



International Catholic
Migration Commission

Annual Report

2007

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*Serving
and protecting
uprooted people*

“In the misfortune experienced by the Family of Nazareth, obliged to take refuge in Egypt, we can catch a glimpse of (...) the difficulties that every migrant family lives through, the hardships and humiliations, the deprivation and fragility of millions and millions of migrants, refugees and internally displaced people.”

*Benedict XVI
World Day of Migrants and Refugees (2007)*

I wish to express the appreciation of this Dicastery of the Holy See for ICMC’s work in favour of migrants, refugees, displaced and trafficked persons. (...)

I would like to underline the importance that the Holy See attaches to ICMC’s anti-human trafficking work. As his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has highlighted concerning this modern day scourge of slavery: “..it is necessary to mention trafficking in human beings — especially women — which flourishes where opportunities to improve their standard of living or even to survive are limited. It becomes easy for the trafficker to offer his own ‘services’ to the victims, who often do not even vaguely suspect what awaits them”.(...)

I convey my personal thanks to ICMC, and the assurance of my blessings and prayers for a fruitful continuation of its highly important work on behalf of the human family, particularly its most vulnerable members.

H.E. Renato Raffaele Cardinal Martino
President of the Pontifical Council
for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People

Year in Review — Highlights in 2007

□ Having worked with migrants and refugees for more than four years in Jordan and one year in Syria, ICMC’s work in the region has grown significantly. Specifically, ICMC has continued engaging with its local partners to provide **humanitarian, educational and medical assistance to over 45,000 Iraqis** in 2007. Acknowledging the challenges of reaching Iraqi refugees displaced in an urban environment, ICMC is also providing outreach and referral services for unregistered Iraqi refugees living in Amman and working to develop policy recommendations for urban refugees generally.

□ In July 2007, ICMC co-organised and participated in the **humanitarian policy mission** of a top level delegation from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to Amman, Beirut, Damascus and Istanbul concerning the more than two million Iraqi refugees in the region. The report, entitled: *Escaping Mayhem and Murder — Iraqi refugees in the Middle East*, presents the situation of the Iraqi displaced population and insists upon the need to expand and expedite refugee resettlement.

□ Together with its regional member representatives, ICMC has started new regional processes **in Asia and Africa**. The new platforms bring together Church leaders active in refugee and migration issues to discuss shared concerns and regional perspectives. These platforms will both strengthen the working relationship between the various Church actors and envision solutions to refugee and migration issues, thus contributing to the contemporary global discourse and action on migration.



Assessing the medical needs of an Iraqi refugee in Jordan.
©ICMC/M. Aellen



Specialisation and competence today are key to effective service, and accordingly, are key to ICMC's unique contribution to the formulation of national and international norms and initiatives. Through its international character, ICMC helps to bridge these levels and brings its competence on the social teachings of the Church on human mobility issues to bear on a global basis. This contribution has been recognised by the Holy See, granting ICMC approval of its Statutes and canonical public juridical personality.

With an eye to the future, knowing that the numbers of migrants and refugees in a global world will continue to increase, it is clear that ICMC's mission will become ever more demanding.

John M. Klink
President

The world is moving today towards a more fundamental transformation of the traditional concepts of communities and national identities. This is not a crisis, but a challenge, and a process inviting us to build more open identities that aim at inclusion and integrated interaction. It is a time to abandon the identity of the lost case, to steer away from the negative or purely controlling identities, to recognize that moral values outweigh commercial interests; a time indeed to develop the courage and creativity to fully focus on the development of all human beings without any distinction.



Johan Ketelers
Secretary General

❑ **ICMC processed 2,677 refugees for resettlement to the United States** in 2007, up from 1,459 in 2006. Included in this total are nearly 50% of the Iraqi refugees resettled in 2007. Through the ICMC Turkey office, ICMC has also conducted regional work in Kuwait, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In addition to carrying out resettlement processing, ICMC works to ensure that resettlement proves itself as a durable solution by supporting every resettlement candidate with a medical examination and participation in ICMC's Cultural Orientation Programme.

❑ In collaboration with the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, **ICMC has been working with both the Government of Indonesia and civil society to combat human trafficking in Indonesia**, supporting the government in the development of standard operating procedures and standard minimum services for victims of trafficking. In 2007, the level of protection and quality of services improved for victims of trafficking in Indonesia, culminating in the passing of the anti-trafficking law and the approval of implementing regulations by the Government of Indonesia.

❑ **Welcome to Europe! A Guide to Resettlement** was published by ICMC Europe in collaboration with, and drawing from the experiences of, our project partners. Providing a comparative review of current resettlement practices in Europe, the guide provides recommendations to increase resettlement in Europe and has become a reference tool on the many lessons learned about resettlement by State and civil society actors across Europe.





