

**2017
ANNUAL
REPORT**

“Migrants and refugees ... do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy and aspirations, as well as the treasures of their own cultures; and in this way, they enrich the lives of the nations that receive them.”

Pope Francis
(November 2017)



Syrian refugee siblings in Irbid, Jordan. One day “all of us will be smiling, nobody will be sad,” says one of them. Read more and watch the video at bit.ly/SyrianSiblings

A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



In the course of the year 2017, we at the International Catholic Migration Commission found many reasons for concern but also for gratitude.

It wasn't an easy year for migrants and refugees around the world. Massive numbers of people were forced to flee their homes.

Long-term displacement situations like that of Syrians continued unabated. Broad responses were mobilized in response to sudden-onset crises, like that of the Rohingya in Bangladesh, but much more was needed to guarantee both provision of emergency needs as well as respect for human rights and international law. Horrific situations, including selling refugees and migrants into slavery while they were being held in Libyan prisons and transit centers came into the spotlight. At the same time, opportunities for refugee resettlement in third countries, long recognized as a durable solution for especially vulnerable and other refugees with special needs, were significantly reduced in several countries.

In the face of all these hardships affecting so many, ICMC continued delivering aid where it was sorely needed and protecting and resettling the most vulnerable. We also advocated tirelessly for just and equitable solutions that respect the dignity and rights of migrants and refugees, including throughout the development of the two International Compacts – one on Migrants and the other on Refugees – proposed at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016.

For all this good work, I need to offer earnest words of thanks on behalf of ICMC.

I must start with Sir Peter Sutherland, who served as President of our organization between 2014 to April 2017, when he found it necessary to resign because of serious illness; he subsequently died on 7 January 2018. Peter was an internationally recognized leader in the fields of business, trade, migration and integration of refugees and migrants in their host countries. We are deeply grateful to Peter for his legacy to ICMC: a renewed and strengthened dedication to our mission of protecting and serving uprooted people wherever they are, regardless of their status.

Particular gratitude also is due to the ICMC Governing Committee, for their leadership and guidance, and to ICMC Member Catholic Bishops' Conferences and their

specialized services around the world. Day in, day out, they fulfill the mandate to care for migrants and refugees according to Catholic teaching.

I want to express my deep personal thanks and recognition to our staff, who gave the best of themselves for yet another year. I've met many of you and am deeply impressed by your competence and dedication to those whom we serve.

I'd also like to wholeheartedly thank our faithful donors and supporters, both institutional and private. It is you who made possible the accomplishments reported in this publication. Your continued support allowed ICMC to put in place the programs and activities summarized in the following pages, while your trust encouraged us all – leaders, staff, and volunteers – to renew our commitment every day.

And last but not least, I wish to recognize our partners in civil society, international organizations and governments. Our working together multiplies our strength. Our shared values and aspirations reaffirm our conviction that we can achieve the vision of a world where the dignity and rights of people on the move are upheld.

At ICMC, we find constant inspiration and guidance in the extraordinary leadership of Pope Francis. In February 2017, at a special audience I was privileged to attend, the Holy Father invited and indeed challenged both Catholics and people of good will alike to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees whatever their status.

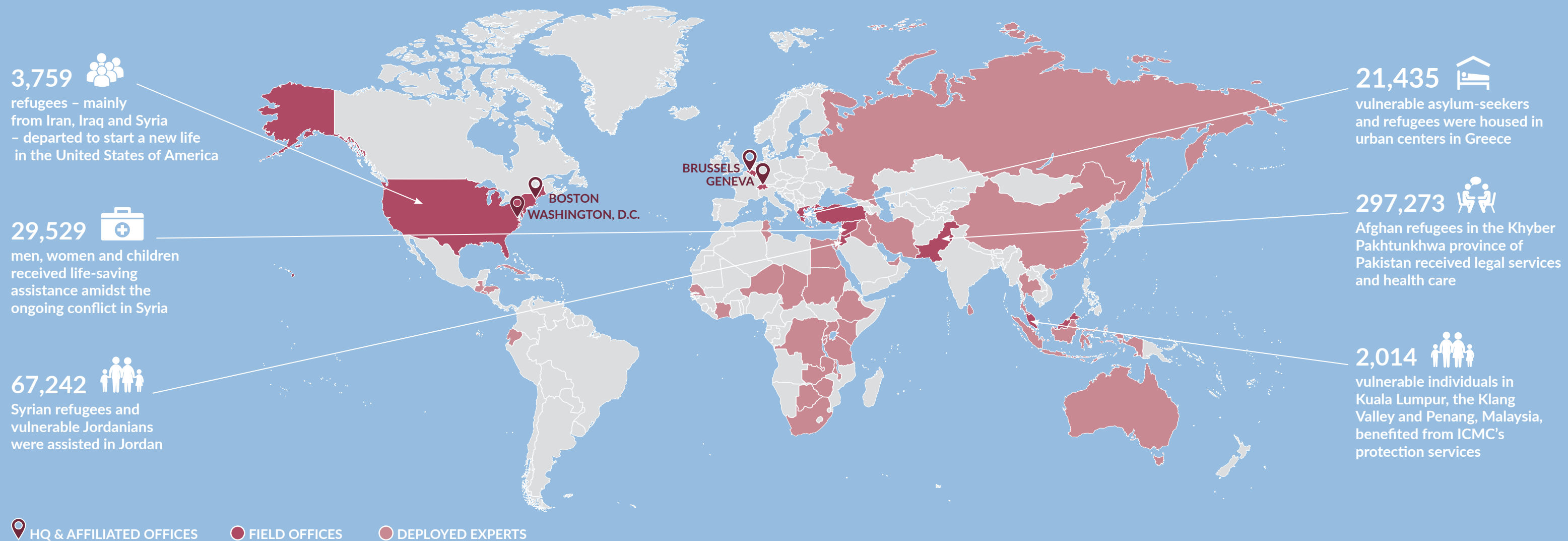
As we continue our efforts to make ICMC's motto – *Restoring Dignity, Inspiring Change* – a worldwide reality, let us keep in mind another recent appeal of Pope Francis that lies at the very heart of our vision: “All indicators available to the international community suggest that global migration will continue in the future. Some consider this a threat. For my part, I ask you to view it with confidence as an opportunity to build peace.”

Robert J. Vitillo

Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo
Secretary General, ICMC

You can follow Msgr. Vitillo on Twitter as [@bobvitillo](https://twitter.com/bobvitillo)

HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE ACHIEVED TOGETHER



ADVOCATING FOR RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE USA

ICMC U.S. Liaison Office raised attention on the plight of religious minorities. Staff interviewed refugees, including **Bahai, Chaldeans, Syrian Catholics** and **Yazidis** who fled religious persecution and resettled in the U.S. They spoke of their successful integration and gratitude.

ADVOCATING FOR STRENGTHENED REFUGEE PROTECTION

ICMC advocated for strengthened protection at each of the thematic discussions of the **Global Compact on Refugees**, calling for responsibility-sharing mechanisms, heightened child protection and taking the reality of mixed migration flows into account.

PROVIDING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

More than **67,730** refugees were interviewed and assessed for resettlement by **159** ICMC experts deployed to **66** duty stations in **39** countries. More than **3,580** children and their caregivers were offered protection.

PROMOTING COMPLEMENTARY ADMISSION PATHWAYS

ICMC Europe advocated for resettlement and other additional, complementary admission channels to Europe, notably **community-based sponsorship models** through which people and organizations at a local level provide refugees with practical and emotional support.

COORDINATING ADVOCACY FOR THE MIGRATION COMPACT

ICMC played a leading role in coordinating advocacy to UN Member States through the New York-based civil society **Action Committee** as they began developing the Global Compact on Migration. A **key advocacy document** outlined a bold vision for human mobility.

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

333 participants, including **254** civil society delegates and **121** migrants, refugees or members of the diaspora coming from **65** countries attended the Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Berlin.

GLOBAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY

ICMC coordinated the preparation of a key advocacy document outlining a bold civil society vision for the Global Compact on Migration. European and global gatherings ensured that civil society advocacy played a core role in this Compact process, while statements to high-level meetings contributed to the development of the Global Compact on Refugees.

In 2017, ICMC played a leading role in coordinating civil society advocacy to UN Member States as they began developing two Global Compacts – one to ensure Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and one urging shared responsibility for Refugees.

