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Latin America and the Caribbean

FMR 56

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The region of Latin America and the Caribbean has long demonstrated hospitality towards those fleeing conflict and persecution within the region and from further afield. Faced with newer causes of displacement, such as the violence of organised criminal gangs and the adverse effects of climate change, Latin American and Caribbean countries are continuing to expand and adapt their protection laws and mechanisms in order to address these and other situations of displacement and to meet the differing needs of affected populations. This issue contains 31 articles on **Latin America and the Caribbean**, plus five 'general' articles on other topics.

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Filippo Grandi

At a time when over 65 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide, Latin America and the Caribbean offer examples of good practices from a region which continues to uphold a long-standing commitment to protect those in need.

Protection gaps in Mexico (/latinamerica-caribbean/villasenor-coria)

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Andrea Villasenor and Elba Coria

With Mexico a major destination – and transit – country for people displaced by violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America, the Mexican government needs urgently to improve its asylum systems and procedures if they are to be fit for purpose.

Silencing criticism in Mexico (/latinamerica-caribbean/suarez-zapico)

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Yimena Suárez and Daniel Zapico

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Locally run shelters along the migration routes in Mexico provide sorely needed respite and support. In the face of violence, stricter migration policies and daily obstacles, those working at the La 72 shelter strive to respect people's sense of dignity while caring for their safety.

Mexico's Michoacán state: mixed migration flows and transnational links  bada-feldmann.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/bada-feldmann.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/bada-feldmann)


Xóchitl Bada and Andreas E Feldmann

Against a backdrop of unrelenting violence in Mexico, traditional migration patterns in the North American corridor are being reconfigured.

Criminal violence in Honduras as a driver of displacement  nelsonpollard.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/nelsonpollard.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/nelsonpollard)


Suzanna Nelson-Pollard

The impact of violence is felt daily in the Northern Triangle of Central America and is a major driver of displacement, yet its very nature obstructs identification of and access to those in need of protection. Honduras is now a case-study in the CRRF process, presenting an opportunity to learn from what is done, and not done, in one of the affected countries in this region.

Factors influencing decision making by people fleeing Central America  knox.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/knox.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/knox)


Vickie Knox

Interviews with people who have fled violence in Central America reveal the influences behind their decision making prior to and during flight.

Central American refugees: protected or put at risk by communication technologies?  barros.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/barros.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/barros)


Guillermo Barros

In a world that is more interconnected than ever, many refugees cannot obtain information or communicate when they most need to. Paradoxically, carrying a phone or connecting to the internet can put them at risk if they do not take security measures.

Unaccompanied children crossing the Darién Gap  hunter.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/hunter.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/hunter)

Margaret Hunter

While there is much international attention paid to the treacherous journeys of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea, both the media and international aid community have overlooked one of the deadliest migratory routes in the world: the Darién Gap.

Youth outreach centres in El Salvador:  roth.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/roth.pdf) (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/roth.pdf)

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Ashley Feasley and Todd Scribner

The Catholic Church is developing various initiatives to assist those fleeing violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America.

Colombia: durable solutions for the forcibly displaced  valcarcel-samudio.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/valcarcel-samudio.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/valcarcel-samudio)

Amaya Valcárcel and Vera Samudio

Colombia has a sophisticated body of law and a wealth of experience in the development of policies for the forcibly displaced. However, numerous obstacles stand in the way of attaining permanent solutions to displacement.

Colombia: time to invoke the cessation clause?  sanchezmojica.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/sanchezmojica.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/sanchezmojica)

Beatriz Eugenia Sánchez Mojica

After more than five decades of internal armed conflict, in November 2016 the Colombian government signed a peace agreement with the FARC-EP. Does this mean that those Colombians who had been forced to leave the country must now begin to return?

Colombia's ex-combatant children and adolescents  armascontreras.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/armascontreras.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/armascontreras)


Stephany Armas Contreras

Large numbers of children and adolescents recruited into the armed conflict in Colombia are now being demobilised. Lessons from the previous peace process of 2003-08 could usefully inform today's transitional justice process, in particular with regard to reintegrating ex-combatant minors into civilian life and avoiding their further displacement or co-option by armed groups.

New drivers of displacement in Colombia  camposgarcia.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/camposgarcia.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/camposgarcia)

Alfredo Campos García

Violence and displacement have not ended with the signing of the peace agreement in Colombia.

Land restitution in Colombia: why so few applications?  thomson.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/thomson.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/thomson)

Frances Thomson

Halfway through Colombia's official land restitution process, questions arise as to why the number of claims is so much lower than anticipated.

Colombia's displaced  escobarquero.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/escobarquero.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/escobarquero)

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Sindy Hernández Bonilla

More than 20 years since the end of the civil war, Guatemala is once again experiencing an upsurge in internal displacement. The causes are multiple, and demand attention.

