions such as charity (e.g., donations of clothing and foodstuffs), providing vocational training for refugees to help them prepare for resettlement in third countries (e.g., cooking and sewing classes, English lessons, driving lessons), and affirmative action in the form of rallies or praying together for those who are still waiting for resettlement. These actions, however, cannot be considered as part of the culture of the local community.

Factors hindering solidarity include the local community's financial instability, limited knowledge regarding Rohingya refugees' existence in Makassar, and the social dynamics between refugees and the local community, with the local community becoming less empathetic towards refugees due to a lack of social interaction between them. Three implications that could be further expanded in future research are refugees' transit periods, their status during transit, and how the government could contribute to refugees' lives to give back to the country. Although there is limited information about the methodology, the article is insightful in exploring the Makassar community's solidarity towards Rohingya refugees.

**Asti, Natasya Rizki, and Sri Lestari Rahayu. 2020. "Pemenuhan Hak Pendidikan Anak bagi Pencari Suaka yang Transit di Indonesia Sembari Menunggu Status Pengungsi (Ditinjau dari The United Nations Convention on The Rights of Child 1989) [The fulfillment of children's education rights for asylum seekers who transit in Indonesia while awaiting refugee status (reviewed from The United Nations Convention on The Right of Childs 1989)]." *BELLI AC PACIS* 5 (1): 1-8. <https://jurnal.uns.ac.id/belli/article/view/40016>.**

The article explains the effort of the Indonesia government to fulfill the rights of refugee

children and asylum seekers to obtain proper education during their temporary stay in the country. The qualitative methodology uses data from reviews of normative-empiric laws, primary and secondary laws, interviews, and observation at Rudenim Jakarta and Semarang. The paper concludes that Indonesia should provide formal education for refugee children because Indonesia has ratified the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that education provision to children is mandatory regardless of their nationality. It signifies that refugee children and children of asylum seekers are eligible to obtain a formal education in Indonesia. The article also provides a brief description of educational provisions for refugee children in Rudenim and community housing.

The article provides an insightful analysis of The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Indonesia's policies and regulations. However, in the methodology section, details are lacking about participant selection for interview. While the study is limited to two Rudenim, it is not possible to generalize Indonesia's findings.

**Briskman, Linda Ruth, and Lucy Imogen Fiske. 2016. "Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Indonesia: Problems and Potentials." *Cosmopolitan Civil Societies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 8 (2): 22–42. <https://doi.org/10.5130/ccs.v8i2.4883>.**

The article presents an overview of refugees' lives in Cisarua, Bogor over a protracted period by outlining current policy frameworks and their implications on refugees, followed by discussion focusing on education for refugee children. The study uses qualitative research, using interviews and participant observation, and the life experiences, personal journals, and other recordings of one refugee to elucidate the current situation and activities aimed at fulfilling refugees' social and physical needs while waiting for resettlement. The findings suggest that Australia's Operation Sovereign Borders affected refugees' lives in Indonesia, leaving many refugees trapped in Indonesia with limited support. Subsequently, refugee-led initiatives emerged as a means to build trust within the refugee community and promote mutual support. Many educated refugees now provide language learning programs and other vocational skills to adult refugees while keeping focused on education for refugee children. The authors conclude that despite the difficulties and restrictions in exercising their rights, refugees have cultivated coping mechanisms, collectively looking for solutions and strengthening their community cohesion.

The article is useful as it presents information from the founder of Cisarua Refugee Learning Centre in Bogor. Discussion on Australian policy and its impact on Indonesia and on refugees is also insightful for those interested in refugee issues across Indonesia and Australia.

**Brown, Rory John. 2016. "The Individual Decision-Making Process of Refugees in Yogyakarta." *Economic Journal of Emerging Markets* 8 (2): 159–70. <https://doi.org/10.20885/ejem.vol8.iss2.art8>.**

This paper maps factors influencing the refugee's decision making in Yogyakarta using Bronfenbrenner's ecological model. The model consists of the microsystem, mesosystem, ecosystem, and macrosystem shaping individual development or choices influenced by changes in socio-political, economic, and environmental systems. In this study, rational choice, strain, and migration theory are used to understand the refugees' decision-making process. Many of the decisions are made as a response to the uncertainty and anxiety of failures in the ecological and social system, which encompass the individual's fundamental needs. This paper also discusses that access to information is an important factor influencing changes in decision-making. By interviewing four refugees in Yogyakarta, this study argues that there has been a change in the choices made to go to a third country. Asylum seekers choose to pursue legal processing in Indonesia after the ecological setting is more stable and they gain better access to information.

An overview of the processes and factors that influence refugee decision-making can provide input for refugee management organizations, especially in access to information. This paper is a preliminary study that could be developed further by using a more extensive and diverse sample group, including refugee women and children.

**Brown, Thomas. 2017. "After the Boats Stopped: Refugees Managing a Life of Protracted Limbo in Indonesia." *Antropologi Indonesia* 38 (1): 34–50. <https://doi.org/10.7454/ai.v38i1.8755>**

The article investigates the Hazara refugees' phenomenon in establishing a strong community while being isolated from the local community. In the analysis, the paper uses bridging and bonding social capital concepts to explain how urban refugees in Indonesia form relationships with one another and with the host community. The data collection employed participatory research with ethnic Hazara refugees in Cisarua, Bogor, during 2015-2016. The study finds strong bonding social capital among the refugee communities from several refugee-led informal activities, from children's education to sports activities. The study also finds a lack of bonding social capital between refugee communities and locals reflected in refugees' minimal uptake of the locals' language, behavior, and cultural practices. The author's data is insightful, strengthened by similar studies conducted in different countries as a comparison. The study reveals that the absence of a legal framework, access to education and job opportunities, and discrimination and cultural and language barriers resulted in a low level of contact between refugees and the host community.

The article is useful for scholars and researchers in refugee studies as it provides insights on

refugees' social integration through a case study in the Indonesian context.

**Gabiella, D, and RAA K Putri. 2018. "Makassar City Government's Urban Refugee Policy: Filling in the Gap?" *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science* 126 (March): 012104. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/126/1/012104>.**

The article provides insights into Makassar's demography and socio-economic structure, which inherently navigates how the city approaches refugee management. It discusses how the Makassar City government's integrative approach, albeit top-down, succeeded in shifting the local community paradigm towards urban refugees, resulting in positive contributions of every stakeholder to refugees' livelihoods. Analysis of how the urban refugee policy of host countries may affect refugees' integration process and livelihoods is supported by an extensive literature review on an integrative approach and the importance of perceiving refugees as assets rather than threats to the host country when formulating urban refugee policy. The author concludes that government commitment and local acceptance are indispensable to providing better livelihoods for refugees during periods of liminality.

As the authors suggest, the paper's relevance is that it fills a gap in the existing urban settlement works of literature by providing a case study of a mixture of refugee settlement methods in Indonesia.

**Gordyn, Carly. 2018. "Pancasila and Pragmatism: Protection or Pencitraan for Refugees in Indonesia?" *Journal of Southeast Asian Human Rights* 2 (2): 336–57. <https://doi.org/10.19184/jseahr.v2i2.8414>.**

The article explores the Indonesian government's motivation to assist refugees regardless of the country's status as a non-signatory of the Refugee Convention, using data from interviews with government officials, activists, academics, and practitioners and their observations on refugee and asylum seeker issues in Indonesia. The author suggests that it is important to understand Indonesia's humanitarian traditions and its history of refugee policies to fully comprehend Indonesia's motivations and commitment to refugee issues. Pancasila and pragmatism are two main themes that are often cited in the interviews, and appear as underlying principles influencing refugee management practices in Indonesia.

The findings show that an interpretation of the 2nd principle of Pancasila (humanitarianism) is the top motivation to assist refugees, followed by humanitarian assistance as mandated by the National Constitution and other factors such as solidarity and pragmatism. The author further suggests that there is "an intricate relationship between pragmatism, humanitarian motivation and bolstering national reputation," and postulates that pragmatism overrides Indonesia's humanitarian practices because some government practices are considered

as ad-hoc responses solely for political purposes. Consequently, the core meaning of refugee policies has shifted to bolstering Indonesia's reputation within the regional and internationally instead of committedly protecting refugees.

The article contains useful information about regional and international policies that Indonesia has been actively pursued and briefly outlines the local principles that affect its humanitarian traditions.

**Haris, Umiyati, Suryadi Lambali, Sukri, and Achmad Zulfikar. 2020. "Kebijakan outreach dalam penanganan migran di kota Makassar [Outreach policy in handling migrants in Makassar city]." *Jurnal PIR: Power in International Relations* 3 (2): 185–200. <https://doi.org/10.22303/pir.3.2.2019.185-200>.**

The article analyzes and evaluates the implementation of Makassar city's Out-REACH policy (a policy that focuses on refugees) while also identifying factors that influence the implementation of the policy and analyzing how non-state actors or institutions' involvement contributes to the policy's implementation. The study is qualitative, utilizing direct observation and interviews with refugee groups, local government agencies, and non-state actors/institutions. It is crucial to analyze and evaluate Makassar's Out-REACH policy because it has programs and initiatives not initiated in other Indonesian cities. Under the Out-REACH (Respect, Education, Awareness, Community Service, and Hospitality) policy, programs were implemented by local government agencies such as Dinas Sosial (Social Agency), Dinas Pendidikan (Education Agency), and heads of sub-districts. The Makassar city mayor also played an important role in determining the coordination path within local government agencies. Findings suggest that the city government's aim to build the image of Makassar city as a role model in handling refugees, along with non-state actors' involvement, become the supporting factors of Out-REACH policy implementation. In contrast, factors that hinder its implementation are unstructured path coordination, and a lack of information regarding education for refugee children and other available programs for refugees.

The article sheds light on refugee management initiatives that could inform other city governments and policymakers in Indonesia. Unfortunately, a diagram of coordination between Makassar city and the stakeholders is not provided, causing the information to be somewhat ambiguous. Further research is necessary to examine the policy's effectiveness through comparative studies, contrasting the Out-REACH policy with other city government initiatives on refugee issues.

**Kaharudin, Yuera Rizki, Sri Lestari Rahayu, and Ayub Torry Satriyo Kusumo. 2019. "Homo Sacer: Anak-Anak Pengungsi Internasional Yang Lahir Di Indonesia Akibat Tidak Dipenuhinya Hak Untuk Mendapat Kewarganegaraan [Homo Sacer: international refugee children born in Indonesia and do not have the right to obtain citizenship]." *BELLI AC PACIS* 3 (2): 5–13. <https://jurnal.uns.ac.id/belli/article/view/27478>.**

The article investigates the problems encountered by children refugees born in Indonesia or children of a mixed marriage (foreign refugee – Indonesian), who cannot obtain Indonesian citizenship and may be considered stateless people. The research methodology uses data collection from normative law research and literature reviews from secondary sources. The author outlines national and international laws as an attempt to look for potential solutions. The author uses Agamben's term "Homo Sacer" to exemplify the children refugees' status as individuals with no rights and protection, and suggests that this practice of exclusion signifies Indonesia's unpreparedness for the influx of refugees arriving in the country. As a result, many stateless persons are stuck in Indonesia, unable to be involved in the political community, and prone to oppression. The paper concludes that the International Declaration of Human Rights claims that rights of citizenship are fundamental, and the National Constitution (UUD 1945) declares that all individuals born in Indonesia entitled to Indonesian citizenship; thus, Indonesia should pay attention to this issue and be more responsible in determining the status of child refugees.

The article is insightful in discussing child refugee citizenship status from different perspectives, but the research methodology is somewhat unclear. The interview with Rudenim Semarang is not mentioned as part of the data collection, and there is no information on how the participant selection was made, suggesting the possibility of author bias in the analysis.

**Kneebone, Susan. 2020. "Peraturan Presiden No. 125/ 2016 Sebagai Katalis Perubahan Dalam Kebijakan Penyelamatan Kapal Pengungsi Rohingya [Presidential Regulation No. 125/2016 as a catalyst for changes in the policy of rescuing the Rohingya refugees' ships]" *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan* 50 (3): 776–88. <https://doi.org/10.21143/jhp.vol50.no3.2770>.**

The paper is an abstraction of a workshop on Presidential Regulation No. 125 of 2016 held at the Faculty of Law, Universitas Indonesia, in March 2018. The paper focuses on the scope and potential impacts at the national and regional levels of Presidential Regulation No. 125/ on the Handling Refugees from Abroad, which was issued following up the Andaman Sea crisis in 2015. The points of discussion are: 1) the Indonesian government response to the Rohingya refugee crisis; 2) Indonesian refugee protection framework as reflected in the Presidential Regulation 125/2016; 3) SAR (search and rescue) settings in Presidential Decree 125/2016 and the role of BASARNAS (national body of search and rescue); 4) Immigration

law framework in Presidential Regulation 125/2016. The paper concludes that Presidential Regulation No. 125/2016 is ineffective in instigating change in refugee protection management at the Southeast Asia regional level. The ineffectiveness is due to several reasons: Perpres 125/2016 does not include a clear and explicit obligation to rescue and land refugees found at sea; a gap exists between the power and mandate of UNHCR to process refugees residing in Indonesian territory; the contextual framing of Perpres 125/2016 does not include a clear and explicit obligation to rescue and land refugees found at sea; a gap exists between the power and mandate of UNHCR to process refugees residing in Indonesian territory; the contextual framing of Perpres 125/2016 is in the framework of immigration and security laws that do not provide a full guarantee to a further process of determining refugee status for those people stranded on the sea.

The paper that summarizes a lengthy discussion in a workshop is an excellent source to understand the strength and limitation on the only regulation concerning refugee governance in Indonesia. The paper can be used as a foundation for further policy-making on refugee protection in Indonesia.

**Kolopaking, Lala M. 2016. "Migrasi Gaya Hidup Internasional Dan Peminggiran Masyarakat Di Desa Tujuan Wisata (Studi Di Desa Tugu Selatan Kecamatan Cisarua Kabupaten Bogor Jawa Barat) [International Lifestyle Migration and the marginalization of communities in tourist destination villages (study in Tugu Selatan Village, Cisarua District, Bogor Regency, West Java)]." *Sodality: Jurnal Sosiologi Pedesaan* 4 (1): 38-47. <https://doi.org/10.22500/sodality.v4i1.14405>.**

The paper analyzes the impact of international lifestyle migration on local villagers in Tugu Selatan Village, Cisarua District, Bogor Regency, Jawa Barat Province, Indonesia. The paper aims to reveal how international migrants such as tourists from Middle Eastern countries and refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Morocco, and Myanmar have enhanced the social inequality and marginalized the poor population in the village. Tugu Selatan Village's beauty is the main attraction for Middle Eastern tourists and the refugee population. The villagers classify the two groups based on their lifestyles and length of stay; the first group has a lavish lifestyle and stays for a short period, while the second group is humbler and stays longer. Based on interviews and focus group discussions, the author predicts that international lifestyle migration will continue in the village. International lifestyle migration has brought several social changes in the village such as a shifting of the villagers' income patterns and economy, changes in villagers' settlement patterns and housing, growing land acquisition, changes in peoples' diets and language, and the loss of a sense of security in the people. The paper concludes that international migration to the village has marginalized the village's poor population who are unable to join the business sector despite potential economic benefits.



The fieldwork-based paper captures the situation in a village that hosts many refugees and asylum seekers. Even though it does not clearly differentiate between tourists and refugees in its analysis, generally, the paper contributes to an understanding of refugees' challenges in Indonesia in the context of interaction with and perception of host communities.

**Lee, Antony. 2015. "Securitization of Transit Forced Migrants: An Analysis of the Changing Representations of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Indonesian Major Print Media." Master, Sweden: Lund University. <http://lup.lub.lu.se/student-papers/record/5469558>.**

This master thesis examines the securitization status of forced immigrants in Indonesia using the content analysis method to analyze 216 news articles from Indonesian major print media. The study frames the analysis of securitization theory by capturing how the media represent refugee issues. It places the analysis into two-time spans: 1975-1996 and 1997-2013. The study shows the difference in representations of displaced people in transit during the period of influx of Indochinese refugees (1975-1996) in comparison to the period of influx of Middle Eastern and South Asian refugees (1997-2013). The study finds that the positive portrayal, albeit with political nuance, of the first phase of Indochinese refugees proves the non-securitization of Indonesia's refugee issue. In contrast, the media's portrayal of refugees from Middle Eastern and South Asian countries takes a more negative tone, with mention of transnational crimes and illegal immigrants, as evidence of the securitization process on these issues during 1997-2013. The study finds that a change in the dominant actors in refugee management instigated a change in the securitization statutes of transit forced migrants in Indonesia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the military were the main actors in the first phase. In contrast, the Indonesian National Police and the Directorate-General of Immigration were the dominant actors in the second phase, and securitized the migrants. It finally concludes that Indonesian specialized agencies' securitization move created a change in media representation of refugee populations.

This master thesis provides at least two essential contributions to understanding Indonesian refugee issues. It presents insight into how the securitization process contributes to negative portrayal of specific communities, refugee communities in this context. The study also analyzes the refugee securitization process in the media, stressing the importance of media as actors in refugee governance in Indonesia.

**Lestari, Indra, Hafied Cangara, and Darwis. 2015. "Pengungsi Dan Pencari Suaka Afganistan Dengan Masyarakat Lokal Di Kota Makassar: Suatu Analisis Efektivitas Komunikasi Antar Budaya [Afghan Refugees and Asylum Seekers with Local Communities in Makassar City: An Analysis of the Effectiveness of Intercultural Communication]." *Jurnal Komunikasi KAREBA* 4: 101-115.**

The article explores the effectiveness of the communication process between Afghan refugees and local communities in Makassar by analyzing data collected from interviews with 30 participants. The authors find two key elements necessary for both refugees and the locals to have effective communication, namely acceptance and understanding. However, the results and discussion presented are slightly redundant. The authors conclude that the communication is ineffective and suggest that several factors impeded the process: ethnocentrism of the local community; linguistic, religious and cultural differences; prejudices towards refugees; refugees' anxiety towards new people; and locals' lack of knowledge around refugees, and vice versa.

The case study presented is a useful precedent for interdisciplinary studies. Academics and researchers from the field of communication, psychology, anthropology, and relevant social science can delve deeper into this matter to find solutions applicable to refugees of different backgrounds.

**Listriani, Sophia, Rosmawati, and M. Ya'kub Aiyub Kadir. 2020. "Toward a New Legal Framework for Settling Rohingya's Refugee Crisis in Indonesia: A Lesson Learned from Aceh Province." In *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, 413:277–85. Atlantis Press. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.200306.227>.**

This paper examines the implementation of Indonesia's refugee regulation against the background of Aceh local governments' practices in handling Rohingya refugees from 2012-2015. The paper highlights Acehnese local wisdom that has helped in the management of Rohingya refugees in Aceh. This wisdom includes Islamic teachings that teach people to provide protection or assistance to those in need, Acehnese experience with conflict, which made them more empathetic to Rohingya people, and fishing communities' unwritten Aceh Customary law to help victims at sea. Further, the paper points out the conflicting Indonesian regulations, the Presidential Regulation (PR) 125/2016 and the Immigration Regulations. The paper argues that refugee protection is the responsibility of international organizations rather than the Indonesian Government, either central or local. Citing the financial burdens suffered by local governments in Aceh in handling Rohingya refugees, the paper highlights international institutions' responsibility to handle refugees in Indonesia. Finally, the paper concludes by covering several issues concerning Indonesia's refugee management: coordination issues, financial support for refugee management to ease the burden on local government, restricted time allocation for local shelters, resettlement/repatriation, and ASEAN's refugee and asylum policy.

This paper sheds light on the reality of Aceh local governments' difficulties in protecting Rohingya refugees from 2012-2015. Papers and publications frequently cite Aceh local governments' efforts as a positive lesson regarding local government initiatives in refugee management. However, the paper challenges this notion by providing evidence that these

actions were due to Acehese values rather than good local governance and effective government.

**Missbach, Antje. 2019. "Asylum Seekers' and Refugees' Decision-Making in Transit in Indonesia: The Need for In-Depth and Longitudinal Research." *Bijdragen Tot de Taal-, Land- En Volkenkunde* 175 (4): 419–45. <https://doi.org/10.2307/26806654>.**

Based on observation of a young refugee in Indonesia, the paper illustrates the dynamics of a refugee life, placing personal aspiration within the surrounding social setting. The research combines the case study with a macro perspective to present a more general perspective on migratory challenges that influence asylum seekers' and refugees' decision-making in transit. The study consistently places the informant Muhammad's life story and changes in decision-making around his experience in Indonesia against the big picture of the general situation of refugees in Indonesia. In doing so, the paper shows how migration decision-making is rarely private and autonomous. Social-political dynamics greatly influence decisions. In particular, the research highlights Australia's deterrence policies in influencing asylum seekers' decision-making. While critical of ethical issues in researching vulnerable communities, the paper argues that more in-depth and longitudinal research on migratory decision-making will provide a better understanding of the migratory aspirations of people with limited choices.

The article zooms in on the private life of a refugee in his daily struggle in a transit country, something that is rarely mentioned in academic studies. As suggested, the paper is a good departure point for a longitudinal study on the migration decision-making process, especially for refugees in transit.

**Missbach, Antje, Yunizar Adiputera, and Atin Prabandari. 2018. "Is Makassar a 'Sanctuary City'? Migration Governance in Indonesia After the 'Local Turn.'" *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies* 11 (2): 199-216 Pages. <https://doi.org/10.14764/10.ASEAS-0003>.**

The article examines how Decree 125/2016 affects refugee management on a sub-national level. Using "sanctuary city" as a guiding concept, the authors evaluate the process of handling refugees in Makassar and compare it to Western cities that have adopted the sanctuary city concept. Data collection is done through interviews and conversations with authorities and refugees, communication via social media, and a review of relevant reports and literature. The research focuses on the pros and cons of "local-turn" in Makassar, depicted as a top-down approach, compared to the sanctuary city concept, a bottom-up approach practiced in San Francisco and Sheffield. This article is useful as it gives an overview of the sanctuary city concept and how it differs from "local turn," and highlights

potentials and challenges for such concepts to be applied at the sub-national level while stimulating a different avenue for a further discourse of handling refugees in Asian cities. As the discussion is restricted to Makassar, the findings cannot be used to make generalized assumptions around the overall situation of “local turn” in Indonesia.

**Rahayu, Nofyora. 2017. “Implementasi Kebijakan Indonesia Dalam Menangani Imigran Ilegal (Studi Kasus: Provinsi Riau) [Implementation of Indonesian policy in handling illegal immigrants (case study: Riau Province)].” *JOM FISIP 4 (2): 11.***

The article explains how Indonesia, a non-signatory of the 1951 Refugee Convention, implemented its policy of handling illegal immigrants (refugees and asylum seekers) in Pekanbaru, Riau. Using data from field research and a literature review, the author analyzes policy implementation in Pekanbaru and describes immigrants’ conditions in Rudenim. The author concludes that the policy has been well implemented, and that Indonesia’s role is limited to that of a transit country for refugees who are waiting for resettlement to a third country.

The article is useful in providing an overview of immigrants’ social life, how they adjust to a new setting as dwellers in Rudenim, and their interactions with officers and the local community. However, the information is somewhat outdated considering that the study predates Decree 125/2016, as the decree may have influenced immigrant management policy in Pekanbaru.

**Ridwan, Bambang Wahyudi, and Ningsih Susilawati. 2019. “Peran Pemerintah Daerah Dalam Penanganan Potensi Konflik Antara Imigran Timur Tengah Dengan Masyarakat Lokal di Cisarua, Bogor, Jawa Barat [the role of local government in handling potential conflicts between Middle Eastern immigrants and local communities in Cisarua, Bogor, West Java].” *Damai dan Resolusi Konflik 5 (1): 1-16.* <http://jurnalprodi.idu.ac.id/index.php/DRK/article/view/349>.**

This article discusses the potential for conflict between immigrants from the Middle East and local communities in Cisarua Bogor, West Java, and efforts to prevent it. This research was conducted in four villages in Cisarua: Batulayang Village, Kopo Village, Tugu Utara Village, and Tugu Selatan Village. The potential for conflict between the two communities is related to the ideological, socio-cultural, legal, and economic sectors. Conflict potentially arises due to inappropriate acculturation, marriage with locals, and misuse of documents. To minimize conflicts, the West Java Regional Office formed 206 Tim Pengendali Orang Asing (Timpora) in every city and district in West Java. Timpora contains a combination of Ministry of Law and Human Rights officers, law enforcement officers, and Population and Civil Registration Agency officers in each district. In Cisarua, Sub-District Head (Camat),

Babinkamtibmas, Babinsa, RT (Rukun Tetangga; neighborhood association), and RW (Rukun Warga; citizens association), coordinated with immigration authorities and the UNHCR, are responsible for building an integrated communication network for conflict prevention. The authors suggest developing a defense and security system that involves local communities and incorporates social identity and local cultural values. Local regulations on handling social conflicts and provide a more optimal sense of security to the community are also important.

