

Rwanda: World Bank-MINEMA-UNHCR Forced Displacement Discussion Series (2022-23)

To facilitate evidence-based reflection and action around refugee impacts, self-reliance and policy in Rwanda, the World Bank, Rwanda Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and UNHCR hosted a three-part discussion series featuring leading policy-makers, practitioners and researchers. The series took place between 2022-2023 with the three sessions detailed below.

Session #1 – The Social and Economic Impact of Refugees on Host Communities: Evidence from Rwanda and the Region (December 2022)



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry in charge of
Emergency Management

The World Bank, UNHCR and the Rwanda Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management invite you to the Development Responses to Forced Displacement in Rwanda Discussion Series

The Social and Economic Impact of Refugees on Host Communities: Evidence from Rwanda and the Region

Monday, 5 December 2022

2:00pm - 3:30pm Rwanda time | 7:00 am - 8:30 am ET

Large-scale refugee inflows are often associated with the risk of social conflict and competition over natural resources, jobs and livelihood with host communities, who themselves often suffer from similar development challenges to refugees. In the first event of what will be an ongoing joint MINEMA-UNHCR-World Bank discussion series on Development Responses to Forced Displacement in Rwanda, this session will explore research from Rwanda and Ethiopia on the social and economic impacts of refugees on host communities and reflect on how best to address any negative impacts of the refugee presence while maximizing the positive.

OPENING REMARKS:

Hon. Marie Solange Kayisire, Minister in Charge of Emergency Management

Ndèye Aissatou M. Ndiaye, Representative, UNHCR Rwanda

Rolande Pryce, Country Manager, World Bank Rwanda

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Craig Loschmann, Economist, UNHCR

Dr. Solomon Waleign, Director of Research, International Centre for Evaluation and Development

PANELISTS:

Veneranda Ingabire, Single Project Implementation Unit Coordinator, Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management

Ndèye Aissatou M. Ndiaye, Representative, UNHCR Rwanda

BIOS:

Hon. Marie Solange Kayisire. Before being appointed as the Minister in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) in February 2020, Kayisire served as the Minister in charge of Cabinet Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister since August 2017.

Veneranda Ingabire, SPIU Coordinator. Veneranda Ingabire serves as the head of the MINEMA SPIU since 2016. She holds a Master of Science in Economics with 12 years of experience in project management. She ensures overall coordination of MINEMA's projects and leads the process of project proposal initiation.

Ms. Ndèye Aissatou Masseur Ndiaye has spent over three decades working in the private and public sectors where she has built up vast experience in Human Resources, Financial and Operations management. She has worked for the United Nations at both the field level (in Guinea, DRC, Rwanda, Geneva, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire) and at Headquarters level in Switzerland.

Rolande Pryce is the World Bank Country Manager for Rwanda. A Jamaican national, Pryce joined the World Bank Group in 2006. Prior to her current assignment, she oversaw the World Bank's Indonesia and Timor-Leste programs. She holds a master's degree in Public International Law from the University College of London; a Juris Doctor from the University of Miami and a Bachelor of Science in International Business and Mathematics from the City University of New York.

Dr. Craig Loschmann is an Economist at UNHCR within the Regional Bureau for the Americas in Panama. He has Ph.D. in Economics and Public Policy from the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and UNU-MERIT. His research over the years has primarily focused on the causes and consequences of forced displacement in the contexts of Afghanistan and the African Great Lakes

region, resulting in publications in peer-reviewed journals such as *World Development*, *IZA Journal of Development and Migration* and *Forced Migration Review*, among others.

Dr. Solomon Zena Walelign is a Director of Research at the International Centre for Evaluation and Development. He is also a consultant at the World Bank and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Gondar, Ethiopia. Previously, he was a Visiting Scholar at the University of California Berkeley and the University of South Carolina, and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Copenhagen and Norwegian University of Science and Technology. He completed a double Ph.D. in Environmental and Resource Economics at the University of Copenhagen and in Forest Sciences at the Georg-August University of Göttingen. His research has been published in *World Development*, *The Journal of Development Studies*, *Applied Economics Letters*, and *Ecological Economics*.

Session #2 – The Assessing the Labor Market Impacts of Refugees (May 2023)



The World Bank, UNHCR and the Rwanda Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management invite you to the Rwanda Development Responses to Forced Displacement Discussion Series Event #2



Assessing the Labor Market Impacts of Refugees

Tuesday May 30, 2023
2:30pm - 4:00pm Rwanda time | 8:30 am - 10:00 am ET

The fear that refugee inflows will increase competition for jobs and drive down wages is one of the major concerns of countries hosting forcibly displaced populations. Consistent with the Global Compact on Refugees, countries are also looking for models and approaches to support employment creation for refugees and host communities to promote economic inclusion and self-reliance. This session will present findings from research on labor market impacts of refugees from Rwanda and recent global analysis on labor market impacts and the cost of jobs support.

