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### Dear friends of the TRAFIG project,

We are entering the final phase of our TRAFIG project. Empirical research has ended in ten out of eleven countries. Our research teams spoke with hundreds of IDPs, refugees and other migrants who found themselves in a protracted situation and consulted experts and other stakeholders in the DR Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Iran, Greece, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. We have indeed developed a better understanding of the histories, everyday lives and future perspectives of displaced people. We were saddened by hearing personal stories of suffering and loss, but impressed by their strengths, endurance, and courage, inspired by acts of solidarity and lived cooperation in local communities, and sometimes surprised how they navigate through the multiple legal barriers that they encounter. In all of this, we saw the paramount relevance of social networks that are either being formed at a place, encompass multiple sites in a country, and/or transgress international borders. The central findings from our research in our countries of study are presented in our [TRAFIG Working Paper](#) series – so far we published the reports on “figurations of displacement” in [DR Congo](#), [Ethiopia](#) and [Jordan](#). The Working Papers are always complemented by our [Practice Notes](#), which present key insight in a nutshell, and [Policy Briefs](#), which summarize key findings, draw conclusion and develop recommendation for policy makers and other stakeholders.

This edition of our Newsletter presents an overview of TRAFIG developments from **February to May 2021**. Next to new outputs - including TRAFIG publications, new blog articles, and other publications from our TRAFIG partners - the newsletter provides an update of our project activities, both in the field as well as in events and international conferences, and shares the most recent announcements from our project and partners. Find out more about the TRAFIG team in our introduction of **Rola Faris Al-Massad** from [Yarmouk University, Jordan](#) and learn more about the Horizon 2020 sister project "[MIGNEX](#)" in a blog piece by **Nicole Johnson**.

We look forward to staying in touch with you – in person and/or virtually via mail, social media, webinars or other formats.

For any enquiries, comments or recommendations, please write to [contact@trafig.eu](mailto:contact@trafig.eu).

Stay updated with our [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Benjamin Etzold, Maarit Thiem, Elvan Isikozlu and Gizem Güzelant on behalf of the TRAFIG team.

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## Output and Publications from TRAFIG

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

#### [TRAFIG Policy Brief No. 2: Leveraging networks to overcome displacement - Urban internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[TRAFIG Policy Brief No. 2](#) focuses on internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

TRAFIG research in Bukavu, eastern DRC [presented in [TRAFIG Working Paper No. 4](#)], finds that IDPs in urban settings are largely ignored and unassisted by the state and international humanitarian and development interventions — and are proactively seeking their own solutions. In this context, networks become a major source of support. As many serious challenges still persist, findings point to the need for policies and practices that support urban IDPs by helping them nurture and leverage their networks to unlock opportunities.

[TRAFIG Policy Brief No. 2](#) suggests four central findings and recommendations to support this aim. [Find out more.](#)

# TRAFIG

Transnational Figurations of Displacement

policy brief no. 2 • 02/2021

### Leveraging networks to overcome displacement Urban internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Carlin Kabaïlisa, Caroline Jacobs & Martin Wagner

In the quest for sustainable solutions to recent global displacement, promoting displaced persons' self-reliance and supporting them alongside host communities in regions of displacement have become buzzwords in global and European policy discussions. But despite such rhetoric, TRAFIG research in Bukavu, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) finds that internally displaced persons (IDPs) in urban settings are largely ignored and unassisted by the state and international humanitarian and development interventions — and are proactively seeking their own solutions. The lack of institutionalised assistance means that IDPs mostly depend on the solidarity of others to be or become self-reliant. In this context, networks are a particularly important source of support and include assistance with locating housing and finding a job in Bukavu and with maintaining and harvesting crops in communities of origin. However, even with the benefits that these connections can bring, IDPs face serious challenges related to their displacement and contend with multiple types of barriers making it difficult for many to reach or secure situations of protracted displacement. Findings therefore point to the need for policies and practices that support urban IDPs in the DRC by helping them nurture and leverage their networks to unlock opportunities.

#### Key findings and policy implications

- 1 While networks constitute a significant source of support for too many IDPs, such responses are only temporary or insufficient to fully overcome displacement. Humanitarian and development initiatives should aim to bolster existing connections, which include informal (e.g. born families) and formal (e.g. churches and labour associations) networks.
- 2 Many urban IDPs leverage resources in their home communities to make a living in the city. Development actors should support IDPs' efforts to maintain ties with their communities of origin and support mobility between Bukavu and the surrounding region.

- 3 Not every IDP has a network — not for fear of organisations want to enter their network. EU assistance should help urban IDPs strengthen and leverage their networks by reinforcing existing connections and building new ones. Current approaches to forced displacement and access to solutions need to be better equipped to support these strategies.
- 4 The complex and long-standing nature of displacement in eastern DRC calls for increased international assistance from policy makers in Europe and beyond to help IDPs move from temporary to more permanent solutions.

#### 1 Introduction

2019 was yet another year of record global displacement, coping a decade characterised by rising internal and protracted displacement. Each of these trends call for increased international engagement to ensure that people can find sustainable solutions. As shown in Figure 1, more than half (57%) of displaced people do not cross an international border but instead stay within their country of origin, and are considered internally displaced persons (IDPs).

