

Faith-based Responses to Children's Rights and Migration.

UNICEF, NGO Committee on UNICEF,
Caritas Internationalis

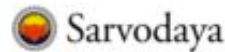
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Coordinator

JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE on
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ANTI-
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ENDING VIOLENCE
AGAINST
CHILDREN



GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE



MOBILISATION OF
LFCS



REFUGEES

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UNICEF 6 point action agenda to put children at the center

1. Protect uprooted children from exploitation and violence.
2. End the detention of refugee and migrant children by creating practical alternatives.
3. Keep families together and give children legal status.
4. Help uprooted children to stay in school and stay healthy.
5. Press for action on the causes that uproot children from their homes.
6. Combat xenophobia, discrimination and marginalization.

Areas of research on RFBO activity and contributions to refugees and forced migrants

- **Prevention** and preparedness
- Immediate Response (reception, protection, registration, physical psychosocial , trauma)
- **Supporting communities** (accommodation, education, health, employment)
- **Durable solutions** (return, resettlement, local integration)
- **Sensitization and awareness** raising (Host countries Combatting xenophobia)
- Policy/advocacy

Example of RFBO Refugee Response

Local Faith Actors: special roles (Forum on Localizing Humanitarian Response)

First responders – provision for universal needs; French Muslim Faith Community Nice food to informal camps on banks of River Roja

Transnational networks –Redeemed Christian Church of God, a Nigerian Pentecostal movement, assisting south-south movement and integration

Refugees hosting refugees – overlapping displacement in Baddawi camp in Lebanon. Long term residents collect donations for iftar baskets for vulnerable families to break their fast during Ramadan

Examples of Pro-Family Response

- **Shelter:**
 - South Sudan Catholic Cathedral in Wau 10K August 2017
 - Syria Coptic Bishop Elias > 12 K families
 - Mosque as safe space for children Rohingya Children in Bangladesh STC, WV and Plan
- **Legal Aid** St Andrew's Refugee StARS in Cairo – legal aid for refugees
- **Child protection** in emergencies Uganda Bubukwanga Camp (child friendly spaces) WV

Advocacy: Pope Francis

Call to the world and especially Catholic communities to care for the displaced **“Invisible voiceless children”**

“....migrant children easily end up at the lowest levels of human degradation, where illegality and violence destroy the future of too many innocents, while the network of child abuse is difficult to break up,”

Appeal to host communities to work with refugees **“ for the good of their children”**

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Dr Olivia Wilkinson olivia@jliflc.com

Ongoing Research Activities

- **Children on the Move –Global Church Partners**
 - Literature Review and Evidence Briefs (Vatican October)
- **Ending Violence against Children**
 - JLI Learning Hub Scoping Study-call for case studies and interviews
- **Role of Faith and LFC in supporting Refugees**
 - UNHCR primary research on good practices 7 countries
- **Refugees and Forced Migrant Learning Hub**
 - JLI LFC; Second Scoping Study; Roundtable on Global Compact

RFBO input to Global Compact on Refugees:

Joint recommendations on the role of LFCs in refugee response --

- Mechanisms
- Reception and admission
- Meeting needs and supporting communities
- Durable solutions

Note family reunification but otherwise limited mention in GC

- To sign on to the joint recommendations to UNHCR:
 - Dr Olivia Wilkinson olivia@jliflc.com
- 2 Events re RFBO and Global Compact : June Geneva; New York September. Expressions of interest to J Duff