OPENING REMARKS

Veneranda Ingabire, Single Project Implementation Unit Coordinator, Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management

SPEAKERS

Dr. Özge Bilgili, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Science, Utrecht University

Kirsten Schuettler, Consultant, World Bank

CLOSING REMARKS

UNHCR

BIOS:



Veneranda Ingabire, SPIU Coordinator. Veneranda Ingabire serves as the head of MINEMA SPIU since 2016. She holds a Master of Science in Economics with 12 Years of Experience in Project Managements. She ensures overall coordination of Ministry's Projects and leads the process of project proposal initiation.



Özge Bilgili is an assistant professor of interdisciplinary social science at Utrecht University. Dr. Bilgili's expertise in international migration encompasses the topics of transnationalism, immigrant integration, economic and social remittances, return migration, integration and development policies, as well as diaspora engagement policies. She is the chair of Dutch Association for Migration Research (DAMR), a board member of the largest European network of scholars in the area of migration and integration IMISCOE, the co-coordinator of its Standing Committee on Migrant Transnationalism and an affiliated researcher of United Nations University MERIT. She is also a member of Utrecht Young Academy.



Kirsten Schuettler is a Senior Consultant at the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice and a core team member of the World Development Report 2023 on migrants and refugees. She is also a Project Lead at the German Development Cooperation (GIZ). She has over 15 years of experience working in international development, in countries of different income levels across four continents. She has published on migration, forced displacement, jobs interventions and economic development. She holds master's degrees in economics and political science.

Session #3 – Access to Finance for Refugees: Financial Inclusion and How to Get There, from Rwanda and the Region (November 2023)



The World Bank, UNHCR and the Rwanda Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management invite you to the Rwanda Development Responses to Forced Displacement Discussion Series



Access to Finance for Refugees: Financial Inclusion and How to Get There, from Rwanda and the Region

Monday 13 November 2023

10:30 am - 12:30pm Rwanda time

Rwanda has been welcoming refugees for over two decades and since 2016 actively advocating for the inclusion of refugees in livelihoods interventions. The Global Compact on Refugees is being turned into action through the National Strategic Plan for Transformation (2017 – 2024), providing a strategic platform to bring together civil society, the private sector, and government to ensure a participatory process towards community development.

In the leadup to the development of NST II, we envision that refugee camps will become active places of social and economic activities where refugees and host communities integrate through markets, shops, restaurants, and industries run jointly, boosting economic development and creating jobs, expanding beyond hosting districts. This vision has three main goals, first to ease pressures on host communities, second to enhance refugees' self-reliance, and third, to reduce poverty. One of the most significant steps is access to financial services, and Rwanda can show its leadership in this.

The Discussion Series' third instalment aims to foster frank discussion on refugees' access to financial services, what are the benefits, barriers and how can we, Government, partners, practitioners, open doors to further inclusion. Join us!

OPENING REMARKS:

Wendy Rappeport, Senior Development Officer, UNHCR Rwanda

Veneranda Ingabire, Single Project Implementation Unit Coordinator, Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management

SPEAKERS:

Michelle Hassan, Kenya Country Manager and Jobtech Alliance co-director. Michelle is a Principal Consultant and the Kenya Country manager at BFA Global. Her areas of expertise focus on Jobtech, refugees, and MSMEs. She leads the Jobtech Alliance at BFA Global and is interested in the role of platforms in offering jobs and opportunities. Jobtech Alliance is an ecosystem initiative that supports platforms through acceleration to enable them to create jobs. She brings over 13 years of global experience working with startups, social enterprises, and development leading user research, product development, and program implementation in Asia and Africa. Michelle also leads the refugee finance work at BFA Global. Michelle holds a Master's in Public Health focusing on biostatistics and epidemiology from the University of Nairobi.

Dr. Julie M. Zollmann is a development researcher and consultant, based in Nairobi, advising businesses, governments, and NGOs on ways to make markets and services--particularly digital ones--work better for all. Her experience spans more than 15 countries, with a particular focus on Africa. She combines the tools of economics and anthropology to explore practical, real-life solutions. Her current consulting work helps public and private players use digital tools to improve healthcare, education, credit, trade, and agriculture service delivery for ordinary people, especially women. She has a BA in Anthropology and International Relations from Eckerd College and a Master's and PhD from The Fletcher School, in Development Economics and African Studies.

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