



**2014  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**





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# Acronyms

ACILS	American Center for International Labor Solidarity
CIC	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
DRIVE	Differentiation for Refugee Identification and Vulnerability Evaluation
ECRE	European Council on Refugees and Exiles
ERN	European Resettlement Network
EU	European Union
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
ICMC	International Catholic Migration Commission
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRIS	International Recruitment Integrity System
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
KEP	Kosovo Enterprise Program
MADE	Migration and Development Civil Society Network
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PRM	United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
RCUSA	Refugee Council USA
RWPC	Refugee Women's Protection Corps
RSC TuME	Resettlement Support Center for Turkey and Middle East
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USCCB	US Conference of Catholic Bishops

# ICMC'S LEADERSHIP

## Message from the outgoing President, **John Klink**



As 2014 is the final year of my Presidency of ICMC, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the ICMC donors who have made our work possible over the past eight years. Johan Ketelers and ICMC's dedicated staff have performed miracles in bringing the issue of protection for migrants to the forefront of concerns of the international community at the United Nations and in the Global Forum on Migration and Development, while they have continued to process over 7,000 refugees per year to the United States. Over this period, ICMC's overall budget has more than quadrupled, and its fundraising efforts in the United States have increased by 66% in 2014 alone.

At the same time, we have witnessed unprecedented movements of forced migration, the largest since the Second World War. ICMC's challenge is to continue to respond to crises such as in Syria, where over half of the country's population is displaced and from which over 3.7 million fled.

Pope Pius XII noted in his Apostolic Constitution, "The Exiled Family of Nazareth", in which he speaks of his founding of ICMC, that the Holy Family itself is the archetype of every type of migrant. As Pope Francis continues to teach, we continue to "know Christ as God in his wounds" which can be felt with the flight of each refugee.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Cardinals, the Patriarch and the Bishops from around the world for their service on our Governing Committee and to the Holy See for granting legal canonical status to ICMC in recognition of its 63-year history of work.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to my esteemed successor, Peter Sutherland, United Nations Special Representative for International Migration, as I request your prayers for ICMC's proud history to be again renewed through his great generosity of service.

## Message from the President, **Peter Sutherland**



Migration is one of the most challenging realities of our century. Almost every country in the world is confronted with the many consequences of internal and international migration flows, which affect national economies, societies and political systems on a global scale.

While the need for better organized migration is essential for all nations, very little is being done to create safe routes for countless migrants risking their lives along dangerous paths and to protect those fleeing their countries out of fear of persecution. Every day, we witness dramatic and unacceptable suffering: people are drowning in the Mediterranean, many are held hostage in the desert and are sold against ransom, others fall victims of exploitation and abuse. Killings, exploitation, smuggling and trafficking are some of the new and unfortunately increasing scourges for humanity and democracy.

Just like Sisyphus' stone, the mythological rock which keeps rolling downhill every time it is pushed back on top, migration is part of human nature and history, and cannot be artificially halted: the only means of reducing forced displacement is to address the root causes, which oblige entire populations to seek shelter away from home.

Globalization and global communications have increased everyone's opportunities to travel. Today, it is a common reality for people in many countries to move across borders to study or work. This phenomenon has generated unprecedented di-

versity among all societies: our communities need to adapt to these changes and go beyond basic levels of integration. Migration is a path towards new global understanding, organized diversity, and unity.

The Global Forum on Migration and Development is an excellent example of how States are engaging for this very purpose. The GFMD dialogue has been deeply enriched by the involvement of non-governmental organizations, including the International Catholic Migration Commission. I admire the work of many civil society organizations at the grassroots level on behalf of refugees, migrants, and displaced people throughout the world. In addition to the much needed assistance they provide, they also and most importantly contribute to a change in mentality which can and must inform political decision-making.

As the incoming President of the International Catholic Migration Commission, I firmly believe in the need for a strong and effective relationship between policy makers and civil society to build useful and practical responsive models based on common understanding and shared responsibilities.

## Message from the Secretary General, **Johan Ketelers**



2014 witnessed a widening in the gap between the migration rhetoric and the actual steps undertaken for an effective protection of migrants, refugees, and other displaced people. The UN General Assembly High-level Dialogue and the Global Forum on Migration and Development are clear indications of the willingness of governments and civil society to give more attention to development issues and promote better partnerships to address migration challenges. On the other hand, xenophobic trends are growing worldwide.

Border controls have been enforced and tightened, the combat against undocumented immigration has been given higher priority and *Mare Nostrum*, the life-saving search and rescue program of the Italian Navy in the Mediterranean, was suddenly ended due to lack of funds and regional resistance to taking it forward. While restrictive measures and actions like these are intended to contain the migration flows, the immediate, mid- and long-term effects on migrants and refugees remain underestimated. This raises a fundamental question: how are these reactive processes shaping the future of global societies?

History shows that we are able to find more stable practical solutions to refugee and migrant crises. In the past, we managed to save lives by assisting the Vietnamese boat people through the Orderly Departure Program in the 1970's; by welcoming in organized ways the Hungarians in the 1980's and the populations of the Balkans in the 1990's. Today, there is an urgent need to protect and offer such perspectives to the children, women and men who risk their life crossing the Mediterranean, the Sahara desert, and the many national borders in search of a better future. As in the aftermath of World War II, governments, international organizations, and civil society

should come together again with the same sense of co-responsibility and commitment, and offer concrete solutions to the individuals today who are fleeing persecution, torture, conflicts, and poverty.

Migration has many faces, which call for the joint action and responsibility of multiple actors working on different fronts: granting temporary status for refugee protection; organizing safe migration channels; increasing access to labor markets; developing integration programs; investing in development to reduce forced migration.

