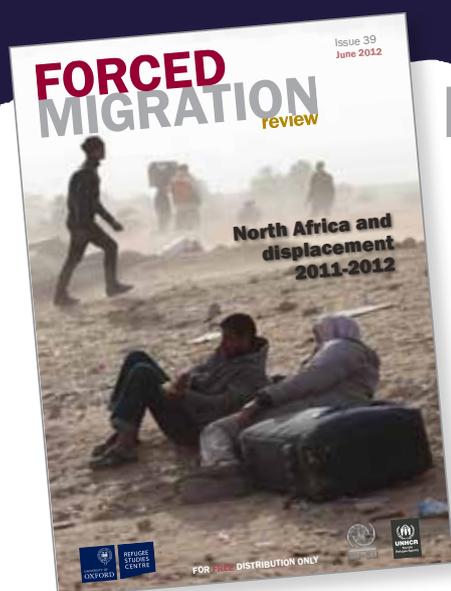


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Forced Migration Review issue 39

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North Africa and displacement 2011-2012

June 2012

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From the Editors

As this issue goes to print, the so-called Arab Spring continues to reverberate locally, regionally and geopolitically. It started in early 2011 and spread across North Africa, with well-documented consequences far further afield in Africa and Europe. The conflict in Libya in particular confronted aid and protection actors with complex situations where people were moving for diverse reasons and facing distinct needs.

This issue of FMR reflects on some of the experiences, challenges and lessons of the Arab Spring in North Africa, the implications of which resonate far wider than the region itself. Alongside it we are also

publishing an updated version of our FMR supplement on 'Islam, human rights and displacement'.

We would like to thank IOM, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR's Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa for generously supporting this issue of FMR, and all of our regular donors for their continued support.

We would also like to thank Khalid Koser, Frank Laczko, Angela Sherwood and Peter Van der Auweraert, our special advisors on this issue, for their valuable assistance.

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North Africa and displacement 2011-2012

Positive lessons from the Arab Spring

António Guterres (UN High Commissioner for Refugees)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/guterres.html

Broadening our perspective

William Lacy Swing, Director General (International Organization for Migration)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/lacy-swing.html

Migration and revolution

The Arab Spring has not radically transformed migration patterns in the Mediterranean, and the label 'migration crisis' does not do justice to the composite and stratified reality.

Hein de Haas and Nando Sigona (University of Oxford)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/dehaas-sigona.html

Bordering on a crisis

While the phenomenon of 'mixed migratory flows' has long been recognised, this was the first time it applied to a large-scale displacement. It required a coordinated humanitarian response for a large and diverse group of displaced persons.

Guido Ambroso (UNHCR)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/ambroso.html

Legal protection frameworks

The large-scale displacement associated with the recent popular uprisings in North Africa both reinforces and challenges the role of legal protection mechanisms.

Tamara Wood (University of New South Wales)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/wood.html

The bittersweet return home

Migrants left Libya in haste and in fear for their lives. Possessions and valuables were abandoned in the rush to leave. A rapid international response saved lives and facilitated the return home but a premature return may have some unwelcome repercussions.

Asmita Naik (Independent consultant) and Frank Laczko (International Organization for Migration)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/naik-laczko.html

The reintegration programme for Bangladeshi returnees

When evacuated Bangladeshi migrants arrived home, the government, civil society, international organisations and the private sector cooperated to help them.

Asmita J Wadud (International Organization for Migration Bangladesh)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/wadud.html

Local hosting and transnational identity

Tunisian people, rather than their government, led the response to the humanitarian crisis when Libyans started their own revolt and people starting fleeing across the border.

Katherine E Hoffman (Northwestern University)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/hoffman.html

Resettlement is needed for refugees in Tunisia

With Tunisia experiencing wide-ranging political, social and economic change, there is an imperative need to alleviate the burden of hosting people fleeing Libya who are unable to return to their countries of origin.

Amaya Valcárcel (Jesuit Refugee Service)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/valcarcel.html

Dispossession and displacement in Libya

Inability to access pre-displacement housing, land and property poses a significant obstacle to the achievement of durable solutions for most IDPs in Libya. Displacement and dispossession cannot be separated from the legacy of the Gaddafi era.

Rhodri C Williams (Human rights consultant)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/williams.html

We are not all Egyptian

For many refugees in Egypt the weeks of the revolution were marked by isolation, fear and brutality. In the aftermath of the revolution, the promise of greater freedom has not yet been extended to refugees.

Martin Jones (Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/jones.html

Protecting and assisting migrants caught in crises

The 2011 Libya crisis brought into sharp focus how global migration patterns are re-defining the range and type of needs and vulnerabilities of persons affected by a humanitarian crisis.

Mohammed Abdiker and Angela Sherwood (IOM)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/abdiker-sherwood.html

Looking beyond legal status to human need

What humanitarians can expect more of in the future is more mixed flows defying rigid categorisation and calling for a humanitarian response based on common needs for assistance and protection.

Tarak Bach Baouab, Hernan del Valle, Katharine Derderian and Aurelie Ponthieu (Médecins Sans Frontières)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/baouab-et-al.html

From commitment to practice: the EU response

Events in North Africa in 2011 transformed the pattern of boat arrivals in Europe – significantly in terms of the motivations of those arriving but with smaller numbers than might have been anticipated. The EU's response indicates that more is needed to translate a commitment to solidarity from limited aid and statements of principle into practical reality.

Madeline Garlick (UNHCR) and Joanne van Selm (Independent consultant)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/garlick-vanselm.html

The first safe country

The Dublin II Regulation makes the first safe country of refuge solely responsible for refugees and asylum seekers. In the case of Italy, the first responsible country has not been acting responsibly.

Raffaella Puggioni (University of Nottingham, China)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/puggioni.html

Mixed migration after the Libyan Revolution

Irregular and mixed migration is still of great concern in post-revolutionary Libya, made more complex by the securitisation of border control issues and the inherent challenges of an interim government consolidating its authority.

Samuel Cheung (UNHCR Libya)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/cheung.html

An asylum spring in the new Libya?

Jean-François Durieux, Violeta Moreno-Lax and Marina Sharpe (University of Oxford)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/durieux-et-al.html

Newly recognised humanitarian actors

'New' humanitarian leaders are growing in profile, impact and capacity. They need to be recognised as equals by the international humanitarian community.

James Shaw-Hamilton (The Humanitarian Forum)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/shaw-hamilton.html

Migrants caught in crisis

A number of new initiatives point to ways in which the international community – particularly governments – could help reduce the vulnerabilities of migrant workers during conflict and crisis situations.

Brian Kelly (International Organization for Migration)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/kelly.html

Proud to be Tunisian

With more than 10,000 people crossing the border between Tunisia and Libya each day, Tunisians from around the country mobilised support for the thousands of foreigners entering their territory in desperate, difficult conditions.

Elizabeth Eyster, Houda Chalchoul and Carole Lalève (UNHCR Tunisia)
www.fmreview.org/north-africa/eyster-et-al.html