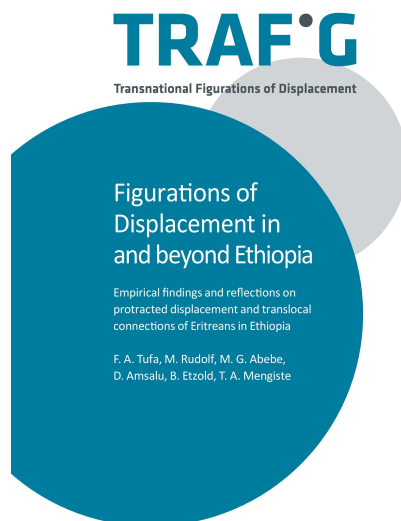


Figure 1. Record global displacement at the end of 2020, with the figures broken down by displacement type. Source: IOM, UNHCR, and TRAFIG. Carlin Kabaïlisa, Martin Wagner 2020/01-2020/12/20, 6/2021, 2021

#### [TRAFIG Working Paper No. 5: Figurations of Displacement in and beyond Ethiopia](#) Empirical findings and reflections on protracted displacement and translocal connections of Eritreans in Ethiopia

[Working Paper No. 5](#) analyses protracted displacement and translocal connections of displaced Eritreans in Ethiopia - highlighting the importance of connectivity and the role of mobility in refugees' everyday lives and as a solution to protracted displacement situations.

[Find out more](#) about the key dimensions of protracted displacement as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender, vulnerability and resilience, or belonging, suspicion and solidarity - based on the findings from TRAFIG's empirical research in Ethiopia.



TRAFIG working paper no. 5 • 03/2021

## TRAFIG Practice Note No. 5: Supporting self-reliance for local integration: Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia

Based on [TRAFIG Working Paper No 5.](#), the corresponding [TRAFIG Practice Note No. 5](#) analyses the importance of supporting self-reliance for local integration as a solution to protracted displacement.

[Find out more](#) about how networks and the connectivity of displaced persons can enhance the ability to break free from protracted displacement.



Transnational Figurations of Displacement

practice note no. 5 • 03/2021

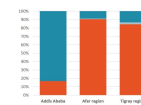
### Supporting self-reliance for local integration: Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia

Many Eritrean refugees who live in camps in Ethiopia have no translocal or transnational connections. This means they have little opportunity to move onward from the camp and resettle elsewhere. However, many of them have strong connections with the host community, and even the most vulnerable refugees show resilience in everyday life. For these refugees, local integration may be the only way out of protracted displacement. Donors and aid agencies can help TRAFIG research has found that the ability to break free from protracted displacement is mainly determined by a refugee's networks and connectivity. Local and translocal connectivity enables refugees to move out of camps, secure livelihoods, and find future chances and process their onward mobility.

Eritreans have a long history of displacement due to conflict and authoritarian rule. Many continue to seek refuge in neighbouring Ethiopia, which until our research ended in October 2020 hosted close to 180,000 Eritrean refugees – a number that may have changed since the conflict in Tigray began one month later. They are distributed across six different camps. The Afar live in two camps in the Afar regional state; the Kunama populate the Shincheha camp in Tigray, and the Tigreans (Eritrean Tigreya speakers) found refuge in the Mai-Ami, Adi Haneash and Hileasa camps.

The Afar, Kunama and Tigreya have differing connections to people within Eritrea, Ethiopia and/or countries around the world. Afar and Kunama have better local, yet less transnational connections than the Tigreya. This lack of translocal 'connectivity' means that they have few to no options to move on from a refugee camp or its surroundings and find a new place to live. Without this connectivity or mobility, the Afar and Kunama inside camps – i.e. with little access to translocal support – are highly vulnerable to a state of endless waiting and uncertainty, a common feature of protracted displacement.

Eritrean refugees' personal networks beyond their place of living



Source: TRAFIG survey data, n=314

#### Solidarity is the basis for strong host-refugee relations

Yet, the Afar and Kunama refugees are neither helpless nor passive. Quite the contrary: They show remarkable initiative to integrate locally. It helps that refugees share kinship, language and culture with their hosts. Also, the Kunama, agriculturalists hosted in a fertile area in northern Ethiopia, have been sharing labour and knowledge with their Ethiopian and other host populations in sharecropping arrangements that allow them to maintain their livestock.

The Afar are mainly pastoralists and come from eastern and lowland in Eritrea. They are hosted in the Afar region of Ethiopia, where similar livelihood activities are found. Unlike the Kunama, very few have managed to bring their herd livestock over the border. Their livelihood depends on local solidarity of Ethiopian Afar, who see them as kin regardless of national identities: "Afar is Afar".



Transnational Figurations of Displacement

## Figurations of Displacement in and beyond Jordan

Empirical findings and reflections on protracted displacement and translocal connections of Syrian refugees

S. A. Tobin, A. J. Knudsen, F. A. Momani, T. Al Yakoub, R. Al-Jarrah

TRAFIG working paper no. 6 • 03/2021

## TRAFIG Working Paper No. 6: Figurations of Displacement in and beyond Jordan

### Empirical findings and reflections on protracted displacement and translocal connections of Syrian refugees

Based on the empirical research on translocal figurations of displacement of Syrians in Jordan, [TRAFIG Working Paper No. 6](#) explores how protractedness, dependency and vulnerability relate to local and translocal connectivity and mobility, and how connectivity and mobility can enhance the self-reliance as well as strengthen the resilience of displaced Syrians in Jordan.