Migration is not only about international burden-sharing but much more about well-organized emigration and immigration, essential for the development of people, their communities and nations. Migration is an economic reality and also a social need. A need to build a true international community, a goal too easily ignored or procrastinated.

As a Church organization, ICMC focuses on providing better life opportunities to uprooted people and reducing marginalization. I want to thank all donors - governments, multilateral organizations, foundations, and individuals - for their commitment and support. Their message of solidarity translates in new hope and better life perspectives for refugees, migrants, and other displaced people.

# ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

## PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

ICMC's staff conducted information sessions for **37,414** incoming migrants and refugees in **Greece**.



**858** Afghan and other refugees directly benefitted from ICMC's assistance and protection in **Pakistan**.

ICMC reached out to **4,287** adult refugees in **Malaysia**.



## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In **Syria**, ICMC identified and assessed the needs of **18,130** people. Of these, 12,315 were Syrian, 5,295 were Iraqi, and 520 were of other nationalities.



**1,505** internally displaced families in **Syria** were provided with relief items such as blankets, mattresses, and electric heaters.

In **Jordan**, ICMC identified and assessed the needs of more than **31,500** Syrians and Jordanians.





In the past year, together with its partners, ICMC was able to increase protection and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people on the move. Activities related to refugee resettlement and migration and development were also significantly expanded. The following is a snapshot of the main achievements in 2014.

## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

A total of **7,365** refugees were resettled to the United States from the Resettlement Support Center for **Turkey** and **Middle East**.



As part of the ICMC-UNHCR Deployment Scheme program, **172** experts were deployed to **69** UNHCR's field offices in **33** countries. **60%** of these experts worked in **Africa**.

ICMC's experts submitted nearly **74,000 refugees** for resettlement consideration to UNHCR, including more than **18,000 Syrian refugees**.



## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The ICMC-coordinated MADE Network led a group of around **40** civil society organizations in the drafting of the civil society **"Stockholm Agenda"**, which gained the support of **312** organizations worldwide.



The civil society **"Sea Change"** campaign to ensure protection at sea led by MADE was endorsed by **122** organizations worldwide.

A total of **356** participants attended the **"Civil Society Days"** of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.



# STRATEGY FOR 2015–2018

Over the past years, ICMC has continuously worked to protect and serve uprooted people around the world, restoring their dignity and inspiring long-lasting change. While the concern for human dignity and protection of displaced people remains high and invariable, the means and models of response change according to situations, trends, opportunities, partnerships, and financial means. To advance its mission and further increase its impact, in the next years ICMC will continue to focus its efforts on the following areas.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Alleviating the suffering of refugees and other displaced persons by providing effective humanitarian assistance. This implies enlarging ICMC's response to the global refugee crisis, and further developing expertise and capacity to deliver appropriate support in a broad range of sectors, including protection, education, health, shelter, non-food items, cash assistance, and livelihood.



## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Assisting refugees in finding protection abroad, thus allowing them to rebuild their lives in dignity and peace. To achieve this target, ICMC will expand its resettlement offices in Istanbul and Beirut to allow more refugees to depart to the United States; increase the number of resettlement experts deployed to UNHCR's offices through the ICMC-UNHCR Deployment Scheme; intensify the dialogue with traditional and non-traditional resettlement countries, as well as with other stakeholders, to increase resettlement activities.



## LABOR MIGRATION

Developing long-term activities to protect labor migrants, reduce irregularities in migration, and integrate migrants into the formal labor market; generate awareness on the potentials that labor migration offers; promote policies that prioritize family unity in all migration contexts.



## PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

Working in partnerships and through networks offers the opportunity to raise concerns on the identified priorities in a variety of national and international platforms, and make the ICMC voice heard by different stakeholders. As a network of Catholic churches worldwide, ICMC intends to increase direct engagement with members and other Catholic organizations, and strengthen its policy and program activities taking into account regional perspectives. ICMC will also continue promoting resettlement and integration in Europe, in particular through the European Resettlement Network; coordinating civil society activities in the annual Global Forum on Migration and Development; and promoting migration and development as part of the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE).



In pursuing these goals, ICMC will implement needs-first and right-based approaches, so as to prioritize assistance to the most vulnerable people in need of protection. ICMC will also strengthen its financial and legal structure, in particular by investing in new fundraising activities, reducing costs and increasing efficiency, in order to respond to the growing needs of displaced people around the world. It will also further develop and apply standards, guidelines and procedures to ensure compliance, transparency, and accountability of all programs and activities, in line with core humanitarian standards, principles of good governance, and Catholic social teachings.

# ACTIVITIES IN 2014

ICMC continued to work with UNHCR, IOM and other agencies, governments, and civil society partners to increase protection, humanitarian assistance, and resettlement of refugees. In 2014, ICMC's work greatly focused on addressing the urgent needs of an increasing number of Syrians displaced within their country and across borders in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and other countries in the region.

Programs in **Syria** and **Jordan** ensured that vulnerable people, both Syrian families and host communities, received effective humanitarian assistance, especially during the cold 2014 winter, in which temperatures went below zero degrees Celsius in the Middle East. In partnership with the US State Department, the Resettlement Support Center for **Turkey** and **Middle East** processed over 7,000 refugees to the United States.