With its mandate extended for two years following the September 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, the ICMC-initiated civil society Action Committee guided advocacy work and served as a bridge between the two Compact processes. Its main focus in 2017 was the Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

ICMC advocated for strengthened refugee protection at each of the thematic discussions of the Global Compact on Refugees. In so doing, it called for responsibility-sharing mechanisms such as resettlement, complementary admission pathways, local integration and heightened child protection. Given the reality of mixed migration flows encountered by ICMC, its members and partners in their field operations, ICMC called upon states to provide for interactive follow-up when implementing the two Compacts. Such concrete actions should ensure that both refugees and migrants benefit from protection and assistance that take into account their needs and rights.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONSULTATION

ICMC's Migration and Development (MADE) civil society network facilitated a European civil society dialogue on migration which took place in Brussels in October. Its 60 delegates amplified the voices of uprooted people heard during the Compact's regional consultation process.

Drawing on practical experience, the consultation identified European mechanisms and policies that could serve as examples of both good and problematic practices that would potentially influence negotiations at the global level. Participants identified states with supportive or hindering approaches in each thematic area for further advocacy work.

MARCH

At the 34th session of the UN Human Rights Council, ICMC and other faith-based organizations deliver a statement prioritizing protection of the most vulnerable uprooted people, especially unaccompanied children. ICMC co-organizes a side event addressing challenges faced by children on the move alone.

APRIL

In a panel discussion at the International Dialogue on Migration, ICMC Secretary General emphasizes that the Migration Compact needs an approach similar to that of the Sustainable Development Goals, with clear goals, targets, indicators and timeline.

MAY

An ICMC statement at the first Thematic Session for the Migration Compact reiterates the centrality of human rights in the Compact process, with a focus on vulnerable migrants.

The Holy See, Caritas Internationalis, the Center for Migration Studies of New York and ICMC host a side event at the second Thematic Session for the Migration Compact. The high-level panel focuses on the drivers of forced migration and the right to remain in one's homeland.

JUNE

An ICMC statement at the third Thematic Session for the Migration Compact advocates cooperation beyond borders and emphasizes the positive effect of such collaboration.

Participants at a side event on unaccompanied minors held at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in March. Co-organized by the Holy See, Caritas Internationalis, and ICMC, the event stressed the need to preserve the dignity and respect the rights of unaccompanied children on the move.

JUNE (Cont.)

At the 35th session of the UN Human Rights Council, ICMC co-sponsors the side event “Migration in Central America: Migrants are not a danger but in danger.” ICMC joins other NGOs in a statement highlighting the vulnerability of unaccompanied minors and urging greater respect for rights in regional migration policy.

At the UN Annual Consultations with NGOs, ICMC’s Washington-based U.S. Liaison Office leads a workshop on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework to address refugee crises. Lessons learned from the Framework’s roll-out in 2017 will shape the Global Compact on Refugees.

JULY

An ICMC statement “Back to the Future: Responsibilities We Share, Solutions We Know” at the first Thematic Discussion for the Compact on Refugees welcomes multiple humanitarian solutions, with multiple actors contributing to the development of the Compact.

SEPTEMBER

ICMC U.S. Liaison Office participates in the global Thematic Session on smuggling and trafficking of migrants at the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, part of the consultation process for the Migration Compact.

Above: The Chair of the German Bishops’ Conference, Cardinal Reinhard Marx, speaks at a high-level panel held at the UN in Geneva in November on the mutual benefits of integrating migrants into host societies.



A KEY ADVOCACY TOOL

ICMC led the development of *Now and How: Ten Acts for the Global Compact*, launched in October. This key global advocacy document set out a clear and bold civil society vision for the Migration Compact.

It urged governments to act in ten priority and two cross-cutting areas to ensure that the Migration Compact would set a transformative agenda. Each “Act” named clear goals as well as mechanisms and timelines for implementation.

With the *Ten Acts*, civil society called for a Compact that saves lives, responds to needs and directly benefits migrants, refugees and societies; that puts existing agreements and frameworks into practice; and that involves migrants, refugees and civil society organizations in shaping their own futures.

ICMC made the document available in all six official UN languages and created tools for advocacy at national level. Some 240 organizations signed on to the *Ten Acts* document, which was based on civil society recommendations at the June 2017 Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Berlin (see p.27).

CIVIL SOCIETY STOCKTAKING MEETING

UN Member States met in early December in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to review results from a series of consultations held in each region of the world and at UN headquarters, constituting the first stage in the development of the Migration Compact. Facilitated by ICMC’s MADE civil society network, the Action Committee convened a two-day civil society gathering immediately beforehand to strategize for and communicate as a unified voice with the UN meeting.

As well as looking at priority issues together, the 80 civil society delegates engaged in conversation with some 50 representatives of 23 governments during a dedicated session at which the issues put forward in the *Ten Acts* document served as anchor points.

Civil society delegates, many engaged in the fields of migration policy and services, highlighted priorities common to all regions such as return, non-criminalization, regularization, mixed migration and labor issues. They also noted the need to take region-specific issues into account.

OCTOBER

An ICMC statement “Expanding Hope as well as Solutions” at the second Thematic Discussion for the Compact on Refugees calls for more innovative programs to welcome refugees, building on existing successful models.

NOVEMBER

ICMC’s statement “Going in the Right Direction” at the 108th Council meeting of the UN Agency for Migration (IOM) makes recommendations for the Migration Compact in the areas of *non-refoulement*, return and regularization.

ICMC co-organizes the side event “Mutual Contributions and Benefits: Integrating Migrants into Host Societies” during the Annual Meeting of the IOM Council. The high-level panel focuses on practical recommendations and good practices for the Migration Compact.

An ICMC statement “Forms of Admission that increase the Speed of Integration” at the 4th-5th Thematic Discussions for the Compact on Refugees urges linking resettlement pathways with integration mechanisms.

DECEMBER

On 18 December, International Migrants Day, the ICMC Director of Policy delivers the opening address at the Third Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing for the Migration Compact. It emphasizes the need for the two Compacts to provide for interactive implementation – to talk and walk together – across the whole range of human mobility, as well as the urgency of moving “from the poetry of beautiful declarations to the plumbing of the mechanisms that make them work.”

TEN ACTS FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT

A civil society vision for a transformative agenda for human mobility, migration and development

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1. DRIVERS OF HUMAN MOBILITY
Act to end the drivers of forced displacement and normalize and facilitate migration by choice.
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2. SAFE PATHWAYS FOR HUMAN MOBILITY
Act to enhance safe, regular and affordable pathways and opportunities for human mobility that comply with human rights.
- 

3. PROTECTION
Act to meet the needs and to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all migrants and refugees in distress, in transit, at borders and at destination and to end their criminalization and detention.
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4. DECENT WORK AND LABOR RIGHTS
Act to promote safe and decent labor mobility, working conditions and labor rights for migrants and refugees.
- 

5. DECENT LIVING CONDITIONS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE
Act to ensure safe and decent living conditions and access to social services and justice for all migrants and refugees.
- 

6. EDUCATION AND SKILLS
Act to provide quality education and developmental care for all children and improve student mobility, learning opportunities and recognition of skills and qualifications.
- 

7. INCLUSION AND ACTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
Act to promote social cohesion and inclusion of migrants and refugees into societies and combat all forms of xenophobia, racism and discrimination.
- 

8. TRANSNATIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Act to foster transnational connections and contributions of migrants, refugees and diasporas to sustainable development and reduce transaction costs for remittances and investments.
- 

9. RIGHTS, RETURN AND REINTEGRATION
Act to develop global principles on the governance of return, reintegration and alternatives to return that guarantee the rights, safety and dignity of all migrants and refugees in these contexts.
- 

10. GOVERNANCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING
Act to create transparent, accountable and participatory mechanisms and means of implementation for rights-based governance of human mobility and migration.

Two cross-cutting emphases underlie the ten priorities: upholding the **rights of children** and implementing **gender-responsive policies**.

Download *Now and How: Ten Acts for the Global Compact* at bit.ly/TenActs4GCM

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

From food, clothing and other essential items to healthcare, education and housing, ICMC is committed to assisting uprooted people and the communities that give them refuge.

