

REFUGEE-HOST COMMUNITY RELATIONS DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND:

LESSONS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

When: 08 April 2021
9:00 -10:30 am EST

SPEAKERS:



Khalil Gebara

Professor at Lebanese
American University (LAU)



Georges Haddad

Programs Manager at
Act for Human Rights (ALEF)



Jennifer Kandjii

Research Officer on the
LERRN-IDRC initiative



Lama Mourad

Assistant Professor at
Carleton University

Public Zoom Webinar

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Co-moderated by

Roula El-Rifai, Senior Program Specialist, IDRC, Canada
and James Miner, Project Director, LERRN



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Description of the webinar

The fifth webinar in the LERRN–IDRC webinar series on forced displacement focuses on refugees and host community relations. The webinar will examine the factors that shape relations between refugees and host communities in various contexts, exploring the diverse challenges to authorities, humanitarian actors, refugees, and receiving host communities due to protracted refugee situations. Drawing on lessons from the Middle East and Southern Africa, it will consider solutions to fostering social cohesion and mitigating rising social tensions between refugees and host communities in urban and camp settings.

The LERRN-IDRC webinar series on forced displacement serves to create a forum for engagement between localized perspectives by actors from significant refugee-hosting contexts with Canadian and global policymakers. Engaging with current forced migration debates within the context of COVID-19, the webinars seek to amplify the voices and perspectives of partners closest to the issues. These seminars will address several dimensions of forced displacement, such as education, health, and refugee leadership, within broader questions on migration drivers and sustainable knowledge ecosystems in the Global South.

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LERRN is a team of researchers and practitioners committed to promoting protection and solutions with and for refugees. The goal is to ensure that refugee research, policy and practice are shaped by a more inclusive, equitable and informed collective engagement of civil society.

Part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts, **IDRC** invests in knowledge, innovation, and solutions to improve the lives of people in the developing world. Bringing together the right partners around opportunities for impact, IDRC builds leaders for today and tomorrow and helps drive change for those who need it most.



Khalil Gebara

Khalil Gebara is an expert in governance, local development and public policy with a unique set of expertise as a researcher, academic and government advisor. He is currently teaching economics at the Lebanese American University (LAU) and a Senior Advisor to the Crisis Observatory at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Between February 2014 and February 2019, he was the Policy and International Affairs Advisor to the Minister of Interior and Municipalities and he served between 2010 and 2014 as the head of the Good Governance Unit at the office of Prime Minister Saad Hariri. In December 2008, he was appointed by the Lebanese government as a member of the first Supervisory Commission on the Election Campaign. Khalil Gebara was also the Director of the Lebanese Transparency Association-Transparency International Chapter in Lebanon between 2005 and 2008. Khalil Gebara holds a PhD in Political Economy from Exeter University in the United Kingdom and he is an active member of several organizations, including the Common Space Initiative.



Jennifer Kandjii

Jennifer Kandjii is the Research Officer on the LERRN-IDRC initiative on localizing knowledge production on forced displacement. She is also a Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) in Global Governance at the Balsillie School of International Affairs at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada. Her research focuses on refugee governance and experiences in South Africa, drawing links and interrogating tensions between policy and practices of policy implementation, citizenry xenophobic discrimination and violence, and refugees' precarious existence while elucidating the struggles, resistance, and resilience strategies that refugees espouse in this context. Before pursuing her PhD, Jennifer worked with the United Nations High Commissioner in Southern Africa.



Georges Haddad

Georges Haddad is ALEF's Programs Manager, a Lebanese local organization advocating and promoting human rights focusing on the protection of vulnerable groups, the criminal justice sector, and civic space. He also leads the PASC WG (Persons Affected by the Syrian Crisis Working Group), a network of 26 local Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian NGOs, focusing on advocacy and protection issues.

Meet the Panelists



Lama Mourad

Lama Mourad is an Assistant Professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. Her research interests are focused on the intersection of forced migration, local governance, and the politics of borders, with a regional focus on the Middle East. More about Dr. Mourad [here](#)

Meet the Co-Moderators



Roula El-Rifai

Roula El-Rifai is Senior Program Specialist (Spécialiste de programmes principal) with the Democratic and Inclusive Governance Division (Gouvernance démocratique et inclusive) at Canada's International Development Research Centre - IDRC (Centre de recherches pour le développement international-CRDI). Her work supports civil society actors in the Arab world advocating for reform with a focus on forced displacement and youth civic engagement. She is an expert on the Palestinian refugee issue as part of the Middle East Peace Process and is co-editor of three volumes on the subject: *The Palestinian Refugee Problem: The Search for a Resolution* (2014); *Compensation to Palestinian Refugees and the Search for Palestinian-Israeli Peace* (2013); *Palestinian Refugees: Challenges of Repatriation and Development* (2007). She has an MA in 'International Relations' from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK, and an MSc in 'Rural Planning and Development' from the University of Guelph, Canada.



James Milner

James Milner is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Carleton University. He is also currently Project Director of LERRN: The Local Engagement Refugee Research Network. He has been a researcher, practitioner and policy advisor on issues relating to the global refugee regime, global refugee policy and the politics of asylum in the global South. In recent years, he has undertaken field research in Burundi, Guinea, Kenya, India, Tanzania and Thailand, and has presented research findings to stakeholders in New York, Geneva, London, Ottawa, Bangkok, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and elsewhere. He has worked as a Consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in India, Cameroon, Guinea and its Geneva Headquarters. He is author of *Refugees, the State and the Politics of Asylum in Africa* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), co-author of *UNHCR: The Politics and Practice of Refugee Protection* (Routledge, 2012), and co-editor of *Refugees' Roles in Resolving Displacement and Building Peace: Beyond Beneficiaries* (Georgetown, 2019) and *Protracted Refugee Situations: Political, Human Rights and Security Implications* (UN University Press, 2008).