

LAMFOR Policy

3/14/2016

No. 1

The Consequences of Refugee Return

Many refugees go back home after the end of conflict. Some return voluntarily while others are forced to return. Knowledge about the economic implications of refugee return is essential in order to develop policies that support refugee households and their communities in the post-conflict

high levels of inactivity and a loss or deterioration of skills, played a key role.

There have been multiple calls to provide refugees with access to the labour markets of host countries. Access to the labour market will allow refugees to support

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period. Analysis from the LAMFOR project suggests that Burundian returnees had significantly lower levels of livestock – which is their main form of capital accumulation– than those households that stayed home. Returnee households also reported lower values in subjective measures of economic well-being.

The search for explanations for this economic gap suggest that refugees’ legal and practical restrictions on economic activities while in displacement, which resulted in

themselves and contribute to the local economy. It is also important to recognise that significant restrictions on the access of refugees to the local labour market will affect their economic outcomes after returning home. Access to the labour market while in displacement will allow refugees to maintain or develop skills that they can bring back upon return. This, in turn, will have key benefits for post-conflict economic growth and the establishment of a durable peace.

More on this topic



This briefing is based on the article “**Return Migration and Economic Outcomes in the Conflict Context**” by Sonja Fransen, Isabel Ruiz and Carlos Vargas-Silva.

The article is available free of charge here: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2704232

About LAMFOR

The Labour Market Impacts of Forced Migration (LAMFOR) was a COMPAS project at the University of Oxford in partnership with Maastricht University that provides statistical evidence on the economic implications of forced displacement situations, putting particular emphasis on labour markets. The initial stage of the project looked at two different case studies in the African Great Lakes Region: Burundi and Tanzania.

Funding

This work was supported by the UK Department of International Development (DFID) and the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme (GLM | LIC). The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of DFID, IZA or GLM | LIC.

CONTACT

Carlos Vargas-Silva, Principal Investigator, LAMFOR: carlos.vargas-silva@compas.ox.ac.uk