[Find out more](#) about key dimensions of figurations of displacement in Jordan as well as cross-cutting issues, including trust-based interactions, gendered experiences of protracted displacement, or vulnerability and COVID-19.



## TRAFIG Practice Note No. 6: Out-of-camp but not out of mind: Supporting Syrian refugees in Jordan's cities

TRAFIG Practice Note No. 6 focuses on the situation of out-of camp refugees based in cities and rural areas in Jordan. Based on the findings from [TRAFIG Working Paper No. 6](#), the corresponding [Practice Note No. 6](#) examines ways to support the approximately 80% of Syrian refugees in Jordan living outside of camps. [Find out more](#) about areas of action in this specific context.

# TRAFIG

Transnational Figurations of Displacement

practice note no. 6 • 03/2021

### Out-of-camp but not out of mind: Supporting Syrian refugees in Jordan's cities

The Syrian displacement crisis is entering its tenth year. Over one million Syrians have settled in Jordan, the majority of whom live in urban and peri-urban areas, collect in Zaatari and Ajlun refugee camps. A lot of attention has gone to the challenges faced by in-camp refugees, but those based in cities and rural areas are vulnerable in ways that also need attention. With no end in sight to the Syrian crisis, bolstering support for out-of-camp refugees could make a difference in the lives of more than 80 per cent of Syrians in Jordan.

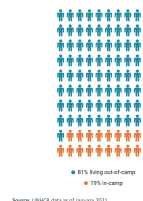
From the start of their displacement to Jordan, Syrians' general movement was either out of or in avoidance of the refugee camps and into the urban and peri-urban areas. Camps offer benefits including housing, water and electricity, but Jordan's Syrian refugee camps are associated with lower social status and poorer conditions as well as high levels of governmental surveillance. Syrians rely on family networks to escape from refugee camps to urban areas, if not also during their displacement from Syria and into Jordan. However, family networks alone have not resolved the need for durable solutions to protracted displacement even in urban settings. Our findings based on research with 500 Syrian refugees show:

Out-of-camp refugees have more network ties within and beyond Jordan and have little to no intention of ever returning to Syria

Out-of-camp refugees are very well connected translocally and transnationally. Immediate family of urban Syrians are often dispersed within Jordan and across the world. Besides their home country, Syrian refugees' transnational connections include family ties to North America and Europe, the Gulf countries and other Middle Eastern countries. Only five (1%) of our survey respondents (in the inside and outside of camps) had intentions of returning permanently to Syria. This means that both urban

and camp-based refugees are most likely to remain permanently in Jordan. Among those who are to stay outside of camps, however, existing family networks to other countries might pave the way for future onward mobility. Enabling transnational relations may increase potential income streams, mobility and asylum options that in the longer term could offset reduction in aid to Syrian refugees and ease the strain on host countries such as Jordan.

Four out of five Syrian refugees in Jordan live outside of camps



Source: UNHCR data as of January 2021

The forthcoming Policy Brief "*Networks and mobility – a case for complementary pathways*" from **Martin Wagner** and **Caitlin Katsiaficas** (both [ICMPD](#)) discusses the importance of networks and mobility for expanding complementary pathways to protection in Europe and beyond. Based on several examples emphasising the importance of networks for solutions for refugees, it argues that facilitating movement based on refugees' human and social capital could become the key added value of such complementary pathways. Stay tuned!

The key TRAFIG publications can now also be accessed via [Relief web](#), a key source for news, research documents and reports in the field of humanitarian aid and development assistance.

## Publications from TRAFIG Team Members

- **Cingolani, P.**, F. Berton, D. Donatiello, S. Origlia. (2020). [Lavoro migrante in agricoltura. I distretti della frutta e del vino nel cuneese](#). Quaderno 38, Fondazione CRC (Italian).
- **Cingolani, P.**, D. Donatiello, V. Moiso. (2021). [Filiere agroalimentari e lavoratori migranti](#). In: Cuono, M., F. Barbera, M. Ceretta (eds.). *L'emergenza Covid-19. Un laboratorio per le scienze sociali*. Roma: Carocci, 97-103 (Italian).
- Danisi, C., **Ferreira, N.** (2021). [Queering Asylum... or Human Rights in Europe?](#) ADIM BLOG.
- **Ferreira, N.** (2021). [An exercise in detachment: the Council of Europe and sexual minority asylum claims](#). In: Mole, R. (ed.). *Queer Migration and Asylum in Europe*, 78-108.
- **Grimaldi, G.**, G. Avallone, A. Bartoli. (2021). [Campania: dal sistema d'accoglienza allo sfruttamento nei campi](#). In: Ippolito, I., Perrotta, M., Raeymaekers, T. (eds.). *Braccia Rubate dall'Agricoltura. Pratiche di sfruttamento del lavoro migrante*. Torino: Seb27.
- **Grimaldi, G.**, G. Avallone, A. Bartoli (2021). [Circolazioni Odiere: la mobilità dei lavoratori stranieri nelle campagne italiane](#). In: Colucci, M., S. Gallo, M. Nani (eds.). *Passato e presente delle migrazioni bracciantili*. ASEI. Archivio Storico dell'Emigrazione Italiana, 16-17/20-21.
- Meininghaus, E., & **Mielke, K.** (2021). [Meaningful political participation. Lessons learnt from UN mediation in Afghanistan and Syria](#). BICC Policy Brief series No. 3/2021. Bonn: BICC.