ICMC also continued to assist disadvantaged communities and victims of sexual and gender-based violence in **Pakistan** and **Malaysia**, providing them with a safe shelter, access to essential health care, psychological support, and education. In Pakistan, activities also included livelihood support, child protection, and disaster risk reduction. In **Indonesia**, ICMC pursued its strong collaboration with the Indonesian authorities and civil society to combat human trafficking. In the **Philippines**, ICMC initiated a research project aimed at understanding the situation of labor migrants, reducing abuses, and preventing human trafficking. In **Eastern Europe**, "ICMC Cares" – a

program launched in 2013 to train domestic caregivers and integrate them fairly in the European labor market – started providing specialized training to the first selected candidates from the Carpathian Euroregion.

2014 saw a tremendous jump in the number and range of migrants and refugees in dangerous journeys across land and sea borders, often in the hands of ruthless migrant smugglers and human traffickers. Amidst epic suffering, thousands died or disappeared along the way, in countless cases never to be known for sure by family back home. Globally, on sea crossings alone, over 5,000 men, women and children were reported perished—almost double the previous year. Record numbers of men, women and children fleeing war, persecution or despair risked their lives on overcrowded and unseaworthy boats attempting to cross the Mediterranean. ICMC continued to work with UNHCR in **Greece** to ensure an appropriate first reception response to the many migrants and refugees arriving by boat, while also contributing to strengthen the asylum reform process of the Greek government.

In Asia and the Pacific, boat people from **Myanmar**, **Pakistan** and **Sri Lanka** and as far away as **Afghanistan** and **Iran** continued to move through the region looking for refuge—often in vain. In the Americas, an unprecedented number of more than 60,000 children journeyed—unaccompanied by any member of their families—up through **Mexico** to the United States to escape violence in **El Salvador**, **Guatemala** and **Honduras**, with another more than 60,000 making the same journeys with a relative.

ICMC accordingly expanded its advocacy for greater protection of migrants on the move. Taking forward the set of practical recommendations that ICMC and partners in Europe developed in the 2012 DRIVE project publication "MAYDAY!", ICMC continued to be a leader in civil society advocacy for more consistent needs-first and rights-based responses to migrants and refugees in distress. At ICMC's insistence, this issue was a major focus of the GFMD "Civil Society Days" in Sweden, including two dedicated "breakfast tables" that each convened five global civil society

leaders and five governments most implicated in these situations. Each of ICMC's MADE regional partners in Asia, Africa, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean featured the issue in meetings with hundreds of civil society partners in **Brazil**, **Chile**, **Jordan**, **Malaysia** and **Mexico**. ICMC was one of a small number of NGOs working with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on its important new publication "Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders." ICMC's office in Washington advocated zealously for humane responses to the children crossing the southern border of the US, working on political and practical solutions closely with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as with Refugee Council USA and a wide range of US-based NGOs.







# PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

Asylum seekers, refugees, persons fleeing conflicts, and other persons displaced from their homes face considerable risks which can be exacerbated by a range of personal circumstances and obstacles to accessing basic services, including poverty, isolation, irregular migration status, and social and cultural norms.

ICMC seeks to identify and address the underlying causes of vulnerability of displaced people, and to provide emergency and long-term protection to those in need. Persons of greatest concern to ICMC include vulnerable families, unaccompanied children, at-risk women and female-headed households, persons with serious illnesses or disabilities, the elderly, and persons fleeing ethnic, religious or other persecution.



# Protecting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in **Pakistan**

Pakistan is the second biggest refugee-hosting country in the world. With around 1.5 million refugees within its borders, the country is home to numerous vulnerable populations: not just the large number of Afghans displaced by conflicts, but also other refugees, including Iranians, Iraqis, Palestinians, Somalis and Syrians, who experience language barriers and strong discrimination in exile.

ICMC has been working in Pakistan since 1998, targeting the most vulnerable populations in both urban and rural areas. In 2014, ICMC's protection activities aimed to support impoverished communities and victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through access to basic needs and the provision of safe shelters. Extremely vulnerable refugees were provided with a basic subsistence allowance, educational support for their children and healthcare assistance for their family members. ICMC also organized language classes and vocational training to facilitate access to employment for refugees. Female refugees or asylum seekers are particularly vulnerable and exposed to sexual or gender-based violence, but rarely denounce it. ICMC helped those who have suffered from SGBV by providing them with safe shelter, legal support, awareness workshops, literacy classes, medical care, and psychosocial support.



Women and children attending educational classes at the ICMC Safe Shelter in Pakistan. © ICMC

ICMC also conducted assessments and interviews with children at risk referred by UNHCR. Through processes of best interests assessments and best interests determinations, ICMC's staff evaluated the protection needs of the children referred to them and looked for the best care solutions for these children on a temporary and long-term basis.

“I was provided with psychological treatment facilitated by ICMC, which was of great help and made me realize that I can change things. Now I want to prove my worth by learning new skills and earning money to support my mother.”

A 28-year old Somali refugee in Pakistan



In 2014, 858 Afghan and other refugees directly benefitted from ICMC's assistance.

Every month, ICMC provided allowances to 85 vulnerable families.



ICMC enrolled 163 children in school programs.

56 individuals were enrolled in skills and language classes in order to become economically independent.



Afghan and other refugees made 1,568 visits to medical facilities.



# Preventing and addressing gender-based violence amongst Burmese refugees in **Malaysia**

Despite being a destination for many migrants and refugees from South-East Asia since the 1970's, Malaysia still lacks the necessary legislative or administrative frameworks ensuring the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. Refugees are considered undocumented migrants and, as such, are subject to raid, arrest, detention and deportation.

In the absence of a protective framework — including basic education, residence and work permit schemes — refugees are often victims of sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, and other crimes. Survivors generally do not seek emergency medical care and police protection, and do not report on abuses. Cultural norms amongst the largely Burmese refugee population also exacerbate an already vulnerable situation. Gender roles foster submission to men, and domestic violence — including child abuse — remains a closely guarded “family matter.”

