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# TRAFIG

Transnational Figurations of Displacement

***“Protracted displacement situations arise when and where durable solutions are not made available or progress towards achieving these is stalled.”***

[TRAFIG Practice Note No.1](#)

*Dear Readers,*

As recent UNHCR estimates show, 15.9 million refugees – 78% of all refugees worldwide— find themselves in situations of protracted displacement. In this context, finding solutions beyond the narrow frame of the conventional durable solutions –return, local integration and resettlement— has become one of the major challenges in connection with forced displacement. [The TRAFIG project \(Transnational Figurations of Displacement\)](#) aims to contribute to finding solutions for protracted displacement situations that are better tailored to the needs and capacities of displaced persons themselves. In particular, TRAFIG looks at how transnational and local networks as well as mobility are used as resources by displaced people to manage their everyday lives and help them to move out of protracted displacement.

Our Newsletter will keep you informed about the project news and outputs. It will also introduce the TRAFIG team members, as well as some of its Horizon 2020 sister-projects! [Subscribe here](#) for *Staying Connected* with TRAFIG.

We wish you a happy new year and look forward to sharing our news with you!  
The TRAFIG team

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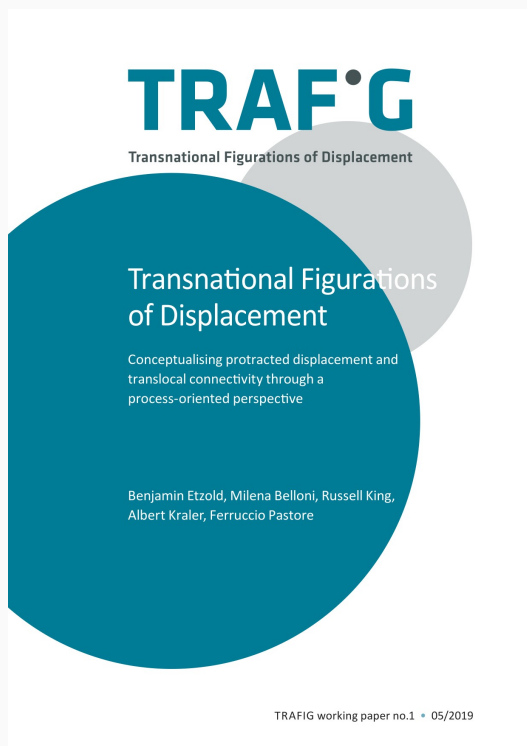
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### [Output and Publications from TRAFIG](#)

#### TRAFIG Publications: Working Papers, Practice Notes, and Policy Briefs



#### [TRAFIG Working Paper No.1: Transnational Figurations of Displacement – Conceptualising protracted displacement and translocal connectivity through a process- oriented perspective](#)

TRAFIG makes use of the figurational approach for finding solutions to protracted displacement. Its re-definition of protracted displacement focuses on the agency that displaced persons have, as their situations are not as fixed and static as often assumed. Translocal connectivity and mobility are defined as the key concepts for finding solutions better tailored to the needs and capacities of persons affected. Find out more about our project's underlying concept, its key hypotheses, and the main themes that will be explored over the course of the project.

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## TRAFIG Policy Brief No.1: Governing protracted displacement - What access to solutions for forcibly displaced people?

TRAFIG's Policy Brief No.1 identifies the central issues that determine displacement situations in the focus countries and presents recommendations for finding durable solutions that consider displaced persons' everyday realities. Find the most striking insights and conclusions drawn from the analysis of governing protracted displacement in the global, regional and domestic contexts.

# TRAFIG

Transnational Figurations of Displacement

policy brief no.1 • 01/2020

## Governing protracted displacement What access to solutions for forcibly displaced people?

Marion Noack, Martin Wagner, Caroleen Jacobs

The governance of displacement and access to protection are closely linked to solutions for displaced people that refer to both the capability of displaced persons to rebuild their lives after displacement and the opportunities available to do so. Current policies to address displacement follow the (often artificial) division of governance structures for displacement. Available solutions are usually closely related to the classification of displaced persons into different categories. The qualification of a person as a refugee, an internal displaced person (IDP) or a labour migrant entails what kind of solutions provided by the international community are accessible and whether a person can rely on the support by a dedicated agency, or whether the person is left unsupported. Governance structures, however, often overlap and lead to significant gaps at the same time, leading to protracted displacement characterised by vulnerability, dependency and legal insecurity owing to continuous cycles of displacement and a lack of durable solutions.