- **Mielke, K., & Meininghaus, E. (2021).** [Engaging refugees and migrants as peace advocates. How Germany can contribute to peace in Syria and Afghanistan.](#) BICC Policy Brief series No. 2/2021. Bonn: BICC.
- **Pastore, F. (2021).** [Protracted displacement e dis-integrazione: un problema europeo.](#) CeSPI Forum: [L'integrazione è a senso unico?](#).

**Cahiers du CERPRU: Special edition on protracted displacement and internally displaced persons' connectivity in the DR Congo's South Kivu region**

The Rural Development Institute in Bukavu ([Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural de Bukavu, ISDR-Bukavu](#)) in the DR Congo has published a special issue on protracted displacement in Congo's South Kivu region and Internally Displaced Persons' network connections in its journal '*Cahiers du CERPRU*'.

The special issue "[Personnes déplacées et connectivités dans la province du Sud-Kivu](#)" (french) consists of a collection of papers that are written by the researchers of TRAFIG's DR Congo team, and which follow TRAFIG's five main themes. The findings presented are enriched by four life histories of displaced persons. Furthermore, the special issue is complemented with two articles by Congolese researchers working on related topics.

The papers are based on research that was carried out in and around Bukavu, a city of more than 1 million inhabitants in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. For more than two decades, this region has been affected by instability and insecurity, leading to large-scale and long-term displacements.

Find more information and the complete publication in french [here](#).

République Démocratique du Congo ENSEIGNEMENT SUPERIEUR ET UNIVERSITAIRE Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural de Bukavu ISDR-BUKAVU BP.2849 BUKAVU Site web: <a href="http://www.isdrbukavu.ac.cd">www.isdrbukavu.ac.cd</a>	
<b>ISDR</b>	<b>CAHIERS DU CERPRU</b>
<b>BUKAVU</b>	<b>Numéro SPECIAL 29ème Année, n°27, Décembre 2020</b>
<b>PERSONNES DEPLACEES ET          CONNECTIVITES DANS LA PROVINCE DU          SUD-KIVU</b>	
2020	<b>Revue du Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches pour la Promotion          Rurale (CERPRU)</b>

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### TRAFIG Blog Articles

- **Philipp Themann:** [Forced migration as a fragmented process: \(Im\)mobility in Una-Sana Canton, Bosnia.](#) February 2021.
- **Robert Forster:** [Considering kin and countrymen – challenges to social networks among Syrians in Tripoli, Lebanon.](#) March 2021.

- **Giulia Gonzales, Floriana Russo, Yonas Sium and Emanuela Roman:** [Doing field research during a Pandemic: what TRAFIG researchers in Italy have learned](#). April 2021.

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## TRAFIG Project Activities

*Stay informed about the project developments.*

### TRAFIG Activities: Events and Conferences

On **16 March 2021**, **Panos Hatziprokopiou** ([AUPh](#)) presented the paper titled “A programme of reception? accommodation? integration? Placing comparatively the experience of implementing ESTIA in Thessaloniki” at the online workshop “*Cities of inclusion: concepts, methods, practices*”, organized by the [University of Crete Research Centre for the Humanities, the Social & Education Sciences](#), the [Institute of Social Research at the National Centre for Social Research](#) and the [Panteion University Laboratory of Social Policy](#).

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**Emanuela Roman** ([FIERI](#)) was invited to the webinar “*Mobility and Community. Challenges and opportunities for refugees’ integration*” organized by the Italian NGO [CIAC Onlus](#) in the framework of the Italian Ministry of Interior AMIF project [Ancora 2.0](#). Emanuela gave a presentation on “*Mobility and protracted displacement in Italy. Trap or solution?*” based on the preliminary findings of TRAFIG research in Italy. The webinar took place on **17th March 2021** with 68 participants.

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On **20 March 2021**, **Panos Hatziprokopiou**, **Alexandra Siotou**, **Filyra Vlastou**, **Eva Papatzan** (all [AUPh](#)) and **Benjamin Etzold** ([BICC](#)) presented the paper “*Multilayered (Im)Mobilizations and the European Border Spectacle*” in a panel on “*Im/Mobilities in the Experiences of Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, and Migrants*” at the virtual conference “*Entangled Im/Mobilities Conference 2021. Perspectives from the Humanities and Social Sciences*” organised by the [University of Vienna](#) on **18-20 March 2021**.

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From **21-23 April 2021**, TRAFIG team member **Catherina Wilson** ([ULEI](#)) and **Mira Demirdirek**, who supported the research in the context of an internship with TRAFIG partner organisation [Dignity Kwanza](#), participated in the in the conference “*Migrant Belongings: Digital Practices and the Everyday*” organised by [Utrecht University](#). Both colleagues presented a paper entitled “*Refugee machinga on Dar es Salaam’s digital pavements: Navigating (im)mobilization through social media commerce in urban Tanzania*” in the panel “*Digital entrepreneurship, migration, and gendered forms of e-commerce*”.

