



JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE *on*
FAITH & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**New Ways to Serve and Integrate Refugees and Forcibly
Displaced Communities**

G20 Interfaith Forum , Tokyo, Japan

**THE KEY ROLES OF FAITH ACTORS IN MEETING NEEDS OF
REFUGEES AND FORCED MIGRANTS**

Jean Duff, President





Oct. 1, 2015. After battling rough seas and high winds from Turkey, migrants arrive by rubber raft on a jagged shoreline of the Greek island of Lesbos. Fearing capsizе or puncture, some panicked and jumped into the cold water in desperation to reach land. This boy made it, unlike hundreds of others.

Tyler Hicks/The New York Times

Related:
[Photography Pulitzer for Coverage of Refugee Crisis](#)



A young migrant, who drowned in a failed attempt to sail to the Greek island of Kos, lies on the shore in the Turkish coastal town of Bodrum, Turkey, September 2, 2015. Photograph: REUTERS/Nilufer Demir

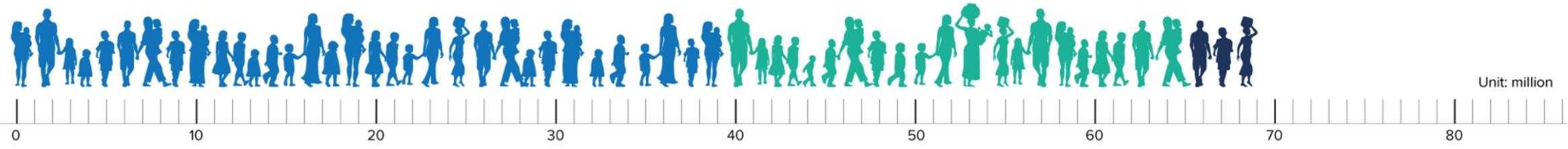




68.5 million

forcibly displaced people worldwide

UNHCR Figures at a Glance



Internally Displaced People
40 million

Refugees
25.4 million
19.9 million under UNHCR mandate
5.4 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA

Asylum-seekers
3.1 million

Where the world's displaced people are being hosted

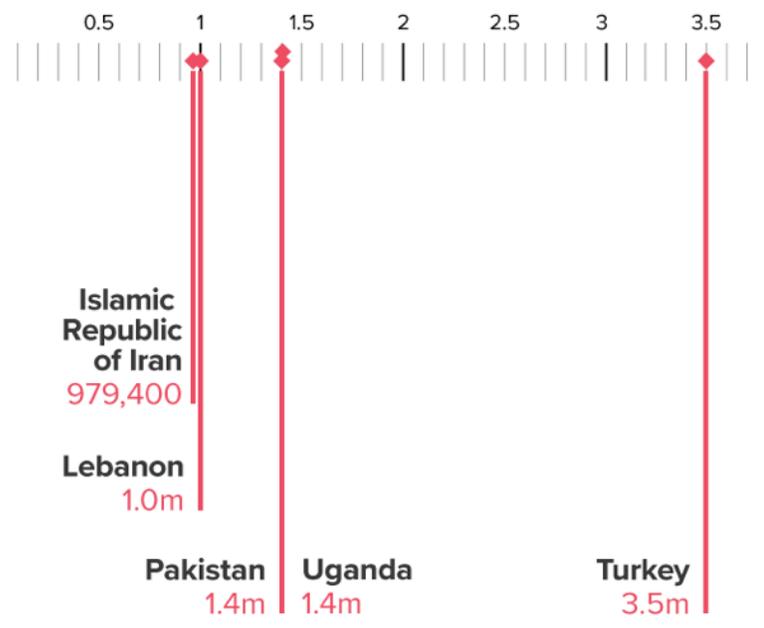


85 per cent of the world's displaced people are in developing countries

57% of refugees worldwide came from three countries



Top refugee-hosting countries



Global Compact on Refugees 2018



- On December 17 2018 the UNGA adopted the GCR with 181 votes in favor, 2 against (US and Hungary) and 3 abstentions (Eritrea, Lybia and Liberia) as a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility sharing, recognizing that sustainable solutions to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation

- Goals
 - ✓ Ease pressure on host countries
 - ✓ Enhance refugee self reliance
 - ✓ Expand access to third country solutions
 - ✓ Support conditions for return for countries or origin in safety and dignity

- Follow up at Global Refugee Forum every four years –first one Geneva December 2019

Faith Actors and The Implementation of The Global Compact on Refugees

“Faith-based actors could support the planning and delivery of arrangements to assist refugees and host communities, including in the areas of conflict prevention, reconciliation, and peacebuilding, as well as other relevant areas.”

- Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR



Call to FBOs to show strong moral leadership

“With a rise in xenophobic rhetoric anti-semitism and anti-Muslim hatred there is a growing global interest in engaging religious actors as peace mediators and as builders of inclusive and peaceful societies . Time and time again FBOs have stood in the face of rising tensions and conflict. They have provided space for open and constructive dialogue”



Amina Mohammed ,
UN Deputy SG

Living faith



Pope Francis welcomes a group of Syrian refugees after landing at Ciampino airport in Rome following a visit at the Moria refugee camp in the Greek island of Lesbos, April 16. 📷 Filippo Monteforte / Pool via Reuters

Multiple roles of Faith and Faith Actors

Across different Stages and Spaces of Forced Displacement

- **Welcoming** –expanding legal pathways –balancing host security concerns with migrant human rights
- **Protecting** –defending the inviolable dignity of those who flee dangers in search of asylum and security, and preventing exploitation
- **Promoting** --supporting Integral Human development and self sufficiency education
- **Integrating:** participating fully in the life of society towards mutual enrichment and fruitful cooperation

JLI Refugees and Forced Migration Learning Hub



HUB MEMBERS (100)

Faith-based

ACT Alliance
Anglican Alliance
Archbishop's Reconciliation
Ministry
Baha'i International Community
CAFOD
Catholic Relief Services
Christian Aid
Church World Service
Cord- EU
Food for the Hungry
Islamic Relief
Lutheran World Federation
Medair-Emergency Relief and Recovery
MERATH
Muslim Charities Forum
Reformed Church in America
Samaritan's Purse
Soka Gakkai International
US Catholic Council of Bishops
World Vision

Academic

Boston University
Durham University
Stellenbosch University
The University of Groningen
University of College London
University of East London

Policy/ Secular NGO

Centre for Peacebuilding and
Reconciliation
Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich
Humanitarian Leadership Academy
Institute of Development Studies
Integritas International Advisors
Oxfam
PaRD
UNHCR

Hub Co-chairs:



Elena Fiddian-
Qasmiyeh,
University College
London



Atallah
Fitzgibbon,
Islamic Relief
Worldwide

JLI Refugee Hub Evidence Outputs

- **Scoping Study** - Local Faith Communities in Urban Displacement: Evidence on Urbanization and Localization
- **Policy Brief** Role of Local Faith Communities in the implementation of the **Global Compact on Refugees**
- **UNHCR Good Practice Case studies:** Honduras, Germany, Mexico, Uganda, Lebanon. Training and modules underway
- **Handbook of Displacement chapter** - Role of faith-based actors at different stages and spaces of displacement
- **UNHCR Global Compact Joint Recommendation**

Joint Recommendation on the Role of Local Faith Communities in Refugee Response



pc: Islamic Relief Worldwide

JLI - UNHCR Action Research Collaborative



With thanks to JLI colleagues, our locally-based researchers, and the advisory group members led by Islamic Relief with ACT Alliance, Caritas Internationalis, DanChurch Aid, Lutheran World Federation, RedR, Tearfund, World Vision, and World Evangelical Alliance – IAFR

Local Humanitarian Leadership Workshop Series: Amman 2019

The Role Of Local Faith Actors In Implementing The Global Compact On Refugees

القيادة الأنسانية المحلية:

دور الجهات الفاعلة العقائدية في تنفيذ الأتفاقية الدولية بشأن اللاجئين

فبراير 18 عمان الأردن

- Amman Jordan February 18th, 2019
- Beirut Lebanon June 18th, 2019
- Brussels Belgium Late September 2019

CO-HOSTS:



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UN Interagency
Task Force on
Religion and
Development

World Vision



- Franciscan-run safe space for asylum-seekers & refugees LGBTQI
- Human Rights training for refugees and hosts - “School of Human Rights” Referral pathways for human rights violations
- Pushing back against xenophobia, misogyny, homophobia and transphobia amongst LC members
- Adjusting *existing* religious services to meet *refugees’* needs & preferences –chapel with no religious symbolism welcomes all
- Since 2011 sheltered more than 80,000 refugees and migrants