### Central findings and recommendations

1 **Multiple actors and multiple frameworks govern displacement globally and at a regional level.** Their mandates partially overlap and the categorisation of displaced persons, closely linked to the institutional mandates and definitions in legal frameworks, result in protection gaps for certain groups concerned. Bridging the gap between humanitarian/ emergency relief and protection and development assistance by forming integrative approaches will better account for the needs of displaced populations.

2 **The governance framework of displacement centres on the objective of providing protection.** Yet, protection in itself provides only part of the solution for individuals. With the endurance of conflicts and the increase in protracted displacement situations, this (short-term) protection need should be coupled with longer-term perspectives to access livelihoods and, as such, solutions.

3 **Solutions are often lacking or are not tailored to the needs of the individual.** People in protracted displacement will aim to find solutions on their own, making use of different forms of mobility and transnational networks. Current approaches to forced displacement and access to solutions need to be better equipped to support those individual strategies.

4 **Legal and policy frameworks and humanitarian action in the field of displacement are not yet reflecting protracted displacement sufficiently.** Policy development with regard to protracted displacement situations should be inspired by an in-depth understanding of the respective individual coping strategies and displaced persons' requirements for leaving those situations.

5 **Individuals make use of various pathways to access protection and find a livelihood for themselves.** The notion of solutions should hence be broadened to encompass the range of options that pave the way for forcibly displaced people to exercise basic rights all human beings should enjoy.

# TRAFIG

Transnational Figurations of Displacement

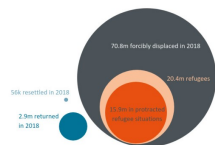
practice note no.1 • 06/2019

## Transnational Figurations of Displacement Exploring new solutions to protracted displacement

Between 2000 and 2018, the world witnessed a threefold increase of the number of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) – from a total number of 22.8 million to 70.8 million. In 2018 alone, 13.6 million people were newly displaced – both within their countries and across borders – due to armed conflicts, human rights violations and oppressive regimes. While global displacement grew, repatriation, resettlement and local integration only provide a sustainable solution for a small number of affected people.

UNHCR estimates that there were about 15.9 million refugees who had been in exile for five consecutive years or more in a given asylum country by the end of 2018, thus living in protracted refugee situations. This corresponds to three-quarters of all refugees. The total number of people in protracted displacement is, however, far higher. Yet, there are no comparable figures on long-lasting displacement of IDPs.

To respond to the global challenge of protracted displacement, policymakers at national, regional and global levels have developed frameworks and support programmes. Referring to the most recent ones, both the European Union's policy framework on forced displacement and development *Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance* (2016) and the United Nations' *Global Compact on Refugees* (2018) emphasise the need to tackle long-lasting displacement and identify and plan for appropriate solutions and complementary pathways to protection. The African Union's *Kampala Declaration on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons* (2009) also highlights the need for creating sustainable livelihoods and promoting the self-reliance of displaced persons while working towards durable solutions.



Protracted displacement situations arise when and where durable solutions are not made available or progress towards achieving these is stalled.

TRAFIG sees protracted displacement as a social constellation in which the capabilities of people for rebuilding their lives after displacement and the opportunities available to do so are severely limited for prolonged periods of time.

In protracted displacement situations, multiple constraining forces limit individuals from using their capacities and making their own free choices. These constraining forces relate to:

- **displacing forces**, including conflict or disruption of livelihoods that have led to forced migration in the first place and that continue to hinder return to countries of origin,
- **marginalising forces**, ranging from legal restrictions to social exclusion and economic disadvantage, that prevent real local integration in recipient countries, and
- **immobilising forces**, such as restrictive visa policies and tightened border controls, that block a displaced person's mobility and chances to seek a future elsewhere.

## TRAFIG Practice Note No.1: Exploring new solutions to protracted displacement

TRAFIG's first Practice Note summarizes the project's approach and provides more information about the reasons for protracted displacement. It sketches out possible new solutions that focus on translocal connectivity and mobility of persons affected.

## [TRAFIG Practice Note No.3: Bridging the gaps: Governance of protracted displacement across global, regional and national levels](#)

Based on the upcoming Working Paper No.3 "*Governing Protracted Displacement: An analysis across Global, Regional and Domestic Contexts*", TRAFIG's Practice Note No.3 highlights the most striking aspects regarding the institutional and governance system of displacement across global, regional and national levels.