Falling short of protection: Peru's new migration scheme for Venezuelans



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(/latinamerica-caribbean/parent)

Nicolas Parent

Peru's introduction of a new work and study permit for Venezuelans fleeing violence in their country is to be applauded – but it provides only a limited, temporary form of protection.

Protection in the absence of legislation in Trinidad and Tobago



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Rochelle Nakhid and Andrew Welch

The Caribbean's many small island States are grappling with increasingly complex mixed migration flows, yet few have introduced refugee legislation. Trinidad and Tobago is in the process of doing so.

Eradicating statelessness in the Americas



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Juan Ignacio Mondelli

Considerable progress has been made towards eradicating statelessness in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2014 but there is still work to be done if it is to become the first world region to eradicate statelessness.

Extra-regional refugee resettlement in South America: the Palestinian experience



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Marcia Vera Espinoza

South American countries have been increasingly opening their doors to resettle extra-regional refugees. One of the most visible initiatives was the resettlement of Palestinian refugees in Chile and Brazil during 2007 and 2008.

Venezuelan displacement: a challenge to Brazil



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Helisane Mahlke and Lilian Yamamoto

Brazil must strengthen its reception and integration of fleeing Venezuelans

The future of the Brazilian resettlement programme



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Thais Silva Menezes and Stylianos Kostas

Brazil's resettlement programmes have been praised for demonstrating the country's commitment to refugee protection but the number resettled remains small compared with international need. Brazil needs to address the

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Syrian refugees in Uruguay: an uncomfortable topic (/latinamerica-caribbean/rodriguezcamejo.pdf)
 Raquel Rodríguez Camejo
Only a year after Uruguay's resettlement plan for Syrian refugees was established, the resettled families said they wanted to leave. Expectations have not been met.

Measuring local integration in Ecuador (/latinamerica-caribbean/cordova-janssen.pdf)
 Santiago Cordova and Peter Janssen
In 2014-15 UNHCR Ecuador developed an index to measure the degree to which refugees are integrated in their host country, using three main dimensions of local integration: legal, economic and socio-cultural.

The RCM Guide: a novel protection tool for cross-border disaster-induced displacement in the Americas (/latinamerica-caribbean/kaelin-cantor.pdf)
 Walter Kälin and David Cantor
States in the Americas confront complex challenges in the face of human mobility caused by both sudden- and slow-onset disasters. A new regional guide presents practices and measures to help address the protection needs of cross-border disaster-displaced persons.

Towards a regional agreement on environmental displacement? (/latinamerica-caribbean/piresramos-cavedoncapdeville-yamamoto-serraglio.pdf)
 Erika Pires Ramos, Fernanda de Salles Cavedon-Capdeville, Lilian Yamamoto and Diogo Andreola Serraglio
Efforts towards a regional agreement on migration in South America should be extended to recognise and protect those displaced for environmental reasons.

Disaster-induced displacement in the Caribbean and the Pacific (/latinamerica-caribbean/hamza-koch-plewa.pdf)
 Mo Hamza, Ida Koch and Malte Plewa
People in Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to displacement by disaster. Governments in the Caribbean and the Pacific need urgently to do more risk management and planning, rather than focusing almost exclusively on response and relocation.

Could Latin American citizenship be a fourth durable solution? (/latinamerica-caribbean/llamas.pdf)
 Valeria Llamas
Proposals for a regional South American citizenship put forward by the Union of South American Nations

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Manisha Thomas

As they work towards the adoption of a Global Compact on Refugees, States are implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. How can those involved in its implementation, including new actors, best achieve this collective approach to large movements of refugees?

Towards a development approach to displacement  devictor.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/devictor.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/devictor)

Xavier Devictor

To better respond to displacement, we need to adopt a medium- to long-term perspective rooted in development as well as humanitarian principles.

ASEAN's role in the Rohingya refugee crisis  shivakoti.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/shivakoti.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/shivakoti)


Richa Shivakoti

The Rohingya refugee crisis has become a regional crisis. Members of the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN) must enhance regional cooperation in order to improve protection for the region's refugees.

Refugees in towns: experiences of integration  jacobsen.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/latinamerica-caribbean/jacobsen.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/jacobsen)

Karen Jacobsen

In countries of first asylum, transit and destination it is increasingly towns and cities that are absorbing refugees. We must look at what is happening at a local level to better understand urban integration as a process shared by refugees and host communities alike.

Canada's Guideline 9: improving SOGIE claims assessment?  dustin-ferreira.pdf (/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/dustin-ferreira.pdf) (/latinamerica-caribbean/dustin-ferreira)

Moirá Dustin and Nuno Ferreira

Asylum seekers making claims relating to their sexual orientation and gender identity often face unfair refusal. New guidance from the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada takes admirable steps towards improving claims assessment, and offers a model for practitioners elsewhere.

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