

LOCALIZED FORCED DISPLACEMENT RESEARCH

Lessons from East Africa and the Middle East



SPEAKERS:



Dulo Nyaoro

Senior Lecturer/Researcher,
Moi University



Kiya Gezahegne

Lecturer, Addis Ababa
University



Linda Oucho

Executive Director, African
Migration Development Policy
Centre, Nairobi



Nasser Yassin

Professor of Policy and Planning at the
American University of Beirut (AUB)



Zein Soufan

Social-Economic Development
Specialist, Jordan

Co-moderated by
Federico Burone, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, IDRC, Canada
and James Miner, Project Director, LERRN

When: 09 June 2021

9:00 -10:30 am EST

[Register on our website!](#)

Public Zoom Webinar

Description of the webinar

The sixth webinar in the LERRN-IDRC webinar series on forced displacement focuses on localized knowledge ecosystems. The webinar will showcase phase one results of the IDRC- LERRN project on Localized Knowledge Ecosystem in East Africa and the Middle East. Drawing on findings from Kenya and Ethiopia in East Africa and Lebanon and Jordan in the Middle East, the webinar will shed light on how localized knowledge ecosystems consisting of diverse actors and networks collaborate to produce, translate, and mobilize knowledge to influence forced displacement policy and practice. It will consider the impact these ecosystems have had in shaping protection and assistance for refugees in camps and urban contexts.

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.

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.

Meet the Panelists

Dulo Nyaoro

Dulo Nyaoro is a Senior lecturer and researcher in the Department of Political Science, Moi University, and Coordinator at the Peace and Reconciliation Institute. He coordinates the MA degree programme in Forced Migration at Moi University. Nyaoro holds a BA in Political Science from Moi University and an MA in Migration Studies from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Nyaoro is the team leader of the Kenya Geographic Working of LERRN and has conducted research on displacement in Kenya, South Africa and Somalia. He has published several pieces on migration and refugee issues in Kenya and the horn of Africa. Research interests include development and migration, human rights, African politics and governance, and Peace and Conflicts studies.

Kiya Gezahegne

Kiya Gezahegne is an experienced feminist researcher and lecturer based at the Department of Social Anthropology, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. She has been involved in ethnographic research for over eight years on a range of migration related areas including experiences of Ethiopian migrants to and from the Middle East, migration management and livelihoods at the Ethiopia-Sudan border, interlinkages between migration and poverty in Ethiopia, as well as understanding migration and the labour market in Addis Ababa among others. Her research interests include international migration, refugee studies, gender policy, religious identity, borderland conflict, marginalization and slavery in the contemporary world, and adolescent wellbeing. She also contributes to policy processes including the analysis of the Ethiopian National Women's Policy. Kiya is currently in the final stages of her PhD which focuses on migration across the Ethiopia-Sudan border where she is investigating religious identity and construction at Addis Ababa University as part of the "Borderland Dynamics in East Africa" project coordinated by the University of Bergen. The five-year project supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) aims to strengthen the research and teaching capacities of anthropology at Addis Ababa University, University of Khartoum and Makerere University, as well as develop new knowledge that can empower borderland communities in the region. She also lectures on the subject. She has authored several publications related to migration including the recent publication "A state incorporated business: the migration economy along the Ethiopia-Sudan border town of Metema" for the Research Evidence Facility (REF) coordinated by SOAS University and funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. Kiya has provided her services to a number of international agencies such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, the Overseas Development Institute, as well as the Organisation for Social Science in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) among others.

Linda Oucho

Linda Oucho is an established migration expert leading the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) – a research think tank based in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Oucho is a Kenyan diasporan that returned to Kenya after 16 years abroad pursuing her studies in Ghana, Botswana and the United Kingdom, where her experience as a migrant has fueled her passion and interest in migration to, from and within Africa. As the executive director at AMADPOC, Dr. Oucho holds a Ph.D. in Ethnic Relations from the University of Warwick, where she specialized in international migration of African women. She has expanded her research focus to include internal regional migration patterns within the Horn and Eastern Africa including projects related to poverty, climate change and more recently youth, employment and migration. She has undertaken consultancies at a number of international agencies including IOM Kenya and Ethiopia, ICMPD, AUC, UNDP, GIZ, IDRC and FES. She currently works closely with the Government of Kenya leading discussions on key migration matters to be mainstreamed into policy through the National Coordination Mechanism for Migration (NCM). Dr. Oucho continues to advocate for the use of research to inform decision-making, policy design and implementation especially with concerns to migration with a focus on decentralized mainstreaming of migration and implementation of policy.

Panelists

Nasser Yassin

Nasser Yassin is professor of Policy and Planning and Chairperson of the Health Management & Policy Department at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He founded in 2020 and currently leading the Lebanon Crisis Observatory to track the repercussions of the crises in Lebanon & to provide evidence and systematic analysis of various facets of the crises hitting the country. He co-chairs the AUB4Refugees Initiative that brings together faculty in AUB responding to refugee crises. He was the Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs between 2019 and 2020 and the Institute's Director of Research 2014 and 2019.

He holds a PhD from University College London (UCL), an MSc from London School of Economics (LSE), and an MSc and BSc from the AUB. His research and practice interests are in development planning and policymaking. He researches and works on policy and social innovation especially in areas of social, health and displacement policies and programs. He is author of more than 50 internationally published peer-reviewed articles and books. His work on refugee crises and on Lebanon has been featured in many media channels including Al-Jazeera, BBC, Bloomberg, The Economist, New York Times, and Deutsche Welle - among others.

He has held advisory roles and assignments to a number of UN organizations, including UNHCR, UNDP, ESCWA and ILO, as well as governments in the Middle East. He is currently an advisor to the UNHCR Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa.

Zein Soufan

Zein Soufan is a Socio-economic Development Specialist who has been working in development since 2002, working on poverty, labor, refugees, and gender-related issues. Ms. Soufan has extensive experience designing strategies and policies across broad areas, having co-led designs of national strategies such as "Jordan 2025", the Jordan Poverty Alleviation Strategy and National Employment Strategy and "Oman 2040 Vision."

Ms. Soufan presents excellent research and analytical skills in a wide range of domains, including on issues related to human rights, human trafficking, social cohesion and prevention of violent extremism. In addition to her project design and implementation experience, she most recently shifted to technical M&E evaluation of programs and initiatives. She has worked with different partners in the development world, including the public sector, the international community, NGOs and civil society. Currently, she runs a Jordanian consultancy firm where she can carry out different activities.

Meet the Co-Moderators



Federico Burone

Federico Burone is Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, in Montevideo, Uruguay. He joined IDRC as Executive Director of the Environmental Management Secretariat, an initiative that supported the production of knowledge to promote the implementation of evidence-based policies by local governments. Federico has held numerous other positions at IDRC over the years, including acting Vice-President of Programs and Partnerships as well as acting Vice-President of Strategy, Regions, and Policy in Ottawa. At IDRC he also led the task force that coordinated a hemispheric initiative supporting research informing collaboration with Haiti after the 2010 crisis, and programming on youth and the future of democracy in LAC. He previously taught and conducted research in the fields of urban management and development economics in Latin America, and worked at the University of the Republic, Uruguay, and the University of Valencia, Spain. He holds a PhD in Economics and an MSc in environmental sciences from the University of Valencia, Spain.



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).