Iraqi refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

Iraqis who fled to Jordan and Syria in 2003 expected that their exile would be short; their return to Iraq swift. With some money, Iraqis had enough just to get by in the short-term. In 2007, after four years of living in protracted exile, things have changed. With the growth of their community and without the legal right to employment, increasing segments of the Iraqi refugee community have reached escalating levels of destitution.

The ICMC *Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Iraqis* projects have been implemented in collaboration with Caritas Jordan in Amman, and with Caritas Syria and Terre des Hommes in Syria. The humanitarian, medical and education assistance has provided over 33,000 Iraqis with assistance in Jordan and 12,000 with assistance in Syria. ICMC's programmes have focused on extremely vulnerable individuals, acknowledging the particular vulnerabilities of the Iraqi refugee population. Single women, single heads of household, unaccompanied children, elderly, those with medical and psychological concerns and, most of all, those living in extreme poverty, have been the priority beneficiaries of assistance. The growing number of Iraqis living in extreme poverty, however, is of great concern and has extended the scope of the beneficiary population, reflecting the increased need of humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees.

In 2007, the scope and breadth of ICMC's activities in the Middle East evolved. Together with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, ICMC conducted a mission in November to carry out an in-depth evaluation and analysis of the protection needs of vulnerable Iraqi individuals and families residing in Jordan, and made a number of recommendations on best approaches to address their protection needs. Moreover, the project regarding the *Protection of Asylum Seekers in Jordan in the Context of Urban Settings* will provide policy recommendations to address the urban nature of the displacement of Iraqis.

The *Assistance to Iraqis Outside Iraq – Identification and Referral of Fragile Families* project has further brought ICMC into direct contact with Iraqi refugees residing in Amman. By conducting outreach and referral activities in Amman, ICMC has borne direct witness to the living conditions of Iraqis, particularly the most vulnerable, referring them to much needed services.

Migrants injured or traumatised on dangerous border crossings

ICMC member, Bishop Giorgio Bertin of Djibouti, has strongly encouraged ICMC to engage in activities to improve the situation of migrants who have been injured or traumatised in

dangerous border crossings. Bishop Bertin described the movement — and suffering — of people from Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and other parts of Africa including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen; most of them crossing in the hands of traffickers and smugglers who care little for their safety, and even less for their dignity. About 5% of these boat people are estimated to have died or disappeared during the crossing; of the survivors, thousands have been injured or traumatised along the way, including women and children.

Aware that this danger and suffering occurs on border crossings worldwide, on land as well as sea, ICMC has taken up various initiatives in collaboration with various members and partners, some of which include the following:

- Preparation of a policy statement calling first for better care and protection of all victims of violence and trauma crossing borders, regardless of their immigration status, and second, for the development of related humanitarian standards.



Dangerous border crossing ©UNHCR

- Presentation of a series of statements at high-level meetings of Member States of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Bishop Bertin met with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and top officials of UNHCR before making a special presentation at a consultation of NGOs gathered from around the world.
- Formally petitioning the Council of Europe to develop humanitarian standards for migrant victims of violence or trauma in Europe; the Council responded with a proposal for making the development of such standards a priority within its 2009 – 2011 work plan.

Counter-trafficking and rescue ...reconstructing lives

The definition of human trafficking used by the United Nations emphasizes the abuse of power, or of vulnerability of another person for the purpose of exploitation, including sexual

exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there are some 12.3 million victims of forced labour in the world at any given time. Of those, some 2.4 million have been trafficked, the majority of whom are women and children.

In conjunction with the Caritas Lebanon Migrants' Centre (CLMC), ICMC has conducted an *Anti-Trafficking Protection and Assistance for Victims of Trafficking* project. While the CLMC Safe House provides trafficking victims with a secure place to recover, the services offered (trauma counselling, legal aid and assistance with return and reintegration) are often secondary to the care, support and guidance the residents offer to one another. On average, the CLMC Safe House hosted 17 people per month in 2007 and the relationships developed at the Safe House often help survivors to overcome their past experiences and rebuild their lives.



Refugee resettlement – offering a durable solution

In 2007, the **Resettlement Deployment Scheme** provided a total of 91 resettlement experts for 96 deployments to UNHCR offices in 33 countries. Overall, deployees assessed more than 9,500 cases during the year, involving **32,000 refugees**. This figure represents an increase of 17,000 refugees assessed for resettlement compared to 2006. Resettlement cases were referred to 22 countries, including traditional resettlement countries and those accepting cases on an *ad hoc* basis.