# TRAFIG

Transnational Figurations of Displacement

practice note no. 3 • 01/2020

### Bridging the gaps: Governance of protracted displacement across global, regional and national levels

The current institutional and governance system of displacement has become much more complex with the inclusion of ever more actors. But it still leaves open multiple gaps of protection. To close these protection gaps and to more effectively address protracted displacement, it requires a better collaboration and coordination between international, regional and domestic stakeholders, a long-term development rather than a short-term humanitarian approach and sincere recognition of displaced people's rights and their mobility needs.

78 per cent of the world's refugees live in protracted displacement

There has been a steady and significant increase over recent years in the number of displaced people, in particular in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who live in long-term situations of vulnerability, dependency and legal insecurity. The term protracted displacement refers to entrenched situations, in which the capabilities and opportunities for people to rebuild their lives after displacement are severely limited. In many cases, they can neither return home nor move on to other countries, nor really integrate in the country of (first) reception. The cyclical and protracted nature of many conflicts, a general decline in the support for durable solutions, mounting hostility towards foreigners in many countries and a challenging climate for multilateral cooperation are among the reasons for protracted displacement.

Collaborating across global, regional and national levels

Global actors have developed integrated approaches to address the needs of, and to offer long-term perspectives for, refugees and IDPs and to tackle the challenges arising for local host communities. This is in line with the [UN Global Compact on Refugees](#) calling for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach, which foresees the involvement of a broad set of actors—including civil society organisations, local

communities and refugees themselves—in the design, monitoring and implementation of its actions. Tripartite agreements have been a particular strategy of UNHCR engagement with refugee-receiving countries and their countries of origin across various regions. Moreover, in recent years, more emphasis has been placed within regional approaches on improving host-refugee relations and promoting broader economic development in host communities to facilitate solutions.

Integrating development and humanitarian approaches

In Africa and Asia, refugees and IDPs are often seen to be the responsibility of the humanitarian community. Receiving country policies often restrict access to labour markets, limit mobility and do not provide long-term legal status, thus locking displaced people in continuous dependency to humanitarian support. Development actors might, however, be better positioned to work towards longer-term durable solutions, but refugees and IDPs are often not a specific target group for their interventions. The gap between short-term humanitarian aid and more future-oriented development policies and programmes needs to be bridged. The [2016 EU's policy framework on forced displacement](#) is one right step into this direction as it aims to prevent displacement situations from becoming protracted through linking humanitarian assistance with development interventions and by facilitating moving from situations of "care and maintenance" to self-reliance. Regional development and protection programmes (RDPPs) have evolved as the main instrument to put the EU's development-humanitarian assistance approach into practice.

## Publications from TRAFIG Team Members

- Danisi, C., Dustin, M, **Ferreira, N.** & Held, N. (2019). [Written evidence submitted to 'Brexit: future UK-EU cooperation on asylum and international protection' inquiry.](#)
- Dick, E., & **Rudolf, M.** (2019). [From Global Refugee Norms to Local Realities: Implementing the Global Compact on Refugees in Kenya \(Briefing Paper 19/2019\).](#) Bonn: German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).
- **Etzold, B.** (2019). [Editorial: Violence, Mobility and Labour Relations in Asia.](#) *International Quarterly for Asian Studies*, 50(1-2), 5-18.
- Horstmann, A., **Rudolf, M.**, & Schmitz-Pranghe, C. (2019). [Cyclical, Temporary, No Return. Multiple Navigational Strategies of Displaced Persons from Myanmar.](#) *International Quarterly for Asian Studies*, 50(1-2), 39-66.
- **Rudolf, M.** (2019). [Share the Burden or Pass it on?](#) *International Migration*, 57(6), 208-223.

## TRAFIG Blog Articles

- **Benjamin Etzold:** ["Can cross-border networks secure survival?"](#). December 2019.
- **Joachim Ruhamya:** ["Meet TRAFIG researcher Joachim Ruhamya of the Congolese](#)

- [Team](#)". December 2019.
- **Carolien Jacobs**: "[Getting prior informed consent – a thorny issue](#)". December 2019.
  - **Panos Hatziprokopiou**: "[Migrant camps in Europe: the Greek case in retrospective and the European migration regime](#)". December 2019.
  - **Dr Anja van Heelsum**: "[ADMIGOV - Advancing Alternative Migration Governance](#)". December 2019.
  - **Fekadu Adugna Tufa and Markus Rudolf**: "[TRAFIG Fieldwork has started in Ethiopia](#)". January 2020.