Good Practices : Integrating Mennonite Social Action Committee

Honduras

- Support program for returned migrants –deportation
- Celebrates the agency and power of youth to change circumstances
- Focus on long term integration and self reliance
- Completion of education ; Vocational training
- Countering psychosocial trauma of forced displacement with support to restore dignity and self esteem
- Synergy between humanitarian and development approaches
- Faith as strong foundation for emotionally exhausting work by leaders and hosts

Good Practices: Welcoming/Promoting MERATH

Lebanon

- FAs pushing back against populism and xenophobia amongst local congregations
- Serving host communities as well as displaced people
- Creation of churches as shared spaces for all
- Interfaith (Muslim-Christian) relationship building and spaces of encounter
- Home-visits, personal connections, and psychosocial support

8 Key Recommendations for G20:

<http://bit.ly/2WrPsQt8>

POLICY BRIEF: FAITH ACTORS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

- Faith actors are actively involved in responding to forced displacement, well-positioned to mobilize resources, and provide material and immaterial support to foster appropriate, tailored responses.
- Faith actors' experience and role should be acknowledged and considered in the design and implementation of every stage of the humanitarian response to forced displacement.
- Faith can play an instrumental role in forced migrants' experiences. Stakeholders should work to more fully understand this aspect of displacement experiences and facilitate spiritual support across all stages and places of displacement.

INTRODUCTION

To maximize the significant opportunities presented by the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the international community must recognize the experience and capabilities of faith actors (FAs) and break down existing barriers to partnerships to enable a more comprehensive, effective, and durable response. While the GCR does acknowledge that: "Faith-based actors could support the planning and delivery of arrangements to assist refugees and host communities, including in the areas of conflict prevention, reconciliation, and peacebuilding, as well as other relevant areas," the critical and comprehensive role that FAs play – as well as their potential for efficient service delivery – warrants a fuller and more nuanced examination.

This policy brief provides a set of recommendations based on evidence concerning the multiple roles that faith and faith actors play across different stages and spaces of forced displacement. The brief is aligned with the GCR's sections on Arrangements for Burden- and Responsibility-sharing and its three Areas in Need of Support (Reception and Admission, Meeting Needs and Supporting Communities, and Solutions).

BURDEN- AND RESPONSIBILITY-SHARING

The international community is committed to the development of a more equitable, effective, and predictable distribution of efforts to support forced migrants and host communities. FAs are crucial partners as they represent several aspects of the GCR's multi-stakeholder approach, including local, civil society, and faith-based representation. Engagement with FAs recognizes the place of religious belief and practice for refugees and host communities.



1. Support the Global Compact on Refugees and its Global Refugee Forum December 2019

2. Recognize and Integrate faith actors as proactive, well-positioned, and sustained responders to forced displacement

3. Recognize religious belief and practice is central to many refugees' experience. Facilitate spiritual and psychosocial support

8 Key Recommendations for G20 re Faith and Refugees

- 4) National and International actors should **expand engagement with faith actors** to make humanitarian assistance more effective predictable and sustainable
- 5) **Build capacity to mitigate real and perceived lack of compliance** of faith actors with international humanitarian standards
- 6) Recognize faith actors support **for promotion of the *agency* of migrants and their self sufficiency** through livelihoods and durable solutions and enhance through collaboration with other stakeholders
- 7) Prioritize the special needs **of Children on the Move**, and engage the global network of faith actors who have endorsed the Call to Action for Children on the Move
- 8) Value and support FA long standing contributions to resettlement and local community integration

Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations of Faiths

When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt” **Torah** (Leviticus 19:33)

There are many different traditions of **Buddhism**, but the concept of karuna is a fundamental tenet in all of them. It embodies the qualities of tolerance, non-discrimination, inclusion and empathy for the suffering of others,

Holy Qur’an calls for the protection of the asylum seeker, or al-mustamin, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, whose safety is irrevocably guaranteed under the institution of Aman (the provision of security and protection).

Central to the **Hindu Dharma**, or Law, are the values of karuna or compassion, ahimsa or non-violence towards all, and seva or the willingness to serve the stranger and the unknown guest.



Baby Fatima from Afghanistan in Preševo refugee centre, Serbia, where Trócaire's partner, Caritas Serbia, provides food, baby kits and hygiene kits. She had travelled with her family for three weeks to get there.

History says don't hope
On this side of the grave.
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.

Doubletake",
from *The Cure at Troy* (1990)
Seamus Heaney

So hope for a great sea-change
on the far side of revenge.
Believe that a further shore
is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles
and cures and healing wells.

Refugees are welcome here



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We invite you to join JLI as a member

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