“I gained a lot of knowledge on how to live a better and healthier life and how to cope with anger. This helped me to refrain from drinking and bring about changes in my life.”

A man who participated in an ICMC family counseling sessions

Since 2010, ICMC works within the Burmese refugee communities of Malaysia to prevent and respond to sexual or gender-based violence, especially by improving access to emergency support services for refugee women and children. ICMC provides refugees with safe shelter, medical and psychosocial care, and counseling. Through the Refugee Women's Protection Corps (RWPC), a group of trained Burmese volunteers offers counseling and assistance to refugees who suffered sexual or gender-based violence. Being members of the same Burmese community, these volunteers are able to better approach vulnerable women and children requiring assistance and to identify specific needs.

In 2014, arrivals from Myanmar increased significantly, following several waves of communal violence in different parts of the country. Growing numbers of people reaching Malaysia presented acute humanitarian and protection needs, especially vulnerable groups such as women and children. In 2014, the volunteers of the Refugee Women's Protection Corps trained by ICMC reached out to 4,287 adult refugees in Kuala Lumpur, the Klang Valley and Penang. ICMC also assisted 100 victims of sexual or gender-based violence, the majority of whom had suffered domestic violence.

In addition, ICMC provided refugees with emergency shelter services, medical treatments, psychological care, counseling, transportation, and interpretation services. ICMC also funded five community-based organizations to run projects focused on preventing SGBV, including two support centers for Rohingya women.



ICMC reached out to 4,287 adult refugees in Kuala Lumpur, Klang Valley and Penang.



ICMC provided assistance to 100 victims of SGBV through its hotline and other outreach activities.



84% of the victims reported suffering from domestic violence; others denounced rape, sexual harassment or assaults and psychological abuse.



623 students received personal safety training in 22 refugee learning centers.

# Improving protection of vulnerable workers in **Indonesia**

A country of origin of numerous migrants, Indonesia has witnessed in the past decades a tragic increase in human trafficking cases. Each year, tens of thousands of Indonesian women and children are abducted, threatened and sexually exploited. Countless labor migrants, recruited for overseas jobs, are forced to work in abusive conditions.

In partnership with the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS), ICMC helps Indonesian organizations, governmental agencies, and NGOs fight human trafficking in the region and protect the victims. Cooperating with the local authorities, ICMC advocates for an efficient enforcement of national anti-trafficking laws, for an increased prosecution of traffickers and for policy-makers to address gaps in the national legal system.

In 2014, ICMC provided legal and social counseling to 706 trafficking survivors, especially to raise awareness about their rights and existing means to seek justice. Among them, 152 were children. A total of 425 trafficking survivors opted to report their case to local police for further investigation.

ICMC also worked to empower local civil society organizations and to disseminate best practices in counter-trafficking. ICMC's staff was invited by governmental agencies and partner organizations to conduct a number of monitoring activities, workshops and training sessions, also preparing local professionals to become facilitators in counter-trafficking programs. Thanks to the advocacy efforts of ICMC and its local partners, the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs agreed to increase the budget allocation for anti-trafficking activities in several provinces across the country.



A young Indonesian girl working in a paddy field in Sulawesi, Indonesia.  
© ICMC/Nathalie Perroud

“The collaboration between ICMC and governmental agencies, local NGOs and community organizations has been very successful in handling trafficking cases. Through the ICMC program, the Sukabumi government - together with local partners and administrations - was able to raise the budget to combat human trafficking in Sukabumi significantly.”

A governmental employee in Sukabumi, Indonesia

# Protecting labor migrants and combating human trafficking in the **Philippines**

The migration flow from the Philippines has grown remarkably in the past decades. Since the 1970's, the country has witnessed and even promoted a massive outflow of workers. With a wide range of skills, these workers seek employment abroad, millions in the richest countries of Asia, the Gulf and Middle East.



and encourage fair labor conditions. Established in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, the project aims to raise awareness among departing migrants, but also and more importantly among social workers and local churches, about the risk of abuse migrants may face. The project is also aimed at spreading awareness on available protection services, the validity of employment contracts and other legal matters related to employment abroad.

By informing departing workers about the potential risks in countries of destination, ICMC hopes to enable migrants to make more conscious choices about their work life abroad, avoid abuses, and provide practical information on where to seek assistance, if needed. The research project identified a number of recommendations for civil society and local churches to further develop means of assistance and advocacy to reduce labor exploitation.

Many of those who migrate to work as domestic helpers or caregivers go through recruitment processes managed by private employment agencies and regulated by the national legal system. Quite commonly, however, these agencies claim high fees for their services, adding further to the debt that workers already may incur in order to migrate for work. Moreover, once abroad, many Filipino labor migrants face exploitation and abuse: at the hands of employers who do not respect the terms of the employment contracts or act violently with their employees, often with the tacit acknowledgement of the employment agencies.

While the Philippines can count on a number of governmental institutions and mechanisms aimed at combating human trafficking and unfair labor practices, these remain frequently unused as they are not easily accessible – or not even known – by the exploited workers. In addition, the legal systems and the multitude of existing institutional structures do not seem to sufficiently protect the migrants from being abused.