In 2017, ICMC's humanitarian work focused again on the Syrian conflict. In its seventh year, the conflict remained one of the largest and most complex crises in the world. Over 5.6 million people have fled the country since 2011, while 6.1 million people have been internally displaced seeking safety. Both groups face an ongoing struggle for survival. Refugees in host countries lack rights and opportunities to earn a living. Within Syria, families wrestle to meet their basic needs due to shortages, a devastated infrastructure and the increasing cost of food and other goods.

RESPONDING TO URGENT NEEDS IN SYRIA

In 2017, ICMC launched a voucher system for essential items like clothing, shoes and hygiene products. Expanded health services improved nourishment for infants and young children.

In 2017, ICMC reached out to nearly 30,000 people in Syria. The conflict having severely impacted Syria's healthcare system, ICMC services aimed to improve health through community education campaigns and better access to care.

Due to the particular vulnerability of displaced pregnant women, ICMC focused efforts on providing ante- and post-natal care together with the organization Terre des Hommes Syria. Over 2,100 expectant mothers attended clinics close to their homes prior to giving birth and nearly 2,000 delivered their children with the assistance of skilled birth attendants. Nearly 4,000 women and their newborns received postnatal care.

In 2017, ICMC helped nearly 19,000 people meet their most urgent needs by providing household items, cleaning products and personal hygiene kits. The new voucher distribution system allowed families to prioritize purchases to meet their specific needs.

Many displaced families are in need of temporary shelter or risk going into debt to be able to pay their rent. During the year ICMC provided 235 families with assistance so that they could live in safety and dignity.

NOTHING'S BETTER THAN HOME

"Our lives are hard now, but there is no life better than life at home," says Leen, a young Syrian mother who is originally from the city of Alhajar Alaswad in the southern part of the country but who has long been displaced and lives in the capital Damascus. Leen's family of eleven could not count on a stable income; she thus received ante- and post-natal care provided by Terre des Hommes Syria, an ICMC partner. This made a huge difference, especially after delivery, when her baby suffered serious health complications. "When the war is over," says Leen, "we will return to our home and rebuild our community for our newborn baby. We want that for him."

29,529 

men, women and children received life-saving assistance amidst the ongoing conflict in Syria

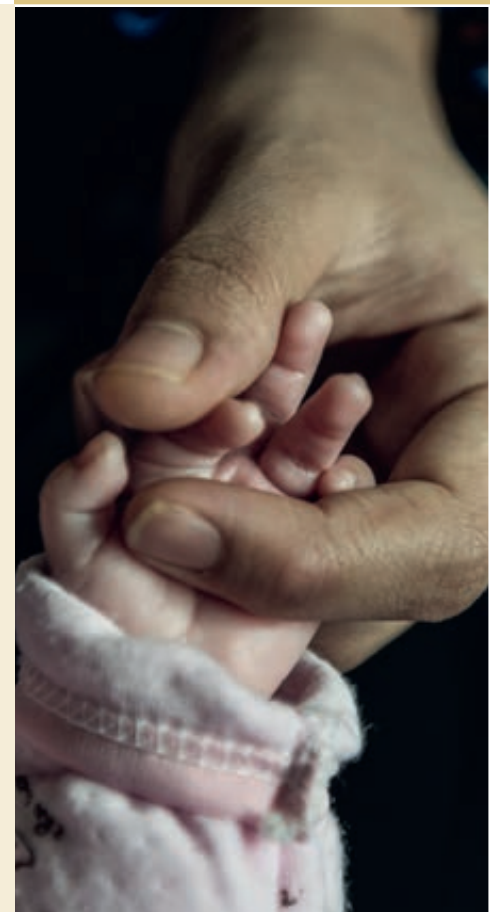
23,799 


individuals received advice on a variety of health issues through outreach visits, information sessions and brochures

98% 

of 1,599 women surveyed were "very satisfied" with ICMC health services for mothers and newborns

A Syrian refugee family in Mafraq, Jordan. By the end of 2017, more than 655,000 Syrians had fled to Jordan. ICMC assists the most vulnerable families, who have experienced war and displacement and are often isolated.




67,242 
 Syrian refugees and vulnerable
 Jordanians were assisted
 in Jordan

4,281 
 children played and learned in
 safety in child-friendly spaces

3,850 
 girls and boys received school
 bags, supplies and related items

2,237 
 individuals participated in
 focus group discussions on
 gender-based violence, early
 marriage, child protection and
 positive parenting

3,752 
 families received cash assistance
 for housing, winter expenses
 or regularizing their legal and
 civil status

LIVELIHOODS, EDUCATION, AND INNOVATION IN JORDAN

ICMC sharpened its livelihood focus in Jordan through increased vocational training and new English and financial literacy courses. Its protection center strengthened psychosocial services, while two publications addressed protection concerns of refugees lacking documentation. An innovative project was launched for young refugees to become agents of change through digital photography.

Approximately 655,600 Syrians had fled to Jordan by the end of 2017. ICMC assisted the most vulnerable refugee families, who are marked by experiences of war and displacement and often isolated. ICMC's work focused on helping them meet basic needs without going further into debt, ensuring their livelihoods and enhancing their protection.

Seven years into the protracted conflict, Jordan's economic and social infrastructure and services remain under pressure and host communities face significant financial strain. By also supporting vulnerable Jordanians, ICMC contributed to reducing tensions between refugee and host communities.

ICMC cash assistance enabled 1,407 families to pay for decent housing and allowed further vulnerable households to meet other urgent needs. Funds were also provided to 507 households to cover increased expenses during colder months. Personal hygiene kits, house cleaning supplies and incontinence pads were made available to vulnerable families.

ICMC increased psychosocial services offered at its protection center in Mafrq; these complemented work at its center in Irbid to increase the resilience of both Syrians and Jordanians. Additional awareness-raising sessions allowed nearly 2,240 people to discuss sensitive issues such as child marriage, sexual harassment and gender-based violence. Two ICMC counselors joined the team to provide further support and outreach volunteers received psychosocial skills training.

ICMC strengthened its livelihoods programs, equipping individuals to earn an income. Nearly 340 women without formal schooling were empowered to be more active in their homes and community by learning to read and write. While they attended Arabic literacy classes, their children were taken care of at a child-friendly space. ICMC increased its vocational activities, with 81 vulnerable 18-30-year-olds completing training courses.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT FALLING INTO DEBT

Tariq is from Aleppo, Syria. The 42-year old lost his sight in an explosion. He fled the violence with his family in 2015; they lost everything they owned. He has since struggled to feed and clothe his family and keep a roof over their heads. Finding work is challenging due to his visual impairment and the family soon found themselves in debt. "There is a huge gap between income and expenses," Tariq explains. Receiving assistance with paying their rent has made all the difference, freeing up money for food and medical care. "When you helped us by covering the rent, we felt we were able to relax a little without that burden over us."

FROM 'REFUGEE' TO BEAUTY EXPERT

Rima was forced to flee her home in Homs, Syria, in 2013. She found safety in Mafrq, Jordan, but had to leave family and friends behind. Her 'refugee' status defined her life, making it hard for her to imagine a future... until she enrolled in an ICMC beauty course, which allowed her to acquire new skills: haircare, makeup and beauty therapy. She also made new friends, who, together, want to open a beauty salon. And most importantly, the course has enabled 'refugee' Rima to see herself in a different light. "I have finally found something for myself. I have found a new identity and I couldn't be more excited."



ICMC finalized a curriculum for an English-language course now being piloted. A five-module financial literacy course was also developed to support families in managing their household budgets and becoming more self-sufficient.


To encourage parents to send their children to school, ICMC distributed 3,850 educational kits with supplies and information about learning centers. A "Back to School" campaign stressed the importance of education.

Many Syrian refugees in Jordan lack key documentation, which keeps them from accessing a range of services and places women at particular risk. ICMC published two research reports on protection issues related to the lack of civil and legal documentation. More than 5,500 households received information about legal questions and nearly 1,840 families seeking to regularize their civil and refugee status were given cash support.

In 2017, ICMC launched a *PhotoVoice* project, which aims to empower Syrian and Jordanian youth as active members of the community. The 56 participants learned to use digital photography to tell their stories, giving them a new voice and valuable skills at the same time. The workshops also offered them sorely-needed recreational activities in a safe environment.