### Upcoming events

On **31.05.2021** - with the support of **Susanne Heinke** ([BICC](#)) - **Simone Christ** and **Benjamin Etzold** (both [BICC](#)) will present key findings and results from the TRAFIG fieldwork in Germany at a virtual event titled “*We’ll stay in contact - How displaced persons in Germany maintain connections*”, organised by the [VHS Bonn](#) (in German).

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On **23 June 2021**, TRAFIG’s Greece and Italy teams are coming together to hold a joint stakeholder workshop with key policy and practice actors in these two countries. The conversation will focus on protracted displacement in Europe, intra-EU mobility, and how better policies can prevent protracted situations among displaced people in the EU.

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On **3 July 2021**, Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)) and Philipp Themann - who has supported [BICC](#) as a field researcher in Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina - will give a public presentation on "[Infrastructures of \(im\)mobility in Bosnia & Herzegovina](#)" at the [annual meeting of the working group geographical migration studies in Heidelberg](#).

On **5 July 2021**, Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)) will present findings from the international TRAFIG research in a lecture entitled "[Transnational Figurations of Displacement - What role do networks play for people in protracted displacement situations?](#)" at the colloquium of the Research Center of the [Federal Office for Migration and Refugees](#) (BAMF).

#### [18th IMISCOE annual conference: "Crossing borders, connecting cultures", 7-9 July 2021](#)

TRAFIG's findings from the fieldwork in Europe - more specifically Greece, Italy and Germany - will be discussed in a session titled "[Mobility and immobility in the context of protracted displacement in Europe: comparative hints from Italy, Greece and Germany](#)" chaired by **Emanuela Roman** ([FIERI](#)). [date and time tbc].

**Simone Christ** ([BICC](#)), **Benjamin Etzold** ([BICC](#)), **Milena Belloni** ([FIERI](#)) and **Pietro Cingolani** ([FIERI](#)) will present the paper "[Re-Connecting with the field – conducting fieldwork on displacement in Europe under the conditions of a global health crisis](#)" at the panel "[SC Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research](#)" [date and time tbc].

On **13 July 2021 from 16:00 - 18:00 CEST**, Benjamin Etzold will hold an online presentation about "[Transnational Figurations of Displacement in and beyond Asia—Ambiguous Network Relations and Syrian and Afghan Refugees' \(Im\)Mobilities](#)" at the [Colloquium Series "Understanding Asia: Bridging Margins"](#) of the [Faculty of Sociology at Bielefeld University](#).

#### [IASFM18: Disrupting Theory, Unsettling Practice: Towards Transformative Forced Migration Scholarship and Policy, 27-30 July 2021](#)

On **27 July 2021**, key insights from TRAFIG's research will be presented and discussed in a session titled "[Uncovering Protracted Displacement - Finding Pathways towards the Future](#)" chaired by **Benjamin Etzold** ([BICC](#)). The session will include insights on the cases of Eritrean Refugees in Ethiopia, Congolese refugees' struggles in Tanzania, Jordan's responses to the Syrian crises, and insights on protracted displacement in Europe in the context of Italy.

#### **Zooming in on Migration and Asylum - H2020 Webinar Series**

In the webinar series "[Zooming In On Migration and Asylum](#)", the Horizon 2020 sister projects [TRAFIG](#), [ADMIGOV](#), [MAGYC](#), and [MIGNEX](#) join forces to expand their collective knowledge base on some of today's most pressing dynamics, including protracted displacement, the notion of crisis in the field of migration and asylum, internal displacement, refugee-driven solutions, and alternatives to current migration governance.



Starting in June 2020, the team has been organising monthly webinars based on findings from the different projects, which have been supported by experts' insights as well as lively discussions with the audience of currently more than 900 registered participants.

Find out more about the [webinar series and all sessions so far](#) on our website, or watch the recordings on the [TRAFIG YouTube channel](#).

On **26 January 2021**, TRAFIG team member **Panos Hatziprokopiou** ([AUTH](#)) participated in [Webinar #7: "Seasonal migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic"](#), hosted by the [AdMiGov](#) project.

[\(Re-\)watch the webinar on Youtube!](#)

On **25 May 2021**, Benjamin Etzold ([BICC](#)) participated in the series' ninth webinar - "[Ensuring comparability in cross-national research on migration](#)" - organised by Horizon 2020 sister project [MIGNEX](#), presenting insights on TRAFIG's approach and methodology for ensuring comparability across the eight research sites in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

[\(Re-\)watch the webinar on Youtube!](#)

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[\(Re-\)watch the webinar on Youtube!](#)

On **29 June 2021**, TRAFIG will host the latest instalment of the Zooming in on Migration webinar series. This session, "*Investing in refugee networks to strengthen complementary pathways*," will offer an alternative understanding of complementary pathways that centres around third-country solutions related to the human, social, and financial capital of refugees, and will address the role that complementary pathways can play in fostering and tapping into refugees' networks.

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## TRAFIG Fieldwork

### Africa

Since the end of the fieldwork in the **DR Congo** [the findings can be found in [TRAFIG Working Paper No. 4](#), [TRAFIG Practice Note No.4](#) and [TRAFIG Policy Brief No. 2](#)], the team has been continuously involved in further sharing their insights gained during the fieldwork on internal displacement in the DR Congo.