Concerned by these abuses, ICMC initiated in 2013 a research project to better understand human trafficking in the Philippines, promote the respect of migrant workers' rights,



# Collaborating with UNHCR in the framework of the asylum reform process in **Greece**

Strategically located at the crossroads of the European, Asian, and African continents, Greece has historically been a gateway to Europe. In the past few years, the country has become a major entry point for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants who escape war, persecution, and poverty in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

In 2014, more than 43,000 refugees and migrants were recorded to have reached the Greek coasts through dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean, a 280% increase from the previous year. With no end in sight to civil wars and other conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, this number is certain to increase significantly. These “boat people” – mainly Afghans, Eritreans, Palestinians, Somalis, and Syrians – risk their lives attempting the crossing in overcrowded dinghies and in precarious conditions, more and more at the hands of ruthless human traffickers and smugglers. Those who make it to the Greek shores are often in extremely weak conditions, requiring medical, psychological and social care, as well as protection and information. Given the challenges of receiving and assisting such a high number of refugees and migrants, the Greek government receives support from UNHCR, the European Union and other agencies.

Since 2010, ICMC has collaborated with UNHCR in Greece by deploying highly qualified experts to different locations to provide support to UNHCR and assist local Greek authorities with the consolidation and advancement of the reform of the asylum system in Greece. ICMC's experts provide technical counseling and training to the Greek authorities, with the aim of strengthening their first reception and asylum systems. They also provide advice on matters relating to reception conditions, law, country-of-origin information analysis, quality assurance, project management, and communications.

In 2014 - due to the continuing significant increases in the arrival of migrants, asylum seekers and persons in need of international protection - ICMC responded with flexibility to oper-



An ICMC-UNHCR worker helps refugees and migrants to register at the local police station on Kos Island. ©UNHCR / Socrates Baltagiannis

ational changes and deployed its experts to the islands of the Aegean, Crete and Dodecanese to further monitor arrivals at entry points. These new patterns of arrivals through extremely perilous sea crossings have raised further protection and humanitarian challenges.

Throughout the year, ICMC's staff engaged in over 7,000 consultations to provide technical advice and assistance to the personnel of the Greek authorities. They provided information to newly arrived people on their rights and obligations and distributed essential non-food items in selected border locations. They also identified persons with special needs (for instance unaccompanied or separated children) and provided them with access to essential legal, social, and psychological support services.



3,500 migrants and refugees lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean in 2014.

ICMC's staff conducted information sessions for 37,414 incoming migrants and refugees.



9,450 asylum applications were submitted in Greece.

ICMC's staff worked on the cases of 7,400 asylum seekers.



ICMC selected and deployed 37 experts to UNHCR's field offices in Greece.



# Advocating for better cooperation to improve **protection at sea**

In addition to responding operationally to the growing number of refugees and migrants crossing seas to save their lives and seek a better future, ICMC advocates for increased protection at sea directly with governments and in different regional and international fora.



Rescue operations carried out in the Channel of Sicily, Italy. ©IOM / Francesco Malavolta

2014 was marked by a tragic increase of refugee and migrant deaths in the Mediterranean. According to UNHCR, some 3,500 migrants lost their lives during the sea crossing. Based on the data provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior, 170,000 migrants arrived in Italy irregularly by sea in 2014, most of them actually rescued by Italy's naval operation, *Mare Nostrum*. When the Mediterranean search and rescue efforts were cut back in November 2014 due to a lack of financial support from other EU Member States, ICMC advocated very strongly for continued search and rescue opera-

tions through improved cooperation and responsibility-sharing among European States.

ICMC participated in high-level meetings on protection at sea at the United Nations in Geneva and New York, bringing forward the urgent need to organize life-saving interventions and adopt a comprehensive plan of action to address the problem on the longer term. Supported by its European office in Brussels and the MADE Network, ICMC worked with a number of governmental and non-governmental partners to raise awareness

about the necessity to identify a response at the global level.

In December, in partnership with the Permanent Missions of the Holy See and Italy, ICMC organized an evening event at the United Nations in Geneva. The event, titled "Sea Change", was aimed at encouraging a reflection upon the human suffering of people risking their lives crossing the sea. Speakers included representatives from UNHCR, Save the Children, and the Italian Navy. Abu Kurke Kabeto, a young man from Ethiopia who survived in the Mediterranean for two weeks on a drifted boat with 72 migrants and refugees on board (only 9 of whom survived) shared his difficult experience with the audience, imploring the international community to act more forcefully on these issues.

As part of its advocacy work, ICMC elaborated a set of key recommendations on protection at sea, which were endorsed by 122 civil society organizations worldwide. These recommendations were presented in December at the UN High Commissioner Dialogue on Protection at Sea. On the same occasion, ICMC also delivered an oral statement to the High Commissioner asking for a non-retreat from good responses in the Mediterranean.

“The sea was getting very rough. That night two helicopters approached our boat. We thought we would be saved. But instead of rescuing us, the helicopters dropped water and biscuits. There were 72 people on the boat and, within three minutes, there were no water or biscuits left. We showed the men in the helicopters the two babies we had on our boat, and urged them to save the babies. But they waved at us and made us understand they would come back later. We insisted, please please please, take the babies! They went away, and we never saw them again. The babies died.”

Mr. Abu Kurke Kabeto, a refugee from Ethiopia and one of the nine survivors of a boat stranded at sea between Libya and Europe for 16 days with 72 migrants and refugees on board



# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Families and individuals who are forced to flee their homes due to conflicts, human rights violations, and natural disasters often struggle to meet their basic needs, suffer acute deprivations and are exposed to significant risks.

ICMC provides vulnerable families and individuals with essential humanitarian assistance and support, by distributing non-food items, providing rent assistance, facilitating access to health care services, and distributing medical devices. ICMC's programs are carefully designed to meet both the emergency and longer-term needs of these individuals. ICMC makes sure that its support is effective and adapted to suit the particular needs of its beneficiaries. The effectiveness and sustainability of ICMC's programs are ensured through a combination of outreach programs led by the local community, awareness-raising campaigns, referral systems, and accessible networks of service providers.