9,700 
 individuals received essential
 non-food items

421 
 women and men participated in
 livelihoods activities

2 
 "Undocumented, Unseen, and
 At Risk" research publications,
 written by ICMC Jordan staff,
 addressed concerns of Syrian
 refugees lacking civil status and
 legal documentation



Thanks to the ICMC child-friendly space in Mafrq (left), mothers can learn to read and write while their children are taken care of. Nearly 340 women without formal schooling benefited from Arabic literacy classes in 2017.

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

ICMC focuses on giving emergency and long-term protection to uprooted people who have lost their social safety net. The most vulnerable and at risk among them receive particular priority.

Displaced people already face considerable threats to their basic human rights and security. A lack of resources or documentation, separation from family and community, cultural norms or unhealthy ways of coping with trauma often increase the threat of violence. Women, children, the elderly, marginalized groups and persons with disabilities or serious illness are especially vulnerable.

PROTECTING AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

In 2017, ICMC expanded its legal and healthcare support to Afghan refugees and other affected communities in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Protection services in Islamabad and Rawalpindi gave safe shelter and support to survivors of gender-based violence and extremely vulnerable refugees.

The number of districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in which ICMC is bridging critical gaps in legal and health services increased from five to ten.

Over 32,120 Afghan refugees accessed legal support. This included legal aid and representation in police and court cases; information sessions, including regarding repatriation; and counseling services via four hotlines. ICMC also helped families secure vital documentation such as proof-of-registration cards and birth and marriage certificates. Over 820 police officers, lawyers and other stakeholders were equipped to uphold refugee rights in Pakistan.

Through medical teams and stationary and mobile clinics, ICMC provided health services in refugee camps without any facilities or where services were being scaled back. Over 75,000 women, children and members of other vulnerable Afghan refugee groups were able to get emergency, life-saving care. Over 39,220 children received treatment for common illnesses.

ICMC also conducted information sessions to help refugees understand the importance of good hygiene practices and to raise awareness about communicable diseases.

In 2017, ICMC provided protection and support services to over 1,900 refugees and asylum-seekers in Islamabad and Rawalpindi who had suffered sexual and gender-based violence or faced other protection concerns. Refugees are vulnerable to these forms of abuse, with women and girls at particular risk.

297,273 

Afghan refugees in 10 districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province received legal and health services

21,827 

field visits providing legal services

1728 

callers received counseling through

4 legal aid hotlines;

7000 cards were printed advertising the hotlines

713 

refugees received legal assistance, primarily with documentation issues

95% 

of police or court cases settled with support of ICMC legal representation

KEEPING DREAMS ALIVE

Farhad, his mother and his siblings fled domestic violence in Afghanistan and found shelter in ICMC's safe home in Islamabad. The safe home offered the 13-year-old boy a healing atmosphere and helped him keep alive the dream of becoming a doctor or a cricketer. Today, the family has been resettled to a third country where they can start living the life they have always dreamed of.

An Afghan refugee boy in Pakistan. More than 39,000 children received treatment for common illnesses through ICMC health care support services.







A GIFT CAN PROMPT A SPIRAL OF KINDNESS

Sometimes a small gesture of kindness can go a long way towards restoring a shared sense of humanity. For example, the gesture of Muhammad (left), the 11-year-old Pakistani boy who sponsored the schooling of Faduma (right), a 12-year-old Somali refugee in Islamabad, with the money he had set aside for a new PlayStation. With public schools overstretched and UN support limited to elementary school only, refugee families cannot afford to pay for their children's private education. Muhammad's generosity inspired many, starting with ICMC staff but soon reaching others. And so additional donors came forward. "After Muhammad's gesture, I felt like all doors opened," says ICMC Education Officer Samina Jamshed (center). "His generosity ushered in a chance for more refugees to continue their studies."

20,214 
men and women participated in health and hygiene sessions

500 
medical or psychological interventions were offered to refugees being served at the ICMC safe shelter

197 
children were assisted to attend a government or private school

75,013 
refugees benefited from improved primary health services through basic health units



A medical consultation takes place at one of ICMC's basic health units in Pakistan.

ASSISTING REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN GREECE

In 2017, ICMC deployed 167 legal experts and other staff to support operations of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in multiple locations. Deployees also provided expert help for a new UNHCR urban accommodation scheme, facilitating refugees' access to services and education.

By the end of 2017, some 51,000 refugees and migrants were living in Greece, where the capacity to receive and host the significant numbers of those who have come by sea and land since 2015 seeking refuge from war, violence and persecution is limited.

The migration surge there during the past three years – over a million uprooted people, mainly from Syria, as well as Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq – has put tremendous strain on services, in particular, reception centers on the Aegean islands and refugee camps on the mainland.

ICMC deployed staff strengthened the response capacity of Greek authorities to receive people who have risked their lives to find safety, ensuring fair, timely registration and documentation processes in refugee camps across the country. To alleviate overcrowding at island reception centers, deployees worked with UNHCR to transfer authorized asylum-seekers to the mainland and Crete.

Staff deployed by ICMC provided urgently needed information regarding asylum procedures and possibilities for family reunification or relocation to other EU Member States. Qualified legal and protection experts monitored reception conditions all over Greece and helped research and manage complex cases, while interpreters enabled accurate, effective communication. Deployees also provided on-the-job training and advice for humanitarian workers as requested by the Greek Asylum Service.

ICMC deployees supported UNHCR's new Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation program. Staff worked with government and local authorities in several municipalities to provide urban housing and cash assistance to asylum-seekers.

ICMC deployees also focused on providing protection to vulnerable migrants and refugees and keeping them safe from violence or exploitation. They ensured that unaccompanied children seeking asylum – a group of particular concern – had safe spaces to play and learn.



Children play and learn in a safe space in the Eleonas refugee camp in Athens. Unaccompanied children seeking asylum are a group of particular concern and require special protection.

21,704 
persons relocated in 2017 from Greece to other EU Member States

21,435 
vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees were housed in urban centers

20,000+ 
refugees and migrants received assistance and information upon arrival in Greece

167 
expert staff deployed throughout Greece



Participants in a child safety program for refugee families.

“ Before the counseling, I felt helpless and depressed. Now I feel more hopeful and realize that there are still many choices to make in my life. The sessions gave me an opportunity to recognize my own strengths and perceive the past from a different angle. I learned to live in the present, and not to dwell on the past or over worry about the future. ”

A Chin woman who survived multiple sexual assaults

“ I was injured after the abuse and did not know where to hide from my husband. No one would help me as they were afraid of him until ICMC found me a place. Everything was very good at the shelter. I learned to speak little English and made some friends. The counseling helped me a lot. ”

A 22-year-old Rohingya survivor

“ Without ICMC’s help, I could not imagine how my life would be and I did not know whether I could still be with my children. Now, I can stay with them and take care of them. ”

A 33-year-old Chin survivor

ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN MALAYSIA

ICMC Malaysia provided safe refuge to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence among Rohingya and other refugee communities. The first-ever Somali member joined the Refugee Women’s Protection Corps, which accompanies those seeking protection and works to dispel myths about abuse.

ICMC received referrals of 302 persons who reported being subjected to sexual and gender-based violence, most of which involved cases of domestic abuse. Two hotlines and a dedicated email service allowed those seeking protection to report incidents in a sensitive, caring environment and quickly access life-saving services.

The ICMC-trained Refugee Women’s Protection Corps, a group of 17 refugees from Myanmar, the Middle East and Somalia, functioned as a pillar of support to survivors through peer counseling and interpretation services. Counseling has been key for many survivors of violence in developing self-acceptance and establishing healthy coping mechanisms to deal with anxiety and depression.

Program activities also included awareness-raising training sessions among refugee communities and training of trainers classes for teachers in the Klang Valley and Penang.

Through safe shelter facilities, ICMC supported survivors of violence with holistic services to help them overcome trauma and become self-sufficient. Emergency accommodation, in-house counseling and medical assistance



Malaysian and Burmese teachers at a training of trainers session focused on children’s rights and protection needs.

offered survivors the chance to distance themselves physically, mentally and emotionally from the abusive situations they had fled, and to focus on their own wellbeing.

At the request of UNHCR, ICMC co-organized a “16 Days of Activism” event in December. Nearly 180 participants attended this local expression of the global campaign to end all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.





Members of the Refugee Women’s Protection Corps and ICMC staff celebrate Appreciation Day 2017. Having refugee volunteers reaching out to their own community gives the program a powerful impact.