Moreover, the roster of available deployees (including those currently working in UNHCR operations) grew from 145 to 194 individuals in 2007: 83 of them hold an NGO background, while 41 have had past employment with UNHCR operations in various capacities. The remaining 70 roster members were recruited from a combination of international organisations, private legal practices/enterprises and government bodies.

The largest concentration of deployees in 2007 continued to be in Africa, with **48 deployees** assessing over **15,000** refugees for resettlement. The second largest concentration of deployees for 2007 was in the Middle East (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Yemen), where **23 deployees** assessed **10,500** Iraqi refugees for resettlement, thereby assisting UNHCR in meeting its target of referring over 20,000 Iraqis to the United States and other countries.

The Scheme, in conjunction with ICMC Inc. in Washington D.C and ICMC Europe in Brussels, also engaged in resettlement awareness raising efforts including debriefings by returning deployees. These debriefings have provided an opportunity for NGO partners to hear first-hand from deployees regarding their resettlement experience with UNHCR in field

operations. The Scheme further collaborated with the two offices for the recruitment and training of NGO candidates.

In addition to the growing capacity of the Scheme to assist more refugees, the department's value is increasingly apparent as a strategic tool for promoting resettlement as a durable solution among partner NGOs and existing and emerging resettlement states. In this respect, synergies between the ICMC Operations Department, the Resettlement Deployment Scheme and broader UNHCR resettlement objectives were further strengthened in 2007.

Through the Brussels office, ICMC has been actively involved in promoting resettlement activities at the European level. In 2007, ICMC Europe initiated the Practical Cooperation for a European Resettlement Network project, supported by the European Refugee Fund. The information produced through this project has been compiled by ICMC in a guide – ***Welcome to Europe! A Guide to Resettlement: A Comparative Review of Resettlement in***

Europe – outlining current European resettlement practices, identifying organisations and programmes currently undertaking resettlement activities and providing examples of “good practice”. This guide will serve to increase the understanding of resettlement as a durable solution, and facilitate programming activities of EU Member States and civil society actors involved in these processes.

Survivors of torture and trauma

ICMC expertise and programmes to help survivors of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment recover from their trauma to become functional individuals in their community has benefited more than 2,125 individuals. ICMC implements Survivors of Torture (SOT) programmes in both Indonesia and Timor Leste, strengthening the capacity of local NGOs and community-based organisations to implement programmes in awareness raising, psychosocial rehabilitation services and advocacy support for survivors of torture and their families. ICMC has offered an individualised holistic approach to affected individuals, based upon respect for the dignity of each individual as a human being and as a valued member of society. Many benefited further from vocational trainings and follow-up counselling, thereby providing opportunities to work in their villages locally instead of migrating abroad or to larger cities.

On a larger scale, these programmes aim to create support networks of NGOs for survivors of torture and link them to the larger international Victims of Torture Network. ICMC has provided small grants for local NGOs to provide rehabilitative services to survivors of torture so that they may conduct awareness-raising initiatives. As in the past, the



programme has continued to raise public awareness through radio and TV programmes, community meetings and participation in international events. In 2007, ICMC and a local partner organisation received accreditation from the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT).

At an international level, ICMC has contributed its expertise in psycho-social programming to the development of *Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings*, which were published by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), a high-level body formed by a broad range of UN and non-UN humanitarian organisations engaged in response to complex emergencies and natural disasters. As a member of the task force that produced the guidelines, ICMC offered reflections and insights drawn from its experience designing and supporting counselling programmes for survivors of the tsunami in 2005 with respect to responding appropriately to mental health and psychosocial needs during humanitarian emergencies.



Woman signing the petition banner to domesticate the convention against torture ©ICMC

Unaccompanied migrant children...

In collaboration with the Migration and Refugee Services of the Conference of US Catholic Bishops, ICMC Inc. has promoted the safety and well-being of unaccompanied and undocumented migrant children who have been apprehended by the U.S government and subsequently referred for special assistance, making a particular effort to ascertain and respect each child's best interest. This Safe Passages Programme has helped hundreds of children to reunite with their families. Over 3,000 vulnerable children have been served.

Labour migrants.....

Many in today's contemporary migratory movements are labour migrants, among whom the lesser skilled and those without regular immigration status are particularly vulnerable. ICMC has promoted the more widespread ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, emphasizing its importance for the protection of



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migrants' rights worldwide. Over the course of the last year, ICMC has continued to actively participate in meetings of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers, and has engaged with ICMC members to collectively draft and present their country-specific concerns in the form of formal statements. Incorporating input and suggestions from members, ICMC presented statements on the situation of migrant workers and members of their families in and from Bolivia, Ecuador and El Salvador in 2007.