# Providing life-saving assistance to vulnerable Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons in **Syria**

In 2014, Syria entered its fourth year of conflict, which marked a grim anniversary for what has become the worst humanitarian disaster of our time. The number of innocent civilians suffering is overwhelming. According to the United Nations, 7.6 million were internally displaced in 2014, while 3.7 million fled the country and 76,000 people died in the Syrian conflict.

More than half of the population is now living in extreme poverty. Life in Syria has become extremely difficult. Individuals and families struggle to survive in a devastated country: infrastructure has been destroyed, several hospitals have closed, basic items have become very expensive in the local markets, and the provision of electricity is constantly interrupted for many hours. Many have been seeking refuge in the neighboring countries, especially in northern Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

The 2014 winter was extraordinarily cold, with heavy snowfalls and temperatures going below zero degrees Celsius across the Middle East. During the cold season, refugees and displaced people struggled to keep themselves and their families warm, thus suffering even more from their precarious situation.

“These items are very necessary and important for us. Prices are high these days. Thanks to this kitchen set, I can now save money to pay rent on the house.”

A 50-year-old Syrian woman whose family received a kitchen set from ICMC

Despite the complex humanitarian situation in the country, ICMC - together with its local partner Terre des Hommes Syria - continued throughout 2014 to provide humanitarian assistance to internally displaced Syrians and Iraqi refugees in Damascus and the rural areas around the capital. ICMC's staff distributed winter items such as blankets, mattresses, and electric heaters to the forcibly displaced, which allowed them to get through the coldest winter months. Individuals and families identified by ICMC also received baby care kits, house cleaning and personal hygiene kits for adults, as well as disposable incontinence pads for elderly, disabled and ill people. These basic relief commodities helped them maintain personal and domestic hygienic living standards in often overcrowded accommodations.

ICMC also supported access to health services. Patients with emergency medical needs received life-saving medical assistance, including health care in hospitals and surgery. Pregnant women benefitted from clinical visits or birth support, people suffering from injuries received rehabilitation and physiotherapy assistance, and patients with special medical needs were provided with glasses, hearing aids, and medical shoes.

“The winter items we received were of good quality and in enough quantity for the whole family. They helped us stay warm in the cold winter nights.”

A woman who received relief items during the 2014 winter

ICMC also provided cash assistance to the most vulnerable families at risk of eviction, so that they were able to pay for their rent. Rent assistance reduces the vulnerability of many families and protects them from a range of risks and negative coping mechanisms.

In spite of the enormous challenges in terms of security, mobility, electricity provision, and procurement of goods, ICMC was able to provide access to health services and distribute non-food items to its beneficiaries through its presence at the grassroots level. Thanks to a long partnership with Terre des Hommes Syria, ICMC's activities have been carried out almost uninterruptedly since the beginning of the conflict. Today, ICMC is among the few international non-governmental organizations still providing assistance to internally displaced people and refugees in Damascus.





9,035 people received non-food item packages, including hygiene kits for children and adults.



1,865 people received primary healthcare.



860 people received urgent healthcare in hospital.



772 Syrian women received pre-natal, delivery, and postnatal care.



Syrian Kurdish refugees cross into Turkey from Syria, near the town of Kobani. © UNHCR / Ivor Prickett

# Providing humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and host communities in **Jordan**

From the beginning of the Syrian conflict to the end of 2014, over 622,000 Syrians sought refuge in Jordan, especially in the northern regions which are closer to the border. Uprooted people mostly live in temporary shelters or makeshift tents, far from the comfort of a proper home, lacking basic necessities and often incapable of working to support their families.



A Syrian family receiving support from ICMC in the Governorate of Mafraq, in Northern Jordan. © ICMC / Bruce Byers

“In the past, I had to use my cooking stove to heat the house. With the heater I have received, I can now keep my house warm without having to be worried about safety hazards. The refill vouchers are very useful, and I use them every 10 days to refill the gas cylinder.”

A Syrian refugee living in the Mafraq area



While these refugees cope with situations of profound distress, Jordanian communities are also in great need of support: the massive influx of people from neighboring Syria placed remarkable pressure on the infrastructure of the country, particularly on available housing and jobs. This led to tensions between the Jordanian host community and the Syrian refugees.

During 2014, ICMC addressed this problem by including 30% of Jordanian beneficiaries in all of its humanitarian activities. ICMC's programs reached out to more than 6,300 families, both Syrian and Jordanian: some of them were located in rural, hardly accessible areas, while many others lived close to the Syrian border, where the danger of a spill-over of the conflict is high. ICMC provided vulnerable families with access to adequate housing, including the provision of rental subsidies, and delivered emergency non-food items, such as hygiene packages for infants and young children. During the winter, ICMC also distributed winter items to vulnerable families. Over 1,525 Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian families received heaters, gas cylinders, and refills, which helped them face the harsh winter months in Jordan.

Protection space in Jordan diminished significantly in 2014, with healthcare for Syrians increasing in cost, reduced food assistance for those living outside the camps, and increasing

difficulties for Syrians living outside of the camps to maintain their legal status in the country. Throughout 2014, ICMC continued to strive to provide direct humanitarian assistance to extremely vulnerable and hard-to-reach families who could not be assisted by other organizations due to the diminishing services available.