33  survivors of violence and

40 accompanying children found emergency shelter for a total of

1,231 nights; the majority of them were Rohingya refugees

2,014  vulnerable individuals in Kuala Lumpur, the Klang Valley and Penang benefited from ICMC’s services

1,770  brochures, handouts, coloring books and MP3 players were distributed to refugees

2  hotlines for survivors of violence operated in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, with capacity in Arabic, Burmese and Rohingya

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Through both direct assistance and advocacy, ICMC gives high priority to finding safe, dignified resettlement solutions for people forced to flee their home countries due to war, violence or persecution.

For many of the 22.5 million refugees worldwide, returning home is not an option, nor is remaining permanently where they have sought safety. Resettling to a third country offers the possibility of starting again in security, with rights similar to those of other residents and a longer-term perspective.

However, resettlement remains a challenge. Worldwide, less than one percent of all refugees are able to resettle in other countries. And, according to the UN, there were 54 percent fewer resettlement places available in 2017 than in the previous year. With government-run resettlement programs currently offering insufficient places, additional legal and secure admission pathways – such as humanitarian corridors and community-based sponsorship programs – are needed.

A Syrian refugee in Turkey, Mr. Saker and his family prepare for resettlement in the United States, where his teenage daughter Iman wants to become a teacher. ICMC staff in Istanbul and Beirut accompany applicants through the many steps of an intense vetting process.

SUPPORTING RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

In 2017, ICMC assisted 3,759 refugees in Turkey and the Middle East to resettle to the United States. Support and liaison offices assisted refugees when departures were delayed or cancelled following shifts in refugee policy.

Last year, major changes in U.S. policy resulted in the country's refugee admissions ceiling being lowered by more than half. ICMC Resettlement Support Center (RSC) Turkey and the Middle East and the U.S. Liaison Office intensified efforts to ensure there were no gaps in assistance to refugees considered for resettlement through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

RSC staff in Istanbul and Beirut accompanied applicants through the many steps of the intense vetting process. They facilitated medical exams for refugees being considered for resettlement and offered cultural orientation classes to prepare them for life in their new home country.


Due to policy shifts, many refugees saw their previously scheduled departures cancelled. The RSC engaged the U.S. Consulate and Embassy staff to mobilize support for those left in an uncertain situation and helped arrange for a fund to assist destitute families.


One of the most vulnerable refugee groups – unaccompanied minors – was particularly affected. ICMC U.S. Liaison Office worked closely with the RSC and the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops' Migrants and Refugees Services to place nine unaccompanied or separated children with foster families during the first three months of 2017.

The RSC is funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.



5,289 
individuals interviewed by ICMC's staff in Turkey and Lebanon as part of their resettlement process

3,759 
refugees – mainly from Iran, Iraq and Syria – departed to start a new life in the USA

1,415 
refugees considered for resettlement underwent medical exams

826 
adults attended cultural orientation classes before departure

50,000+ 
refugees resettled by the Resettlement Support Center over the last three decades

THE DREAM OF A NEW LIFE

Ayla and her family fled Syria because of the war. In Turkey, she worked in several factories, unable to continue her education because of financial constraints. She dreams of going back to school in the United States and of becoming a photographer. "I wish to continue my education, be someone, achieve things in life."

Ayla (left) and other Syrian refugees take pre-departure cultural orientation sessions.

67,730+ 
refugees interviewed and assessed
for resettlement worldwide


3,580+ 
children and their caregivers
offered protection

DEPLOYING RESETTLEMENT EXPERTS ACROSS THE WORLD

ICMC deployed experts to 65 duty stations run by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), thus increasing the agency's capacity to manage resettlement cases. Collaboration with the Government of Australia supported resettlement to the United States, while an agreement with the Government of Canada ensured ongoing support for the program.



Gloria Nakamya, a protection expert from Uganda who works with children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Protection experts assess the needs of particularly vulnerable people to ensure that all actions are taken in their best interests.

1,312 
refugees in Nauru and Papua
New Guinea assessed for
resettlement in the USA

159 
experts deployed to 66 duty
stations in 39 countries



THE PRIVILEGE OF PLAYING A POSITIVE ROLE

"The experience of living in Lebanon was often challenging but gave me invaluable insights into feeling like 'the other,'" says Bianka Atlas, a lawyer and resettlement expert from New Zealand deployed to the UNHCR office in Beirut. And she adds: "At times, the effects of the Syrian conflict can seem overwhelming. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to play a small, yet positive part in finding solutions for people affected by the crisis."

A mural painting by refugee children in Beirut.

The ICMC-UNHCR Resettlement Deployment Scheme supplied 153 protection and resettlement experts to the UN Refugee Agency's operations in 38 countries in 2017. Over half were deployed to locations in Africa, nearly one-third to the Middle East and Northern Africa and about one-fifth to Asia, Europe and Latin America.

ICMC deployed experts interviewed over 67,730 refugees, assessing their eligibility for resettlement and determining their legal status. They also reviewed the needs of more than 3,580 unaccompanied or separated refugee children to ensure that all actions were taken in the children's best interest.

Under supervision of Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection, six ICMC experts deployed to Canberra assessed the cases of refugees in Nauru and Papua New Guinea for referral and resettlement to the United States.

The Canadian government renewed its funding to ICMC Resettlement Deployment Scheme, which it has supported since 2013 through its Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada department.

ADVOCATING FOR COMPLEMENTARY ADMISSION PATHWAYS IN EUROPE

ICMC Europe published research on community-based sponsorship of refugees and began work to better equip EU Member States to admit additional numbers of them. A two-day conference engaged faith-based organizations in building up community-based sponsorship models in Europe.

In 2017, ICMC worked to promote policies and practices that offer uprooted people greater protection and new opportunities to rebuild their lives in dignity and safety.

ICMC Europe deepened its advocacy efforts around resettlement and other complementary admission channels to Europe. A focus was on community-based – or "private" – sponsorship models which engage individuals, churches and others at a local level in a comprehensive approach to provide financial and emotional support.

ICMC Europe and partners explored the possibility of private sponsorships in Europe at a stakeholder meeting in October. The two-day conference in Brussels, co-organized with Caritas Belgium and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, brought together 80 delegates from faith-based organizations to explore how churches and faith-based communities can facilitate private sponsorship programs that involve civil society in long-term, sustainable resettlement and welcome. The meeting spotlighted humanitarian corridor programs for refugees crossing the Mediterranean at great risk and private sponsorships for refugees identified by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).



A Syrian refugee child is welcomed at Rome's airport Fiumicino. The "humanitarian corridor" is one of the complementary admission pathways for refugees for which ICMC advocates.

ICMC published findings from one year of research on private sponsorships as a means to expand traditional resettlement in Europe. The publication (available at bit.ly/PrivateSponsorship) maps programs in France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and the UK and compares these to the Canadian model. The report was part of the European Resettlement Network (ERN+) project, a collaboration with the UN migration and refugee agencies (IOM and UNHCR) that also explores the pathways of higher education scholarships and humanitarian visas.

Together with key European NGOs, ICMC Europe led a call for a new European Resettlement Regulation to ensure lasting solutions for the most vulnerable refugees. ICMC was one of more than 160 organizations that, ahead of the March Council Meeting, urged EU leaders to ensure that migration policies such as the EU Action Plan on Return prioritize the protection of women and children. Other priorities included expansion of legal migration for refugees and unskilled workers and more opportunities for reunification of extended families.

In October, ICMC Europe began cooperation with the Government of Sweden and other European governments in the EU-FRANK project. The goal of the project is to increase the capacity of EU Member States to resettle refugees needing protection.

Participants at a conference exploring the role of European churches and faith-based communities in facilitating private sponsorship of refugees.



WELCOME AND INTEGRATION

By promoting welcoming attitudes and integration paths, ICMC targets the other side of the resettlement coin – supporting refugees to become independent and to contribute as active members of their new communities.

Refugees often arrive in a country entirely foreign to them, from culture and language to very practical questions such as where to find affordable housing or a job. Communities take in people from different backgrounds who have had to flee their homes and all that is familiar to them.

A deeply personal journey for new arrivals and communities, it has a higher chance of succeeding when both sets of people are committed to actively working together to ease the path to integration. This means helping refugees adapt to life in their new country; engaging community members as sponsors and volunteers to accompany refugees as they take steps to rebuild their lives; partnering with local authorities and civil society organizations in both countries of first refuge and of resettlement.



MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES AND VOLUNTEERS IN EUROPE AND TURKEY

ICMC laid the groundwork to implement a European Union grant to promote better integration in smaller municipalities. Steps were taken to increase volunteer-run integration services for refugees in Turkey and throughout Europe.

In 2017, ICMC Europe continued leading the SHARE network, which convenes 1,200 members in 28 European countries, to promote refugee inclusion in local communities. ICMC Europe engaged with SHARE members, reaching out to local and regional actors and speaking out for expanded integration across countries and territories.

This advocacy and networking resulted in a grant from the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for a new phase of work in 2018-2019. “SHARE Integration” will focus on smaller municipalities and their potential to offer refugees a softer landing and warmer welcome.

The project will support integration, particularly in small-size municipalities, rural areas and in emerging resettlement countries through targeted training. SHARE Integration will strengthen the capacity of local communities to set up private sponsorship programs as well as other initiatives to support newly-arrived refugees. With the direct engagement of host communities, private sponsorship arrangements create a more welcoming, open environment for refugees and help counter the rising tide of anti-migrant voices.

Together with the Istanbul-based Human Resource Development Foundation, ICMC Europe managed the Refugee Service Delivery project financed by the EU-Turkey Civil Society Dialogue program. A conference in Ankara in May brought together 50 governmental authorities and civil society representatives to discuss engaging volunteers to help provide services to refugees. June saw the launch of a free, 20-hour e-learning course on refugee protection in Turkish. Towards the end of the year, ICMC Europe finalized work on a publication looking at sustainable refugee services engaging volunteers to promote integration in Turkey and across Europe (available at bit.ly/Volunteering4Integration).

Above: Members of a Syrian refugee women's choir see for the first time a CD they've recorded. The choir was established by a musician who volunteered with the Istanbul-based Human Resource Development Foundation, an ICMC partner.

Abid Ali (right), a Pakistani asylum-seeker, works as a tailor at Mimycr, a Berlin-based non-profit startup that recycles materials from refugee boats to turn them into clothes and accessories. Mimycr's co-founders Vera Günther (left) and Nora Azzaoui (center) came up with the idea while volunteering to help people arriving on the Greek island of Chios in the winter of 2015.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ICMC strives to ensure policies are put into practice to respect the rights, security and human dignity of migrant workers and refugees.

In 2017, there were 258 million international migrants worldwide. Economic difficulties drive many people to migrate to another country, while others are fleeing conflict or persecution. Migrants enrich the economies of the countries they come from, travel through and settle in. They also risk being exploited, trafficked or abused and increasingly meet with hostility as newcomers in a community.



Participants in the Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development gather at Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate, highlighting the site's history in tearing down walls that had kept people apart.

GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Global Forum on Migration and Development Civil Society Days organized by ICMC presented ten recommendations to drive advocacy with UN Member States in developing the Global Compact on Migration.

In 2017, ICMC again organized civil society activities during the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), held in Berlin from 28 June to 1 July, through its Migration and Development (MADE) civil society network. The key focus was the process to achieve a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration undertaken by UN Member States following the 2016 UN Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and the subsequent New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

In the run-up to the 2017 Civil Society Days, ICMC's Civil Society Coordinating Office worked to channel momentum from both the UN Summit and the previous GFMD. Two planning webinars served as platform for over 80 civil society participants to interact with government and private sector representatives.

Together with the International Coordinating Committee of the GFMD Civil Society Days, ICMC took the lead to develop a program with the theme, "Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Now: the mechanics of a Compact worth agreeing to." Building the GFMD Common Space program around the same theme broadened opportunities for civil society actors to engage constructively with governments during the GFMD.

The 2017 Civil Society Days brought together 333 participants in total, with 254 civil society delegates. More than 120 were migrants, refugees or members of the diaspora.

The Civil Society Days began with an event at Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate that lifted up the site's history in tearing down walls that had kept people apart. The voice and experiences of people on the move featured centrally throughout the Civil Society Days, including testimony during the opening plenary from migrants and families of disappeared migrants.

Small discussion groups focused on key issues from the 5-year 8-point Plan of Action elaborated in 2013 following the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. During a full-day Common Space forum, civil society representatives discussed experiences and core lessons with senior officials of 140 governments.

The ten civil society recommendations for the Compact on Migration were presented to governments attending the GFMD and have served as a foundation for the advocacy document *Now and How: Ten Acts for the Global Compact* (see p.8-9).



Louise Arbour, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for International Migration, participates in the Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

333 
Civil Society Days participants, including

254 civil society delegates and

121 migrants, refugees or members of the diaspora

65 
countries represented at the Civil Society Days

3 
outreach meetings in Hungary, Nepal and Senegal connected via live-streaming on the first day of the Civil Society Days



A rescue operation at sea. Mixed flows of migrants and refugees from African countries arrive in Europe via the central Mediterranean route. ICMC calls on states to save lives and protect human dignity as well as to build resilient communities and to engage in partnerships with civil society organizations.

ADVOCATING FOR JUST EUROPEAN POLICIES VIS-À-VIS AFRICAN MIGRATION

From the Valletta Action Plan to the Rabat Process, ICMC Europe conducted a series of advocacy actions vis-à-vis major EU-Africa migration policy processes.

In January 2017, one year after the Valletta Summit which laid the foundations of a renewed European Union policy on migration and development vis-à-vis Africa through the Valletta Action Plan, ICMC Europe organized a conference in Brussels to examine civil society engagement in the Plan, partnerships with host communities and the role of civil society in regard to returns. Over 40 civil society representatives from both continents met with African Union and European Commission officials.

As a result of its advocacy efforts, ICMC Europe was one of four civil society organizations invited to the Senior Officials Meeting of the Valetta process in February. ICMC Europe coordinated civil society calls to save lives and protect human dignity, build resilient communities and engage in a real partnership with civil society.

During 2017, ICMC Europe strengthened its engagement with the Rabat Process, a platform for cooperation that gathers 57 African and European countries, the European Commission and the Economic Community of West African States. ICMC Europe provided input to the Process' 2018-2022 strategic framework and was invited to discuss it as a civil society observer at the Rabat Senior Officials Meeting in Accra, Ghana.

PROMOTING GOOD MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN WEST AFRICA

At a time when the issue of African migration is high on the agenda of European political leaders, ICMC Europe launched the MADE West Africa project to increase the beneficial impact of migration and mobility on development.

In 2017, ICMC Europe launched MADE (Migration and Development) West Africa, a three-year project to promote good governance of migration and mobility in, from and to West Africa. The project also seeks to protect migrants' rights and to identify ways for the diaspora to foster job creation and development in their countries of origin. The project focuses on six pilot countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

During the project's initial phase last year, ICMC Europe, as overall coordinator, laid foundations for activities and cooperation among the project partners: Centre of Migration Studies of University of Ghana, African Foundation for Development, and *Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations*.

In Guinea and Senegal, ICMC Europe facilitated research on obstacles that hinder the protection of migrant workers. Interviews with migrants, civil society representatives and government authorities revealed serious human rights abuses such as illegal recruitment, migrant smuggling and human trafficking, sexual assault and exploitative employment, as well as gaps in protective legislation.

Next page: Afghan refugees learn how to make clothes in ICMC's tailoring training course in Pakistan's Charsadda district.

Next page, sidebar: An Afghan refugee woman participates in ICMC's embroidery training course in Pakistan's Charsadda district.

STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS IN PAKISTAN

Nearly 200 people in the Charsadda district received vocational training. Trainees deepened their understanding of markets through exposure visits to established businesses. Tool kits and small business grants were awarded to 30 trainees. For the first time, a number of Somali refugees received training provided by ICMC.

For the third year in a row, ICMC supported Afghan refugees and host community members in the Charsadda district in their efforts to earn a living wage. Vocational training in four trades – tailoring, embroidery, beauty care and motorcycle repair – gave participants technical knowledge they can put into use to generate income.

Over 90 illiterate trainees learned to read, write and master core math skills. Offering literacy courses to girls and young women has been a particularly positive outcome of the program. Trainees also learned how to run a small business. They received career counseling and help to find both on-the-job training and employment through a network of local businesses.

Through collaboration with UNHCR, ICMC provided training in tailoring and cooking to 70 women refugees in Islamabad and Rawalpindi through collaboration with national organizations. Somali refugees participated in the project for the first time, as well as Afghan refugees.