Global Forum on Migration and Development

On additional advocacy levels, ICMC brought the voice and concerns of ICMC members, partners and the migrants they serve to the first annual meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Brussels in July 2007. ICMC was actively involved in the Civil Society Days preceding the Forum, and particularly in co-organising a parallel event that was attended by some 200 people representing various NGOs, faith-based organisations and labour groups.

Among other activities, ICMC coordinated a two-part workshop that gave funding institutions and NGOs the opportunity to interact with one another and discuss both funding possibilities, and current programming in the area of migration and development. Demonstrating a commitment to long-term solutions in migration and development, ICMC further made a proposal to civil society participants to establish a *Global Platform for Migration, Development and Human Rights*, which would enhance communication channels between NGOs, labour groups and other civil society actors, develop a funding strategy and support sustainable national and regional strategies on migration and development.

ICMC was insistent upon the need to ensure that the conclusions of the Civil Society Days were welcomed as input to governments involved in the Global Forum, and was invited as one of two panellists asked to report on the Days' activities, discussions and conclusions at a final 2007 roundtable event.



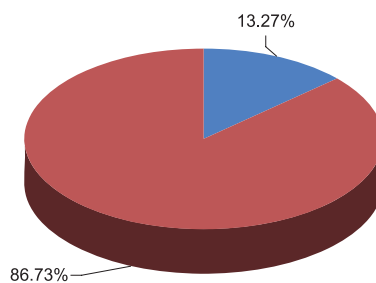
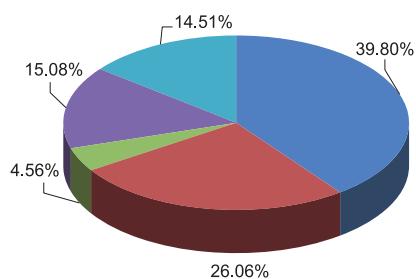


Summary of the Financial Position

Audited by Deloitte S.A., as of 31 December 2007 (in USD)

Revenue	2006	2007	
■ US Government grants	5,581,000	7,923,000	
■ UN Institutions	3,658,000	5,188,000	
■ European Commission	1,303,000	907,000	
■ Other grants and contributions	4,534,000	3,002,000	
■ Administrative support and management fees	2,258,000	2,888,000	
Total Revenue	17,334,000	19,908,000	+15%

Expenditure	2006	2007	
■ Administration	1,820,000	2,605,000	
■ Programmes	15,078,000	17,020,000	
Total Expenditure	16,898,000	19,625,000	+16%



Our Donors and Partners

ICMC closely collaborates with a large number of Church, faith-based and civil society organisations and also interacts with governmental and inter-governmental organisations and bodies. A full list can be found on our website: www.icmc.net

Mission Statement

The mission of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is to serve and protect uprooted people, regardless of creed, race, nationality or ethnic origin. ICMC works with refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants and gives priority to the most vulnerable and marginalised among these groups. The work of ICMC is inspired and guided by the gospel imperative to “welcome the stranger” (Mathew 25).

With staff and operations in 40 countries, ICMC works directly and through a worldwide network of member organisations to respond to immediate needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants and to implement rights-based and durable solutions. This is done in nine areas of core programming:

- Return and reintegration in home countries, including reunification of families;
- Local integration in places to which uprooted people have fled;
- Refugee resettlement in a third country, including pre-departure cultural orientation and rapid deployment of skilled staff;
- Services to extremely vulnerable individuals;
- Counter trafficking;
- Training and capacity building;
- Technical cooperation with governments to strengthen institutional responses to refugees, IDPs and migrants;
- Emergency response and community building;
- Policy building and advocacy.

ICMC Governing Committee

President

Mr. John M. Klink (USA)

Treasurer

Sr. Janete Ferreira (Ecuador)

Secretary

Rev. Fr. Neil Karunaratne (Sri Lanka)

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H.E. Archbishop François Gayot (Haiti)
H.E. Bishop Renato Ascencio León (Mexico)
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Rev. Fr. Abraham-Roch Okoko-Esseau (Republic of Congo)
Prof. Stefano Zamagni (Italy)
Mr. Mark Franken (USA)
Mr. Johnny Young (USA)

Observers

H.E. Archbishop Silvano Tomasi
(Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva)
Rev. Msgr. Novatus Rugambwa
(Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People)
Sr. Maryanne Loughry (Counsellor)
Sr. Cornelia Bühle (Counsellor)

ICMC is an international operating organisation erected by the Holy See and composed of representatives of Catholic Episcopal Conferences and Episcopal Assemblies of similar status of those countries particularly concerned with migration and refugee issues.



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Mrs. Florence Joigneault, Director of Finances

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