ICMC was also able to offer protection to Syrian women and children through its Protection Center in Mafraq, an urban area in northern Jordan densely populated by refugees. The Center – one of the very few of its kind – provides psychosocial support for Syrian refugee women, young girls and children, who experience difficult living conditions. A variety of activities are offered at the Protection Center: literacy classes, educational and recreational activities for children, and workshops to raise awareness about the potential risks in terms of protection. While Syrian mothers participate in group discussions, children play in a safe space, where toys and educational materials are at their disposal. In 2014, 759 Syrian refugee women attended group discussions focused on protection issues and 1,425 Syrian refugee children attended recreational activities. These activities helped them escape from their difficulties and cope with trauma and anxiety.

“It's been really difficult to express my emotions well to my children, since we're all under so much stress. I don't talk to my children about my fears about our financial situation, so that they see me as a strong pillar. The focus groups have been great: I can talk freely about my emotions and feelings.”

A participant in the focus group discussions  
at the ICMC Protection Center in Mafraq



**ICMC identified and assessed  
the needs of more than 31,500  
Syrians and Jordanians.**



**1,525 Syrian and Jordanian  
families received packages  
containing useful winter items,  
which helped them cope with the  
freezing winter temperatures.**



**More than 300 families  
received rent assistance.**



**3,649 children  
received educational and  
recreational kits.**







# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Political instability, human rights violations, and conflicts cause mass displacements for entire populations. According to official UN figures, in 2014 there were more than 16 million refugees worldwide. Having fled persecution or other serious rights violations, returning to their home country is not a safe option for them. In many cases, local integration in the country where they seek refuge is not possible either. In this context, resettlement is often the only viable solution.

Resettlement is defined as the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have initially sought protection to a third State which has agreed to admit them on a permanent basis. Resettlement can serve as an important protection tool for refugees and as a form of international responsibility-sharing among States.



# Running the **Resettlement Support Center** for Turkey and Middle East

Since the 1960's, ICMC runs the Resettlement Support Center for Turkey and Middle East (RSC TuME) through its main office in Istanbul and its sub-office in Beirut. In 2014, ICMC also processed cases from the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Yemen.

In partnership with the US State Department, ICMC processes the applications of refugees referred by UNHCR for resettlement to the United States. With nearly 100 staff members and more than 7,000 refugees resettled every year, the Resettlement Support Center for Turkey and Middle East is one of the biggest refugee resettlement centers in the world.

Refugees referred to ICMC are firstly invited to a pre-screening interview, in which ICMC's caseworkers collect important information about their case: biographical data, family situation, and reasons for seeking protection. Once all relevant details are gathered, the file is submitted to US Government officials, who conduct an "adjudication" interview through regular visits to Istanbul and Beirut. If the application is approved, refugees are then required to undergo a medical examination. They also participate in cultural orientation classes, where they learn about US culture, education, employment, and attitudes that will help them with their transition to the United States.

ICMC collaborates with the International Organization for Migration to arrange the departure of the refugees whose cases have been approved for resettlement. Upon arrival in the United States, refugees are supported in their integration by the host communi-

ties. Public and private agencies, as well as religious and educational institutions work together to create a welcoming environment to facilitate their cultural adjustment and self-sufficiency.

In 2014, in order to address the growing number of cases referred by UNHCR, the ICMC office in Istanbul increased its work space to accommodate more pre-screen-

ing interviews, expanded the waiting area for refugees, and recruited 20 new staff members.

The activities of the Resettlement Support Center for Turkey and Middle East are financed by the US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).



A total of 7,365 refugees were resettled to the United States.



On average, 21 pre-screening interviews were carried out every day.



4,339 adults and 509 children participated in pre-departure cultural orientation classes.



The refugee resettlement applications processed by the RSC were submitted by Iraqis (54%), Syrians (24%), Iranians (14%), and other nationalities (3%).

# Managing the ICMC - UNHCR Resettlement Deployment Scheme

For over 15 years, ICMC has been providing help to the world's most vulnerable refugees through its Resettlement Deployment Scheme. Managed in partnership with UNHCR, the Scheme consists of a pool of experts who play a key role in identifying and referring refugees for resettlement.

Some experts are also responsible for assessing the needs of refugee children and ensuring that all actions taken are in the child's best interests. Others provide expertise in assessing asylum seekers' claims for refugee status. The pool includes almost 400 qualified professionals from diverse backgrounds, who are ready to be deployed on short notice to UNHCR's field operations in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America whenever crucial support is needed.



Jason Bell, ICMC's Child Protection Expert in Shire, Ethiopia, with Eritrean refugee children.  
© ICMC / Nathalie Perroud

“In the last three years, we have managed to surpass our resettlement targets. This is mainly due to the support and excellent work of the ICMC deployees.”

Stanley Miseleni, UNHCR Head of Sub-office, Shire, Ethiopia

Since the creation of the program in 1998, ICMC has deployed over 1,300 experts in resettlement, child protection, and refugee status determination to UNHCR's offices worldwide, ranking ICMC as one of the largest affiliate work-force partners of UNHCR. Together with staff from other partner organizations, ICMC's experts are responsible for approximately half of UNHCR's resettlement submissions. Their contribution is thus essential in meeting global resettlement targets.

In 2014, ICMC's experts submitted nearly 74,000 refugees for resettlement consideration to UNHCR. The main countries of origin of these refugees were the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, Syria, and Sudan. This number included more than 18,000 Syrian refugees, most of whom were referred to the US, Canada and Germany.

ICMC's experts also provided training to UNHCR's field staff, developed procedures and best practices on child protection, drafted national child protection strategies, and provided guidance to national and international partners.

The Resettlement Deployment Scheme is funded by UNHCR and the Government of Canada through its Department of Citizenship and Immigration (CIC).