In the context of the [Cahier special CERPRU: Special edition on protracted displacement and internally displaced persons' connectivity in the DR Congo's South Kivu region](#), the DR Congo team has been able to share the findings from the TRAFIG fieldwork. [Find the complete publication in french here.](#)

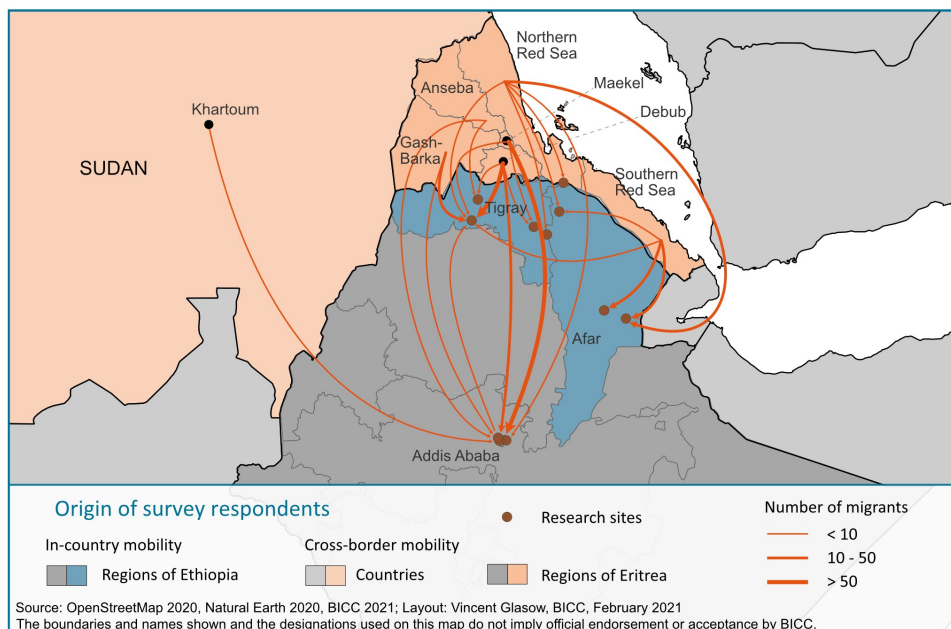
Furthermore, on **14-15 May 2021**, the DR Congo team organized two feedback workshops in Bukavu with the aim of further disseminate and make accessible their findings, as well as present the newly published special issue. The first workshop on **14 May**, held in French, was tailored specifically to academics, state authorities and representatives of (international) NGOs. The second workshop targeted local authorities, IDPs and long-term residents and was held in Swahili on **15 May**.

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In **April 2021**, the TRAFIG team in **Ethiopia** finalized and published [TRAFIG Working Paper No. 5](#), which analyses protracted displacement situations and translocal connections in the specific case of Eritreans in Ethiopia. Based on the TRAFIG fieldwork in the Afar and Tigray region and in Addis Ababa taking place from October 2019 to September 2020, it analyses the key dimensions of protracted displacement and the role of connectivity and mobility when finding solutions out of protracted displacement situations. In addition, [Working Paper No. 5](#) delves into multiple cross-cutting issues in the context of Ethiopia, including, for example, questions of gender and resilience.

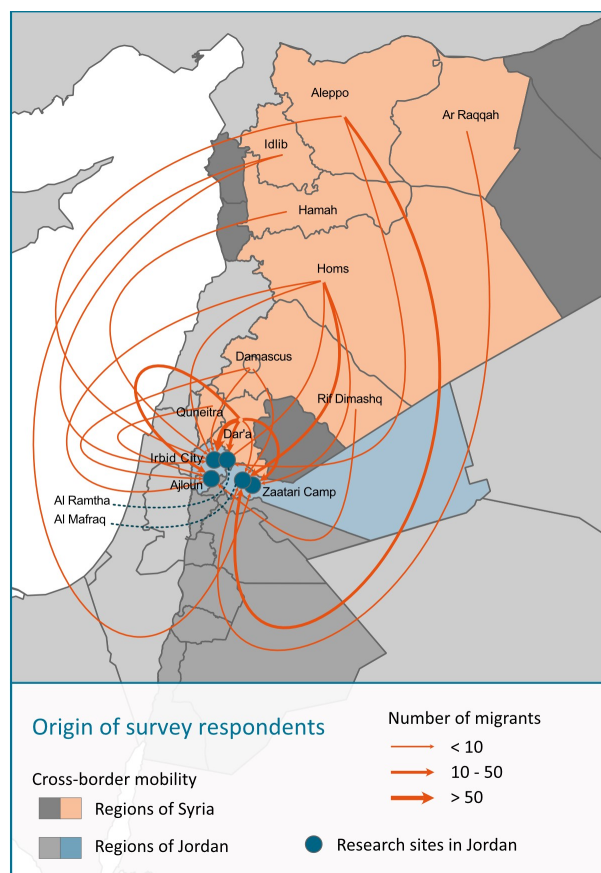
In [TRAFIG Practice Note No. 5](#), TRAFIG's Ethiopia team analyses the importance of networks and connectivity and examines solutions to protracted displacement by focusing on supporting displaced persons' self-reliance for local integration.