This article provides information about Middle Eastern immigrants' conditions in Cisarua Bogor, the perspectives of the local community, and the stakeholders involved in handling immigrants and conflicts. However, the division of roles and coordination between related agencies are not profoundly discussed.

**Riksa Buana, Dana, and Regina Navira Pratiwi. "Ethnic Identity and Psychological Well-Being of Adolescents-Refugees: A Qualitative Study of Ethnic Hazaras in Bogor." *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications* 7, no. 11 (2017): 98-103.**

The article investigates the relationship between ethnic identity and psychological wellbeing of adolescent Hazaras refugees in Bogor. The qualitative methodology uses data from interviews with 10 participants and reviews of relevant documents. The authors conclude that ethnic identity is prominent in shaping the psychological wellbeing of participants. Strong ethnic identification leads to a sense of belonging among them while strengthening individuals' psychological mechanisms, especially during crises or conflicts.

The article appears to be written to inform psychological professionals, e.g., counselors who work with traumatized groups, researchers and policymakers how to understand the dynamics of refugees from a particular ethnic group and how to enhance their wellbeing through the provision of proper policies and strategies. The findings presented by the authors are explanatory; however, in terms of the interview framework, the process of interpreting the chosen dimensions within the interviews is rather unclear.

**Robbins, Lindsay. 2020. "The Rohingya Case in Aceh: Indonesia's Role as a Destination for Refugees." *Towson University Journal of International Affairs* 53 (2): 1-15.**

The article explores the motivations of Acehnese in helping Rohingya refugees stranded in Aceh, while also analyzing whether their motivations can be considered as a form of "acceptance" and whether their acceptance is a "sustainable model" applicable for the upcoming refugees. The overall analysis suggests that the motivations of Acehnese being receptive to Rohingya refugees were based on their genuine hospitality and solidarity, driven by their beliefs and the local custom of "peumulia jamee" or "welcoming strangers

to Aceh” and their experience of conflicts in Aceh between 1976 and 2003. In addition, Aceh’s acceptance has impacted Malaysia and Indonesia’s policies on handling Rohingya refugees. Finally, the article suggests that Aceh’s acceptance may be utilized by the Indonesian government to refine current refugee policies to provide more feasible, long term solutions for refugee integration within the host society.

The article sheds light on Acehnese acceptance, which may be influenced by other factors such as political movements and the role of local media. The analysis on defining acceptance among Acehnese could perhaps be enriched by a qualitative approach through interviews with representatives of Aceh community and local government.

**Sakharina, Iin Karita, Marcel Hendrapati, Laode Abd Gani, Nurkhalish Daud, and Alif Imam Dzaki. 2017. “Local Government and Central Government Coordination with UNHCR in Order to Handle the Asylum Seeker and International Refugees in South Sulawesi (International Refugees Law Analysis).” *Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization* 67: 70–78.**

This paper discusses the handling of Rohingya refugees in South Sulawesi and the forms of cooperation carried out by the local government and UNHCR, including locating and managing settlement for asylum seekers & refugees. The procedure for obtaining refugee status through UNHCR in Indonesia was mentioned as background to the placement process in Makassar. This paper provides an overview of the welcoming reception by Makassar communities despite the Immigration Detention Center’s limited capacity to accommodate Rohingya refugees. The coordination carried out by the South Sulawesi government was in the form of reporting all information and joint handling activities involving the Ministry of Law and Security and UNHCR Indonesia in Jakarta. Institutions involved in handling refugees in South Sulawesi include Indonesia Red Cross (PMI) of South Sulawesi, the Provincial Health Office of South Sulawesi, the Provincial Education Board of South Sulawesi, Social Services of South Sulawesi Province, and the Regional Disaster Management Agency of South Sulawesi Province. The Rohingya Concerned Community Forum was formed as a communication forum for the public regarding Rohingya refugee issues. This paper also briefly describes the form of coordination carried out in several regions in South Sulawesi, such as Sinjai, Gowa, and Makassar, with UNHCR.

The overview about the management of refugees by the provincial and city-level governments in South Sulawesi can be used as a case study for other cities to coordinate between city government agencies and international organizations who work on refugee management in Indonesia.

**Santi, Devi Nuraini, and Halinda Sari Lubis. 2020. "Community Empowerment through Improvements Skills and Health Promotions on Refugees in the Medan District of Selayang." *ABDIMAS TALENTA: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 5 (1): 65–72. <https://doi.org/10.32734/abdimastalenta.v5i1.4026>.**

This article describes the authors' activities to empower 52 women refugees living in "Kost YPAP" community housing in Medan as a part of community service. The empowerment program consists of the socialization of women refugees' empowerment, specifically in producing accessories from handmade patchwork cloth waste and beads and training to increase community values. The activities are supported and facilitated by Social Service (Dinas Sosial) and Dewan Kerajinan Nasional (Dekranas), who assist in marketing the accessories made by women refugees in Kost YPAP.

This article's activity report is useful in illustrating the local community's perception of refugees' existence in Medan Selayang district. Not only does the local community welcome refugees, but they also appear to be understanding of the refugees' situation and are willing to go the extra mile by including refugee empowerment activities as a part of community service.

**Sihombing, Herlina. 2019. "Kebijakan Indonesia Dalam Perlindungan Pencari Suaka Dan Pengungsi Pasca Kebijakan Turn Back the Boat Pemerintahan Tony Abbott [Indonesian Policy in the Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees Post Tony Abbott Government's Turn Back the Boat Policy]." *Journal of International Relations* 5 (4): 599–608. <https://ejournal3.undip.ac.id/index.php/jihi/article/view/24823>.**

The article discusses the rationale behind Indonesia's policy to protect refugees and asylum seekers. It also describes its practices in solving problems arising from the issues of refugees and asylum seekers. The article analyzes how non-state actors influence Indonesia's foreign policies on refugees. The author uses liberalism theory to gain a more in-depth understanding of Indonesia's foreign policies on refugees, and asserts that Indonesian foreign policy's main actors are not the government but NGOs and INGOs. This suggests that non-state actors can also inform and influence Indonesia's foreign policy, although as advocates for refugees, they have their own agendas and political interests. Their political interests mainly focus on refugee rights, humanity issues, and violations of human rights. Using Coplin's terms, the author suggested that these non-state actors with attached political interests can be categorized as 'policy influencers and interest influencers.' Their existence has influenced the government's national and foreign policies. The author also highlights the fact that both Indonesian policymakers and these non-state actors are partners; thus, both must collaborate in formulating stronger and better policy. The author suggests that the presidential decree is sufficient for handling refugees, and implicitly claims that being a signatory of the 1951 Convention is not an urgent issue since Indonesia already has the

presidential decree as an alternative legal instrument.

While the article provides some insights into actors in Indonesian policy, in our opinion, it tends to disregard the shortcomings of the presidential decree in handling refugees and the fact that the current legal framework is still far from ideal.

**Siregar, Nora Maya, and Amru Lubis. 2020. “Komunikasi Antarbudaya Etnis Rohingya Dalam Upaya Eksistensi Diri Di Pengungsian Kota Medan [Rohingya Ethnic Refugees’ Intercultural Communication in Efforts to Self-Existence in Medan City].” *Persepsi: Communication Journal* 2 (2): 70–86. <https://doi.org/10.30596/persepsi.v2i2.3951>.**

This article explores cross-cultural communication in refugees of Rohingya ethnicity living in “Hotel Pelangi” community housing in Medan as an effort to prove their self-existence in the host community. In this research, the authors apply communication accommodation theory and cultural adaptation theory in analyzing data acquired through interviews with five refugees of Rohingya ethnicity. The overall analysis suggests that Rohingya refugees in Hotel Pelangi utilize convergence as a verbal and non-verbal communication strategy by learning self-taught Indonesian language. Furthermore, they also apply the divergence strategy, which is shown by their resistance to hot and spicy flavors, distinct from Myanmar’s cuisine. However, the research also finds a lack in Rohingya women refugees’ efforts to open themselves up and adapt to the new environment.

This information is essential to understanding how refugees adapt to the local host community as they go through the phase of accommodation after the previous assimilation. It acknowledges the hardships that the refugees are experiencing within the regulations they are subjected to, for example, the inability to work and being under constant supervision by immigration authorities, resulting in difficulties in fully adapting into the host community.

**Tambunan, Arfa Wulandari. 2019. “Kerja Sama UNHCR Dan IOM Dalam Menangani Pencari Suaka Dan Pengungsi Etnis Rohingya Di Indonesia [UNHCR and IOM Collaboration in Dealing with Rohingya Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Indonesia].” *Journal of International Relations* 5 (2): 341-350.**

The article describes the cooperation between IOM and UNHCR in handling Rohingya refugee arrivals in Indonesia and analyzes the impact of this cooperation on the intended Refugees. As qualitative research, the author conducts literature reviews for data collection, while the analysis uses a concept from Schemel & Eberwein (2014) and Purwanto & Sulistyastuti (2012). The overall analysis reveals that the collaborative work of IOM and UNHCR has had significant impacts on Rohingya refugees, with 1,000 out of 1,807 ethnic Rohingya having



obtained refugee status. Children refugees gained access to basic education, and a small number of refugees have been resettled to third countries. As one of the negative impacts, some refugees decided to escape to neighboring countries such as Malaysia after tiring of waiting to obtain refugee status from UNHCR.

The article provides insights into the collaboration between IOM and UNHCR in Indonesia, precisely in managing Rohingya refugees, and comprehensively describes each organization's role based on their MoU and how they cooperate to provide assistance and protection to refugees.

**Tieken, Shaila. 2013. "Ketidadaan Kewarganegaraan Pada Anak-Anak Rohingya Sebagai Bentuk Kekerasan Struktural Berbasis Etnis (Studi Kasus Anak-Anak Pengungsi Rohingya Di Community Housing Wisma YPAP Medan) [The Absence of Citizenship in Rohingya Children as a Form of Ethnic-Based Structural Violence (Case Study of Rohingya Refugee Children in the Community Housing Wisma YPAP Medan)]." *Jurnal Kriminologi Indonesia* 9 (1): 51-65.**

This article discusses the absence of citizenship of refugee children of Rohingya ethnicity who are considered "stateless." It uses qualitative methods from the constitutive criminology perspective, using interviews and literature to gather data. The fieldwork was conducted at a community housing project, Wisma YPAP Medan. The study argues that statelessness in Rohingya refugee children is a form of structural violence spanning throughout their lives. It suggests that such structural violence is manifested in the lack of access to formal education and healthcare. It also reveals that the state as a primary agent contributes to children's victimization through ethnic cleansing, and that the international community contributes to the stateless children's identity.

In viewing refugee children's stateliness as a form of structural violence, the article supports advocacy to provide comprehensive protection to children refugees.

**Wulandari, Anggita. 2016. "Peran United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees dalam Menangani Pencari Suaka Afganistan di Pekanbaru (Indonesia) Tahun 2015 (Studi Kasus: Pencari Suaka Afganistan di Rumah Detensi Imigrasi Pekanbaru) [The role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in dealing with Afghan asylum seekers in Pekanbaru (Indonesia) in 2015 (case study: Afghan asylum seekers at the Pekanbaru Immigration Detention Center)]." *JOM FISIP* 3 (2): 1-12.**

This paper examines the role of UNHCR in dealing with Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in Pekanbaru in the context of its position as an international organization that acts as a bridge between countries. This paper discusses Indonesia's status as a transit country that

did not have specific rules governing refugee management. In addition, this paper explains the procedures for gaining refugee status through UNHCR and the scope of protection provided. This paper also discusses the obstacles faced by UNHCR that have caused refugee arrangement, especially in Pekanbaru, to be considered slow. The main obstacles faced are (1) distance; (2) administrative processes that cannot solely be determined by UNHCR; and (3) the limited number of UNHCR staff.

This paper provides an overview of refugee management and the role of UNHCR in Pekanbaru. The paper would provide a better explanation if the obstacles faced by UNHCR were elaborated. Further studies could be conducted on developing the role of UNHCR and collaboration with local government after the Presidential Regulation on Foreign Refugee 125/2016 was issued.

**Zulkarnain, and Indra Kusumawardhana. 2020. “Bersama untuk Kemanusiaan: Penanganan Lintas Sektoral terhadap Masalah Pengungsi Rohingya di Aceh 2015 (Together for Humanity: Cross-sector Collaborative Handling of Rohingya Refugees in Aceh 2015).” *Jurnal HAM* 11 (1): 67–83. <https://doi.org/10.30641/ham.2020.11.67-83>.**

This article examines the management of Rohingya refugees who arrived in Aceh throughout 2015. The qualitative study uses data from interviews and literature reviews to describe the roles of the main stakeholders and their coordination in refugee management: local governments, the local Acehnese community, and international organizations (UNHCR and IOM). Coordination is done through a task force, established by the mayor’s decision in each locality. The local governments select the temporary shelter locations and conduct regular monitoring of the sites. International organizations are involved in shelter construction, provision of facilities, and humanitarian assistance. Besides processing refugee claims, UNHCR is also involved in shelter construction. At the same time, IOM manages daily operations, provides public facilities and daily assistance to refugees, and organizes refugee relocation to more permanent shelters in Medan. Meanwhile, the local communities are involved in rescue operations, social and psychological support to refugees, and empowerment. The authors conclude that the refugee management follows a collaborative management triangle (local society-state-international organization) and suggest a need to work with the Indonesian navy to prevent human trafficking and smuggling of refugees in Indonesian waters.

Some parts of the article are repetitive, making the paper’s structure inefficient. Moreover, the framework of analysis lacks an academic perspective. However, the article is useful as a snapshot of refugee management in Aceh during the large-scale Rohingya refugee arrival period in 2015, which pushed the different stakeholders to more clearly define and coordinate their roles.



## 1.2. Reports, non-peer reviewed papers and other publications

**Abbas, Wandu. 2018. “Makassar City Government and IOM’s Efforts to Address the Problem of Refugees [Makassar City Government and IOM’s Efforts to Address the Problem of Refugees].” International Relations Department, Universitas Airlangga 09: 1-6.**

The article describes how the local government of Makassar, as a sub-state, cooperates with the International Organization for Migration in handling refugee issues. The author concludes that collaboration between local government and international organizations (IOM & UNHCR) emphasizes the provision of basic needs (socio-economic) as well as law enforcement and protection of refugees. Meanwhile, access to employment and formal education is still limited. The intention for this paper is unclear, however, and the article is slightly descriptive. The author conducted qualitative research based on a literature review and interviews, but there were no further details regarding how interview participants were selected.

This article may be useful for those who wish to research migration governance in Makassar because it describes the role of IOM in handling refugees as well as how local governments engage with other international organizations, namely UNHCR.

**Adiputera, Yunizar, and Atin Prabandari. 2018. “Addressing Challenges And Identifying Opportunities For Refugee Access To Employment In Indonesia.” Yogyakarta: Institute of International Studies.**

In this article, the authors assert that the Presidential Decree (Peraturan Presiden; Perpres) on Handling Refugees issued in 2016 does not touch on refugees’ rights to work, hence aggravates the livelihood of refugees during their stay in Indonesia due to the absence of

opportunities to be self-reliant. Therefore, the study provides an exemplary scenario of refugees being given access to formal employment. In the first section, the authors argue that the government and the local community's concerns and perceptions around financial burden and social disparity could be alleviated by allowing refugees to participate in the local economy. The next section substantiates their analysis and findings on economic benefits for refugees and Indonesia. The third and fourth sections are also insightful, highlighting the potential national security and community acceptance benefits of allowing refugees to work. The findings are useful and shed light on the possibilities of articulating economic considerations or benefits into strategies that can build meaningful and beneficial integration with the local community.

**Adiputera, Yunizar, Antje Missbach, and Prabandari, Atin. 2019. "Indonesian Cities and Regencies May Be Asked to Shelter Refugees – Will They Comply?" Refugee Research Online (blog). September 13, 2019. <https://refugeereseearchonline.org/indonesian-cities-and-regencies-may-be-asked-to-shelter-refugees-will-they-comply/>.**

This article discusses Indonesian cities and regencies' ability to be more responsible for managing refugees transiting in Indonesia, particularly regarding shelter and accommodation provision after the enactment of the Presidential Decree. The authors begin with a brief assessment of the decree, focusing on unclear regulations which neither deny nor guarantee formal education to refugees. Similarly, the decree remains silent regarding the provision of accommodation and shelter to refugees and asylum seekers. Funding and other responsibilities are designated to both national and subnational governments. However, refugee management budget is allocated under "unforeseen expenses," along with funding for natural disasters and other emergencies. This implies that the national and local government has little interest in funding refugee management. The decree does not touch on any sanctions against local governments if they do not provide sufficient funding to refugee management.

This article is brief yet insightful. It triggers further discussion on the decree's desired outcomes and the extent to which the decree could facilitate refugee management at national and municipal levels.

**Dale, Andria Katrina. 2014. "Dari Tempat Wisata ke Perkampungan Pengungsi: Perubahan Sosial di Puncak [From tourist attractions to refugee camps: social change in Puncak]." Skripsi, Bandung: Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Universitas Katolik Parahyangan.**

The study explores social and economic change in Puncak, Bogor, an area where a massive influx of asylum seekers resulted in an unexpected transformation from a leisure

destination into a “ghetto.” The author concludes that refugees’ arrival contributed to the transformation of Puncak into a ghetto, and that there is a low level of acceptance of refugees among locals even though they share similar beliefs. Nevertheless, the arrival of refugees has contributed positively to the local economy.

The research is informative and insightful, especially on the theory of ghetto and how it is reflected in the current condition of Puncak. However, the author did not include refugees in the interview process; hence the analysis of refugees’ relationships with the local community appears to be predictive and may be considered biased.

**Pardede, Panahatan Hezron. 2018. “Strategi Adaptasi Pengungsi Rohingya di Lokasi Pengungsian Kota Medan [Adaptation Strategy for Rohingya Refugees in Refugee Locations in Medan City].” Skripsi, Medan: Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Universitas Sumatera Utara**

The author uses empirical data to study the adaptation strategy of Rohingya refugees in Hotel Beraspatih and Hotel Pelangi in Medan. This study examines several aspects of the Rohingya refugees’ adaptation process: first, cross-cultural adaptation through cross-cultural marriage between Rohingya refugees and local Indonesians; and second, learning Indonesian culture as a way to assist with cross-cultural communication. The latter results in good relationships between the Rohingya refugees and the local host community.

This research study provides more transparent and factual information on Rohingya refugees’ activities while living temporarily in Medan community shelters. It also provides data on the confirmed numbers, ethnicity, gender, and ages of refugees living in two community shelters, along with their refugee status confirmation by UNHCR.

**Rachmah, Rizka Argianti, and Zico Efraindio Pestalozzi. 2016. “Hidup yang Terabaikan: Laporan penelitian nasib pengungsi Rohingya di Indonesia [Abandoned Lives: A research report on the fate of Rohingya refugees in Indonesia].” Research paper. Jakarta: Lembaga Bantuan Hukum (LBH) Jakarta.**

The report contains baseline research conducted from June to October 2016. The research aims to capture and document Rohingya refugees’ conditions during their stay in Indonesia using data from interviews and direct observation in four locations: Makassar, Aceh, Medan, and Jakarta. The report thoroughly explains how local governments in four different cities handle Rohingya refugees through varied approaches. The study finds that while the Immigration Department plays a more significant role in handling refugees, not all problems and challenges are related to Immigration. There is a gap in the management process, rooted in the absence of a legal framework and insufficient funds. Immigration cannot

solve problems other than those that are immigration-related, which has required local governments to fill the gap.

The report is useful as there are several refugee management models with similar problems, and some are considered best practices. There are also significant findings related to refugees' educational backgrounds and community acceptance stories, which differ between the cities.

**Regina, Rosintha. 2016. "Peran Politik UNHCR dalam Penanganan Etnis Rohingya di Medan [UNHCR's Political Role in Handling Ethnic Rohingya in Medan]." Skripsi, Medan: Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Universitas Sumatera Utara**

The thesis aims to explore the role of UNHCR in handling Rohingya refugees in Medan. The author collects research data through observation and interviews with several key representatives from various stakeholders, such as UNHCR and the refugee community, and representatives from the immigration office (Kantor Imigrasi Kelas I Khusus Medan), Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Direktorat Jenderal HAM), and the superintendent of the refugee shelters. The research shows that UNHCR has built its presence in Medan through its office in Jalan Imam Bonjol Medan. In cooperation with IOM Medan, it is responsible for handling approximately 2,000 asylum seekers and refugees in Medan. UNHCR finds the language barrier to be the main challenge in carrying out its duties and refers to the Rohingya refugees' low education level.

The data acquired from the interviews provides information on the parties involved in handling Rohingya refugees in Medan, which could be used for mapping primary and secondary stakeholders in Medan along with the challenges they face.

**Tahir, Akino, Risy Dwiyani, Saut Sagala, and Nino Viartasiwi. 2019. "Secondary Cities and Forced Migration: Accommodating Refugees and Asylum Seeker in Indonesia." In *55th ISOCARP World Planning Congress Jakarta-Bogor, Indonesia, 1034-45. Jakarta-Bogor, Indonesia: ISOCARP***

The paper discusses the role and capacity of the secondary city concerning refugee management in Indonesia. The case study is refugee management in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. Makassar City falls under the secondary city category because it is an economic trade corridor that is developing along major transport corridors in the Eastern Indonesia region. The paper compares the current refugee management in Makassar City (2015-2019) with City Resilience Framework developed by Arup International Development (2015). Against the background of selected Arup Framework's points, the discussions tackle these issues: 1) adequate shelter, health care, and protection, 2) basic

service provision, 3) economic development and employment, 4) social and political inclusion and community cohesion. The study concludes that Arup Framework is relevant to be used as a measurement to analyze the implementation of urban refugee management at the city level. The study finds several strengths of Makassar in refugee management: 1) the utilization of the existing system in the city to provide public service for refugees; 2) good partnership with IOM (International Organization of Migration) to provide shelter and assistance to refugees; 3) the willingness of the city leaders to involve in refugee management.

The study shows the need to develop a methodology on an urban resilience framework that is adaptable to urban refugee phenomena. Urban planning, especially secondary city planning, needs to integrate the forced displacement phenomena as a factor affecting a city's resilience because urban refugees have become a common concern in many cities in the world.



### 1.3. Opinion pieces, blogs and articles

**Andersson, Sara, Andrew Seo, and Cong Xu. 2019. “Improving Livelihood Opportunities for Refugees and Local Youth in Indonesia.” Report. Jakarta: ILO-UNHCR. [http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS\\_728068/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_728068/lang--en/index.htm)**

This is a report of a pilot project between ILO, UNHCR, and their partners in 2019 that provided training to 100 refugees and local youth to improve their skills and enable self-employment. The Ready for Business (R4B) modules were developed from Community-based Enterprise Development training, an activity-based and peer-to-peer learning approach that ILO has used widely throughout the world to support marginalized communities since 2014. Themes covered under the modules include the basics of entrepreneurship, marketing and sales, business management, financial management, self-management, and four additional modules on psychosocial well-being. The training ran for 6-months, followed by a business incubation period that also included coaching and mentoring. Three evaluations were completed throughout the project period, revealing increased knowledge and skills (88%), increased motivation to start a business (85%), improved self-image as a result of joining the program (89%), improved relationships with the local community (75% each), and a reduced dropout rate (37%). Lessons learned around project design focus on community-supported activities, improved criteria for participant selection, and exploring peer facilitators from among program graduates. Additional lessons for the organizer include better understanding of participant expectations, pre-program trainings for co-facilitators, and provision of networking opportunities with local businesses.

The report is useful for relevant organizations interested in direct activities with refugees, focusing on entrepreneurship as the central theme. The program design is based on a tested ILO model, reducing the need to reinvent the wheel. Organizations interested in developing a mentorship program for refugees, particularly youth refugees, can also benefit from the

program's design and development. However, further research is necessary to understand the long-term impact of such a program in potentially encouraging refugees' social interaction with host communities, especially when the government is still suspicious about refugee livelihood and empowerment activities.

