

## **Refugees and Forced Migration Scoping Study: Methodology Summary as of April 2017**

- The review process started at the beginning of January 2017. It was decided that the bibliographic management software, Zotero, would be used to organise the saving and categorising of literature. Zotero allows researchers to have a joint 'Library' in which users can share articles they have found, tag articles for key themes, and use tools supported by most journals to quickly save articles to the library. Zotero automatically updates so that the articles added by each user are shared almost instantly and backed up online. This allows a joint library to be easily built and maintained while the researchers are in different locations.
- We gathered literature through systematic Internet searches using standard academic and aid-specific repositories.<sup>1</sup> The systematic searches were based on pre-defined terms from the [Scoping Study Outline](#) document, which was written by the Hub co-chairs and reviewed by the Hub members to ensure that all main points have been covered and acting as a pre-approved guide to the main areas of interest for those across the Hub. As well as searching with general terms like "religion" and "refugees" we also looked at specific terms such as camps, deportation, detainment, transit and other such keywords as noted in the outline.
- In Zotero, a preliminary round of coding was undertaken to sort articles into broad areas, following the themes detailed in the Scoping Study Outline document. The main themes, as condensed into short titles, are:
  1. Emergency;
  2. Stages;
  3. Spaces;
  4. State and non-state actors;
  5. Advocacy and lobbying;
  6. Durable solutions.
- Reference to the Outline is necessary for the full details of what is included in each of these themes. In a process of iteration, the content of these main themes were discussed in regular skype meetings between the two researchers. As the Outline is detailed, most of the themes were clearly defined. However, some additional specifications were noted as literature was added to the shared library, including the observations that many of the articles about psychology and coping skills were linked to the emergency or resettlement phase and that articles on theological and legal reflection on refugees and forced migration were mostly pertinent to discussion under advocacy and lobbying. It was also found that there is more evidence from the States around resettlement of historic refugee and historic to current migrant populations (e.g. Vietnamese refugees and Mexican migrants). In order to define the parameters of the scoping survey and make it feasible, a decision was taken to focus on more recent refugee populations and specifically refugees and forced migrants rather than the broader literature on immigration.

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<sup>1</sup> Google Scholar, Trinity College Dublin [Online Databases](#) (covering over 350 different repositories), Cairn.info, ALNAP, ReliefWeb

- We also recognise that some of these issues are fast moving and will not yet be represented by academic literature, in particular, in which journal publication times do not allow for immediacy. The grey literature in the form of reports, policy briefs, evaluations and so on from governments, IOs and NGOs can help with this, and ALNAP and ReliefWeb searches were also conducted to keep up-to-date. However, as we have seen since President Trump's Executive Order on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017, the situation can move faster than both of these literature sets allows. The question remains as to what extent we will include news reports, press releases and other such information in this scoping study.
- Through the categorisation of articles using Zotero's tagging tool, we have been able to give broad indications about the thematic areas that are well covered, relatively well covered, and not well covered. The areas that are not well covered indicate gaps in the academic and grey literature we have found so far. Based on this, we will contact Hub members to seek further information in the grey literature from their organisations as well identify interviewees for the second phase of primary research.
- An initial coding of the broad themes represented in the literature shows the following:<sup>2</sup>
  - Areas that are very well documented:
    - Christianity (56 docs)
    - North America (US & Canada – 48 docs)
    - Islam (41 docs)
    - US alone (38 docs)
    - Sub-Saharan Africa (36 docs)
    - MENA (36 docs. Iraq [10] and Syria [8] make up half.)
    - Psychosocial (includes religion/faith/spirituality as a coping mechanism, resilience, mental health, psychology, trauma, and well-being - 25 docs)
  - Areas that are relatively well documented (fewer than 20 docs):
    - Critiques/negatives/barriers/challenges (15 docs)
    - Gender aspects (14 docs)
    - Southeast Asia (13 docs. Mostly Myanmar – 8 docs)
    - South Asia (12 docs)
    - Urban focus (10 docs)
    - Sanctuary (9 docs)
    - Children (9 docs)
    - UK (7 docs)
  - Areas that are not well documented (5 docs and fewer):
    - Latin America
    - Religions other than Christianity and Islam
    - Borders
    - Camps
    - Deportation
    - Detention
    - Transit/journeys

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<sup>2</sup> These numbers are correct as of 14 March 2017, but are not definitive and will change as and when other documents are found.

- Protection issues
  - Smuggling/trafficking
  - South Sudan
  - Return
  - Media
  - Security and immigration officials
  - Non-arrival (dignity in/after death)
  - Involuntary immobility and stuckness
- Discussion of areas that are not well represented from an initial review/remaining challenges:
    - Initial stages including pre-departure, departure, and through to transit are not well represented in comparison to resettlement. This is unsurprising given that access to sample populations for research purposes is likely to be easier in resettlement cases than while during departure and transit. Likewise, cases of detention, deportation, and so on, represent potentially more socially and politically sensitive areas for which it is difficult to obtain research access. However, we are hopeful that, in reaching out to Hub members, we will be able to expand on these areas through grey literature and interviews.
    - One Hub member has already offered a case about trafficking.
    - These articles are mostly in English. The researchers have covered some Spanish and French articles as well, but we will be missing representation from other languages, such as Arabic.
    - We have begun to reach out to Hub members for further literature and interviews. This is to be discussed at the next Hub conference call.