

Refugee Livelihoods Network

In This Issue:

- [May '04 Newsletter - The role of remittances](#)
- [Research in UNHCR's EPAU illustrates the importance of remittances for livelihoods of refugees](#)
- [The importance of remittances for Somali refugees](#)
- [Harnessing the investment potential of migrants' remittances: the importance of family ties](#)
- [FMR 20 Sustainable livelihoods: seeds of success?](#)
- [New Forced Migration Online \(FMO\) resource page on livelihoods](#)
- [Forthcoming events](#)

Featured Links:

- ['Vital links in social security: Somali refugees in the Dadaab camps, Kenya' by Cindy Horst](#)
- ['Reintegration programs for refugees in SE Asia' by Brett Ballard](#)
- [Africa Working Paper Series No. 64 'Migrant Labor Remittances in Africa'](#)
- ['From durable solutions to transnational relations: home and exile among refugee diasporas' by Nicholas Van Hear](#)

May '04 Newsletter - The role of remittances

Remittances have become an important topic in the literature on migrant populations illustrating the integral role that remittances have played in the livelihoods of refugees. Moreover, there is growing evidence that correspondence and ties with relatives and friends living abroad has helped refugees survive the harsh conditions of their displacement.

The articles included in this edition of the Refugee Livelihood Network Newsletter capture the importance of remittances and the consequences of these transactions on local and community development.

One such example is the paper 'Remittances as Unforeseen Burdens' written by Stephanie Riak Akuei, a PhD Candidate at University College London. Her research explores the relationship of remittances and refugee livelihoods and how remittances to kin and community members are experienced and managed.

[Click here to access Stephanie Riak Akuei's paper 'Remittances as Unforeseen Burdens'](#)

Research in UNHCR's EPAU illustrates the importance of remittances for livelihoods of refugees

In an effort to learn more about the lives of refugees living in protracted refugee situations, beginning in 2002, the Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit undertook a series of studies into protracted refugee situations. Papers written under this initiative examined the livelihood activities and found that refugees often depend on remittances from relatives and friends outside of their communities.

One example is in the paper 'Responding to protracted refugee situations - A case study of Liberian refugees in Ghana', Shelly Dick stressed the crucial role that remittances played in enabling Liberian refugees to survive in Ghana.

[Click here to read Shelly Dick's paper on Liberian refugees in Ghana](#)

The importance of remittances for Somali refugees

Research from the University of Amsterdam examines Somali transnational networks and the role that remittances has on the livelihoods of Somali refugees.

Cindy Horst has written extensively on this topic and her research can be found in the following documents:

- Transnational nomads: how Somalis cope with refugee life in the Dadaab camps of Kenya' by Cindy Horst, unpublished PhD thesis, University of Amsterdam.

- 'Xawilaad: the importance of overseas connections in the livelihoods of Somali refugees in the Dadaab refugee camps of Kenya' WPTC-02-14, Amsterdam Research Institute of Global Issues and development Studies

- 'Vital links in social security: Somali refugees in the Dadaab camps, Kenya'. Geneva, UNHCR, EPAU. New issues in Refugee Research, Working Paper No. 38

To access this paper click on the featured links section to the left.

[Click here to link to Cindy Horst's research and learn more about remittances for Somali refugees](#)

Harnessing the investment potential of migrants' remittances: the importance of family ties

Research from the Sussex Centre for Migration Research examines the economic behavior of migrants from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana who have family ties are key to securing valuable remittances and financial investment from migrants to their home countries. The research argues that in order to maximize the benefits of remittances for economic growth, not only do the individual migrants need to be targeted but that of the entire family.

The following paper can be accessed through the link below: 'Migration, return and socio-economic change in West Africa: the role of family' by Richmond Tiemoko, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, Sussex Migration Working Paper 15, March 2003.

[To read more about the importance of family ties in remittances click here](#)

FMR 20 Sustainable livelihoods: seeds of success?

The May 2004 issue of Forced Migration Review, on refugee and IDP livelihoods, has just been published. In fact, FMR 20 contains articles written by many of the subscribers to the Refugee Livelihoods Network.

As the number of uprooted people in the world continues to rise, the international community faces mounting challenges on how best to assist refugees in need. Understanding people's livelihood strategies is a prerequisite to assisting them. The articles in FMR 20 discuss the issues at stake, examine agency strategies and refugees' experiences, and present lessons learned and examples of good practice.

It has been produced in collaboration with UNHCR's Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit and sponsored by World Vision Canada. This issue also includes articles on forced migrants in Russia, treatment of women asylum seekers in Australian detention centres, IDPs in Sri Lanka, and the national and international response to IDPs.

[To access FMR 20 click here](#)

New Forced Migration Online (FMO) resource page on livelihoods

To complement the focus of the most recent issue of Forced Migration Review (FMR), Forced Migration Online (FMO) has prepared a companion resource page on livelihoods which highlights documents, journal articles, web resources and organizations.

[Click here to browse the new FMO resource page on livelihoods](#)

Forthcoming events

Leveraging development impact for Pacific States - a conference on remittances

A one and a half day workshop designed to increase understanding of the importance of remittances as a source of financing for development in Pacific states.

The conference will take place 10-11 June ,2004 at the School of Economics, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. For more information contact The Foundation for Development Cooperation (Attention Elaine Neill), Tel +61 7 3236 4633 Fax +61 7 3236 4696; Email info@fdc.org.au

[Click here to learn more about the upcoming conference on remittances in the Pacific States](#)

The Refugee Livelihoods Network is an initiative of UNHCR's Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit. (EPAU) The views expressed by contributors to the Network and in documents electronically linked to the Network are not those of UNHCR. For issues other than refugee livelihoods, EPAU can be contacted by e-mail at hqep00@unhcr.org