**Brown, Thomas. 2018. "Refugee-Led Education in Indonesia." *Forced Migration Review*; Oxford, no. 58 (June): 64–66.**

The article briefly explains refugee-led education in Cisarua, Bogor. Limited access to education and other formal rights led ethnic Hazara refugees to independently establish a learning center, namely the Cisarua Refugee Learning Centre. The learning center gained national and international support, and now five more learning centers serve around 300 children aged 5-16, providing primary education and English for adult refugees. Another refugee-led initiative in Cisarua is the Refugee Women Support Group Indonesia that focuses on handicraft making and workshops on health, hygiene, and sexual and gender-based violence. The article also discusses several NGOs that support the development of refugee-led initiatives. The author concludes that these initiatives have become a platform for refugee capacity building that will help them once they arrive in resettlement countries. The initiatives and the collective activities demonstrate the refugees' ability to build agency and resilience while waiting for resettlement.

The article helps inform refugee advocates and observers, academics, and researchers about how urban refugees in Indonesia accommodate their own needs in a transit country.

**Missbach, Antje, and Wayne Palmer. 2018. "Indonesia: A Country Grappling with Migrant Protection at Home and Abroad." *Migration Policy Institute (blog)*. September 19, 2018. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/indonesia-country-grappling-migrant-protection-home-and-abroad>.**

The article describes the phenomenon of migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia, and Indonesian labor migration. On outgoing migration, the Indonesian government's urgency to send migrant workers to Asia Pacific countries began in 1979, followed by the 1997 economic crisis, which motivated Indonesians to move overseas. Between 2013 and 2017, the top four Indonesian labor occupations were domestic worker, caregiver, operator, and plantation worker. Indonesia also produced outgoing migrants seeking international protection; most were impacted by riots and racism. They include Chinese-Indonesian Christians who migrated to the US, ethnic Acehnese who migrated to the US, Sweden, Malaysia, and neighboring countries and Papuans who received protection from Australia. The top 5 countries of origin for incoming migration to Indonesia between 2012 to 2016 were China, Japan, South Korea, India, Malaysia, and the US. The most

significant event was the arrival of Indochinese refugees in the early 1970s—their arrival is seen as prominent in shaping Indonesia’s views on handling refugees and asylum seekers. In the mid-’90s, a second wave of refugees arrived from Afghanistan and Iran. In 1996, they applied for UNHCR protection in Indonesia. In 2013, Indonesia began receiving asylum seekers who were rejected or sent back from Australia.

The authors point out that Indonesia provides good policies and strategies to support migrants. The authors argue that Indonesia’s rationale for providing limited assistance for refugee protection and livelihoods is because of its status as merely a transit country. Indonesia did not ratify the Convention 1951 on Refugees and does not have proper regulations and policies for refugee management, which has led the country to perceive of itself as less obligated to provide for basic needs and refugees’ rights. Hence, the government is still reluctant to provide adequate assistance to refugees and transit migrants, given that the refugees are in economic, health, and social crises. Nevertheless, citizens were more responsive than the government, as evidenced by assistance provided by fishermen in Aceh to 84 stranded Rohingya refugees in April 2018.

**Yonesta, Febi. 2019. “Illegal or Protected? Indonesia’s Inconsistent Policy on Refugees.” 2019. <https://indonesiaatmelbourne.unimelb.edu.au/illegal-or-protected-indonesias-inconsistent-policy-on-refugees>**

The short article describes the inconsistency and insufficiency of Indonesia’s policies and practices in handling refugees. First, the Presidential Decree does not specify refugees’ internationally recognized rights and exists merely as a technical guideline for the government to handle “refugee-related situations.” Next, immigration challenges also exacerbate the treatment of refugees. The existing framework considers refugees and asylum seekers as illegal immigrants since they cannot show any valid travel documents. Moreover, there is no differentiation between the terms “refugees” and “asylum seekers” and these two groups are referred to as regular immigrants. This may signify a gap in immigration law and the government’s inadequacy in handling refugees due to an absence of refugee rights based on international instruments. Two main concerns regarding Indonesia’s inconsistent policies and practices on refugee management are critically discussed by the author: legal inconsistency and immigration challenges. The article also provides a comparative analysis between the 1951 Refugee Convention and the legal instruments available in Indonesia.

The analysis is insightful and may lead academics, researchers, advocates, and observers of refugees to be more critical of the Presidential Decree and the legal framework around refugees.



# 2

## Urban Refugee Management in Southeast Asia



## 2.1 Peer reviewed papers

**Ahmad, Abdullahi Ayoade, Zulkanain Abdul Rahim, and Abdul Majid Hafiz Bin Mohamed. 2016. "The Refugee Crisis in Southeast Asia: The Malaysian Experience." *International Journal of Novel Research in Humanity and Social Sciences* 3 (6): 80–90.**

This paper elaborates upon Malaysia's handling of refugees while reckoning with its position as an ASEAN member and a non-signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. This paper argues that ASEAN's non-interference principle and non-critical stance towards human rights abuses has led to a lack of preparation to manage refugee crises in the region, and has affected the handling of refugees in South East Asia countries, including Malaysia. The study emphasizes that Malaysia is actively receiving and managing refugees but not playing an active role in protecting refugees and securing their rights. This paper suggests that Malaysia's ability to address the refugee influx would be enhanced if regional cooperation was strengthened and ASEAN had broader coordinating powers than currently. The paper concludes that Malaysia is in an unrealistic position, hosting an enormous number of refugees without any taking legal stand, and suggests that the country further consider its legal position without neglecting national interests.

This literature-based paper provides a case study of how a sovereign country in South East Asia has dynamically evolved in managing refugees based in a time-sequential manner and, interestingly, the major refugees' countries of origin. This paper could be expanded to review and corroborate findings through methodology, investigation, and theory triangulation.

**Amalia, Annisa Dina. 2018. "A Gendered Approach to Forced Migration Governance in the Asia Pacific." *Global: Jurnal Politik Internasional* 20 (1): 38–51. <https://doi.org/10.7454/global.v20i1.321>.**

The article explores the gendered nature of forced migration governance using a feminist lens in international relations as an analytical tool. It attempts to deconstruct what is seemingly natural with the state as the main actor to probe how marginalization systematically occurs in forced migration discourse. Though commonly depicted as neutral, forced migration governance is highly gendered due to two of its main aspects. The first is “refugee feminization,” portraying refugees as threats and as vulnerable groups. The second is “state masculinization,” portraying the state as protector of citizens by controlling and preventing refugees’ flow into state territory. Evidence of this gendered approach can be found in how states, with a masculine viewpoint, frame refugees as illegal and undervalued subjects because they cannot defend their status due to the unavailability of legal documents. This narrative has led the state to take a securitization prevention strategy, protecting state borders from refugee influx. This narrative is found in several highly gendered policies, such as the Bali Process, that tend to criminalize smugglers and victims of trafficking, and Australia’s stop the boat policy that refuses refugees and asylum seekers and directs them to other countries. These policies are highly masculine since they focus solely on securitization rather than offering protection to people who seek refuge. The article concludes that gendered forced migration governance still dominates refugee governance in the Asia Pacific while also highlighting the importance of scrutinizing this seemingly neutral yet multifaceted governance structure which assigns an unequal position to states (masculinity) and refugees (femininity).

The article is insightful, as it uses a feminist lens to discuss refugees and forced migration and demonstrates an in-depth analysis of the gendered approach inherent in refugee governance. This paper may be useful to reflect and further understand how the Indonesian government perceives of refugees within the current legal framework and even for policymakers, professionals, and stakeholders to prepare relevant policies that are genuinely neutral and focus on protecting and securing the fundamental rights of refugees.

**Bangun, Budi Hermawan. 2017. “Tantangan ASEAN dalam Melakukan Penanganan Pengungsi Rohingya [ASEAN challenges in handling Rohingya refugees].” *Padjadjaran Journal of Law* 4 (3): 569–87.**

The article discusses the role of ASEAN as a regional organization in refugee management in South East Asia. The focus lies on managing Rohingya refugees, and on barriers impeding ASEAN from playing its role effectively in handling mechanisms. The most significant barrier derives from the ASEAN fundamental principles, known as the “ASEAN Way.” With its characteristics of enhancing sovereignty and regionalism, the ASEAN Way has strongly influenced ASEAN countries’ principle to respect each country’s national sovereignty and not to intervene in the domestic issues of each country. This perspective is bound under the non-interference principle, which has influenced how ASEAN countries respond to Rohingya refugee issues, with most ASEAN countries ignoring the issues. In contrast, some ASEAN

members respond based solely on humanitarianism, since they must respect each country's sovereignty and focus on their national affairs. This negligence has caused ASEAN's role to remain insignificant, with ASEAN unable to integrate its members in formulating proper mechanisms to handle the Rohingya refugee issue.

The article helps promote an understanding of the dynamics of ASEAN countries in responding to refugee management in South East Asia. It sheds light on sovereignty and regionalism, and how ASEAN as a regional organization grapples with a principle that hinders the organization from contributing significantly to managing the refugee issue.

**Chuah, Fiona Leh Hoon, Sok Teng Tan, Jason Yeo, and Helena Legido-Quigley. 2018. "The Health Needs and Access Barriers among Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Malaysia: A Qualitative Study." *International Journal for Equity in Health* 17 (1): 120. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-018-0833-x>.**

This paper discusses Malaysian refugees' and asylum seekers' access to healthcare and their crucial health concerns. Using the qualitative study method, the authors interviewed 20 people consisting of health experts, healthcare professionals, UN agency officers, and civil society organizations in Malaysia. The fieldwork was conducted from July 2016 to November 2017. The research is part of a project exploring Southeast Asia's refugee health issues and responses. The key findings are as follows. First, refugee health concerns are more complex than those of the general population because refugees face different health problems at different migration phases. Second, refugees have a low awareness of their health status and their right to healthcare, and face language and cultural barriers to accessing healthcare. Fourth, there are institutional barriers to accessing healthcare. Fifth, the refugee population lacks the financial capacity to access healthcare. Sixth, healthcare access above and beyond basic services should be provided. Seventh, there will be significant consequences if inadequate access to healthcare for refugee population continues for the long term. The paper concludes with a call for comprehensive efforts in practice and research on the social, cultural, and economic determinants of refugee health to promote more inclusive policies on healthcare for refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia.

The paper is comprehensively researched and neatly written, and complements research on the nexus between forced migration and health in general and in the Malaysian context. The research is beneficial for healthcare professionals, program managers, and experts on refugee and migrant health wishing to examine the critical health concerns and barriers to healthcare access among refugees and asylum-seeker populations.



**Dewansyah, Bilal, and Irawati Handayani. 2018. "Reconciling Refugee Protection and Sovereignty in ASEAN Member States: Law and Policy Related to Refugees in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand." *Central European Journal of International and Security Studies* 12 (4): 473–85.**

The paper focuses on ASEAN member countries Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in the context of refugee protection. The focus is on how the three countries claim to have found a legal middle way between sovereignty and refugee protection. The authors suggest that the only working mechanism to reconcile these two interests is by applying the principle of non-refoulement, which binds both signatories and non-signatories of the Refugee Convention. The non-refoulement principle does not allow destination countries to return refugees to their country of origin. Further, the article discusses to what extent laws and policies support refugee protection in Southeast Asia through analysis of three points: the problem of legal basis and policies, non-refoulement principle implementation, and refugee rights protection. In conclusion, the article suggests that Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand have been reconciling their laws and policies by accepting refugees through exceptions to their immigration laws, even though the substance of refugee policies varies in each country.

The article is important in that it builds understanding of the main problem of refugee legal protection in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Although the discussion on each country's legal framework is overly simple, it still provides a glimpse of the intricate legal and policy dilemmas face by the three countries.

**Gleeson, Madeline. 2017. "Unprecedented but Unfulfilled: Refugee Protection and Regional Responses to the Andaman Sea 'Crisis.'" *Antropologi Indonesia* 38 (1): 6–20. <https://doi.org/10.7454/ai.v38i1.8747>.**

The article explores the responses of three ASEAN countries that have been impacted by the recent arrival of more than 5,000 Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi migrants, and how the Andaman Sea Crisis and its consequences have affected refugee protection mechanisms in the Asia Pacific. The author asserts that the absence of a formal legal framework of refugee management signals ASEAN's reluctance to protect refugees. Nevertheless, the refugee crisis has forced states to reevaluate their commitment on forced migrants' protection and their roles as transit countries. The author analyses the phenomena in three parts: part 1 discusses the activities and initiatives undertaken in the region post-crisis (during the first twelve months), followed by part 2, which analyses the outcome of the meetings and initiatives conducted in the first year and probes into the disembarkation of refugees. The last part examines the subsequent approaches at the multilateral level and assesses the region's stance and capacity in handling irregular migration post-crisis.

To conclude, the Andaman Sea Crisis is pertinent to the long history of irregular migration

in ASEAN as it reveals the countries' levels of willingness and current approaches. Several progressive approaches have been enacted in transit countries, including Malaysia's progressive pilot project for Rohingya refugee employment and Indonesia's Presidential Decree. Nevertheless, refugee protection and other rights-based approaches, as discussed in several engagements, meetings, and proposals, are less important to the decision-makers than economic and security issues, and remain the same as before the crisis.

The paper briefly explores the dynamics of refugee management in the ASEAN context. Also, the relevance of this paper lies in parts 2 and 3, which discuss the commitment, efforts, and initiatives on irregular migration at the multilateral level, such as the Bali Process and its voluntary regional cooperation, namely the Task Force in Planning and Preparedness. The paper also briefly describes The ASEAN Trust Fund and the future direction of these commitments on refugee management in the ASEAN region.

**Hoffstaedter, Gerhard. 2017. "The Dominant Discourses of Refugees, Recognition, and Othering in Malaysia: Regimes of Truth versus the Lived Reality of Everyday Life." *Situations* 10 (2): 27–44.**

The paper discusses refugees' identity existence in Malaysia as informed by Malaysia's political and social contexts. The paper argues that a multicultural Malaysia with various ethnicities and religious identities is struggling with internal diversity. The situation results in the subjectivity of newcomers such as refugees. The paper mentions Foucault's "regime of truth" to argue that refugee discourse in Malaysia is reiterated and shaped by the state, civil society, the media, and other information systems such as the internet. Malaysian public perception of refugees is mainly shaped by publications on the matter from two sources: the UNHCR and the government-controlled media. According to this paper, there are two dominant discourses on refugees in Malaysia; those are the refugee as illegal immigrant and the refugee as charity case. The paper suggests that this discourse is not always positive for refugees. When refugees are portrayed as transgressive agents, they are seen as people who leave their home countries to pursue a better life, which is considered a self-centered choice. When refugees are seen as victims who are powerless to resist their governments' violent actions, Malaysians are soft toward them. The paper concludes that in reality, refugees exist beyond these two categories and therefore need more ways to connect with ordinary Malaysians to represent their stories and identities.

This study, which focuses on refugee and asylum seekers' representations, is essential to understanding how societies react to refugees in their countries. The paper confirms the importance of media in providing stories that represent refugees in the public eye.

**Jetschke, Anja. 2019. “Does Forced Migration Increase Regional Human Rights Commitment? The Cases of Malaysia and Thailand in ASEAN.” *Asia Pacific Business Review* 25 (5): 705–28. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602381.2019.1652981>.**

This paper explores ASEAN states’ human rights commitments using Malaysia and Thailand as case studies, and further examines transnational refugee flow externalities or costs to both states. The author uses the congruence analysis method, followed by a process-tracing method to gain empirical evidence from the case studies, as well as theories of forced migration and direct-indirect externalities. The author suggests that: (1) the regional human rights commitment appears to not necessarily legitimize individual human rights, but rather acts as a state instrument to uphold political stability, (2) in terms of the policy, transnational flows of forced migration may also directly affect the political stability of the region; hence it may induce a regional framework of human rights, and (3) forced migrants have paradoxical effects, as drivers for economic growth and as a root cause of clashes between low skilled workers.

This paper provides a thorough explanation of the nexus between regional human rights commitment and the concept of externalities while revealing the scarcity of research focusing on externalities caused by refugee flows. The paper also provides a brief literature review of ASEAN human rights commitments and discusses the mechanisms of the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Human Rights, and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

**Khairi, Aizat. 2016. “The Dilemma of Rohingya Refugees ‘Boat People’: The Role of Malaysia, Its Neighbors and ASEAN.” *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences* 6 (12): 481-489. <https://doi.org/10.6007/IJARBS/v6-i12/2512>.**

The paper scrutinizes Rohingya refugee struggles in Malaysia and how the Malaysian government and neighboring countries have dealt with the arrival of the Rohingya refugee “boat people.” The author finds that the initial responses of the Malaysia government and other transit countries such as Thailand and Indonesia were similar: they refused to help and accommodate the refugees due to national security. Subsequently, Malaysia’s foreign minister initiated a meeting with Indonesian and Thai representatives, resulting in ad-hoc policies for Malaysia and Indonesia to provide temporary assistance to the boat people. At the same time, Thailand decided not to push back the boats or refuse to provide immediate support. The author concludes that Rohingya refugees should be taken care of by the three transit countries and the other Southeast Asia countries, and ASEAN should encourage the other members to convene and discuss solutions to this issue.

This article provides brief and useful information regarding the history of the conflict and

the mass influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. The article also provides further information about Malaysia's responses and initiatives, which influenced the state's policy towards Rohingya refugees.

**Malaver, Angela María Carreño. 2016. "Living In The Shadows: Urban Refugees In Thailand." *Current Politics and Economics of South, Southeastern, and Central Asia* 25 (2): 1-14.**

This study, based on fieldwork during 2014-2015, explores the context and challenges of urban refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand's main urban centers. It explains the backgrounds and conditions of Thailand's urban refugees. The main refugee groups in Thailand's urban areas are Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Syrian Palestinians, Vietnamese, Somalis, and Rohingya. The paper highlights that the country's domestic legal framework is the main obstacle to proper treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand. Thailand has not promulgated legislation to acknowledge asylum seeker or refugee status. The Thailand Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979) rules that any person entering Thailand without permission or whose visa has expired falls under illegal immigrant status. The key research findings are as follows: (1) refugees who already lived in the country became a point of contact for newcomers, sometimes with business dimensions, (2) low language acquisition is the biggest obstacle for refugees to survive in the country, (3) lack of documentation has enabled the abusive treatment of refugees, especially women, and has caused difficulty in finding formal jobs despite professional qualifications, and (4) the regulation that stipulates all refugees, including those who live in other cities than Bangkok, must process their Refugee Status Determination in Bangkok adds more burden to the refugees. In addition, this paper highlights issues of job market competition between refugees and migrant workers from neighboring countries and refugees in detention centers who are categorized as "illegal aliens" without resettlement prospects because the status makes them ineligible to receive refugee status based on the UNHCR's five grounds.

This paper is essential for researchers unfamiliar with Thailand's situation in the migration context, as it provides insight into the main problems facing refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand.

**Mali, Fransiskus X. Gian Tue. 2017. "Peluang Asean Community Menyelesaikan Masalah Rohingya [Asean Community Opportunities to Solve Rohingya Problems]." *Jurnal Asia Pacific Studies* 1 (1): 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.33541/japs.v1i1.497>.**

This article discusses the ASEAN Community's potency to provide a solution to the Rohingya crisis. The highlight is on the refusal of several ASEAN countries to shelter Rohingya refugees citing security, economic, social, and political concerns as reasons. It argues that given

regional cooperation with the aspiration to create a so-called ASEAN Community, ASEAN should make the Rohingya issue its priority issue. From among the three communities that make up the broader ASEAN Community- the ASEAN Security-Political Community (ASPC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)- the article suggests that ASCC is the program best suited to settle the Rohingya crisis. The regional cooperation with the aspiration to create a so-called ASEAN Community, ASEAN should make the Rohingya issue its priority issue. From among the three communities that make up the broader ASEAN Community- the ASEAN Security-Political Community article's settlement notion is to facilitate Myanmar's interests, Rohingya interests, and Rohingya migration destination countries' interests. Citing the ASEAN non-interference principle as the main obstacle for ASEAN to exercise its role as Rohingya crisis facilitator, the article offers a reinterpretation of point 3 of the ASCC 2009 blueprint as a leeway. Finally, the article concludes that the ASEAN Community should be the entry point for a more significant intervention by ASEAN into the Rohingya human rights crisis by developing regulations that could convince the Myanmar government to make a more meaningful effort to resolve the issue.

This article explains ASEAN's dilemma in finding a solution to the Rohingya human rights crisis. The article also explores the ASEAN Community (AC), both the notion of AC as ASEAN's ideal aspiration and the notion of AC as ASEAN's way to break down certain ASEAN cooperation obstacles.

**Missbach, Antje, and Gerhard Hoffstaedter. 2020. "When Transit States Pursue Their Own Agenda: Malaysian and Indonesian Responses to Australia's Migration and Border Policies." *Migration and Society* 3 (1): 64–79. <https://doi.org/10.3167/arms.2020.111405>.**

This article explores how Australian policies have disproportionately influenced the region, including Indonesia and Malaysia. However, the so-called transit countries also offset this foreign policy invasion with domestic politics, forming their own policies to externalize their borders, and negotiating with destination countries to fund their domestic capacities. This article challenges the public assumption that transit countries - at the right price - are likely to be implementers of externalized border and asylum policies. In general, both Indonesia and Malaysia have a genuine interest in managing migration and safeguarding their borders and are therefore interested in regional cooperation. Irregular migration for them, however, means more than just asylum seekers and refugees.

Australia's overall analysis does provide substantial financial and material support to combat people smuggling in the region to prevent the departure of asylum seekers from Indonesia and Malaysia. Today Indonesia and Malaysia have become de facto destination countries, whether they accept this fact or not, and must move beyond mere identification as transit countries and address their post-transit realities. Australia's unilateral and bilateral

approaches have negative diplomatic consequences for the entire region and seriously undermine broader regional cooperation focused on irregular migration. As long as they stick to Australian interests and are driven by Australian funding, this one-sided approach and bilateral arrangements risk many pitfalls.

This article is based on ethnographic fieldwork in Indonesia and Malaysia; while Hoff's staff spent more than a year researching asylum seekers in Kuala Lumpur in 2015, Missbach conducted a total of 16 months of multi-site fieldwork on people smuggling networks in Jakarta, East Nusa Tenggara, Makassar, and Batam between 2013 and 2016. The article suggests that coordination with related agencies can be further improved to create a maximum performance result in the fulfillment of human rights for asylum seekers by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia. Also, the Government of Indonesia needs to formulate a clear policy on asylum seeker status. Nevertheless, Indonesia maintains the country's stability, even though it has not ratified the 1951 Convention and its protocols, while the creation of legal certainty is enforced in the immigration sector for asylum seekers.

**Muniandy, Parthiban. 2020. "From the Pasar to the Mamak Stall: Refugees and Migrants as Surplus Ghost Labor in Malaysia's Food Service Industry." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 46 (11): 2293–2308. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1529557>.**

This article attempts to explore the experience of refugees and migrant workers becoming surplus labor in Malaysia. The author refers to these refugees and migrants as "ghost" labor or a "ghost" population due to their informal contribution to Malaysia's growing economy. The study focuses on refugee and migrant work in food service sector. It uses data from participant observation and in-depth interviews with 90 refugees/migrants from South India, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, and Vietnam, which were conducted in commercial districts in Penang and Kuala Lumpur. Also, interviews were conducted with the locals (business owners and local authorities). The study shows that while refugees and economic migrants are deemed profitable and contribute to the capitalist economy, informal recruitment overrides the urgency to provide formal mechanisms to enable them to integrate with the host society. It suggests that Malaysia exploits refugees and migrants as resources for economic development.

The paper provides an interesting case study exploring the role of displaced populations and migrant workers in a capitalist economy and their informal work setting experiences. The study may be useful to help understand how refugees, illegal immigrants, and economic migrants adapt to the neoliberal context, rapidly developing society while also dealing with their own precarious situation.