The Ethiopia team has been able to share the findings in various contexts. Recently, **Fekadu Adugna Tufa** ([Addis Ababa University](#)), one of the authors of [TRAFIG Working Paper No. 5](#), was invited to present the results from the fieldwork in Ethiopia at a seminar organised by the [Regional Durable Solution Secretariat](#) (ReDSS) and [Semera University](#). On **31 May 2021**, he will also present the results in a meeting with the [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM).

### Asia



Based on empirical research over the course of 18 months in the two largest urban and semi-urban areas for Syrian refugees, northern Jordan (Irbid, Mafraq) and Zaatari (Jordan's largest refugee camp for Syrians), the TRAFIG Team in [Jordan](#) has published [TRAFIG Working Paper No. 6](#) in **April 2021**. The paper analyses the key dimensions of figurations of displacement of Syrian refugees in Jordan and presents insights into cross-cutting themes such as the mobility-integration nexus, trust-based interactions or vulnerability and COVID-19.

The corresponding [Practice Note No. 6](#) takes into account the specific case of out-of camp refugees in cities and rural areas in Jordan, exploring areas of action to support the approximately 80% of Syrian refugees in Jordan living outside of camps.

On Monday, **28 June 2021**, the Jordan team will organize an online **Multi-Stakeholder Community Consultation Workshop** named after and based on [Working Paper 6](#) - "[Figurations of Displacement in and beyond Jordan - Empirical findings and reflections on protracted displacement and trans-local connections of Syrian refugees](#)". The workshop will bring together representatives from multiple contexts to discuss the findings from TRAFIG's research on Syrian refugees in Jordan.

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In **Pakistan**, the team is currently finalizing the analysis of the fieldwork conducted in Pakistan - which will be presented in the upcoming Working Paper as well as Practice Note.

As **Sobia Kiran** from TRAFIG partner organisation [SHARP-Pakistan](#) reports, the team faced multiple challenges due to the pandemic - which they tried to counter in different ways. [SHARP](#) developed a COVID-19 strategy for working in a bio-secure environment, focusing on the safety of the persons involved in the research. As the teams were not, or only limitedly, able to engage in face-to-face interactions, the researchers planned activities virtually as well as physically. Despite the difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team was able to collect 63 semi-structured interviews, 17 expert interviews and 7 biographic interviews in addition to the 300 persons they were able to reach in the form of the quantitative survey in Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi and Peshawar.

[SHARP](#) has remained in touch with displaced persons, sharing information on safety precautions and further updates on a regular basis.

## Europe

**Emanuela Roman** ([FIERI](#)) shares an update on the fieldwork in **Italy**:

*"In April 2021 the [FIERI](#) team completed the empirical fieldwork in Italy. Despite the obstacles posed by the persistent Covid-19 pandemic and the related restrictions, the first months of 2021 have been very fruitful. Thanks to the efforts and dedication of our three interviewers – **Giulia Gonzales, Floriana Russo and Yonas Sium** – in February we managed to complete the survey, reaching the foreseen target of 300 respondents. A multi-faceted account of the challenges and lessons learnt while conducting the survey in Italy can be found in the blog post: [Doing field research during a Pandemic: what TRAFIG researchers in Italy have learned](#).*

Also, the qualitative and ethnographic part of our research – carried out by **Milena Belloni, Pietro Cingolani, Giuseppe Grimaldi (and Emanuela Roman)** – is now finished. We are particularly proud that, despite the pandemic circumstances, we managed to reach out more than 110 respondents, including migrants, experts, civil society representatives, and members of local communities all over Italy, as well as to conduct ethnographic research in four sites in northern, central and southern Italy: Torino, Roma, the Saluzzo-Cuneo area, and the Castel Volturno area:"

A particularly successful focus group discussion involving migrants and local community members organized by team member **Pietro Cingolani** in Cuneo has paved the way to the *Multi-Stakeholder Community Consultation (MSCC)*, which took place on **28 May** and involved a variety of actors from local civil society organisations, religious representatives, migrant communities representatives, local policy-makers with different positions on migration issues, trade unions and local media.



*Multi-Stakeholder Community Consultation (MSCC) in Cuneo. Pictures by: Ferruccio Pastore*

In **April**, the [FIERI](#) team has started the shooting of a video-documentary, which will focus on the stories of a number of migrants who have experienced or are experiencing protracted displacement. Shootings are currently ongoing: they are carried out in the same locations where the team conducted the fieldwork (Saluzzo, Cuneo, Roma and Castel Volturno) and actively involve some of the interviewees from the fieldwork in Italy.



1. Backstage of the video shoot in Castel Volturno. Picture by: Ferruccio Pastore

2. Backstage of the video shoot in Rome. Picture by: Milena Belloni

Over the last three months, the TRAFIG team in [Greece](#) has been moving towards completion of the main (qualitative) part of the fieldwork. Despite the ongoing lockdown in Greece, the fieldwork has progressed with only a few remaining semi-structured and biographic interviews and (some) focus groups in all three field sites.

In **March 2021**, the team started to conduct TRAFIG's quantitative survey, which will be finalized until **June 2021**.

In the context of their fieldwork, the team has started conceptualizing a documentary with a number of film-makers, which is to be materialized in the coming months.