ICMC CARES

The ICMC Cares program was developed to recruit and train health care paramedics from Eastern Europe and support them in finding gainful employment and decent work conditions abroad. Implemented by the ICMC Eastern Europe Foundation in Poland with coordination and support from ICMC headquarters, its aim was to respond to the growing need for qualified paramedical staff to take care of the elderly in Europe and to promote decent work conditions for labor migrants in the home care sector. Through partnerships with health care institutions in Poland, ICMC Cares offered courses for domestic care-givers which included vocational training and certification to provide care services to elderly or disabled people and other patients needing care. In total, 40 trainees had signed agreements to go abroad pending placement by a major home health care agency in Switzerland. At the end of the year, ICMC transferred management of the program to partners in Poland who continued their contacts with the Swiss private sector partner.



198  refugees and host community members in the Charsadda district received vocational training

187  trainees received certificates of completion from training institutes registered with the Government of Pakistan

6  educated Afghan refugees received training to provide literacy classes in their communities

70%  of previous trainees still in Pakistan were using acquired skills to earn an income within six months of completing training

70  women refugees in Islamabad and Rawalpindi received vocational training, including 12 Somalis

CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

ICMC members and partners worked tirelessly to directly assist those most in need and to increase awareness about migration issues and drive positive change in attitudes and policies.

PARTNERSHIPS

Working with Franciscan Fathers and Brothers of the Order of Friars Minor through the Association Pro Terra Sancta, ICMC began assisting needy households in Aleppo, **Syria**, in July 2017. Aleppo experienced catastrophic destruction, continuing violence and severe shortages of food and essential goods. Each month, 250 food baskets containing staples such as rice, sugar, oil, beans and milk were distributed to a particularly vulnerable population, reaching 380 families by the end of the year.

Through this partnership, ICMC also supported a total of 53 displaced and host community families in Beirut, **Lebanon** with food and other essential goods including medicine as well as funds for rent and school fees.

In September 2017, as hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees fleeing ethnic- and religious-based violence in Myanmar entered **Bangladesh**, ICMC launched a special appeal to its private donors in the United States to support the emergency work of its national member Caritas Bangladesh. The Rohingya are among the world's largest stateless and most persecuted populations. Pope Francis called on Catholics and other men and women of good will to help them. Thanks to its generous donors, ICMC assisted Caritas Bangladesh to improve the sites where refugees are hosted, distribute emergency shelter kits and build wells and latrines as well as bathing stations. Six child-friendly spaces were also made available.


ICMC supported the work of the Scalabrinian Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo in **Mexico**. They respond to the needs of migrant families, mainly coming from Central America and in transit to or from the U.S., by helping them access legal services, education and health care.

1,000 
emergency shelter kits
distributed to Rohingya
refugees (Bangladesh)

5 
deep tube wells,

26 bathing stations and

39 latrines constructed in
refugee camps (Bangladesh)

42 
children working in the garbage
dump of Tapachula received
legal assistance to regularize
their migration status (Mexico)

33 
children benefited from support
to stay in school and to obtain
health care (Mexico)

Pope Francis meets Rohingya refugees during his pastoral visit to Bangladesh in November 2017. The Holy Father warned against the “temptation to turn a blind eye to the needs of the poor, refugees, persecuted minorities and those who are most vulnerable.”



Caritas Bangladesh is responding to the needs of Rohingya refugees. With ICMC support, it improves the sites where refugees are hosted, distributes emergency shelter kits, builds wells and latrines and provides child-friendly spaces.

JANUARY

Heeding Pope Francis' message for the 103rd World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Spanish Episcopal Conference launches the campaign "Vulnerable, voiceless migrant children. Challenge and hope."

The Chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration expresses concerns about a presidential executive order that halves the number of refugees to be admitted to the United States.

FEBRUARY

Pope Francis' address to the 6th International Forum on Migration and Peace voices concern about forced migration.

The ICMC Asia/Oceania Working Group meets in Bangkok, hosted by the Episcopal Commission for Migrants of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand.

MARCH

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issues pastoral reflection "Living as a People of God in Unsettled Times" in solidarity with migrants.

Pope Francis welcomes 13 Syrian refugees to a new home in the Vatican City.

APRIL

The Vatican's Migrants and Refugees Section launches a website in five languages to strengthen the Church's work for uprooted people.

JULY

With a seminar in Geneva, representatives from NGOs, faith-based organizations, the private sector, academia and the International Labour Organization launch the project "The Future of Work, Labor After *Laudato Si*."



Displaced families and families from host communities in Beirut gather for a communal meal. The Association Pro Terra Sancta supports people in need in Lebanon as well as in Aleppo, Syria.

With the support of a private donor, ICMC partnered with the Human Mobility Pastoral Commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of **Honduras** and the Association of Scalabrinian Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo to provide scholarships, uniforms, books and other school supplies to 25 migrant children. Their educational progress is monitored and social services are offered to their families.

The ICMC **Asia-Oceania Working Group** meets annually to share challenges and good practices among ICMC member organizations and other groups. In February 2017, the group met in Bangkok and focused on unaccompanied child migrants, labor migrants' human rights and human trafficking. The group elected Bishop Ruperto Cruz Santos of the Diocese of Balanga, Philippines, as their Chairman.

ICMC agreed to coordinate the project **The Future of Work, Labour After *Laudato Si***, carried out in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. The initiative seeks to enable Catholic-inspired and other faith-based organizations to contribute to the promotion and implementation of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* in areas related to work and dialogue between employers' and workers' organizations.

Children at the Madre Assunta Centre for migrants in Tijuana, Mexico, run by the Scalabrinian Missionary Sisters, an ICMC partner.



RESOURCES

World Refugee Day toolkit. The Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops prepared an advocacy toolkit ahead of World Refugee Day on 20 June 2017. From prayers and frequently asked questions to sample social media posts, the go-to resource equipped Catholic groups and individuals to raise their voices in support of refugees and immigration reform in the U.S. The toolkit also included ideas for engaging communities in advocacy action.

Twenty Action Points. ICMC worked closely with the Vatican's Section for Migrants and Refugees of the newly established Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to prepare two key documents: *Twenty Action Points for the Global Compacts* and *Twenty Pastoral Action Points*. These publications respond to Pope Francis' appeal that governments, religious leaders, faith communities and people of good will participate in the UN process to develop two global governmental agreements on migration and on refugees. The documents include priorities and practical actions proposed by Catholic-inspired organizations serving and advocating for and with people on the move. They are grounded on Pope Francis' "road map" — to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

Breaking the silence around human trafficking. Good Shepherd Services, a faith-based charity in Malaysia, published a booklet of stories of human trafficking survivors to raise awareness about this modern-day form of slavery. An advocacy tool for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence global campaign held in November, the booklet calls readers to act together to end all forms of violence against women and children. The publication includes reflections by civil society advocates and resources for the Malaysian context. ICMC Malaysia works closely with Good Shepherd Services to protect refugee survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.



AUGUST

Pope Francis releases a message announcing the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees on 14 January 2018 entitled "Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees."

SEPTEMBER

Caritas Internationalis launches its two-year "Share the Journey" campaign to promote encounters with migrants and refugees.

At the request of the Vatican's Section for Migrants and Refugees, the ICMC Secretary General introduces the "Twenty Action Points" documents to a meeting of Catholic Bishops from both sides of the Mexico-US border as tools for advocacy and pastoral care.

NOVEMBER

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) marks its centenary. A section authored by ICMC U.S. Liaison Officer in the commemorative booklet "A Century of Service" lifts up the work of USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services.

Pope Francis meets Rohingya refugees during his pastoral visit to Bangladesh, asks for forgiveness on behalf of their persecutors.

Fr. Michael Czerny (left) and Fr. Fabio Baggio (right), Under-Secretaries of the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development which began working in January 2017. The life-jacket is a reminder of the migrants and refugees who lost their lives attempting to reach a safe destination.

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Mr. Keith Parsons (USA)
Mr. William Wise (USA)

** The late Peter Sutherland stepped down from his role as ICMC President in April 2017 due to health issues.*



Members of the ICMC Governing Committee with counselors and staff, Rome, November 2017.