**Parthiban, Samitra, and Khoo Ying Hooi. 2019. “Detention of Refugee Children in Malaysia and Thailand.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Human Rights* 3 (1): 59–80. <https://doi.org/10.19184/jseahr.v3i1.10142>.**

The paper examines child refugee detention practices in Malaysia and Thailand. It aims to advocate for the method of Alternatives to Detention (ATD) to solve the shortcomings of a legal method. The paper also highlights the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in advocating for ATD adoption. Using a qualitative research approach, the study gathered academicians in Malaysia and Thailand. The paper reveals that even though Malaysia and Thailand are non-signatories to the Refugee Convention, both countries are bound by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and a regional treaty, namely the Bangkok Principle, to provide protection to the refugees in their territories.

Further, data examination shows that refugees in Malaysia are threatened with jail time in immigration detention centers (IDCs), while in Thailand undocumented refugees are placed in “refugee camps.” Thailand utilizes two types of refugee camps: refugee camps specifically for the Burmese refugee populace and refugee camps specifically for “urban refugees,” which refers to Cambodian, Vietnamese and Syrian refugees. Children are detained along with their parents. The study acknowledges the challenges of pushing the ATD. Those challenges are coordination issues among local NGOs, the media’s critical role, government interest in refugee issues, misperceptions about refugee rights, and the ASEAN non-interference policy. The study concludes by urging governments to consider refugee children’s rights by approaching the issue from a human rights perspective and drafting human rights-friendly policies for protection purposes.

This well-written study provides a meta-analysis of child refugee issues in both countries that may spark further discussion on child rights and wellbeing in refugee contexts. This study acknowledges NGOs’ work in IDC abolishment, and inspires further study of NGOs potency and advocacy strategies in refugee issues.

**Prabandari, Atin, and Yunizar Adiputera. 2019. “Alternative Paths to Refugee and Asylum Seeker Protection in Malaysia and Indonesia.” *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* 28 (2): 132–54. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0117196819850946>.**

The article explores how as non-signatory countries of the 1951 Refugee Convention, Indonesia and Malaysia exercise refugee protection through alternative paths. The paper’s purpose is to explain the extent to which Indonesia and Malaysia manage to address civil society-led informal refugee management to provide protection and, at the same time, find equilibrium between state sovereignty and humanitarianism. The study highlights the value of a Foucauldian analysis of refugee protection, using it as a framework to understand hybrid governance involving state and non-state actors. The paper concludes that

Indonesia and Malaysia use meta-governance to balance the issues of state sovereignty and humanitarianism.

The article promotes understanding of the main problems concerning fundamental issues of refugee protection in Indonesia and Malaysia. For those looking for insight on local government involvement in refugee protection, the paper provides evidence of the significance and autonomy of local government in refugee protection in Indonesia - even though the notions of “citizens come first” and “public opinion” are also variables in determining local government policy. One important note is that “the domestic legal framework for refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia is less progressive than that of Indonesia.” However, while the Indonesian government does not openly collaborate with NGOs—only with UN bodies and UN-related international organizations—the Malaysian government once effectively “outsourced” its responsibility to protect Syrian refugees to a network consisting of various NGOs in the private sector.

Unfortunately, the article fails to consider refugees’ insecurity when they fall under no clear framework of legal protection. While Malaysia successfully gained support from various NGOs and the private sector in the Syrian refugee case, this was due to the circumstantial pressure of fulfilling promises rather than a willingness to form a blanket solution for refugee protection. Similarly, in Indonesia, the mandate to local government is not followed with necessary regulations, so that decides to protect refugees are based on local leaders’ discretion. The ad-hoc nature of refugee protection in both countries does not guarantee the sustainability of refugee protection and contradicts the humanitarian rationality.

**Pudjibudojo, Widya Priyahita. 2019. “Criticizing the Handling of Rohingya Refugees in Southeast Asia by ASEAN and Its Members.” *Politika: Jurnal Ilmu Politik* 10 (2): 229–38. <https://doi.org/10.14710/politika.10.2.2019.211-219>.**

This paper scrutinizes how ASEAN, especially Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand, deal with Rohingya refugees by utilizing two theoretical frameworks the human rights approach and the security approach. Overall analysis suggests that the security approach prevails in the management of refugees in Southeast Asia compared to the human rights approach. The arrival of refugees is seen as a threat to social cohesion and human security and a burden to the state’s economy. The author also argues that ASEAN country members do not comply with the 2008 ASEAN Charter’s objectives, that is, to promote and protect the human rights of ASEAN people. The author also criticizes the ASEAN community for its lame efforts to stop the violence against Rohingya refugees in Myanmar and to urge receiving or transiting countries to accept them. To conclude, the author provides eight recommendations to the ASEAN countries regarding their refugee management, including a paradigm shift, and the need to establish a clear legal framework and program for refugee management.



This paper provides some interesting viewpoints on the handling of Rohingya refugees at the ASEAN level, particularly in discussing how ASEAN has been powerless towards the Myanmar government. This paper could be a good starting point for academics, policymakers, and relevant sectors to learn more about the current situation of Rohingya refugees in ASEAN, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

**Shum, Terence C.T. 2014. “Refugees’ Transnational Mobility: A Study of Asylum Seeking in Hong Kong and Urban Thailand.” *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 33 (4): 50–80. <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdu013>.**

This paper describes the pattern of transnational mobility and the process of fleeing from the home countries to host destinations, Hong Kong and Thailand. Different from the pattern thirty years ago, refugees entering Hong Kong and Thailand nowadays mainly arrive at international airports on an individual basis among other international travelers such as tourists. Both countries have become regional processing hubs in Asia for refugees. Based on in-depth interviews with refugees in both countries (in 2011-2013), the paper describes how refugees decide to flee, gather exile funds, obtain travel documents and permits, learn travel skills, and finally, file refugee claims. The paper also maps the common routes towards each country and explains how differently embodied experience of crossing borders, i.e., via a land route, river route, routes via countries neighboring ports of the first asylum, and air travel, influence the research participant’s perception of being a refugee. The use of social networks was discovered as a pattern to overcome constraints encountered by refugees, which include informational, financial, and documentary constraints.

Study on the process of mobility is essential to allow researchers and policymakers to understand the migration pattern and formulate safe passage for refugee mobility, as well as deter the trafficking and smuggling activities.

**Stange, Gunnar, Patrick Sakdapolrak, Kwanchit Sasiwongsaroj, and Matthias Kourek. 2019. “Forced Migration in Southeast Asia – A Brief Overview of Current Research.” *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies* 12 (2): 249–65. <https://doi.org/10.14764/10.ASEAS-0024>.**

This article is a literature review of forced migration research in Southeast Asia from January 2013 to September 2018. The research was conducted by reviewing 217 scientific peer-reviewed articles in the Web of Science database using two sets of key terms: “Southeast Asia” and “persons of concern.” The research finds that published research on forced migration in Southeast Asia shows a quantitative upward trend. More than half of all publications focus on refugees and asylum seekers; the second rank is on the topic of stateless people, followed by human trafficking and/or smuggling. Only 14 publications discuss internally displaced

persons (IDPs). 90 papers discuss Thailand, 71 of which focus on refugees and asylum seekers, 43 papers discuss the Malaysian context, with 24 papers focusing on refugees and asylum seekers, and 35 papers discuss Indonesia, 16 with a particular focus on refugees and asylum seekers. On the cause of displacement, 110 research papers identified conflict as the main cause for displacement, followed by disaster with 18 publications and development (projects) in 18 studies. The article concludes that research on forced migration in Southeast Asia is increasing in line with the rising number of forcibly displaced people in the region. The number of publications focusing on each country is also in line with the distribution of refugees and asylum seekers in the region. However, the paper suggests that the number of papers discussing IDPs does not correspond with the high number of IDPs in the region.

This short literature review provides a mapping of literature on the topic of displacement in the Southeast Asia region. It helps researchers and observers of displacement issues to find gaps in the scholarship and to envision future research.

**Su, Celina, and Peter Muenning. 2005. "The Politics of Social Entrepreneurs in Access to Education: A Case Study of Shan Burmese Refugees in Northwestern Thailand." *Current Issues in Comparative Education* 8 (1): 31–40.**

This paper studies the social entrepreneurship approach in providing education to Shan Burmese refugees in Northwestern Thailand. The study is based on field research during 2001-2005. The Shan are an ethnic group in Myanmar with cultural affinity to Thai people, and face persecution by the Burmese government. Despite their cultural closeness to the Thai people, the displaced Shan population in Thailand often faces discrimination from the Thai authorities. Moreover, the Shan population in Thailand has limited access to services provided by formal non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This unfortunate situation is exacerbated by unclear rights based on refugee work permits. Using the qualitative method through interviews with the "social entrepreneurs" involved in the educational project and Shan community members, this paper argues that the social entrepreneurship approach can build strong and effective social programs. Further, these programs may address the refugees' issues, including the provision of education to Shan children. The social entrepreneurship approach focusing on grassroots activities, trust building, and cultural respect have established social linkages between the refugees and the greater Thai community. Moreover, some factors contribute to the approach's effectiveness, including the Shan children's eagerness to learn Thai and a trusting group of parents willing to support the children's learning. Other than these factors, Thai educational law does not technically prohibit refugee children from attending local schools. Nevertheless, some challenges remain as the program's overt operations risk attention from the Thai government at the provincial and local levels.

By highlighting the strengths and lessons learned from social entrepreneurship, this study

contributes to educational management discourse among youth refugees in Thailand and mainland Southeast Asia in 2001-2005 period. Understanding different refugee management contexts is essential to understanding communities' barriers to accessing rights in their respective countries, including getting a formal education.

**Supaat, Dina Imam. 2014. "Refugee Children under the Malaysian Legal Framework." *UUM Journal of Legal Studies* 4: 118–48.**

The article analyzes the Malaysian legal framework on child refugee protection and identifies the extent of the protection provided. This paper looks at the current laws that are used to regulate immigrants, particularly refugees. Using library research methods, it dwells into various Malaysian laws and legal provisions relevant to child refugee matters. It also takes UNHCR's provisions as a benchmark. The study concludes that Malaysian laws confirm that since the word "refugee" has never appeared or existed in Malaysian legislation, there is no specific legal framework currently available for the protection of refugee children. Refugee children are protected through general laws that are incapable of granting refugee children the protection guaranteed in the international sphere.

This study reveals the legal framework's shortcomings in regards to child refugee protection in Malaysia by analyzing each bill. As the author claims, this study is an influential effort to advocate for refugee protection, as one of the main agendas of the study is reform of Malaysian law.

**Wahab, Andika Ab. 2018. "Rethinking Refugees as Economically Isolated: The Rohingya Participation in Informal Economy in Klang Valley, Malaysia." *JAS (Journal of ASEAN Studies)* 5 (2): 102–18. <https://doi.org/10.21512/jas.v5i2.3664>.**

This article analyzes how the participation of refugees in the informal economy affects their livelihood activities. The conclusions drawn in this research are based on the results of fieldwork carried out in 2013 and 2016 in Klang Valley, Malaysia, where many Rohingya refugees live and seek economic opportunities while waiting for a durable solution to their resettlement status. Despite legal limits on refugees' ability to find work in Malaysia as a transit country, this article concludes that involvement in informal economy activities benefits the refugees themselves and the surrounding community. Several positive impacts of their livelihood activities include: (1) the ability to send remittances to support their family members financially; (2) access to education for their children; (3) the ability to pay for administrative matters, such as transportation costs for refugee registration and interviews for resettlement; (3) faith-based and welfare activities, where contribution to activities allows refugees to gain and share information, expand networks and strengthen solidarity within their community; (4) access to healthcare; (5) formation of family/marriage; and (6)

entrepreneurship, by allowing them to gain sufficient knowledge, skills, and financial abilities to start their own businesses. Albeit the risk of legal repercussions, these efforts to reduce dependency on assistance from the host government and related international organizations have strengthened the refugees' social interactions and enhanced their contribution towards community development.

This article overturns the many assumptions that refugees must rely heavily on financial assistance and become a burden to the host government. This article can be used as input for policy development to regulate the economic activities of refugees in transit countries.

## 2.2 Reports, non-peer reviewed papers and other publications

**Abraham, Itty. 2020. “Host Communities and Refugees in Southeast Asia: Report on a Workshop Held at the National University of Singapore (NUS), 10-11 May 2019.” *SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 35 (1): 178–96. <https://doi.org/10.1355/sj35-1l>.**

The paper is a summary of a workshop report held in Singapore in May 2019 and is also published as an online article. The workshop aimed to reflect on and analyze the current understanding of the relationship between host communities and refugees in Southeast Asia. Refugees are not a new phenomenon in the region. The paper suggests that some distinct characteristics of the refugee environment in the region require countries to shift their assumptions from understanding the refugee situation as transitory impermanence to something that more closely reflects reality. Southeast Asian countries are simultaneously countries of transit, temporary, short term and long-term residence. Their characteristics include: 1) the absence of laws and regulations, 2) the inability of many public officials to distinguish between illegal migrants and asylum seekers, 3) the huge variation of refugee settlements as well as host communities, causing the characteristics of their interaction to vastly differ between location and to be difficult to generalize, 4) the informality that is embedded in the everyday life of the host society, and therefore, 5) the important role of non-state actors in closing the gap in public services not only for the marginalized population but also for the displaced population. Recent changes to the situation, wherein some signatory countries to the UN Refugee Convention are refusing to fulfill their refugee resettlement obligations, places even more urgency on the necessary shift.

While solutions at the international or regional levels seem complicated, the paper suggests that there is hope for more feasible and sustainable solutions at the national and even local level, although a combination of the two levels may be most effective. Moreover, the paper points out that the mismatch between policy and social reality, which again is a

characteristic of the refugee environment in the region, provides a grey zone that offers informal protection for the refugees. This informality should be acknowledged in exploring solutions.

The paper is useful in providing a specific understanding of the refugee environment in Southeast Asia. While it does not explicitly discuss urban refugee issues, the conclusion described in previous paragraphs shows that the participants have a great deal of understanding of the region's urban phenomenon. Future research or discussion can add significant value by exploring what "sustainable solutions at the local level" look like, or at least can translate to, based on this paper's analysis.

**Arputhasamy, Bernard. 2010. "Hidden Lives: The Plight of Urban Refugees." Magazine. Diakonia. Jesuit Refugee Service.**

The document, produced by Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), briefly describes the lives of many urban refugees of different backgrounds who live in Thailand, Cambodia, and Timor Leste. It describes JRS programs advocating for and helping refugees and the challenges faced by both JRS and the refugees during the process. The critical elements of JRS programs are outreach, counseling, and social support. The most significant barrier during the process of caring and advocating for refugees is the refugees' invisibility. Refugees live far from city centers, and most are afraid to ask for help or reach out to the public because they do not want to risk being caught by authorities, arbitrary arrest, or even being deported to their home countries.

The document also briefly explains the collaboration between JRS and community centers established by refugees and asylum seekers. Services and activities in community centers help refugees combat their feelings of being isolated, depressed, and unproductive. They still face some challenges, including language barriers that impede their social interaction, and for refugee children, this becomes an obstacle to involvement in educational activities. The document also reports on lessons learned in Cambodia. Although Cambodia is a signatory of the Refugee Convention, it does not guarantee a better living experience and protection for refugees and asylum seekers who live there. The country has a legal framework for refugees, but implementation is weak. Subsequently, many gaps exist within its refugee governance, instigated by the instability of Cambodia's social and political context.

This document was somewhat outdated, as it was written in 2010. Nevertheless, refugees' voices are still relevant to the present situation and can still be found in many transit countries in Southeast Asia. It may help inform professionals and policymakers to prepare better policies or programs to fill the gaps within refugee management.

**Bemma, Adam. 2018. "Malaysia: A Refugee Conundrum." *The Lancet* 391 (10116): 107–8. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(18\)30052-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)30052-7).**

The article briefly describes refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia, who are mostly of Rohingya ethnicity. The article highlights some key points regarding the challenges encountered by Rohingya refugees and asylum seekers during their temporary stay in the country and the efforts of individuals and NGOs to alleviate those challenges. The refugees and asylum seekers are trapped in a precarious situation and cannot obtain proper health care, education, or jobs. Although they can access medical services using the UNHCR card with discounted rates (50% off total bills), they still have to pay the same expenses paid by foreigners or non-nationals. They often work in the informal sector, hence, are prone to exploitation. Many refugee children have difficulties accessing education, although some have access to basic primary education with limited resources and facilities provided by charity-based organizations. There is a government pilot project to allow Rohingya refugees to work in the plantation sector. On the other hand, the Malaysian NGO Refuge for Refugees supports ten informal schools for refugee children. To date, the NGO has supported 1,875 refugee children in Malaysia and Myanmar. The conclusion is that one way to help refugees survive during uncertainty for the government to collaborate with UNHCR and other civil society organizations to raise awareness and build positive discourse about refugee issues, and to recognize refugees and acknowledge their existence.

**Lam, Yin Cheung. 2016. "The Association of South East Nations' Response to the Rohingya Refugee Crisis." In *Hong Kong: International Studies Association*.**

The paper examines the protection status of Rohingya refugees in ASEAN countries, the majority of which are the non-signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and lack the domestic legal frameworks to deal with refugees and asylum seekers. It argues that for these reasons, the treatment of Rohingya refugees in ASEAN countries is characterized by ad hoc institutional practices accentuated by fluctuating domestic sentiments towards migration. The paper describes the general reluctance to provide durable formal solutions to protracted refugee situations. Highlighting the fact that Rohingya refugees in ASEAN countries are safe from refoulement, the paper argues that protection of refugees is poor due to several factors, including the existence of refugee camps, illegal migrant status, lack of formal and consistent refugee policies, and increasing securitization of state immigration policies.

To support the arguments, the paper provides short descriptions of Rohingya history, Burma's response to the Rohingya crisis, and Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia's responses to Rohingya refugees. Finally, it argues that since ASEAN has undergone radical transformations in its approach to humanitarian challenges, the Rohingya refugee crisis should be solved under the ASEAN framework. The Human Rights and Human Security concepts that have

been adopted in several ASEAN bodies and charters are not yet fully implemented in its actions; instead, the paper argues that human security concerns such as the refugee crisis have mainly been securitized. Moreover, the paper finds that Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia have violated the ASEAN Charter to varying degrees regarding democracy, good governance, enhancing the rule of law, and promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The paper concludes with two findings: first, despite the presence of ASEAN, there has been no coordinated response to the Rohingya problem. Second, ASEAN's continued use of the term Irregular Migrant has framed the Rohingya as victims of smuggling and trafficking rather than victims of state persecution, which not only prevents the Rohingya from being recognized as refugees, but also dislocates them from the protection scheme.

The paper strongly highlights the lack of ASEAN Rohingya refugee protection in ASEAN countries despite ASEAN's adoption of principles of commitment to human rights and human security in its charters and bodies. The paper concisely explains each country's response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, giving the reader an entry point to understanding Rohingya refugee protection issues.

**Moretti, Sébastien. 2017. "Southeast Asia and the Disenchantment with Resettlement." *FMR Review* 54 (February): 20–21.**

This article briefly discusses the dynamics of resettlement in the Southeast Asian context. The resettlement process of Indochinese refugees from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s involved three main asylum countries: Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Around 1,315,000 refugees were resettled to 30 countries, while 650,000 other Vietnamese refugees were resettled to the United States through the Orderly Departure Programme. Resettlement has been part of durable solutions. However, UNHCR and the UN Refugee Agency suggest that this resettlement management "proved costly to refugees and to some of the basic concepts of international protection" (UNGA, 1986). Later in June 1989, the Comprehensive Plan of Action on Indochinese (CPA) was ratified to control the mixed migration phenomenon. Since 2004, many (more than 100,000) Myanmar refugees have been resettled from Thailand and Malaysia.

The author mentions one good example of a transit center in the Philippines as a part of Emergency Transit Facility mechanisms. Since 2009, it has functioned as temporary accommodation for refugees who cannot stay in the first asylum country while waiting for resettlement to the third country. Similarly, Indonesia and Malaysia granted temporary shelter to Rohingya refugees in 2015.



**Munir-Asen, Katrina. 2018. “(Re)Negotiating Refugee Protection in Malaysia: Implications for Future Policy in Refugee Management.” Research report 29. Discussion Papers. Bonn: German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik.**

This research report discusses the challenges of refugee integration in Malaysia and the implications of Malaysian government action to continue hosting refugees in the absence of a refugee law framework or consistent refugee policy. The report is based on desk research and conversations with individuals involved in Malaysia’s refugee protection. This paper also explains the refugees’ key challenges in Malaysia, the lessons learned from refugee protection in non-camp/urban settings, and how to strengthen policy measures for effective refugee protection and integration. The research concludes that Malaysia has been successful in refugee management. However, the research suggests that the Malaysian government improve several policies addressing these points: (1) the driving factors that make refugees flee within and outside the Southeast Asia region and Malaysia, and (2) identifying factors to improve refugee integration in urban Malaysia. Finally, the paper urges ASEAN commitment to refugee protection and Human Security.

The paper outlines the current policies applied in Malaysia’s refugee management in the context of refugee integration in an urban setting. The paper delivers a sound literature review that promotes an understanding of the current problems discussed in scholarly publications. Further research based on fieldwork in Malaysian refugee communities will complete the study, as it will combine the past and the current situations.

**Palmgren, Pei. 2017. “Refugees ‘in Limbo’ and the Haphazard Asylum of Cities in Southeast Asia.” Online Journal. *Ijurr: International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 2017. <http://www.ijurr.org/spotlight-on-overview/spotlight-urban-refugee-crisis/refugees-limbo-haphazard-asylum-cities-southeast-asia/>.**

In this article, the author attempts to fill the gap in literature on refugee experiences adapting to countries of first asylum. Through five years of fieldwork (from 2010 – 2015) in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, the author explores the dynamics of refugee adaptation in asylum cities. The overall analysis suggests that asylum in Southeast Asia cities has been haphazard due to the states’ lack of protection mechanisms for refugees and asylum seekers. Also, they are prone to arbitrary arrest as well as deportation. Notable support for urban refugees and asylum seekers emerges solely from collaboration between NGOs and local state actors. Those actors assist the refugees in finding accommodation and jobs. In addition, the haphazard character of asylum in Malaysia and Thailand can be seen in how the refugees and asylum seekers are involved in the informal labor market due to the absence of legal employment opportunities.

The brief analysis given in this article is useful for those interested in learning about the current situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia and Thailand. This article can be developed further by adding layers that touch on the lives of refugee youth and children, or other themes such as education.

**Pittaway, Eileen, Linda Bartolomei, Geraldine Doney, UNSW, Shanthi Thambiah, Ayesha Faiz, Rachel Tan, and APRRN. 2019. "Refugee Women and Girls: Key to The Global Compact on Refugees: Kuala Lumpur Consultations Report." Kuala Lumpur. [http://aprrn.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/GCR-Project\\_Malaysia-Report\\_Oct-2019-Final.pdf](http://aprrn.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/GCR-Project_Malaysia-Report_Oct-2019-Final.pdf).**

The report contains findings and analysis of a project exploring the development and implementation of Global Compact on Refugees and its commitments to refugee women and girls. The project is structured in eight thematic areas: (1) sexual and gender-based violence, (2) participation of refugee women and girls in advocacy and decision making process, (3) education, (4) jobs and livelihoods, (5) protection, (6) health, food, energy, and infrastructure, (7) durable solutions, and (8) statelessness. The project leaders examine the eight thematic areas within eight diverse groups: girls aged 1 to 12, girls aged 13 to 17, women aged 18 – 25, women aged 25 to 50, older women, single women and single mothers, LGBTI women, and women with disabilities. The project reveals that the issues, violence, and barriers faced by refugee women and girls are structural and political. The final section of the report provides the participants' recommendations and solutions for the eight thematic problems.

The report is useful for those seeking a context to understanding the dynamics of refugee women and gender equality, including the problems and challenges faced by refugee women and girls involved in the advocacy and decision-making process. It also provides significant findings related to the intersectionality and human rights of refugee women and girls in Malaysia.

**Pocock, Nicola S., Rapeepong Suphanchaimat, Chee Khoon Chan, Erwin Martinez Faller, Nicholas Harrigan, Veena Pillai, and Kolitha Wickramage. 2018. "Reflections on Migrant and Refugee Health in Malaysia and the ASEAN Region." *BMC Proceedings* 12 (4): 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12919-018-0100-6>.**

This short report contains key points from studies presented at a Migrant and Refugee Health workshop held in Malaysia in 2017. The workshop's purpose was to identify gaps in knowledge and policies related to the health of migrants and refugees in Malaysia. The workshop was attended by those involved in the medical sector, civil society, and academics. The lessons and suggestions identified in this report are useful for the practice of and

research into migrant and refugee health. Included are mental health issues, protection of detained migrants, refugee women and children, sufficient dietary and nutrient provision, health care schemes, and financing for refugees and migrants (including undocumented migrants). The workshop also stresses the importance of research ethics, in which the designed research should comply with the “principle of beneficence and non-maleficence.” The workshop also emphasizes the need for a conceptual framework to comprehensively translate the research into policy and practices and at the same time inform and identify gaps in current policies and research.