## TRAFIG Project Activities

*Stay informed about the project developments.*



**22 May 2019:** [ICMPD](#) and [BICC](#) organised the Policy Roundtable "*What solutions for Protracted Displacement?*" in Brussels. The group of 36 participants from various sectors such as EU institutions, civil society organisations or academia, came together to discuss possible policy options and solutions to protracted displacement. Find out [more](#).

**5 June 2019:** TRAFIG organised a [public lecture](#) at the [University of Sussex](#), where the project's concept and preliminal findings were introduced to a wider audience.

**June 2019:** TRAFIG team member Muhammad Mudassar Javed ([SHARP Pakistan](#)) participated in the exhibition "[Arrival City](#)" in Karachi. The event aimed at contextualising and understanding the issues plaguing refugees, as well as posing questions on the positioning of refugees in an already fragmented society.

**26 - 28 June 2019:** Several TRAFIG team members contributed to the [16th IMISCOE Annual Conference](#) at the [Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare](#) in Sweden:

- TRAFIG partners Albert Kraler ([Danube University Krems](#)); Martin Wagner und

Maegen Hendow (both [ICMPD](#)) organised a panel on "*Solidarity, Responsibility Sharing and Alternative solutions to protracted displacement – moving beyond classical concepts*"

- Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)), Nuno Ferreira and Pamela Kea (both [University of Sussex](#)) presented a paper titled "*Think outside the (territorial) box - Translocal solutions to protracted displacement*"
- Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)) presented the TRAFIG project with the paper "*Transnational Figurations of Displacement – conceptual reflections on the role of connectivity and mobility in protracted displacement situations*"

#### **1 - 4 September 2019:**

Nuno Ferreira ([University of Sussex](#)) introduced the TRAFIG project in a panel on *Citizenship, Migration and Governance* with his paper on "*European Governance of Displacement from the Perspective of Connectivity and Mobility*" at the [Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies \(UACES\) 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#) in Lisbon. The presentation focused on the existing legal, policy and institutional frameworks addressing protracted displacement situations by the EU and member states, and their connection to the global framework.

**25 - 30 September 2019:** Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)) presented ideas and insights from TRAFIG at the [German Congress for Geography](#). He participated with two presentations in two panels: "*Beyond Europe—Global approaches for refugee protection and the EU's sudden interest in them*" in a panel on the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), and "*Why displacement crises persist and conventional solutions do not work*" in a panel on development perspectives on displacement. The event took place at the [Christian-Albrechts-University zu Kiel](#) in Germany and was organised by the University's [Geographical Institute](#) and the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie \(DGfG\)](#).

**1-2 October 2019:** At the final conference of our Horizon 2020 sister project [CEASEVAL \(Evaluation of the Common European Asylum System under the Pressure and Recommendations for Further Development\)](#) in Chemnitz, titled "*Refuge Europe – a question of solidarity?*", Albert Kraler ([Danube University Krems](#)) presented work in progress undertaken jointly with other TRAFIG team members at [BICC](#), [FIERI](#) and [ICMPD](#). The presentation focused on applying the concept of protracted displacement - a concept developed and initially limited to refugee situations in developing countries - to Europe. [Find more information](#) about the panel discussion.

**5 November 2019:** Panos Hatziprokiou ([Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#)) visited Bonn and gave a lecture on "*Migrant camps in Europe: the Greek case in retrospective and the European migration regime*" in the context of the Lecture Series "[Ankommen](#),



[Zurückkommen oder modernes Nomadentum - Arriving, Returning, or Modern Nomadism](#)” organised by the [University of Bonn](#). Find Panos’ [summary](#) of his lecture on our TRAFIG Blog.

**5-6 December 2019:** Albert Kraler ([Danube University Krems](#)) elaborated on the concept of protracted displacement in the context of Europe at the conference "[The Future of Europe as a Place of Refuge](#)" at the Charles University in Prague.

### TRAFIG Fieldwork

TRAFIG conducts comparative research in 8 countries in Africa (DR Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania), South Asia (Jordan, Pakistan) and Europe (Greece, Italy, Germany) for which the team has jointly created a methodological framework and a common curriculum. This material has been used in trainings for all persons involved in the research during local *Methodology Workshops* at the different research sites.