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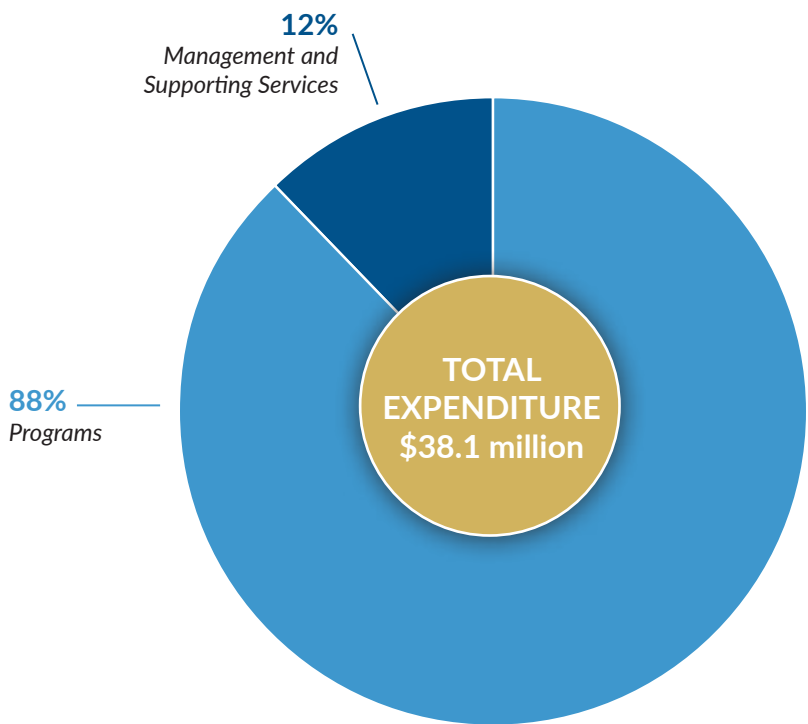
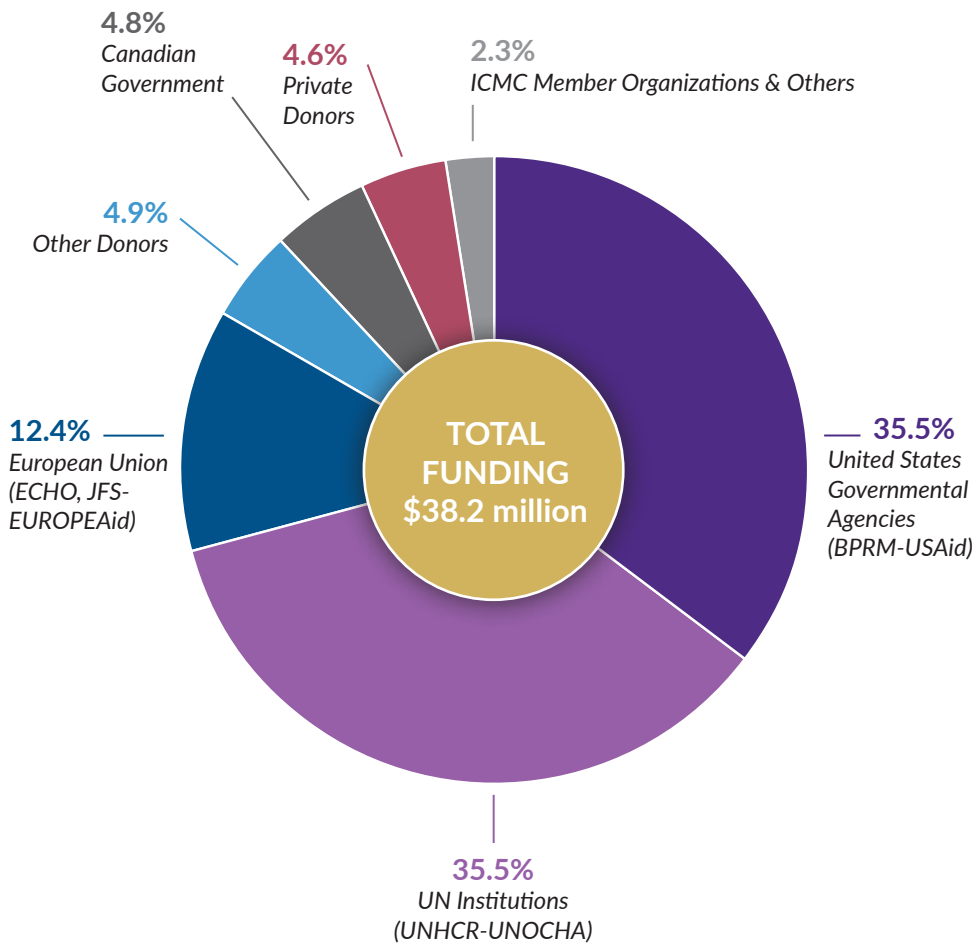
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A variety of donors fund ICMC's work and, in so doing, make it possible for it to accomplish its mission of protecting and serving uprooted people wherever they are and regardless of their status. We are deeply grateful to all of them for their support and trust.

Government and multilateral funding cover most of ICMC's operational and advocacy programs around the world. This funding is complemented by contributions from ICMC national members and Vatican offices as well as Catholic foundations.

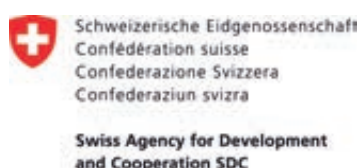
Donations from private donors also play a crucial role in supporting ICMC's work. ICMC, Inc. Development Office in Boston, U.S. has been supported by some 17,000 individual donors of whom around 7,000 do so regularly. To them, we are deeply grateful.

For additional information about institutional and member donors, see the following pages of this report.



ICMC THANKS THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

International Organization for Migration

Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

Open Society Foundations

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)

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REPORT OF THE STATUTORY AUDITOR

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Report of the statutory auditor

To the Governing committee of
International Catholic Migration Commission, Geneva

Report of the Statutory Auditor on the Consolidated Financial Statements

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of International Catholic Migration Commission ("ICMC"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, and the consolidated statement of activities, consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the consolidated financial statements for the year then ended.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for the preparation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, the requirements of Swiss law and ICMC statutes. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and comply with Swiss law and ICMC statutes.

Deloitte.

International Catholic Migration Commission
Report of the statutory auditor
For the year ended December 31, 2017


Report on Other Legal Requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 69b Civil Code (CC) in connection with article 728 Code of Obligations (CO)) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a paragraph 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements according to the instructions of management.

We recommend that the consolidated financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Deloitte SA


Fabien Bryois
Licensed audit expert
Auditor in charge


Lisa Watson
Licensed audit expert

Geneva, May 24, 2018
FBR/LWA/mab

Enclosures: Consolidated financial statements (consolidated statement of financial position, Consolidated statement of activities, consolidated statement of cash flows and notes)

For the consolidated financial statements please contact development@icmc.net



BONS BAISERS DE BEYROUTH

Staff of the ICMC Resettlement Support Center in Beirut bid farewell to a Syrian Catholic refugee affected by a serious health condition who departed to join her brother in the United States. The signs send the former Aleppo resident a big kiss, love and blessings, and wish her a better life. The personal attention and care of ICMC staff made a deep impression: “They always welcomed me. They came with me to the consular office; they didn’t just leave me in line. I felt their love,” the refugee told the ICMC U.S. Liaison Officer during a follow-up home visit.

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Tick Tock Design

All names of ICMC beneficiaries have been modified to protect their identities.



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Inspiring Change.

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The mission of the International Catholic Migration Commission is to protect and serve uprooted people, including refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, victims of human trafficking, and migrants – regardless of faith, race, ethnicity or nationality.

Founded in 1951 by Pope Pius XII, ICMC was granted public juridical personality within the Catholic Church by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008. ICMC convenes a network of national Conferences of Catholic Bishops and other Catholic-inspired institutions worldwide. It collaborates closely with the Vatican's Secretariat of State and the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

ICMC's operational programs provide assistance and protection to uprooted individuals, families and communities whether they are displaced in their home countries, have sought asylum abroad, are in the process of resettlement to a third country or are voluntarily returning to their countries of origin. ICMC pays particular attention to the most vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied migrant children, survivors of human trafficking and ageing or sick and disabled migrants and refugees. ICMC advocates for international policies that uphold the dignity and rights of refugee and migrant families and are consistent with Catholic Church teaching.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, ICMC has affiliated offices in Brussels, Washington, D.C. and Boston and operational offices in Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey. ICMC staff work in 40 countries.