This report is useful as it gives a brief yet insightful explanation of key lessons and how they may be utilized in future policies and practices to alleviate or even solve the current challenges related to refugee and migrant health issues.

**Shivakoti, Richa. 2017. “ASEAN’s Role in the Rohingya Refugee Crisis.” *FMR Review* 56: 75-77.**

The short article encourages ASEAN countries to enhance regional cooperation to improve protection of Rohingya refugees. It explains that during 2012-2016 the UNHCR estimated that more than 168,000 Rohingya refugees fled from Myanmar, and hundreds of thousands more crossed the border into Bangladesh. As Rohingya Muslims have moved to neighboring countries, Myanmar must work with Bangladesh and ASEAN members to resolve this crisis. The Rohingya crisis has become a massive humanitarian crisis with regional consequences, and is proof that ASEAN lacks the political and legal framework to deal with refugee issues. The article urges the ASEAN member countries to develop a refugee and asylum policy that includes guidance for actions in the case that a member state’s internal issues cause people to migrate to the neighboring country. Such a policy would help ease both the escalation inside the conflict state and defuse ethnic or religious tensions between countries.

Although very short, the article points out the one influential aspect of the unsolved ongoing problem in the Southeast Asia region, the Rohingya refugee crisis. It is a reminder to ASEAN observers and researchers, as well as policymakers, of the necessity of working frameworks in achieving an ASEAN Community.

**Tauson, Michaele. 2018. “Forgotten Futures: The Lives Of Refugee Children In Urban Areas Of Indonesia And Thailand.” *Save the Children*.**

This report examines problems in education and child protection among refugees and asylum-seekers in Indonesia and Thailand, especially in Jakarta and Bangkok. The author collects research data through literature review, site visits, interviews with key representatives among service providers, governments, organizations, and refugee community leaders,

and focus group discussions. The interviews are reinforced by informal conversations with refugee community members. This study finds several factors important to building an understanding of the challenges facing urban refugees: refugee policy and both origin and transit/host country policy—especially the resettlement climate, access to basic needs in the host country, lack of understanding and complexity in addressing children protection issues, and barriers to accessing education for children refugees. The research also finds a lack of women’s perspectives.

This report also discovers that improvements to the education system must start with the language barrier. The students must adapt to studying in a local school, with classes conducted in the local language. Another challenge is the teachers’ ability to address this situation, as teachers are not trained in how to teach non-native students. To address this situation, refugee community members have built community learning centers to improve education among refugees. The learning centers provide learning opportunities flexible to the needs of students. This strategy shows initiative among the refugee community, especially in regards to children and adolescents.

**Todd, Laurence, Adli Amirullah, and Wan Ya Shin. 2019. “The Economic Impact of Granting Refugees in Malaysia the Right to Work.” Policy paper 60. Policy Ideas. IDEAS.**

This is a policy paper published by a Malaysian think tank. The paper analyzes the economic impact on public finances of granting refugees in Malaysia the right to work. The paper aims to identify the extent of the impact and the longer-term economic contribution. The discussion is organized into four parts: the current state of refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia under Malaysian law; the potential economic impact of refugees’ rights to work in Malaysia; the short-term impacts of refugees working in Malaysia; and the potential and estimated economic contribution of refugees over a 20 year period. The paper offers key conclusions, as follows. First, granting refugees the right to work has a positive impact on the economy and public finances. Second, there is a potentially increasing benefit from refugees to work, in terms of more jobs and higher wages. Third, there is a potentially increasing refugee tax contribution. Fourth, governments must commitment to providing refugees with the right to work at an equal level with the locals to maximize their skills and productivity. Fifth, investment in equal education opportunities for refugees will benefit the country in the long term.

This study on refugees’ contributions to a country’s economy is essential to supporting advocacy efforts towards better treatment of refugees and asylum seekers; this policy paper fills a gap in the Malaysian context of refugee issues. Even though the paper does not clarify the research method used, the time frame of the research, and the conceptual framework used to frame the analyses, the paper is useful to understanding the situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia.

**Wahab, Andika Ab. 2017. "The Future of Forced Migrants in ASEAN." Heinrich Böll Stiftung (blog). August 2017. <https://www.boell.de/en/2017/08/02/future-forced-migrants-asean>**

The article discusses ASEAN's efforts to protect forced migrants within the region, and the commitments of ASEAN and member states in regards to forced migration. Tracing back to the past, ASEAN demonstrated a strong collective response to the Indo-Chinese refugee crisis. Nevertheless, that spirit of shared responsibility is unlikely to appear in the present day. The author argues that threats to security (terrorism, human trafficking, drugs, and arms smuggling) and the diverse nationalities of asylum seekers impede the ASEAN countries ability to cooperate in handling the flows of forced migration.

The author suggests several actions and strategies that may be adopted by ASEAN and its member states to protect forced migrants: (1) ASEAN countries should acknowledge and understand the root causes of forced migration, (2) Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia should play an essential role in the management of forced migration by shifting their approach from humanitarianism to a legal-based approach (formulate a legal framework), (3) AICHR, as the ASEAN human rights institution, should formulate a strategy to encourage ASEAN member states to sign the 1951 Refugee Convention, (4) provide support and build close collaboration with civil society organizations, and (5) develop a fourth ASEAN Community pillar as a platform to discuss regional solutions specific for the issue of forced migration.

**Yusoff, Siti Munirah Binti, Mohd Afandi Salleh, and Mohd Mahbubul. 2019. "Malaysian Policy towards Refugees and Asylum Seekers: A Case Study of Rohingya Refugees." *International Journal of Academic Research in Progressive Education and Development* 8 (3): 110–17.**

The study explains how the Malaysia government handles refugees and asylum seekers through available policy. Findings suggest that Malaysia's refugee management is still based on humanitarianism and is made possible through cooperation with UNHCR and NGOs. The authors conclude that the Rohingya refugee issue remains the collective responsibility of ASEAN countries and is no longer Myanmar's internal issue. ASEAN member states should have better regional cooperation to protect Rohingya refugees.

The paper provides a brief history of refugee arrivals in Malaysia, discussion the refugee documentation process conducted by UNHCR, and the mechanism of granting IMM13 permits by the Malaysia Ministry of Immigration. This information may be useful for researchers interested in conducting a study on refugee history in Malaysia.



# 3

## Selected Topics on Urban Refugees



### 3.1. Remaking of urban space

**Araya, Felipe, Kasey M. Faust, and Jessica A. Kaminsky. 2019. "Public Perceptions from Hosting Communities: The Impact of Displaced Persons on Critical Infrastructure." *Sustainable Cities and Society* 48 (101508): 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2019.101508>.**

This paper explains the perceived impact of displaced persons on hosting community infrastructure systems– water, wastewater, and transportation– at the city and national levels. To measure these perceptions, authors distributed surveys across 16 states in Germany; questions were formulated using ordinal scales ranging from strongly agree or disagree. The purpose was to predict the level of (dis)agreement with whether incoming displaced persons have impacted the said infrastructure systems at two different geographical scales. This study also attempts to correlate the results with place attachment theory, and this theory suggests a community that has developed an emotional bond with his/her place may develop a negative sentiment toward the disruptor. The test revealed that, within two geographical scales, no statistical differences were present in the perceived impact of displaced persons on the infrastructure system. Nonetheless, the result showed different perceptions toward each infrastructure system. The result suggests that when users perceive of one infrastructure as negatively impacted, they may incline to assume that other systems are also negatively impacted. These results may be linked to place attachment theory; this study also implies that place attachment is stronger at the city level. Residents that are native to the place and have lived at least five years in the city develop a stronger attachment and are likely to be more protective towards their environment. On the national scale, political circumstances, education, generation and household characteristics influence public attitudes towards this issue. This study exhibits the need to better understand the influence of public perception of infrastructure systems. Policymakers and engineers, particularly those responsible for infrastructure policy and design, should incorporate public perceptions into their project plans to avoid external



variables that may cause project distress.

The research in this paper explains the differences in public perceptions of the impact of displacement on critical infrastructure on two geographical scales (city and country). It also elaborates on how those perceptions can be formed and what influences them. Furthermore, this research confirms the importance of public perceptions and why they should be incorporated into planning and construction related to displacement.

**Baumler, Axel, and Anton Baare. 2017. “Cities Of Refuge In The Middle East: Bringing An Urban Lens To The Forced Displacement Challenge.” World Bank.**

This report describes several points of view of forced migration to urban areas in the Middle East North Africa (MENA), especially from a humanitarian-development perspective. Displaced people move from camps to urban areas triggered by thoughts of increased security, better life opportunity, and access to services. However, the government and service provider organizations need extra effort to adjust their policies and approaches to avoid overwhelming the host community. Support for displaced people in urban area should be followed by development assistance to organize suitable urban growth. The development response—especially building on the existing governance structure and the service provider system—should focus on long-term development and sustainable solutions. This report provides details about development challenges and solutions used in World Bank-financed projects, which are: (1) managing rapid urbanization and a city’s physical form; (2) improving living conditions; (3) creating Jobs and supporting livelihoods; (4) expanding the coverage and quality of basic infrastructure services; (5) bridging a divided city and fostering inclusion; (6) managing risks and post-disaster reconstruction; and (7) providing social protection to vulnerable populations in urban areas.

This report shows various typologies from humanitarian and development perspectives across cities in MENA, useful for policy makers facing the similar problem of forced migration in urban setting. It provides an understanding of the situation in urban areas and the displacement settings to define relevant responses.

**Bauder, Harald. 2017. “Sanctuary Cities: Policies and Practices in International Perspective.” *International Migration* 55 (2): 174–87. <https://doi.org/10.1111/imig.12308>.**

The article examines urban sanctuary policies and practices in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, specifically exploring the common features as well as differences between the three countries. The author reviews English language literature and grey literature to gain insight into policies and practice of urban sanctuary and how they have been implemented in those countries. The main differences is how migrants and refugees are treated at the urban

and national levels. The US and Canada share a similar viewpoint, that is, to enable undocumented migrants to have better lives and access to municipal services (health, education, and other services). However, policies and practices in both countries appear merely to lessen migrants' burden rather than to tackle the cause of the problems. On the other hand, UK policies and practices emphasize raising awareness of refugees, fostering hospitality values, and transforming the public perception towards refugees. There are common urban sanctuary aspects distilled from three countries, namely legality, discourse, identity formation, and scale. These aspects may be combined for future approaches in sanctuary cities. The nature of urban sanctuary policies and practices is in defiance of national law and policies, and there is no single policy and practice that can precisely define urban sanctuary.

The article sheds light on the concept of an urban sanctuary that heavily relies on national contexts. The analysis of urban sanctuary policies and practices could perhaps be enriched by examining other countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, to gain alternate perspectives from third-country/resettlement countries in the Global South.

**Brandt, Jessica. 2018. "Implementing the Global Compact for Migration: Ideas for City Engagement." Policy brief. The Brookings Institution.**

The policy brief summarizes the results of a workshop convened by the city of New York and The Brookings Institution on implementation and subsequent materials of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. The compact is an international instrument that seeks to balance the human rights of every individual (regardless of their migration status) against the state's prerogatives, to acknowledge that priorities and capabilities of governments vary across nations, and to form a relatively flexible and universal standard that can also consider differences. Local governments are the first receivers of migrants and at the fore of migration governance, resulting in local governments having operational capabilities and relevant policy knowledge. Hence, the article presents several recommendations that may be utilized by local governments for migration governance. Migration governance may be successful if GCM adoption and implementation starts from the local level.

The document is informative and insightful. The proposed recommendations can be seen as forms of empowerment by Global South governments that are prone to crisis and pressures due to limited resources. The discussion on reducing vulnerabilities, providing basic services, and advancing social cohesion could inform relevant stakeholders in formulating proper studies and policies/framework for refugee management.

**Chan, Deland, Kevin Hsu, and Maryanna Rogers. 2015. “Renewing Places for People: Training Centered Designers and Planners to Foster Inclusive Cities.” In 8. Sweden: Sustasis Foundation.**

The article describes the importance of the human-centered approach in design by providing two study cases demonstrating a remarkable collaboration of students, local youth, elderly groups, and the local community in San Francisco. The projects took place in Chinatown neighborhoods and nearby public spaces in San Francisco. Methods included developing a human-centered curriculum and urban observation toolkit in an attempt to alleviate displacement and enhance social integration and economic oriented development, which is still being used today. The article argues that youth must be integrated into the implementation process, validating their existence in the community as ‘equal citizens.’ Their involvement may help avoid negative impacts such as marginalization and exclusion and promote advocacy planning in social activities.

The article sheds light on how tools and mechanisms that integrate both human behavior and social activities can be utilized by urban designers, urban planners, and other relevant professionals along with the local community to foster inclusive spaces and negate discrimination. As refugees and asylum seekers are also parts of the cities, utilizing human-centered methods creates an inclusive urban space that is also adaptive and responsive to their needs and culture.

**Collins, Francis Leo. 2012. “Transnational Mobilities and Urban Spatialities: Notes from the Asia-Pacific.” *Progress in Human Geography* 36 (3): 316–35. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132511423126>.**

The article provides in-depth conceptualizations to understand the intersection between transnational mobilities and urban spatialities. The author approaches this intersection through ideas of relationality and territoriality. To fully comprehend the intersection/sphere, shifting the viewpoint of migrants from temporary to ordinary urban dwellers is crucial. Following this argument, “urban” is not a bounded territory but elastic: it contains many layers constituted by migrants as the urban actors who expand cities, connect different spaces within/outside territories, their mobilities, and transnationalism (relation to the outside urban space). The article uses illustrations by international students and migrant workers in New Zealand and Australia to scrutinize “permanent temporariness.” Several key points derived from the analysis are “the importance of paying attention to the diversity of migration experiences,” and the idea that the contested status of migrants, whether temporary or permanent, contributes to the making and remaking of urban spaces (physically-socially). Additionally, the article suggests paying attention to several concepts as implications of this “permanent temporariness” found in migrants’ everyday life, namely “unintended segregation,” “institutional management,” and “ethnic enclave.”

The article is explanatory and contains rich information regarding the concept of the “making and remaking of urban spaces” through the lens of migrants as ordinary urban actors. The third and fourth sections may help build the basis of our research and argumentation on refugee management in a transitory context. There is an analysis of two dimensions of permanent temporariness: “permanence” and “temporality.” These dimensions are reflected in the analysis of urban components (infrastructure, transport, public space, and housing), which play an essential role in sustaining their continual presence. Reflecting on the fact that refugees in Indonesia face a protracted situation and at the same time unintentionally transform our urban fabric, these two dimensions may assist academics and researchers to formulate proper strategies and recommend state authorities to revisit policies in handling refugees.

**Cronin-de-Chavez, Anna, Shahid Islam, and Rosemary R.C. McEachan. 2019. “Not a Level Playing Field: A Qualitative Study Exploring Structural, Community and Individual Determinants of Greenspace Use amongst Low-Income Multi-Ethnic Families.” *Health & Place* 56 (March): 118–26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2019.01.018>.**

This article explores key enablements and barriers of green space use amongst low-income, multi-ethnic, young families that may encounter challenges in visiting or using public greenspace, i.e., parks and green squares. The authors conducted semi-structured in-depth interviews with 13 parents and focus group discussions with seven mothers. Most participants were parents of children aged 0-3 years. Findings suggest that there are nine core theme determinants of green space use. Enablers include peer support, social influences from family and community, positive interactions, and outdoor activities that involve interaction with nature and people. Barriers include lack of security, safety concerns, lack of knowledge on the locations of green space (accessibility), and fear of experiencing accidents or crimes. The article provides several recommendations to increase the use of green spaces among multi-ethnic, young families that cover aspects of improvement of greenspace and activities that could be co-produced with the local community, and proposes a framework of determinants for future consideration.

The article may be relevant to urban planning professionals and other stakeholders that deal with developing and providing infrastructure to marginalized communities. However, the collected data may be biased since the interviewed participants were mostly unemployed females. Data collection could be more comprehensive if the sample involved male parents since they may have different experiences or motivations to use greenspaces.

**Curry, Troy, Arie Croitoru, Andrew Crooks, and Anthony Stefanidis. 2019. “Exodus 2.0: Crowdsourcing Geographical and Social Trails of Mass Migration.” *Journal of Geographical Systems* 21 (1): 161–87. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10109-018-0278-1>.**

The paper analyses the utilization of crowd-generated data in encouraging migration in recent mass displacement situations. The paper's purpose is to promote a new frontier in understanding factors concerning mass migration and the use of open data on geographical and social information. Based on a case study of the recent migration wave to Europe from the Middle East and northern Africa, the study provides an overview of the migration process. It also examines how migration-relevant information is gathered and used to guide the movement of displaced populations. The paper labels the new migration paradigm in the digital age as Exodus 2.0, highlighting that the new migration paradigm relies on "information" as a commodity. This article analyzes volunteered geographic information (VGI) and ambient geographic information (AGI) of migrant data sharing. The paper argues that the emergence of crowdsourced data provides an opportunity to understand current mass migration processes better. This is mainly because crowdsourced data sources portray real-time information regarding sites, pathways, conditions, and activities that take place on the ground through the doers' eyes. The paper provides examples of how open-sourced data are mined, visualized, and used by migrants, including geographical data (maps) and social data (migrants' social networks). Nevertheless, the paper warns that because the majority of crowdsourced data are not explicitly produced for migration analysis, it can be potentially biased, with data quality issues that must be resolved before the data can be used to model refugee movement. Still, the paper concludes that crowdsourcing data is useful for studying mass migration and paving the way for a new cross-disciplinary migration information science.

Within migration studies, mass migration movement is an empty territory that has barely been explored by scholars due to difficulties in gathering data. This paper studying current migration behavior is useful in filling this gap. The paper is a solid foundation for a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to the study of mass migration.

### **EUROCITIES. 2010. "EUROCITIES Charter on Integrating Cities." EUROCITIES.**

This document briefly presents an overview regarding the Eurocities commitment to integrating migrants in European cities while also promoting good management of migration. It contains a set of principles aimed at fostering a cohesive network of European cities. The principles were further developed into an "Integrating Cities Charter" by the Eurocities Working Group on Migration and Integration, with the cities of Berlin, Leeds, London, and Rome as cities partners. The consortium believes that migration may benefit the cities economically, culturally, and socially. However, other cities still face disparity despite the benefits, which becomes a primary barrier to integration. In tackling those challenges, the charter describes policymakers' duties and responsibilities, and that of service providers, employers, and buyers of goods and services across European cities. They are expected to embrace diversity and provide equal opportunities for all migrants and residents.

This document provides useful insights into how cities should work together to foster integration by acknowledging diversity and facilitating and supporting the integration process of migrants. This perspective and the proposed actions could set a good precedent for countries in the Global South to follow to formulate policies that welcome and assist refugees and asylum seekers.

**EUROCITIES. 2010. “EUROCITIES Cities Grow: Integration of Migrants through Economic Activity in Cities.” EURO CITIES.**

The document sets out the “CITIES-GROW” project’s main deliverables, a continuation of the ImpleMentoring project, coordinated by EURO CITIES and supported by the Migration Policy Group, Migration Work-CIC, and the Migration Policy Institute. Participating cities included 16 major European cities such as Athens, Barcelona, Gdansk, Dresden, Helsinki, and Munich. At a glance, the project will advance the previous peer reviewed model on actions and policy implementation in which the mentoring cities would share their experiences and offer support to the implementing cities to address gaps found in the ImpleMentoring project and the Integrating Cities Charter. The project will be executed under four thematic clusters, whereby the mentor cities and implementing cities will be facilitated and supported by an expert partner/organization.

The document is useful to relevant stakeholders of countries that host refugees because the project is a manifestation of practical advice and strategies delivered by European city leaders facing the refugee crisis. There are some learning points, especially in the overall mechanisms and deliverables of the project, that could be useful to countries with large populations of refugees to collaboratively prepare policies and actions that ensure equal opportunities and protection of refugee rights.

**EUROCITIES. 2010. “EUROCITIES Statement on Asylum in Cities.” EURO CITIES.**

The document briefly describes European cities’ role in welcoming, handling, and managing the influx of refugees from the Middle East and Africa. It begins with a statement of how Eurocities relate to refugees and asylum seekers by not treating them under an emergency framework but by handling them through more structural, sustainable, and practical measures that take human rights into account. Each city in Europe has a role, such as sharing responsibilities and solidarity across European cities to ensure long term management, supporting refugee and asylum seekers’ social integration through organized efforts by local level/stakeholders, building good understanding, and promoting a positive perception of refugees and asylum seekers to the locals to foster social cohesion and eliminate negative stigmatization, and providing an adequate long-term and sustainable funding scheme. As cities are considered as partners of EU institutions and UNHCR, they should be involved in

the decision-making process.

This document provides insight into how cities should respond to the refugee and asylum seeker phenomena. The overall discussion could inform academics, researchers, and policy makers in Indonesia by providing an overview of structural refugee governance. It also provides room for local level stakeholders to deliver support and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers while considering issues of human rights. The study focuses on long-term measures instead of an emergency framework.

**EUROCITIES. 2014. “The ImpleMentoring Method: An Overview City-to-City Mentoring - Helping Partner Cities to Implement Change.” EURO CITIES.**

The document briefly describes the ImpleMentoring method recommended by Eurocities as a joint effort of European cities to advance their collaboration as stated in the Integrating Cities charter. Beyond knowledge exchange, the method is expected to transform into practice all the action plans and commitments detailed in the charter. Funded by the European Commission, the method would establish a series of transnational projects, DIVE (Diversity and Equality in European Cities) and MIXITIES. The projects work on four themes formulated to foster the integration of migrants, covering issues of public perception, diversity and equality, participation, and engagement. Through a peer-review model, the two projects will focus on city-to-city mentoring that involves evaluating cities’ performances based on the designated benchmark, extracting recommendations, and providing key factors to trigger successful integration. The projects’ key stakeholders are mentor city officers, implementing city officers, expert facilitators, and project coordinators.

This document sheds light on how cities can prepare for transnational policy and projects that are progressive and action-oriented, not only to accommodate the needs of migrants but also to provide a platform for mentoring and exchanging ideas between cities. The overall discussion on the ImpleMentoring method practice is useful to researchers, policymakers, and city leaders, as the discussion suggests benchmark themes and possible scenarios or practices that may be implemented by both mentor cities and mentee cities. Accordingly, the method is feasible for adoption by host cities (e.g., ASEAN cities) to formulate collaborative policies or projects that would help improve refugee management.

**El-Bialy, Rowan, and Shree Mulay. 2015. “Two Sides of the Same Coin: Factors That Support and Challenge the Wellbeing of Refugees Resettled in a Small Urban Center.” *Health & Place* 35 (September): 52–59. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2015.06.009>.**

The article examines place-related determinants that affect the mental health and wellbeing

of refugees while also analyzing the coping resources used during their resettling process in a small urban center in St. John's, Canada. The authors conducted 17 in-depth interviews with ten former refugees (five males, five females), with eight participants arriving as government-assisted refugees and two participants arriving as asylum seekers. Findings suggest that refugees' challenges and coping resources emerge from the same aspects, such as the built and natural environment, culture and history of the place, and social support availability. Therefore, it signifies that the resettlement context is fluid, changing over time and across various refugee experiences, which later affects refugees' health and wellbeing. For instance, refugees who experienced urban shock were confronted with social and physical isolation due to the city's climate, location, and small size. Conversely, some refugees felt that the therapeutic landscapes and the city's size offered a sense of familiarity and a calming atmosphere. Further research could explore how the natural environment influences refugee and asylum seekers' mental health and wellbeing.

The paper provides a different perspective on refugees' challenges and experiences after being resettled to a new country. The paper presents unique findings regarding aspects of resettlement that influence the health and wellbeing of refugees. The findings may be relevant to government officials, urban planners and designers, and policymakers in preparing a proper place to ease the burden and trauma that refugees faced before resettlement and a place to facilitate positive experiences for refugees.

