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**Investing for Inclusion: How Refugee Lens Investing can
Facilitate the Inclusion of the Forcibly Displaced into Local Host
Communities
Christine Mahoney & John Kluge**

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Investing for Inclusion: How Refugee Lens Investing can Facilitate the Inclusion of the Forcibly Displaced into Local Host Communities
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HRF Presentation Summary

Professor Mahoney shared her 15 years' experience of thinking about how we can more effectively advocate for the lives of the displaced. At every level in her fieldwork it was incredibly difficult to advocate for the right to work, the right to start a business, the right to open a bank account, the right to take a micro loan for people held in the limbo of displacement – often for decades. From this experience she argued for a new strategy, where concerned global citizens could directly improve the lives of the displaced by micro microfinance funds, and impact investing funds. This was a response to what was observed: that migrants are entrepreneurial and that despite all that many had lost they retained their desire to run the businesses and create the livelihoods of their former homes. The Refugee Investment Network (RIN) set up by Professor Mahoney and her husband John Kluge makes these businesses possible. The range of investment relationships from Refugee Owned to Host-Weighted schemes was outlined. Unlocking capital in the service of the displaced allows for the scaling up of programmes that are beyond the reach of the charity sector.

Current work in Mexico is a strong model for this where south to north migration is being managed to improve access to residency and economic engagement with the host community. The impact investing scene in Mexico is alive and growing and Professor Mahoney detailed some of the businesses involved. This approach is still at the developmental stage but is already seeing real benefits for all concerned – including investors.

*Full paper is being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.