On **30 and 31 July 2019**, TRAFIG partners from [Yarmouk University](#) and [CMI](#) organized the first [Methods Workshop in Jordan](#), where the research process in the specific case of Jordan was presented and discussed among the Jordanian research team.



On **2 and 3 September 2019**, partners from the [University of Leiden](#) organised a [Methods Workshop in Bukavu](#) in the DR Congo. Together with the experienced Congo team, the project's framework was discussed and adjusted to the Congolese context, which focuses on internally displaced persons.

On **21 and 22 October 2019**, [FIERI](#) organised the [Methodos Workshop in Torino, Italy](#). Joined by the German and Greek team, TRAFIG's research design and methodological framework were adapted for the fieldwork in Europe.



Shortly after the Methods Workshops, the teams began implementing the fieldwork:

- **Africa:** In the *DR Congo*, the team led by the [University of Leiden](#), has started the research in **September 2019**. In *Tanzania*, the project is being organised by the [University of Leiden](#) and [Dignity Kwanza](#). In *Ethiopia*, the [Addis Ababa University](#) manages the fieldwork with support from [BICC](#). It has started in **August 2019**.
- **Asia:** The *Jordanian* team, coordinated by [CMI](#) and [Yarmouk University](#), has been conducting research since **August 2019**. In Pakistan, the research organised by [SHARP](#) with support from [BICC](#) has been ongoing since **December 2019**.
- **Europe:** In *Italy*, the team led by [FIERI](#), has started the fieldwork shortly after the Methods Workshop in **October 2019**. TRAFIG partners from the [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#) have been engaged in the research process in Greece since the end of **October**, as well. The empirical research in *Germany*, organised by [BICC](#), is currently in preparation.

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### Meet the TRAFIG Team

*Get to know the people who are part of the international TRAFIG team and find out about their personal motivations and perspectives.*



*Representatives of the TRAFIG organisations at the project Kick Off in January 2019, Bonn/ Germany*

The TRAFIG team counts 69 members affiliated with the [Consortium of 12 partner](#)



[organisations](#) from 11 countries. The Consortium is supported by various local researchers that make the fieldwork possible.

Meet **Joachim Ruhamy Mugenzi**, for example, who is part of the research team in the DR Congo:

Joachim is a teacher and researcher at the *Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural*, [ISDR-Bukavu](#), where he serves as the executive director of [CREGED](#), the *Research and Knowledge Centre on Gender and Development*.

*[“My affinity with displaced people is fed by my own experience as a refugee. Let me tell you my story...”](#)*



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### Horizon 2020 Sister Projects

*Get to know related Horizon 2020 projects and their innovative approaches.*



[AdMiGov -Advancing Alternative Migration Governance](#)

The Horizon 2020 project AdMiGov is designed to promote an alternative migration governance model that takes seriously the principles laid out in documents of the United Nations, in particular starting from the New York Declaration (NYD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It studies how alternative approaches to migration governance in line with these UN principles can be better designed and put into practice. [Find out more](#) about AdMiGov's unique methodology, its aims, and its outreach!

By [Dr. Anja van Heelsum](#), AdmiGov Project Coordinator

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## Announcements

### Call for Submissions

On **7-8 July 2020**, the final Conference of the [SOGICA](#) project will take place at the [University of Sussex](#). *SOGICA – 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge'*– aims to support a more just and humane asylum process for individuals seeking refuge in Europe on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity by contributing to the necessary evidence base.

For its final conference, the SOGICA project has announced a **Call for Submissions until 22 January 2020**. Find more information on the SOGICA project itself, the final conference and the submission details [here](#).

### Call for Submissions

For the [3rd Conference of the German Network of Forced Migration Researchers: "Contexts of Displacement, Refugee Protection and Forced Migrants' Lives"](#) on **17 to 19 September 2020** at the University of Cologne, Germany.

A [Call for submissions](#) in various formats is addressed to scientists of all disciplines involved in the field of forced migration and refugee studies as well as artists working on forced migration issues until **31 January 2020**.

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[Subscribe here to receive our Newsletter automatically](#). It will be published every four months until December 2021.





## The TRAFIG Consortium

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This project has received funding from the [European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme](#) under grant No 822453.

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