**Fawaz, Mona. 2017. "Planning and the Refugee Crisis: Informality as a Framework of Analysis and Reflection." *Planning Theory* 16 (1): 99-115. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1473095216647722>.**

The paper thoroughly discusses how combining two urban frameworks, informality and resilience, may provide tools to address planning issues, especially in regards to the refugee crisis. The author argues that the refugee crisis is part of the urban crisis because it touches on shelter and livelihoods, which are essential to the urban discourse. The paper presents Nab'ah, an area of high refugee concentration, as a case study. As one of Beirut's oldest informal settlements, Nab'ah has become a top destination for migrant workers from Ethiopia and Nigeria. The study surveyed 508 units in Nab'ah in January 2014 and found that most dwellers were Syrian refugees. Findings suggest that Syrian refugees could access information regarding housing opportunities through the established social networks among refugees. Thus, it implies that social networks as informal institutions have provided an informal mode of "self-help" settlements and a means for this neighborhood to be more adaptive while enhancing the neighborhood's resilience in tackling the refugee settlement crisis caused by the refugee population boom.

Nevertheless, the dynamics of "informal and resilient" shelters in Nab'ah have brought about negative changes to the neighborhood, such as deterioration in the physical infrastructure



and the urban fabric and a rise in housing prices due to refugees' high demands. On the other hand, security improved. Since the Syrian refugees and families arrived, violence or fights have rarely occurred, making the neighborhood a safe place for children and women.

The article is a bold statement to encourage planners, planning theorists, professionals, and stakeholders to see the refugee crisis as an urban crisis. It sheds light on refugee settlement discourse by utilizing the concepts of informality and resilience to gain insights into the struggle of Syrian refugees to acquire housing in a dense urban neighborhood. There are important discussions and significant findings related to the dynamics of informal housing run by realtors and landlords and the urgency to re-evaluate housing policies. It also urges us to shift our paradigm in responding to refugee needs (physical infrastructure), from humanitarianism or emergency response to a notion that acknowledges refugees' protracted situation as a part of urban reality.

**Geoffroy, Agnès de. 2005. "IDPs and Urban Planning in Khartoum." *FMR Review* 24: 38-39.**

The article briefly explores the need for the Sudan government to reformulate its urban planning model since it has violated IDPs rights in the Karthoum metropolis. There has been a high number of forcible relocation and demolitions of IDP houses by the government. The 325,000 IDPs live in four official IDP camps located outside urban boundaries, and an additional population of 1.5 million IDPs is concentrated in squatter areas on the outskirts of Khartoum. These IDPs live in a deprived situation since the government has not provided electricity or clean water to all IDPs.

The overall analysis suggests that the demolitions and forced relocations of these vulnerable groups were driven by a corrupt system that drove up land prices, which led the government to abruptly relocate IDPs and to sell the land to investors and wealthy groups. Several organizations have attempted to reform this unequal practice and have petitioned the Khartoum Ministry of Planning. The petition demands a transparent timeframe for rezoning and distributing health, water, and electricity services, along with transparency and equity in plot allocation. It also emphasizes voluntary repatriation or relocation. The author concludes that the management of displaced people, especially in Sudan, is highly political and disadvantageous to vulnerable groups; thus, it is crucial to adopt a new and specific IDP regulation as an attempt to find durable solutions for IDPs.

**Gemenetzi, Georgia. 2017. "Thessaloniki: The Changing Geography of the City and the Role of Spatial Planning." *Cities* 64 (April): 88-97. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2016.10.007>**

The article provides an overview of the evolution of Thessaloniki city planning. The study scrutinizes how the refugee crisis, conflicts, and geopolitics within Thessaloniki and the city's frail spatial planning and management system have changed the urban geography of Thessaloniki. Findings suggest that several key events affected the city's social cohesion, its landscape, and its planning and management systems. Those key events include the great fire, the influx of refugees from Asia Minor that occurred in 1912-1949, intense urbanization and the fall of communist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe between 1950-2008, and lastly, the fiscal and refugee crises that started in 2009. The paper further highlights notable changes in Thessaloniki, particularly the establishment of new businesses by Asia Minor refugees, which revitalized the city's economy and the rise of grassroots initiatives to support vulnerable groups. Nevertheless, the progress of developing planning policies was slightly downgraded. Some projects intended to upgrade the city were not implemented due to a lack of political will, while abolishing the Planning Organization of Thessaloniki in 2014 exacerbated the deterioration of city planning. The article concludes that the only option for Thessaloniki to reinforce its spatial planning is through the adoption of resilience policies that allow for challenges and diversities to be incorporated into the strategic adaptation and narratives for city development.

The article provides insight into Thessaloniki's struggle to bounce back from social, economic, and environmental crises and its attempt to reinforce spatial planning. The study provides an in-depth analysis of the geopolitics that affected the development of Thessaloniki. The city planning system's inconsistency due to a changing political landscape resonates with the current planning system in many countries, such as Indonesia. Thus, this paper could inform policymakers, planners, and professionals as to how cities may include urban refugee issues into their spatial planning.

**Grabska, Katarzyna. 2006. "Marginalization in Urban Spaces of the Global South: Urban Refugees in Cairo." *Journal of Refugee Studies* 19 (3): 287–307. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fel014>.**

This article discusses common problems facing refugee communities in urban spaces within host countries, namely marginalization in all sectors and inadequate assistance from stakeholders. Usually, arguments to justify such poor treatment are the social and economic burdens added by the refugee community to the host society and the refugees' inability to adapt to the host society's culture and traditions. This paper challenges these arguments by examining the case of Sudanese refugees in Cairo, Egypt. Egypt is one of the founding signatories to both the 1951 Convention and the OAU Refugee Convention. Under the charters, Egypt is obliged to provide asylum and protect refugees' rights in its territory. However, because Egyptian law does not allow resident refugees to acquire citizenship, their descendants remain transit foreigners. In the long term, the situation hinders a full integration into the host community. More so, survival in developing countries' urban

settings is always tough, especially for undocumented refugees. This article shows that despite social exclusion and lack of access to rights and services, Sudanese refugees had helped transform Cairo's urban spaces by contributing to the economy and cultural development and becoming one of the social agents of the host society.

The article provides insights into how documented/undocumented status affects refugee vulnerability and determines their coping mechanisms. The paper found that documented/undocumented status affects refugee vulnerabilities but does not create differences in their coping mechanisms. Legal status protects refugee rights even though it does not spare them from economic struggle and the local population's xenophobia attitudes. In contrast, undocumented status results in restrictions on freedom of movement and limited access to rights and services. Nevertheless, urban settings provide opportunities such as means to hide undocumented status, economic activities, and avenues to overcome social insecurity. The paper argues that both documented and undocumented statuses have the same effect on coping mechanisms. It is also important to note that both refugee communities and local communities in urban settings are on the same page in that they both qualify as urban poor and have similar coping mechanisms in dealing with economic struggles. In the social sphere, the refugee communities rely on Sudanese associations to provide social security and basic necessities such as education, employment opportunities, and health services. Simultaneously, organized refugees are more recognized in urban society, and organization facilitates integration into society.

**Kouider, Noémie, Samer Saliba, Jihad Farah, Leon Televizian, and Elie Mansour. 2017. "Public Service Delivery in Contexts of Urban Displacement: A Discussion Paper on the Importance of Strengthening Public Service Delivery in Urban Humanitarian Context." Discussion paper. International Rescue Committee.**

The document lays out the linkages between humanitarian and development sectors for more effective and sustainable urban service delivery to displaced populations. The goal is to review, document, and learn from various projects and approaches around the world considered successful in creating such linkages. Using literature review and case studies analysis, the document identifies three approaches for humanitarian actors to achieve more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive public services: strengthening the organizational capacity of public service providers, specifically in planning, financial management, crisis response funding, human resource management, procurement, and information systems; improving coordination with and between humanitarian responders and existing urban service providers, which can include multiple levels of governments, NGOs and CSOs; and promoting inclusivity instead of working in silos, which often happens during a crisis response, as well as paying more attention to the inclusion of voices of displaced people throughout the process.

As useful as it may be for humanitarian actors as its target audience, the document is also useful for urban stakeholders who face increased pressure from the impact of forced migration but may not be familiar with responding to such a crisis. It can provide insights into how to work better with humanitarian actors, how and which sectors or services may benefit from better collaboration, and how such collaborations have worked in some cities or urban settings. The annex provides a list of reviewed case studies, which include successful cases of responses to public service delivery to displaced populations and cases that focus on organizational development of local governments in such contexts. This study is beneficial for research focusing on improving local policy in responding to displacement in the urban context.

**Maynard, Victoria, Elizabeth Parker, Rahayu Yoseph-Paulus, and David Garcia. 2018. "Urban Planning Following Humanitarian Crises: Supporting Urban Communities and Local Governments to Take the Lead." *Environment and Urbanization* 30 (1): 265–82. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956247817732727>.**

This paper analyses UN-Habitat's intervention in supporting local actors to undertake urban planning in post-humanitarian crises. It compares the case of Banda Aceh city in Indonesia, which was devastated after being hit by the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, and the case of Tacloban city in the Philippines that suffered from Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Fieldwork was conducted during July and August 2016. Interviews were conducted with 33 respondents in Indonesia and 19 respondents in the Philippines. The study found that even though urban planning in post-humanitarian crises empowers communities and governments to manage recovery, those involved may lack knowledge, experience, time, tools, or technology. This paper offers key lessons for organizations intending to support urban communities and local governments to undertake urban planning following humanitarian crises: (1) consider the intervention's speed and scale depending on its mandate, context, capacity, and the funding availability; (2) enhance the local government's capacity by involving them in leading the planning process; (3) coordinate a task force for recovery and reconstruction planning; (4) involve community leaders to gain community support; and (5) gaining the support of national government agencies to obtain urban planning guidelines, technical expertise, and coordination. The research acknowledges its limitations: it is difficult to capture the interviewees' details because the research was undertaken approximately two and a half years after the Philippines' Super Typhoon Haiyan and 12 years after the Indonesian Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

Even though the paper does not discuss refugees and forced displacement, it provides important lessons to understand city planning challenges in post humanitarian crises. This paper will be valuable for city planners working in post-disaster situations in which displacement occurs.

**Mountz, Alison. 2011. "Where Asylum-Seekers Wait: Feminist Counter-Topographies of Sites between States." *Gender, Place & Culture* 18 (3): 381–99. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2011.566370>.**

The article examines the temporal sites encountered and/or inhabited by migrants during their journeys to resettlement countries. For migrants (refugees, asylum seekers), the meaning of the in-between zone goes beyond physical space or containers. It may represent protracted stagnation, disruption, an absence of protection, and ambiguity of legal status hence inability to make claims. Scholars often study temporal zones under Agamben's idea of "zones of exception". However, the author argues that Agamben's notion should be revisited because there are growing numbers of migration academics, particularly transnational feminist scholars, who expand upon, reassess, and challenge Agamben's idea, which is seen as a "gender-blind, unspecified body", weighing in sovereign power and inadvertently diminishing the core concept and potentiality of temporal zones. These scholars utilize feminist counter-topography, asserting that this analytical lens reveals a gendered process of exclusion, hence looking beyond the narrative of exclusion itself.

The qualitative method uses data from private interviews with representatives/advocates of detainees (Afghan nationals) and participant observation in Lombok, Indonesia. The authors conclude that refugees trapped remotely, in in-between zones, are intentionally "discarded" by the Australian government so that their existence is not exposed to Australians whose country is intended to be a resettlement country. There is also a separation of male and female detainees, where female detainees maintain contact with their advocates and activists in Australia. This separation, as advocates claim, is a violation of UNHCR principles. It marks the role of counter-topographies: political struggle, mobilization, and transnational communication in addressing the exclusion faced by detainees.

This study's relevance lies in the discussion of counter-topographies as a tool to analyze solidarity and the collective movements of refugees in limbo and how they maintain their connection with relatives and advocates in both home and resettlement countries. Also, transnational feminist critiques of Agamben's idea are insightful and provide a new analytical lens to see and reflect upon refugee management in Indonesia, which is still highly influenced by state sovereignty.

**Muggah, Robert, and Adriana Abdenur. 2018. "Refugees and the City: The Twenty-First-Century Front Line." Research paper 2. World Refugee Council Research Paper No. 2. World Refugee Council**

This paper examines the characteristics and dynamics of urban refugee movements and the challenges confronted by cities in addressing refugee protection and care. It features the role of cities as the front line for forced migration. Cities are believed to have the ability

to facilitate personal anonymity, connectivity to dense social networks, formal and informal labor opportunities, and access to essential services that are otherwise unavailable in rural areas. However, urban refugees are often vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, deportation, and face stigmas. It further outlines evidence countering the perception that refugees represent a threat to the public order, i.e., refugees are not typically associated with increases in crime or social disturbances. A few studies show that they even appear to generate long-term net benefits to local economies. Several cities are starting to form alliances to improve their responses and share experiences. Global commitments and agendas, such as SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and the Global Compact on Refugees, and the UNHCR, have taken only piecemeal approaches to find solutions to urban refugee issues. The authors concluded the article with recommendations.

The paper provides thorough explanations equipped with scientific evidence on the dynamics, challenges, and potentials of cities responding to urban refugees. Such scientific evidence could be instrumental in understanding the current status and how to move forward. Although it did mention some cases from the Global South, none of those were from the Southeast Asian context.

**Rishbeth, Clare, Dominika Blachnicka-Ciacek, Radhika Bynon, and Tobias Stapf. 2017. "Refugees Welcome in Parks: A Resource Book." University of Sheffield.**

The document discusses how parks and public spaces can improve refugee and asylum seekers' wellbeing and local integration through activities and ideas for supporting better access to positive experiences and enjoyment of parks. The study conducted interviews in London, Sheffield, and Berlin with 16 refugees and asylum seekers, and 35 interviews with various stakeholders from both refugee communities and green spaces. Nine initiatives are highlighted as case studies in which each promotes one or all of three aims; (1) increase autonomy to improve confidence to make well-informed choices about which place to go in a city or town; (2) support respite potentially provided by outdoor areas and activities to improve mental health, and; (3) use and build upon social networks, both between organizations and refugees and asylum seekers and within networks of their own. The case studies presented were initiated by the refugee sector or the greenspace sector, and involve collaborations between various organizations.

The resource is organized into four key themes: (1) find - discussing the importance of cultural understanding and the diversity of parks, and the kind of information needed before visiting; (2) chat - discussing the importance of friends, or a facilitated group to increase confidence needed to visit parks; (3) join In - discussing the range of activities potentially offered by parks and open public spaces to improve wellbeing and give a sense of purpose; (4) feel Better - discussing how the natural environment can improve mental health. These four frameworks are intended to have mutual connections and influences, which can help

address barriers to the use of open public spaces, particularly among refugees and asylum seekers.

From this study, seven ideas about parks and how to welcome refugees are presented both for people working in the refugee and green space sectors. These suggestions could be useful as guidelines for further collaboration and action between the two sectors to improve accessibility and potential use of open public spaces for refugee and asylum seekers' wellbeing.

**Rishbeth, Clare, Dominika Blachnicka-Ciacek, and Jonathan Darling. 2019. "Participation and Wellbeing in Urban Greenspace: 'Curating Sociability' for Refugees and Asylum Seekers." *Geoforum* 106 (November): 125–34. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2019.07.014>.**

The article examines how refugees and asylum seekers experience surrounding urban greenspaces and whether greenspace can provide a sense of inclusion and respite during difficult situations. Data was collected through interviews with refugees and asylum seekers in Berlin, London, and Sheffield. The article gives balanced perspectives on how refugees and asylum seekers perceive urban greenspace. Restorative qualities of urban greenspace are experienced when it offers a sense of familiarity to the new arrivals. It fosters connections back to the part of their identity that has been neglected throughout the migration journey. In addition, engagement in activities in the public space provides opportunity for contact between refugees and local communities. Despite those benefits, feelings of uncertainty about understanding the rules and behavior in using greenspaces and concerns around personal safety still hinder the possibilities of urban greenspace in creating more relaxed and informal activities. Thus, while natural features bring different perceptions among them, larger and highly managed central parks with multiple facilities are preferred by refugees and asylum seekers.

The article introduces the approach of "Curated Sociability" as a facilitated form of interactions and activities with refugees and asylum seekers to overcome barriers and challenges in using urban greenspace to improve their wellbeing and facilitate integration into the new place. Within these curated activities, presenting a social context, offering purpose and structure, providing easy ways to join in, and developing a sense of control to gradually establish footholds of belonging are some qualities that are reflected in the process of engagement. In the process, the nature public space will constantly change through new encounters, shaping the parks for a shared future. These findings are insightful for both people working in the refugee sector and the greenspace sector to create more inclusive public urban greenspace and to improve its qualities for residents' wellbeing, including refugees and asylum seekers.

**Saliba, Samer, and Elizabeth Bleuer. 2017. “The Right to the City for Urban Displaced: A Review of the Barriers to Safe and Equal Access to the City for the Displaced Residents of Dar Es Salaam.” London: International Rescue Committee.**

The report presents an analysis of urban dwellers’ struggles, especially urban displaced populations, to gain access to services and economic opportunities in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This report’s results are derived from a qualitative approach consisting of two desk reviews and three rounds of field research involving interviews, FGD, and consultation activities. The report adopts Henri Lefebvre’s concept of the “Right to the City” to ascertain formal and informal limitations that marginalized groups encounter while taking into account their legal rights and practical capacity to access these services. The report elaborates at least four main challenges concerning the protection of urban displaced populations, and provides three recommendations to address these challenges from humanitarian actors’ perspectives.

As per its intention, the report is suitable to appraise and affect operational practice and policies for humanitarian actors in urban programming. Even though the report focuses on Dar es Salaam, the challenges and recommendations are relevant to the general case in humanitarian sectors, especially within the urban context in cities or countries that authorize residence and employment of urban displaced populations with particular conditions.

**Sitko, Pamela, and Antonio Massella. 2019. “Building Urban Resilience in the Face of Crisis: A Focus on People and Systems.” Paper. Global Alliance for Urban Crises.**

This paper is one of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises’ knowledge product series. The paper emphasizes the need to balance short-term humanitarian responses with long-term development. It outlines five priorities for building resilient urban systems, summarizing desk review results and perspectives of GAUC members from different elements of society, i.e., local authorities, academia, built environment practitioners, and humanitarian and development agencies. One of the priorities, “understand and act on the pledge to leave no one behind,” highlights various groups still experiencing discrimination in urban development or difficulties in gaining access to the benefits of such development, including refugees.

The paper helps readers to understand the interconnection between crisis management and urban development. Therefore, in the case of refugee-related issues, this paper is relevant for both humanitarian agencies that support refugees and the immediate needs of development agencies to ensure the inclusion of refugees in long-term urban development agendas.



**UN Habitat. 2015. “Habitat III Issue Papers – Migration And Refugees In Urban Areas.” UN Habitat.**

This issue paper takes stock of strategic issues and recommendations on migration and refugees pertaining to urban development as part of the journey towards the New Urban Agenda. Its preparation was co-led by UNHCR, OHCHR, and IOM with contributions from UNITAR, UN DESA, FAO, UN-Habitat, and UNFPA, and was finalized in May 2015. It provides a summary of issues regarding national legal and policy frameworks to address mobile populations, the need to integrate migration concerns into development planning, challenges faced by municipalities in doing so, and bridging the gap between humanitarian and development matters. The issue paper further recommends critical drivers for action, including planning for population movements, enhancing participation and empowerment, and building strengthened partnerships. It also enlists platforms and projects aligned with the cause, such as The Global Forum on Migration and Development and The World Migration Report 2015 – Migrants and Cities.

The paper provides a practical summary as a guideline for policymaking and a basic understanding for further research on migration and refugees in urban areas.

**Vallaster, Christine, Sylvia von Wallpach, and Sebastian Zenker. 2018. “The Interplay between Urban Policies and Grassroots City Brand Co-Creation and Co-Destruction during the Refugee Crisis: Insights from the City Brand Munich (Germany).” *Cities* 80 (October): 53–60. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2017.07.013>.**

The article examines the creation or destruction of city branding, using a case study of Munich, Germany. As Munich is a point of entry and intersection for refugee movement, it allows for observation for a firm dynamics of city brand co-creation. Data from in-depth interviews of 18 residents from various backgrounds and interests were analyzed using an inductive categorization process, which involved coding and cross-case analysis. City branding is a result of a process and negotiation between different stakeholders. It is co-created or co-destroyed by both the collective action of its citizens and the urban policies. Like in the case of Munich, a positive branding will change if there is any change in goals, shared values, and the power level of various stakeholders. The authors question whether Munich’s branding as a refugee-welcoming city only produces a positive impact since the same branding can trigger fear over crime, poverty, and terror, which is how some citizens perceive refugee impacts. Moreover, co-created city branding messages are understood differently by different people, depending on their personal experiences, values, and goals. Whether a city branding is positive or negative will depend on its public discourse over important issues.

The article explains how citizens’ actions as a response to refugee issues can influence the

dynamics of a city brand, even in a city with a long-standing positive branding. It does not discuss how the government has responded to the citizens' collective actions or if those actions led to a specific change in urban policies. Further study on the impact of the refugee crisis on a city's branding is necessary.



### 3.2. Shelters, camps, urban refugee housing

**Biran, Adam, Wolf-Peter Schmidt, Lemlem Zeleke, Haron Emukule, Hla Khay, Julian Parker, and Dorothy Peprah. 2012. “Hygiene and Sanitation Practices amongst Residents of Three Long-Term Refugee Camps in Thailand, Ethiopia and Kenya: Hygiene and Sanitation in Three Refugee Camps.” *Tropical Medicine & International Health* 17 (9): 1133–41. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-3156.2012.03045.x>.**

This article aims to obtain accurate data, including socio-economic data and an advanced understanding concerning the hygiene and sanitation of populations residing in long-term refugee camps in Thailand, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Through qualitative and quantitative methods, the authors collected data from structured observation of hand washing in 126 households, surveys and questionnaires on hygiene and sanitation in 1,089 households for a characteristics survey, and discussions and semi-structured interviews with mothers and women. Findings demonstrate that the most common safe hand washing practice occurs “after cleaning a child’s bottom or cleaning up feces.” Furthermore, access to water supply and free soap or soap availability would have boosted the safe hand washing rates in the camps settings. However, there are conflicting priorities between soap for laundry and for hand washing among women in Kenya and Ethiopia. Providing subsidized soap could increase hand-washing practices in the refugee camps. On the other hand, open defecation was not found in Thailand since latrine use was nearly 100%, and open defecation was less common in more educated households in Ethiopia and Kenya. Households from urban areas and those with higher education levels tend to practice safe hand washing and use latrines. Therefore, a one-size-fits-all strategy for hygiene and sanitation campaigns may fail since there are differences in education levels and places of origin. A segmented and separated communication strategy that accounts for those differences should be implemented.

The article demonstrates an in-depth examination of hygiene and sanitation in refugee camps. The results and discussion section is useful for academics, researchers, and other

relevant stakeholders working in the WASH sector.

**Dorai, Mohamed Kamel. 2010. “From Camp Dwellers to Urban Refugees? Urbanization and Marginalization of Refugee Camps in Lebanon.” In *Manifestations of Identity. The Lived Reality of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon*. Institute for Palestine Studies and French Institute of Middle East.**

The research explores the development of refugee camps along with their dwellers, Palestinian refugees. The article examines different refugee camps, namely Mar Elias in Beirut and Al Buss in Tyre, contrasting their development while also analyzing the refugees’ urban experiences in each camp. Several factors affect the development and urbanization process of these camps. For instance, Mar Elias camp’s central location resulted in the camp becoming a hosting space for different waves of migration and the emergence of commercial activities. On the other hand, Al Buss camp consists of two different zones, one of which is denser while the other one is less dense and developed informally. Given its informality, the latter became a commercial zone for both Palestinian and Lebanese as well as a melting pot for travelers, migrants, and locals. Findings suggest that the development of refugee camps has contributed to the organization of socio-economic activities in the city. Finally, the article concludes that refugee camps represented the socio-spatial dynamics of Palestinians, not only as “vulnerable spaces” or “spaces of memory,” but also as places for Palestinians that foster social cohesion and integration with the host society, and are likely to evolve as spaces for economic activity through informal gatherings.

The case studies presented are useful precedents for academics and researchers from the fields of geography, urban planning and design, sociology, and other relevant social sciences. The case studies uncover many aspects such as socio-economic and mobility practices that constitute a new meaning to urban space through the analytical lenses of urban refugee and refugee camps.