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The TRAFIG fieldwork in **Germany** particularly focuses on displaced persons' own trajectories and transnational networks.

Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the team has completed the fieldwork phase and was able to conduct 54 semi-structured interviews, 8 biographic interviews, 1 focus group discussion and 13 expert interviews to analyse figurations of displacement of displaced persons in Germany.

The team is currently in the process of analyzing the results which will be published in an upcoming Working Paper and Practice Note for the context of Western Europe.

On **31 May 2021** from **18:00 - 19:30 CET**, the key findings and results from the TRAFIG fieldwork in Germany will be presented at a virtual event titled "[We'll stay in contact - How displaced persons in Germany maintain connections](#)", organised by the [VHS Bonn](#) (in German).

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Colleagues from TRAFIG partner organisation [Leiden University \(ULEI\)](#) are contributing to the project with research on the specific case of displaced persons from the DR Congo in the **Netherlands**. The team is currently engaged in finalizing the data collection. Despite COVID-19 related restrictions, the research went well, focussing on numerous in depth individual interviews with a selected number of persons. In the context of these interviews, the team also examines how limbo is extended and present among former refugees who have received a citizenship status but still feel somewhere in between. These findings will be presented in an upcoming Working Paper and Practice Note for the context of Western Europe.

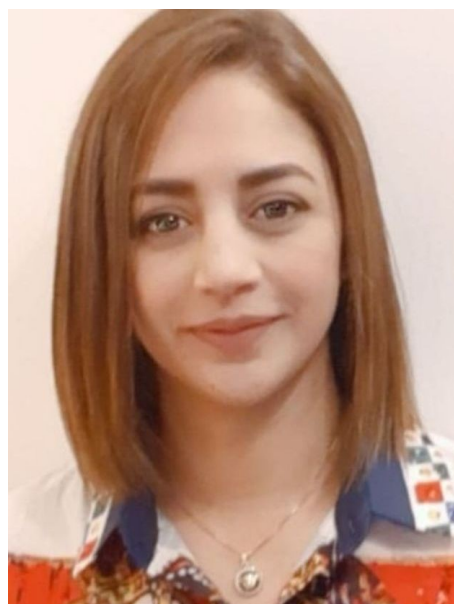
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### Meet the TRAFIG Team

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

The TRAFIG team counts 69 members affiliated with the [Consortium of 12 partner organisations](#) from 11 countries. The Consortium is supported by local researchers that make the fieldwork possible.

Meet **Rola Faris Al-Massad** from the TRAFIG Team at [Yarmouk University, Jordan](#).



*"I have learned a lot from this experience: I gained knowledge, self-confidence, and hope, and learned how a person can confront difficult and harsh circumstances, I learned not to give up, I learned that freedom is our most valuable possession, I saw sacrifice, fear and love, and that surrender is a weakness, and there is no meaning for life away from the homeland."*

**Rola** is a member of the TRAFIG Team at [Yarmouk University, Jordan](#). She is supporting the TRAFIG fieldwork in Jordan, focussing on connectivity and mobility of displaced persons in this specific context. Learn more about **Rola's** background, her experience and motivation in [her introduction on our TRAFIG Blog](#), in which she shares one of her latest paintings as well.

### Horizon 2020 Sister Projects

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



The Horizon 2020 project [MIGNEX - Aligning Migration Management and the Migration-Development Nexus](#) - aims to help tackle the challenges of global migration with a long-term vision for better outcomes, seeking a better understanding of how migration and development affect each other and of the roles that policy can play.

For this aim, the project brings together [9 international partner organisations](#) from **2018 until 2023**.

Find out more about [MIGNEX](#)- including the project's aims, its unique approach, and the impact of COVID-19 on the research and project activities - [in our new blog article](#) by Nicole Johnson, [MIGNEX](#) Communications Manager from the [Overseas Development Institute \(ODI\)](#).

### Announcements

*Find the most recent announcement from TRAFIG and related projects!*

[TRAFIG is featured as a research project in the United Nations' new Migration Network Hub](#), a platform providing evidence to political decision makers and stakeholders in light of implementing the Global Compact on Migration.

TRAFIG partner organisation [FIERI](#) is the co-coordinator of two new migration Horizon 2020 projects which have just started.

1) [Whole-COMM](#) explores the integration of post-2014 migrants in small and medium-sized towns and rural areas from a whole-of-community perspective:

You can follow the project on its [Twitter account](#) and via the [project website](#).

2) [BRIDGES](#) aims to understand the causes and consequences of migration narratives in a context of increasing politicization and polarization:

You can follow the project on its [Twitter account](#) and via the [project website](#).

TRAFIG team member **Giuseppe Grimaldi**, who is one of the [FIERI](#) researchers involved in the qualitative and ethnographic research in Italy, and President of the civil society organization [Frontiera Sud](#), participates in the new project [OSARE - Osservatorio Sfruttamento Agricolo e RESistenze](#) [Observatory of Agricultural Labour Exploitation and Resistances] funded by the Campania Region. The project is carried

out by the associations [Ex Canapificio Caserta](#) (leader), [Frontiera Sud](#) and [Caritas Caserta](#) together with the Department of Social and Political Studies of the [University of Salerno](#). Additional information is available on on the [project website](#).

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### The TRAFIG Consortium



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