**Göler, Daniel. 2020. “Places and Spaces of the Others. A German Reception Centre in Public Discourse and Individual Perception.” In *Geographies of Asylum in Europe and the Role of European Localities*, edited by Birgit Glorius and Jeroen Doornik, 69–91. IMISCOE Research Series. Cham: Springer International Publishing. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-25666-1\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-25666-1_4).**

This book chapter discusses the relation of place and space, or the refugee reception center’s spatial context and Germany’s local discourse. The highlight is how the reception center is constructed under different policies at different levels: regional (European), national and local. The study reveals how these negotiation processes become permanent following the logic that the camp is a non-place due to the popular academic perception that the

reception center is transitory. The paper also reflects the residents' perceptions and media discourse as a mirror of the public's perception.

In Germany, reception and accommodation centers are considered non-places, future (political) models for asylum processing, and a laboratory to find efficient ways to implement asylum legislation. The lifespan of a reception center is limited to 10 years. After the reform of German asylum legislation in the 1990s, asylum seekers were usually accommodated centrally. The government provides housing or reception centers in apartments or small collective units on the social or private housing market. Asylum applicants must live there while waiting for decisions. They are not allowed to work or to leave the allocated county. However, the regulations and assistance provided are different from group to group, depending on the asylum applicants' origin countries. The public criticized the practice of reception centers concerning the reception procedures and the strict asylum regulations. The criticisms are mainly on the weakening of asylum's fundamental rights by constructing groups of refugees on categories solely based on national origin. Also, the camps' martial forms convey the impression of prisons. Other criticisms are on individual housing, residents' integration, and children's education. The media discourses are on the camps' location, unruly residents, and the camps' functionality. On the residents' voices regarding integration, some of the residents perceive of themselves as being on the right path of integration through school attendance and regular work for people from specific origins. Others see themselves as alienated from the surrounding environment due to a lack of social embeddedness and restricted access to the labor market. Even though all asylum applicants understand the camps' transitory nature, return to the home country is not in their vision. The paper concludes that the logic in place, regarding whether space is a place or non-place, is the product of both the organizational framing and the institutional setting.

**Grayson, Catherine-Lune, and Angela Cotroneo. 2018. "Displaced In Cities: Experiencing And Responding To Urban Internal Displacement Outside Camps." Reference. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).**

This is a study's report on internally displaced people (IDP) caused by armed conflict and other violence in four urban settings: Mosul in Iraq, Baidoa in Somalia, Maiduguri in Nigeria, and San Pedro Sula in Honduras. This report focuses on IDPs experience in urban displacements, analysis of the current humanitarian responses aligned with people's needs and expectations and provides recommendations to improve the humanitarian response to meet IDPs immediate and longer-term needs, and recovery.

The takeaways are as follows: 1) program, design, and implementation of humanitarian responses should be based on the displaced people's needs and experiences; 2) the impact of displacement extends well beyond displaced persons. For prolonged displacement, support and assistance from the government and NGO might have diminished, so the

burden will naturally fall on the city and host communities. Host communities have to share the already scarce city resources and limited facilities. In turn, the situation affects community relations; 3) most displaced people lost their sense of dignity due to a sense of dislocation and being uprooted from their culture; therefore, the humanitarian response should also consider a long-term program that helps people restore their sense of dignity; 4) humanitarian interventions should consist of both long-term resilience programs and short-term emergency support; 5) outside camps' urban displacement is still under focus in most studies and humanitarian organizations' works because of the assumption that they live a better life than the camp's displaced people; 6) relying only on a blanket approach in humanitarian response will undermine adequate support to the most vulnerable individuals and families; 7) unverified assumptions, rather than factual data, still drive certain responses to internal displacement, creating ineffective or fallacy in developing programs; 8) as a complementary to development actors, humanitarian organizations should take more action in responding to urban displacement; and 9) negative sentiment on urban displacement regarding the burden to host communities is still very much alive.

**Kourachanis, Nikos. 2019. "From Camps to Social Integration? Social Housing Interventions for Asylum Seekers in Greece." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 39 (3/4): 221–34. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-08-2018-0130>.**

This paper studies the Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA) programme, as a policy initiative to provide housing and social integration for asylum seekers in Greece. It investigates the design and implementation framework of ESTIA against its goal of social integration. Greece hosted around 1.5 refugees in 2017. The ESTIA programme was developed to tackle the refugee influx by collaborating with the UNHCR with the national government, local authorities, and NGOs. ESTIA aims to ensure adequate living conditions for asylum seekers by providing apartments and allowance at the standard of the minimum guaranteed income for Greek citizens. ESTIA also provides mentoring to access social services. Up until September 2018, ten local authorities and nine NGOs implemented the programs by covering 25,632 hosting places for asylum seekers.

The study findings are as follows. 1) Since the program was planned during an emergency situation, funding stability is not guaranteed, and the beneficiaries keep changing. 2) There was a disconnection between housing planning and social integration policies. The programme's designers were supranational actors, while the implementers were local governments and NGOs. Further, after the state withdrew from the program, non-state actors took care of all social integration programs. 3) There was an absence of a holistic social integration plan. The programme is on-track in providing autonomous housing. However, the program does not plan the next step after the housing program is completed. 4) Coordination and cooperation issues between implementing agencies. The absence of a central guidance allows agents to find additional support and take uncoordinated policy

discretion. 5) Human resources issues of ESTIA implementing agencies are caused by an imbalance between the number of beneficiaries and working staff. Agents' lack of experience in the refugee sector is also a challenge. 6) There are unclear criteria for programme beneficiaries. Initially, the program aimed to provide benefits to asylum seekers selected for relocation to other EU member states. Subsequently, with the enlargement of ESTIA, vulnerable groups of asylum seekers were considered beneficiaries, resulting in a "relativisation" of asylum seekers as a vulnerable group. 7) Overcrowd housing and the absence of an exit strategy was a challenge. The main indication that ESTIA failed to achieve social integration is that few of the beneficiaries have managed to leave the programme and move into private apartments.

**Mahieu, Rilke, and Rut Van Caudenberg. 2020. "Young Refugees and Locals Living under the Same Roof: Intercultural Communal Living as a Catalyst for Refugees' Integration in European Urban Communities?" *Comparative Migration Studies* 8 (12): 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-019-0168-9>.**

The article explores how intercultural communal living contributes to the process of social integration of refugees and promotes social understanding between refugees and locals. The authors interviewed and observed participants to gain insight into their motivations and experiences in being involved in this program. The program was conducted in Antwerp, Belgium, in small collective housing units for one to two years that were crafted for young unaccompanied refugees aged 17-23 years and young locals aged 20-30. The program is a pragmatic approach by the government to integrate the recent influx of refugees and asylum seekers, especially after the Syrian crisis.

The program has created integration opportunities in both informal and mutual learning environments. Communal living plays an important role in providing social support for refugees, giving them the sense that "you're not alone in this challenging time," and is a comfort to young refugees. One thing to be considered is that the relationships formed may trigger discomfort on both sides due to differences in financial and social status. Additional research on what factors may enhance or hinder social integration between buddies and refugees in the context of communal living is needed.

**Malkki, Liisa. 1992. "National Geographic: The Rooting of Peoples and the Territorialization of National Identity Among Scholars and Refugees." *Cultural Anthropology, Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference*, 7 (1): 24-44.**

The article analyses the concept of identity and territory among people categorized as being displaced or uprooted. It examines two cases based on ethnographic research among two groups of Hutu refugees, those living in an isolated refugee camp and those inhabiting



tKigoma Township (outside the camp). The author suggests that the relationship of people and place, metaphorically speaking, is similar to that of trees and the soil, bound by natural ties. The authors conclude that camp refugees maintain a “reterritorialization” of the refugees’ homeland/nation, which emerges as a collective identity of “purity,” while town refugees, on the other hand, take on “borrowed” or “impure” identities as a result of the assimilation process. The author highlights that “identity is always mobile and processual...” that there will always be a new identity emerging as a product of “reterritorialization,” and that there is an urgency “not to deny the importance of place in the construction of identities.”

The article is insightful, as it integrates the rhizomatic concept into the discussion on refugee identity. The study provides an in-depth analysis of refugees as territorially uprooted people and shows how their culture and history play a part in reterritorialization/identity construction even though their status in that place remains temporary. This paper is useful supplementary information to better understand how refugees construct their identities within the urban context.

**Sanyal, Romola. 2017. “A No-Camp Policy: Interrogating Informal Settlements in Lebanon.” *Geoforum* 84 (August): 117–25. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2017.06.011>.**

This article examines how differences in access to assistance, security, and tacit recognition by the state influence the conditions in informal settlements in Bekaa Valley, Eastern Lebanon, which resulted from the Lebanon government’s no-camp policy regarding Syrian refugees. As initial background, this article describes informal settlement types based on their location, namely semi-urban and agricultural land, and the rental system applied to Syrian refugees by private landowners. Two informal settlement locations are discussed to provide an overview of the different conditions that occur due to differences in management systems, NGO involvement in aid management, and the facilities owned by families living in each location.

The article argues that informal settlement is a form of negotiation from the desire and limits of the state’s ability to manage the crisis to the local communities involved in carrying the burden. The article also demonstrates that informal settlements challenge the idea of informality. By having blurred boundaries between camps and cities, these settlements private and informal on the one hand, but still incorporates degrees of control and care, similar characters with formal camps. By discussing informal settlement, the author highlights the fact that refugee spaces issues are much more complicated than the duality of camps versus cities, which is widely used to describe differences in living spaces for refugees, spatial politics, and the political subjects that occur as a result.

This article can provide input for policymakers of host governments about living spaces for refugees. It also describes factors that can influence settlement development in the long term, affecting the refugees' quality of life, regional development, and their impact on local communities.

**Werner, Franziska, Annegret Haase, Nona Renner, Dieter Rink, Malena Rottwinkel, and Anika Schmidt. 2018. "The Local Governance of Arrival in Leipzig: Housing of Asylum-Seeking Persons as a Contested Field." *Urban Planning* 3 (4): 116–28. <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v3i4.1708>.**

This paper discusses the role of Governance on Arrival (GoA) in Leipzig, Germany in managing refugees' accommodation. The author explains the background of the emergence of this new regulation, a description of the concept, and the city government's obstacles in implementing the regulation. Conceptually, GoA provides refugees with an opportunity to find their own place to live in the city (decentralized housing) with assistance after attaining resettlement status. The author suggests the GoA is a contested field for several reasons, including (1) the need for collaboration between actors, not only from the government sector but also other related stakeholders in the city; (2) the need for a new policy that regulates housing issues, which in reality is very complicated; and (3) discrimination and xenophobia on the part of local residents still occurs as an increasing number of refugees compete for affordable housing.

This paper provides a case study of a breakthrough in the management of refugee accommodations. The obstacles encountered both among stakeholders and civil society in applying the concept can be essential lessons for researchers and policymakers in developing refugee governance at the city level, both in Leipzig and in other locations.

**Ziersch, Anna, Moira Walsh, Clemence Due, and Emily Duivesteyn. 2017. "Exploring the Relationship between Housing and Health for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in South Australia: A Qualitative Study." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 14 (1036): 1–20. [https://doi: 10.3390/ijerph14091036](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph14091036).**

This article provides an overview of a qualitative component of a study in South Australia examining the impact of housing experiences on the health and wellbeing of refugees and asylum-seekers. The study seeks to draw upon Mallett and colleagues' cumulative approach to examining housing problems and their impacts on health, in concert with Ager and Strang's framework of integration through a focus on housing as a key social determinant of health and as a means to successful integration for people from refugee backgrounds. Interviews were conducted with 50 refugees and asylum seekers who were purposely sampled according to gender, continent, and visa status, from a broader survey. Interview

participants were recruited through the original survey, which included a question asking people if they were interested in participating in a follow-up interview. Interview questions were developed in response to the literature outlined in the previous section concerning housing and health for refugees and asylum seekers.

The author outlines the general links that participants made between housing and health and wellbeing, as well as discussing the impact of specific elements of housing that emerged from the analysis: housing affordability, physical elements of housing such as cold and damp and space and layout, social elements of housing such as safety and disorder, and social relations and insecurity of housing tenure. The results indicated that housing was of central importance to health and wellbeing and impacted health through a range of pathways, including affordability, housing suitability in terms of physical aspects such as condition and layout, social aspects such as safety, and belonging issues around security of tenure. Asylum seekers, in particular, reported that living in housing that was in poor condition negatively affected their health. Improving housing quality, affordability, and tenure security all have the potential to lead to more positive health outcomes.

The article contains useful information, especially the key elements from the interviews that outline refugee and asylum seekers' overall housing situation.



### 3.3. Social Integration

**Alfeo, Antonio Luca, Mario G. C. A. Cimino, Bruno Lepri, Alexander Sandy Pentland, and Gigliola Vaglini. 2019. “Assessing Refugees’ Integration via Spatio-Temporal Similarities of Mobility and Calling Behaviors.” *IEEE Transactions on Computational Social Systems* 6 (4): 726–38. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TCSS.2019.2923216>.**

The article examines Syrian refugees’ integration and their interactions with locals in Turkey (Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir), and probes the conditions that affect their integration process by studying refugee behavior and their similarity with the locals, as well as collective and individual mobility. The research is quantitative, using various Call Detail Record datasets, including fine-grain mobility dataset, coarse grain mobility dataset, antenna traffic dataset, and additional metrics such as residential inclusion by district, district attractiveness, and district cost of living. The datasets and metrics are used to explore the similarity of mobility patterns between refugees and locals. Findings suggest that locals and refugees share more similarity in routines if they are more evenly distributed in areas within the cities. The article also explores the nexus between mobility similarity and interaction level to gain insights into local and refugee practices in sharing the same space. As a result, analysis of collective mobility patterns shows that more interaction between refugees and locals means more sharing of urban spaces between them. The article also discusses the relation between cost of living, economic capacity, and district of attractiveness, whereby the refugees are likely to be more integrated if they live in more costly areas.

The article addresses the gap in the literature that focuses on social integration by presenting data-driven research that relies heavily on calls and text activities as well as other digital means of communication. It provides a different perspective in researching social integration; it presents unique findings that could be used by governments and policymakers to formulate integration policies and guidelines with data-based validated results.

**Bodde, Anne. 2019. "A Spatial Strategy for Refugee Integration in the Urban Environment: The Case of Istanbul." Master thesis. Delft: Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology. <https://repository.tudelft.nl/islandora/object/uuid%3Aea112a7b-809c-49fb-8e80-297b33a65508>.**

This master's thesis takes on the spatial aspect of refugee management with an interdisciplinary approach to humanitarian aid, urban planning, and design. Using a case study to shape the analysis, this study aims to use spatial strategy to incorporate the issue of refugee integration into the urban environment. The research uses qualitative data from observed spatial configurations at two districts in the Istanbul metropolitan area: Sultanbeyli and Zeytinburnu. It also focuses on the legal-political, socio-economic, and cultural-religious dimensions of the society that influence the integration process. The benchmark of the study is on the interaction between refugees and the host community, which determines the direction and goal of the integration process. Further, the study conducts experiments by using spatial strategy to strengthen the integration process by maximizing the potential public space and increasing cultural-religious interaction between two communities. The study highlights the importance of a collaborative process in designing spatial development as a spatial strategy. The study concludes that integration is a process of becoming an accepted part of society and is influenced not only by the two parties involved but also by governance actors. It also finds that public space typology and related spatial conditions influence targeted communities and their interactions. The use of spatial strategy as a long-term strategy should also involve the targeted communities in the design process so that the projects can respond to the needs of the targeted communities.

Studies that experiment with the use of spatial strategy in refugee integration are uncommon. Most studies on refugee integration processes focus on problem identification or the quality of interaction through behavior analysis; hence, this study using a spatial approach to analyze the level of integration is refreshing. The study is useful for policymakers looking for insights into refugee integration in particular and social integration in general.

**Gentin, Sandra, Kati Pitkänen, Anna Maria Chondromatidou, Søren Præstholt, Ann Dolling, and Anna Maria Palsdottir. 2019. "Nature-Based Integration of Immigrants in Europe: A Review." *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 43 (126379): 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2019.126379>.**

In this paper, the authors scrutinize European literature that focuses on the relationship between social integration and green public space. From 350 articles, the authors elected eleven peer-reviewed papers of the same topic, namely, incorporating nature within the process of immigrant social integration, to be reviewed systematically. The rationale for conducting this study is that there has not been a single study that focuses on how nature

and green public space support the social integration of immigrants within the host society. The four basic forms of social integration identified by Esser (1999) including structural, cultural, interactive, and identificational integration, and a social-environmental justice perspective form the basis of this review's analysis.

The analysis reveals that the critical determinant for immigrants' integration into society through green public space lies in "provision of access" or "opportunities for outdoor recreation" (p. 5). Only by providing specific knowledge and access to immigrants will the environment play an important role in successful social integration. Thus, it can be said that natural areas can be seen as equally crucial to the provision of health services. Both contribute significantly to the health and wellbeing of users, including immigrants. As the authors argue, this finding confirms that health and wellbeing are key indicators of immigrants' active involvement in social integration, which can be achieved through active participation in natural areas.

The paper is highly relevant to urban planning professionals, psychologists, actors in the field of mental health and wellbeing and other stakeholders dealing with the provision of public infrastructure to optimize the use of green public spaces as tools for social integration. Since nature-based solutions are frequently overlooked by professionals and stakeholders of refugee issues in the Global South, this paper may shed light on how future policies can be formulated to tackle issues related to mental health and social isolation among refugees.

**Gericke, Dina, Anne Burmeister, Jil Löwe, Jürgen Deller, and Leena Pundt. 2018. "How Do Refugees Use Their Social Capital for Successful Labor Market Integration? An Exploratory Analysis in Germany." *Journal of Vocational Behavior* 105 (April): 46–61. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvb.2017.12.002>.**

Refugee labor market access in the host country and the activation of refugees' social capital within and outside of organizations are the focuses of this study. The findings show that refugees have access to different types of social capital, and each type offers different forms of support to refugees during the labor market integration process. The findings provide new insights into the ways that different forms of social capital can facilitate refugee labor market integration at various stages.

The four different types of social capital available to refugees are: 1) horizontal bonding social capital among family members and friends or acquaintances of the same nationality or ethnicity; 2) vertical bonding social capital through organizations and institutions based on shared religion, nationality, or ethnic background; 3) horizontal bridging social capital comprised of resources and information provided by friends and acquaintances of different nationalities or ethnic backgrounds; and 4) vertical bridging social capital, including social system contacts, social workers, volunteers, and co-workers or supervisors. In addition,

two types of connections are common: purpose-based and private connections. Purpose-based social contacts are limited to a particular purpose: in the context of an official administrative process, refugees signed up for programs or proactively approached officials and social workers. Meanwhile, private contacts were characterized by the free choice of contact and social interactions that were often based on mutual friendship. Purpose-based contacts were highly relevant to the refugee labor market integration process. Four different stages clarify how social capital supports the refugee labor market integration process: (1) early integration support; (2) support in preparing for labor market entry; (3) support in entering the labor market; and (4) support at work. The paper concludes that bonding and bridging social capital as well as horizontal and vertical social capital can facilitate the labor market integration of refugees in Germany.

**Haffar, Warren. 2016. "The Integration of Refugees through Participatory Planning in Transitory Spaces: Policy Implications from Conflict Transformation and Urban Planning." *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development* 11 (3): 103–7. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15423166.2016.1236699>.**

The study examines the influx of refugees in the world caused by violent conflict and war. The study argues that relief responses need to focus on community and refugee relations in addition to short-term emergency services. The reason is that community and refugee relations can secure durable and long-term solutions that empower refugees and improve their living conditions. The study offers a unified approach by taking methods and approaches from two disciplines: conflict transformation and participatory/urban planning. The two fields tackle the interface between groups in conflict and process-oriented planning of the physical environment to serve diverse needs.

The benefit of incorporating methods from these two fields' is a participatory process in which conflict between groups is transformed by collaborative governance. The goal is to effectively harness participation and inclusion to address the root causes driving conflict through participatory governance in the local planning of the camps and detention centers. Participatory planning provides the design framework; conflict transformation provides the fundamentals of how to get there. Conceptually, conflict transformation focuses on relationships as a necessary foundation from which to tackle broader issues. Two groups locked in conflict frequently have motivations originating from similar basic needs: food, shelter, or security. The approach from the field of conflict transformation builds community-based networks that are connected to immediate problems. This unified approach can ease the fears of local community and government of a prolonged refugee crisis.



**Korac, Maja. 2003. "Integration and How We Facilitate It: A Comparative Study of the Settlement Experiences of Refugees in Italy and the Netherlands." *Sociology* 37 (1): 51–68. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/42856493>.**

The article explores Yugoslavian refugees' experiences of inclusion/integration in the Netherlands and Italy through a comparative study of two models of integration using data from qualitative and in-depth interviews with 60 refugees in the two countries. Findings suggest that the Dutch model is a top-down, state-controlled process. Refugees in the Netherlands are given permanent citizenship and adequate assistance, including involvement in the labor market. Nevertheless, they still find it hard to build social connections with the Dutch. They experience pressure during integration and often feel that they are merely "objects of policies." In contrast, refugees in Italy encounter difficulties in settling due to Italy's underdeveloped protection system and the law that "does not recognize humanitarian refugees." Refugees are granted limited assistance with no permanent citizenship. They rely on NGOs and other organizations as well as migrant networks for additional assistance. Thus, this inadequacy forces them to be self-sufficient. However, their social life is considerably stronger; refugees maintain a social connection to people of other ethnicities and Italians. The author concludes that strong policy intervention does not guarantee refugee integration success, and highlights that a lack of organized assistance can be a driving force for refugees to build personal agency and self-reliance.

The article provides insights into two paradoxes of refugee integration from one former country (Yugoslavia) into two different countries. The Italian model and the condition of refugees in Italy partially resonate with the situation of refugees in Indonesia. The findings and analysis regarding the measures and indicators of integration may be relevant to our research on refugees in urban areas even though in a transitory context.

**Landau, Loren B. 2004. "FMO Research Guide on Urban Refugees." *Forced Migration Online*.**

This article is a research guide focusing on urban aspects of forced migration. This guide's analytical premise departs from integrating urban forced migration studies with discussions around urbanization and urban phenomena to provide conceptual and methodological guidance, hypotheses, and comparative reference. Based on the author's research experience, this research guide is particularly useful for research in sub-Saharan Africa. The article proposes research steps as follows. (1) Clarify the definition of urban forced migrants. (2) Recognize the protection and legal aspects of urban forced migrants that sometimes goes unnoticed due to the absence of community caused by urban forced migrants' high mobility. (3) Decide upon the spatial elements that form the boundaries of the city. (4) Clarify sampling problems such as sampling method, population, household size and composition, community diversity, and location. (5) Understand the policy and advocacy concerns

regarding refugee management, such as the fact that urban forced migrants often compete with local urban poor for limited low-income housing. (6) Understand policy concerns regarding accommodation, including concerns surrounding eviction, forced removal, and slum clearance by authorities. (7) Contemplate the forced migrants' rights to education, as education is a key to social integration. (8) Explore the urban forced migrants' access to health care. (9) Explore the networks, livelihoods, trade, and the informal economy of urban forced migrants. (10) Consider social integration theories against the process, practices, and challenges in the field. (11) Consider how urban forced migration's globalization, transforming identities, and translocality impacts the local's novel identities, affiliations, loyalties, and social organization forms.

Even though the author claims that the research guide applies only to sub-Saharan Africa, this guide is a handy tool for those conducting fieldwork on urban refugees in other locals as well. Several steps will need alteration due to different local contexts, but the research principles are generally applicable in general to urban refugee contexts.

**Lichtenstein, Gary, and Jini E Puma. 2019. "The Refugee Integration Survey and Evaluation (RISE): Results from a Four-Year Longitudinal Study." *Journal of Refugee Studies* 32 (3): 397–416. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fey034>.**

This article is a results summary of a study, namely, RISE (Refugee Integration Survey and Evaluation), conducted in Denver, Colorado, the United States. RISE is the multi-year (2011-2015) and longitudinal refugee integration survey based on Ager and Strang's integration conceptual framework (2004). The RISE study's primary purpose was to operationalize the Ager and Strang integration framework by developing a reliable quantitative measure to assess refugee integration. The instrument measured Ager and Strang's 10 "pathways" to integration, as well as the Overall Integration concept. The survey derives data from 467 respondents, newly arrived adult refugees in Denver from 2011–2012 from four target populations: Iraqi, Somalian, Bhutanese, and Burmese. This quantitative research aims to complete the study of refugee resettlement that usually depends on qualitative data (e.g., interviews). Qualitative research has weaknesses such as small sample sizes, and the fact that it may not be generalizable, is aggregated from deidentified records that marginalize sub-populations, is cross-sectional, and cannot assess overtime changes of the same cohort population; the RISE quantitative research fills the gap. This study addresses the extent of refugees' progress along integration pathways from arrival through the first four years of resettlement. The study finds that Overall Integration scores represent variations in how refugees integrate into the receiving community's socio-cultural web. Pathway scores reveal the dynamic, multi-dimensional nature of refugee integration. Albeit its success in mapping the Overall Integration, the RISE survey acknowledges its limitations, such as the fact that the method does not capture the influence of integration on receiving communities. Although the RISE instrument has proven valid and reliable, the authors warn future users

to consider the effects of different receiving communities, ethnicities studied, and resettlement periods as the current instrument is a work in progress.

The RISE study testing the integration framework results demonstrates the value of longitudinal data for understanding refugee integration. As integration is naturally a long, continuous process, a longitudinal study is vital to capture the integration process and outcome in a particular population rather than summarizing various unconnected research with cross-sectional data. This study will be a good departure for researchers, policymakers, or refugees service providers in taking a similar study on the refugee integration process and outcome.

**Lyytinen, Eveliina. 2015. “Refugees’ Conceptualizations of ‘Protection Space’: Geographical Scales of Urban Protection and Host-Refugee Relations.” *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 34 (2): 45–77. <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdv001>.**

This paper analyzes the interpretation of the notion of “protection space” by Congolese refugees in Kampala, Uganda, based on fieldwork during 2010-2011. It aims to provide an alternative account of “protection space” to add to the previous concepts by UNHCR and other studies that perceive of “protection space” primarily as institutional space between refugees and protection institutions. The alternative view presented of “protection space” focuses on urban space and refugees’ everyday lives in different forms of shelter, neighborhoods, and areas of Kampala. The spatial and scalar elements of refugee protection are examined through refugee narratives on their sense of security in the city by exploring their physical, imagined, lived, and relational elements of space. The analysis is divided into three levels: the micro-scale (home and shelters in rented houses and church buildings), meso-scale (neighborhoods and relations with Ugandans, including selecting a neighborhood and refugees’ relations with Ugandan neighbors), and macro-scale (connected with Kampala’s national and regional politics). The study finds that micro-scale and meso-scale factors influence refugees’ sense of urban security, as well as the macro-scale of broader national and regional political and economic spaces. Three issues relevant to the macro-scale are economic decline, elections, riots, and the voluntary repatriation agreement. The paper suggests that understanding refugees’ macro-scale insecurity discourses is essential to understand the Congolese refugees in Kampala, Uganda’s notion of “protection space”. Finally, the study concludes that adopting multiple conceptualizations of space is necessary to understand protection in urban space in order to fully capture the complexities of the “protection space” concept. This article calls for a reconceptualization of the notion of “protection space” with rescaling at the center of analysis.

This paper shows the facets of the “protection space” concept that invite discussion of the multi-interpretative meaning of protection and security for refugees in a transitory context. While the term “protection space” suggests a spatial element, the paper shows that this

concept also entails many intricate elements such as politics and social elements.

**Maci, Giulia, San Bilal, Anna Knoll, and Eva Dick. 2017. “Integrated Urban and Private Sector Responses to Migrants and Refugees.” European Think Tank Group.**

This is a policy note. Taking the urban perspective as the point of departure, this note recommends humanitarian engagement including donors, local authorities and the private sector for an improved humanitarian response to displacement. The note argues that the refugee crisis is an urban crisis since more than 60% of refugees live in urban areas. One reason for refugee preference to live in cities is because cities are centers of economic growth and opportunities. The note examines the refugee crisis from an urban perspective highlighting refugees’ long-term integration to their respective hosting environments. It argues the importance of place-based and city-scale approaches to refugee integration and underlines the opportunities for a city-scale approach that involves the private sector. It also argues that the private sector is a central pillar of development acknowledged by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The need to integrate local authorities with the private sector for better displacement management is as follows. (1) The average time of displacement of more than ten years changes the perspective of temporary displacement. (2) Most refugees live in cities. (3) Urban aspects of displacement need to be addressed by refugee service providers and local authorities. (4) To involve private sectors in management of displaced peoples requires a change in rules and regulations. (5) It is time to put the European Union (EU) progressive policy framework into practice. The note sees the shifting paradigm of EU responses to displaced populations as an opportunity to develop a better displacement response. One of the new narratives suggested is implementing long-term solutions for refugees in host communities even though most host countries are reluctant to cooperate in facilitating refugees’ integration. Another narrative is abolishing refugee camps, as the camp is seen as a wrong response to forced migration. Finally, as innovation requires a long-term solution, more development actors need to be involved, including donors and the private sector.

This note contributes to the growing study of urban refugees. As an academic subject that has not yet been amply captured in scholarly debates, urban refugees are a phenomenon that calls for innovative solutions; this article fills the gap.

**Phillimore, Jenny, and Lisa Goodson. 2008. “Making a Place in the Global City: The Relevance of Indicators of Integration.” *Journal of Refugee Studies* 21 (3): 305–25. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fen025>.**

This paper examines the effectiveness of functional integration indicators, drawing upon Ager and Strang’s (2004) framework to assess and analyze the refugee progress and

experience with integration in the UK. The study focuses on the experiences and needs of refugees who previously arrived as asylum seekers in Birmingham due to the Balkan conflict in 1991. The author uses data acquired from four studies conducted in three different areas of Birmingham in 2004 and 2005. The authors conducted household surveys (1,770 responses) and 93 in-depth interviews with the targeted participants. The functional indicators assessed in the study were employment, housing, education, and health. Overall analysis and discussion reveal that the refugees' integration is deprived; they are prone to homelessness and have difficulties accessing livelihoods, education, and vocational training. The author also suggests that integration is a non-linear process, and that its indicators affect one other; hence, they cannot be measured separately. Furthermore, the author highlights the importance of having a robust data set that includes the refugee markers to identify gaps and patterns and to better assess the functional indicators.

The paper is insightful because it sheds light on the concept of integration: from Berry's (1991) concept to that of Ager and Strang (2004). This paper also provides information regarding the influx of refugees in the UK, along with the country's integration policies. The studies elaborated upon in this paper can be a good precedent for academics who wish to research refugee integration.

**Spicer, Neil. 2008. "Places of Exclusion and Inclusion: Asylum-Seeker and Refugee Experiences of Neighborhoods in the UK". *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 34 (3): 491-510. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691830701880350>**

The paper explains the interconnectedness between asylum-seeker and refugee social networks and social inclusion or exclusion and its linkages to their neighborhoods. The writer uses a combination of the study of National Evaluation of Children Funds and interviews with 14 asylum-seeker and refugee parents and 12 children (aged eight to 16), along with nine workers from refugee support groups. The paper uses the concept of social bonds (with other refugees), social bridges (with locals), and social link (with institutions) in analyzing the social networks asylum-seekers and refugees need to make in their destination country. In the UK, through the National Asylum Support Service, the government often places asylum-seekers and refugees in low-income, White majority neighborhoods with little to no previous exposure to immigrants. The writer argues that neighborhoods with many minority populations help create an inclusive neighborhood, which creates a sense of safety. On the other hand, a majority-dominated neighborhood tends to make asylum-seekers and refugees feel unsafe and they more often prefer to stay at home.

The paper also highlights the difference in experiences between adults and children among asylum-seekers and refugees. Adults mostly associate an inclusive neighborhood with practical support such as help to access health facilities and emotional support, especially help in developing English proficiency. In comparison, children associate inclusive

neighborhoods with friends and peer groups that bring the sense of safety from bullying and harassment. The paper concludes that even though a neighborhood with many minority populations can make asylum-seekers and refugees feel a sense of security, freedom, opportunity, and empowerment, most social networks are still in the form of social bonds. There needs to be more effort to create more mainstream social bridges, especially among first-generation asylum-seekers and refugees.

**Thomas, Fiona C, Bayard Roberts, Nagendra P Luitel, Nawaraj Upadhaya, and Wietse A Tol. 2011. "Resilience of Refugees Displaced in the Developing World: A Qualitative Analysis of Strengths and Struggles of Urban Refugees in Nepal." *Conflict and Health* 5 (1): 20. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1752-1505-5-20>.**

This article explores the living experiences of urban refugees in Kathmandu, along with aspects of their resilience and how these aspects affect their coping behavior. Utilizing Honneth's recognition theory (1995), which constitutes love, solidarity, and rights schema, the authors also aim to determine whether their findings correlate with that framework. In April 2010, the authors collected data through focus groups and semi-structured interviews, and a photovoice activity with 16 Pakistanis and eight Somalis. The research demonstrates that the presence of immediate networks and support provided by the networks and religious activity (praying) provide the refugees' coping strategies. These coping mechanisms also help maintain their self-confidence and self-esteem. Nevertheless, the absence of legal recognition hinders the refugees' coping ability because it eliminates the opportunity to work legally or contribute their skills to society, hence affecting self-respect. The author concludes that a specific program and policies focused on enhancing the available coping mechanisms and resilience should be made available to further develop refugees' agency.

The discussion of how the authors implemented Honneth's framework in this case study and the analysis of the tripartite schema towards coping abilities are useful for researchers interested in conducting exploratory studies on urban refugee resilience.



### 3.4. Refugees and COVID-19

**Buheji, Mohamed, Bartola Mavrić, Godfred Beka, and Tulika Chetia Yein. 2020. “Alleviation of Refugees COVID-19 Pandemic Risks- A Framework for Uncertainty Mitigation.” *International Business Research* 13 (7): 69. <https://doi.org/10.5539/ibr.v13n7p69>.**

This paper explores the challenges of the three largest vulnerable refugee groups (Syrian, Afghan, and Rohingya refugees) facing the pandemic of COVID-19 from various perspectives: economics, social science, history, and culture. The authors developed a refugee variable of uncertainty based on a literature review and case studies. They argue that refugees’ highest uncertainty occurs with the combination of non-availability of proper reaction, total dependency of life and livelihoods on external agencies, and burden or threat from the refugee hosts. They also argue that the tendency of refugees to have underlying physical and mental health issues due to exposure to war or persecution cause refugees to be more vulnerable to the pandemic situation. Finally, the paper proposes a framework for pandemic-resilient camps that helps to reduce uncertainty.

The framework developed in this paper through a case study of the COVID-19 pandemic provides a basis for policymakers or other refugee management actors to design mitigation measures for possible future health crises or disasters affecting refugee communities. The multidisciplinary perspective used in this study took a different approach to refugee management research.

**Cone, Dave. 2020. “Gender Matter: COVID-19’s Outsized Impact on Displaced Women and Girls.” *Refugees International*.**



This is an issue brief on displaced women and girls in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It features cases showing that displaced women and girls have higher risks and are often disadvantaged. The cases examine livelihoods and education, access to health and services, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), and gender-based violence within households. This article also underlines the need for accurate and disaggregated data based on sex, age, and pregnancy status, as well as securing data privacy. In the final part of this issue brief, the author recommends various gender-sensitive programs be implemented in refugee communities during the pandemic for NGOs, international organizations, and donor organizations.

Gender inequality remains a serious problem, more so in times of multiple crises – the refugee crisis and the pandemic crisis. This issue brief helps policymakers, donor organizations, or service providers grasp gender issues within the COVID-19 pandemic period, which have been very dynamic.

**Gilbert, Geoff. 2020. “Forced Displacement in a Time of a Global Pandemic.” In *COVID-19, Law and Human Rights: Essex Dialogues*, 167–75. A Project of the School of Law and Human Rights Centre. University of Essex.**

This paper briefly explores the impact of states’ arbitrary restrictions on asylum seekers in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and argues that refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons must be given the same access to health and other important services as the host society or anyone living in the state. Since forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) are prone to health crises, the author argues that governments should not restrict their access to protection, and should develop policies following international human rights law, international refugee law, and the rule of law.

The author discusses findings regarding state obligations that have adversely impacted both the FDPs and humanitarian actors. These obligations include border control, which has resulted in refoulement, restricted access of humanitarian actors to provide support and protection (including in conflict areas), and limited employment opportunities for FDPs. Furthermore, the author highlights the urgency to provide in-state services such as refugee status determination, health care, and accommodation. In addition, the author provides a caveat regarding in-state detention. The government must ensure that FDPs are not be placed at greater risk of COVID-19 and are not quarantined in immigration detention since this is ultimately inappropriate for people seeking protection.

This article provides useful information, especially on international legal instruments that uphold refugee and asylum seeker rights, and how the laws provide avenues and caveats for governments to protect the rights of FDPs in a time of global pandemic. The discussion on accessing in-state services, humanitarian access, and detention conditions can inform

governments, policymakers, humanitarian actors, and relevant stakeholders on proper refugee management during a pandemic.

**Ivakhnyuk, Irina. 2020. "Coronavirus Pandemic Challenges Migrants Worldwide and in Russia." *Population and Economics* 4 (2): 49–55. <https://doi.org/10.3897/popecon.4.e53201>**

The article explores the conditions of two vulnerable groups, migrants and refugees, whose lives are radically affected by COVID-19 and who are now confronted with several unprecedented, pandemic-related challenges. In this article, the author classifies those challenges into four major groups: economic challenges, medical or sanitary-epidemiological challenges, social and psychological challenges, and political challenges. The author examines those challenges in the Russian context, as a country that has a significant role in its neighboring countries' economic and political development.

The author points out that the pandemic has caused a global economic crisis due to the closure of a large number of productions, enterprises, and construction activities. In terms of the medical aspect, migrants and refugees are granted limited access to medical and sanitary prevention measures that may lead to an uncontrollable spread of COVID-19. On the social and psychological aspect, the mental health of migrants and refugees has become a primary concern since the pandemic has brought uncertainty to every aspect of their lives, such as limited chances to stay and work, higher risk of becoming ill due to limited access to medical services and other factors related to deportation and loss of employment. Lastly, the author highlights how the existence of migrants has been politicized during the pandemic. Migrants are prone to stigmatization and are blamed for the spread of COVID-19. This phenomenon has led the Russian government to close its borders. As a result, most migrants have lost their jobs, are unable to fly back to their home countries, and live in distressing situations.

The article may be useful for those who research migration in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. It briefly discusses the challenges refugees and migrants face in Russia and how those challenges affect Russia and neighboring countries' economic and geopolitical situation.

**Kluge, Hans Henri P, Zsuzsanna Jakab, Jozef Bartovic, Veronika D'Anna, and Santino Severoni. 2020. "Refugee and Migrant Health in the COVID-19 Response." *World Health Organization*. Published by Elsevier Ltd/Inc/BV. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30791-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30791-1).**

The article describes how the global pandemic has triggered countries to declare strict travel

restrictions in controlling the movement of migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, even though asylum seekers are under threat of refoulement and persecution if they return to their home country or are at risk while waiting for resettlement or to disembark in a transit country. According to the WHO, refugee populations are distributed throughout 146 countries, and have a high number of COVID-19 cases. Refugees who travel from their home country are not affected by COVID-19, but they are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 once they enter transit/neighborhood countries.

The inability to access health services, language barriers, and financial issues only exacerbate their conditions. Refugees living in refugee camps and cramped accommodations are at risk, as following social distancing rules and hygiene standards is likely not possible. Such living conditions are detrimental and may lead to the outbreak of COVID-19. Refugees also may suffer physically, mentally, and financially due to the uncertainty of resettlement, while international migrant workers are at risk of losing their jobs due to the reduced number of employment options. The author suggests that governments provide an inclusive strategy for migrant and refugee health during the pandemic, and not use pandemic to justify forcibly sending refugees back to their home countries.

**Lopez-Pena, Paula, C. Austin Davis, A. Mushfiq Mobarak, and Shabib Raihan. 2020. "Prevalence of COVID-19 symptoms, risk factors, and health behaviors in host and refugee communities in Cox's Bazar: a representative panel study." [Preprint]. Bull World Health Organ. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.265173>**

The article describes the prevalence of COVID-19 symptoms in Cox's Bazar, based on a phone survey (909 households), using a symptom checklist based on WHO guidelines. Questions cover returning migration, employment, and food security, with additional questions on health knowledge and behavior to a 460 sub-sample. A previous baseline survey conducted before the pandemic in 2019 with 5,020 respondents in both refugee camps and host communities showed that refugee households have significantly lower levels of income and assets than members of the host community. Also, only 1.2% of households in camps, but 55.3% of those in host communities have a private toilet, and 31.3% of households in camps share a toilet with more than 25 people. Sharing a water source with a large number of users is also common in camps, where 62.1% report sharing water facilities with more than 25 users.

COVID-9 symptoms are highly prevalent in Cox's Bazar, especially in refugee camps. Previous illness and inaccurate perception influences peoples' decisions on whether to report symptoms and seek treatment. While attendance at religious and social events threatens efforts to contain the disease's spread, pharmacies and religious leaders provide outlets to disseminate life-saving information.

**Lozet, Florence, and Evan Easton-Calabria. 2020. "Counting Urban Refugees during COVID-19." *FMR Review* 64 (June): 79-80.**

The article illustrates how the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates undocumented refugees' precarious situation in urban areas, based on the case in Arua Municipality, Uganda. The district in which Arua Municipality is located hosts more than 250,000 South Sudanese refugees; 24% are self-settled urban refugees. One of the biggest challenges faced by the refugees during the pandemic lockdown is access to food. Access to food has been restricted due to a ban on public transportation, informal businesses, and street vendors, causing inflation of food market prices. The government does not offer food rations—even if rations were available, it is unlikely that refugees would be eligible to receive them as they are not officially registered as living in Arua. Furthermore, UNHCR and other international organizations rarely provide material assistance such as food or shelter in urban areas, as they operate solely in camps. Urban refugees are expected to be self-reliant. The World Food Programme (WFP) recently changed its policy and allows urban refugees to receive food rations; the authors argue that if urban refugees were adequately accounted for, municipalities could strengthen their health-care systems based upon the real number of inhabitants. In turn, the health and well-being of both urban refugees and Ugandans could be improved. They conclude that the current pandemic highlights the need for the inclusion of urban refugees in censuses and government planning, and should be a wake-up call to international NGOs to address the extreme vulnerability of those urban refugees who are so often deemed "self-reliant."

The arguments echo current discourses on how the pandemic exacerbates inequality and discrimination towards various vulnerable groups, including refugees. It highlights one factor that distinguishes urban refugees from other vulnerable groups, i.e., being uncared for by authorities (international, national, municipal).

**Milan, Stefania, Annalisa Pelizza, and Yoren Lausberg. 2020. "Making Migrants Visible to COVID-19 Counting: The Dilemma." Blog. *Open Democracy* (blog). April 20, 2020. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/can-europe-make-it/making-migrants-visible-covid-19-counting-dilemma/>.**

By examining patterns of how European countries manage refugee issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, this article suggests that the relationship between data, populations, and invisibility requires reconsideration. Invisible populations often live in unhealthy spaces (e.g., undocumented farmworkers in informal settlements in Italy and migrants under quarantine in overcrowded camps). Some countries have also suspended administrative services for migrants (e.g., Sweden, the Netherlands, and Belgium). The consequences of invisibility as explained in this article are that: (1) it exacerbates existing social and institutional inequalities, i.e., vulnerability due to lack of accessible information, access to

hygiene facilities, and economic vulnerability; (2) it may cause dramatic asymmetries both in the economy and in labor relations, such as exploitation in specific job sectors, creating a paradox that while certain essential work is vital, the workers doing this work are barred from accessing civil rights, and are kept out of the count and thus excluded from aid and relief; and (3) it helps fuel racism and xenophobia.

The authors suggest practical advice for making the invisible populations countable under fair conditions. They argue that a multi-pronged approach is needed: (1) careful consideration of counting methods and digital infrastructure used, respecting the principles enshrined in the EU General Data Protection Regulation, most notably data minimization (i.e., data collection should be limited to what is necessary) and purpose limitation (i.e., data should be collected for specific, explicit and legitimate purposes), to protect vulnerable populations and the societies surrounding them, rather than causing exclusion, discrimination or repression; (2) access to civil rights for people on the move must also include the right to be deleted from any database and not to be traced beyond the original goals; (3) an alliance between different counting entities rallying around the need for public critical care; (4) counting should take stock of the European migration regime, and invert the priority given since 2015 to securitization at the expense of health data. The authors finally underscore that a more comprehensive solution would be to redesign critical services to include all residents of a given polity, regardless of their status.

Overall, invisible populations are being exposed to greater risk to COVID-19 and its collateral effects health and well-being, which may also affect the whole (visible) population sooner or later. Reflecting on this article, a robust data management with careful consideration to invisible populations would benefit local governments. This pandemic crisis is a test case to evaluate the health care system in cities, were being more inclusive, including towards invisible populations, will always be advantageous for the whole population.

**Nursyazwani. 2020. "Moral Refugees, Malaysia and COVID-19." Blog. Collecting COVID-19 (blog). July 1, 2020. <https://anthrocovid.com/2020/07/01/moral-refugees-malaysia-and-COVID-19/>.**

Having followed, observed, and engaged with social media profiles of local and Rohingya refugees in Malaysia for two months, the author reports her findings in this crowdsourced digital ethnography platform. This is an informative report highlighting the unfair state approach towards migrants and the long-standing structural racism that has escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the Movement Control Order (MCO) implementation to contain COVID-19, hate speech towards Rohingya refugees increased. Common narratives raised were "Malaysians first." Other examples of racism included caricaturizing Rohingya refugees as uncivilized

and ungrateful illegal immigrants, who generate a plague that could spread and infect the country's sociopolitical stability, complemented by manipulated photos and inappropriate captions. There were even petitions to reject Rohingyas. The government also engaged in discrimination. To illustrate, the Kuala Lumpur City Hall banned refugees from the wholesale market; and the government's announcement to allow only citizens (Malaysians) into mosques was captured and circulated on social media. The whole situation, including possible detention, have made many Rohingyas struggle to fulfill basic day-to-day necessities.

**Olivo, Veronica Escobar. 2020. "COVID-19 and Venezuelan Refugees." 2020/1. Spotlight on Migration Series. Canada: Ryerson University**

This short article provides an overview of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Venezuelan refugees. The paper demonstrates the continuous struggles of refugees even after attaining asylum in other countries. According to the UNHCR, the Venezuelan crisis has been the most significant exodus in Latin America's recent history, forcing populations to move to the neighboring countries such as Columbia and Ecuador. When the neighboring countries were struggling to meet their own citizens' needs and imposed strict social distancing measures due to COVID-19, the Venezuelan refugees, who work mostly in informal economies, were once again challenged by the financial crisis. They were forced to return to Venezuela, and upon arrival back in Venezuela, officials locked them up in border towns for quarantine.

This article presents an interesting case study of how the COVID-19 pandemic has had unique consequences on refugees returning to their origin country. Elaboration on how the refugees finally settled back in Venezuela while facing the pandemic could have provided a more comprehensive overview, as expected from the title.

**Shammi, Mashura, Mushfiqur Rahman Robi, and Shafi M Tareq. 2020. "COVID-19: Socio-Environmental Challenges of Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh." *Journal of Environmental Health Science and Engineering*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40201-020-00489-6>.**

This paper investigates the socio-environmental challenges facing residents of refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. It briefly describes the risk factors for COVID-19 virus spread at the camp. There are more or less 1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar camps, causing the camps to be much denser than the required international standard. Denied citizenship by Myanmar, Rohingyas were also deprived of education, healthcare and contraception knowledge, and other living services, even before coming to Bangladesh. Being the second most impoverished district of Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar struggles with

health care and the pandemic. Spatial arrangements of the camp and the use of fuel wood, kerosene, and biomass burning have regularly exposed refugees to air pollution, which could worsen the virus spread.

To conclude, the camp's multiple risk factors include limited WASH facilities, air pollution, Bangladesh's weak protection system, and social exclusion, which has caused refugees to be less educated on health risks such as HIV, disease preconditions and mental stress. Despite these multiple risks, efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the camp seem limited to practical measures, i.e., providing water for hand-washing and education on sanitation. Spatial adjustment measures have not been implemented in the camp or proposed by the authors.





# 4

## Other Resources



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