In 2014, ICMC deployed 172 experts to 69 UNHCR's field offices in 33 countries. 60% of these experts worked in Africa, many in challenging environments.



ICMC's pool of experts included almost 400 qualified professionals in resettlement, child protection, and refugee status determination.



ICMC's child protection experts assessed close to 10,000 unaccompanied and separated children. Among them, nearly 8,000 were referred for resettlement.



# Promoting **refugee resettlement** in Europe

Since 2005, ICMC Europe has promoted cooperation, networking and exchange on resettlement in Europe, and since 2012, through the European Resettlement Network (ERN).

Managed in partnership with UNHCR and IOM, and supported by the European Union, the European Resettlement Network is an inclusive network which supports the development of resettlement in Europe by connecting a variety of actors. Members share a commitment to refugee protection and resettlement. They contribute to the provision of durable solutions for refugees and ensure that those resettled in Europe receive integration support, and are offered the opportunity to become fully participating citizens.

ERN's members include local, national, and regional governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, volunteers, and academics. Together they work at all stages of the resettlement process: selection and identification, pre-departure assistance and orientation, travel, reception, and integration in the country of destination.

The European Resettlement Network website, **[www.resettlement.eu](http://www.resettlement.eu)**, gathers information on resettlement policies, structures and initiatives in Europe. The network also hosts a community of practice, an online forum enabling exchange between members on several topics linked to refugee resettlement and integration, as well as a contact database which includes approximately 3,000 individual contacts of resettlement stakeholders.

In November 2014, the European Resettlement Network organized a conference in Brussels to discuss both past achievements and future EU resettlement objectives and priorities. The event, titled "European Resettlement – Consolidation and New Protection Opportunities" also constituted a platform for considering new admission mechanisms developed as part of the European response to the Syrian refugee crisis. A few weeks later, ICMC and other NGOs also addressed an open letter to the European Union and EU Member States, urging them to make meaningful pledges to resettle and admit more Syrian refugees.



A Syrian mother and her baby, who fled the war seeking protection into Turkey, have been accepted for resettlement in France.  
© UNHCR / Jason Tanner



# Advocating for increased **resettlement places** for Syrian refugees

During 2014, ICMC continued to advocate for increased resettlement places and other forms of admission for Syrians refugees.

ICMC Europe carried out considerable advocacy and awareness-raising activities to obtain additional places for Syrians in Europe, including resettlement, humanitarian admissions, extended family reunification, community-based sponsorships, humanitarian visas, and student visas. In the context of the “Resettlement Saves Lives” campaign, launched in 2012 by different NGOs, ICMC Europe has continued to organize advocacy events in partnership with several European organizations.

On the occasion of World Refugee Day in June, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) — of which ICMC is a member — handed in the “Europe Act Now” petition to the European Parliament. In the same month, and again at the end of the year, ICMC participated in ministerial-level pledging conferences on resettlement of Syrian refugees, hosted by UNHCR in Geneva.

In the United States, ICMC has worked closely with both Refugee Council USA and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to advocate to the US government, UNHCR, and the host governments bordering Syria for improved screening and identification of the refugees most in need of resettlement, efficient processing of Syrian refugees to the US, and increased numbers of US Syrian refugee admissions.

In September 2014, the Head of ICMC’s liaison office in Washington DC joined a delegation of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in a mission to Turkey. The delegation met with the US Embassy in Turkey, UNHCR Ankara, and the Turkish government’s lead officials to discuss US resettlement challenges and jointly work to overcome them. A report including key findings and recommendations, “Refuge and Hope in the Time of ISIS”, was published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and widely distributed. Following the mis-

sion, ICMC participated in debriefings with the US government to move the recommendations forward. The urgent need to identify and resettle unaccompanied Syrian children, as well as young women victims of sex trafficking, was particularly highlighted. ICMC also contributed to Congressional testimony given by USCCB throughout 2014 on Syrian resettlement, advocating to increase US admissions on an emergency basis. In July 2014, ICMC participated in a panel discussion on Syrian resettlement at the USCCB National Migration Conference.

The ICMC liaison office in Washington continues to call attention, via conferences and briefings, to the plight of Syria’s religious minorities and unaccompanied children, strongly urging UNHCR to identify the most appropriate measures for the protection of the nearly 5,000 estimated unaccompanied Syrian children and youth currently living in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

“Children are afraid to go to school because bombs and mortars are falling on school buildings all the time. So parents find themselves in a big dilemma: either they keep their children at home without education, or they send their kids to school with the risk that they might not see them anymore. That’s a tough choice to make.”

A staff member from ICMC’s partner organization Terre des Hommes Syria



Over half of the Syrian population has been displaced by the war.



At the end of 2014, there were 3.7 million Syrians registered in Turkey, the Middle East, and North Africa.



An estimated 5,000 unaccompanied Syrian children currently live in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.



# MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Migration is deeply connected to the global economy and the well-being of individuals. A lack of economic opportunities in a country prompts people to migrate and look for employment elsewhere. In 2014, there were 232 million migrants worldwide. Migrants offer skills, manpower and human capital to the labor market of a foreign country, while sending their earnings back to their family members at home. Remittances play a crucial role in national economies, often constituting a significant portion of a country's gross domestic product.

Migrants often fill demographic or labor gaps. Yet, they frequently face widespread abuse, exploitation, and discrimination. Through its networking and policy activities, ICMC engages with civil society organizations, governments, international agencies, and the private sector worldwide to ensure that policies protecting migrant workers and their families are being developed and effectively implemented on the ground.



# Promoting economic development, improved education, and disaster risk reduction in **Pakistan**

In addition to being one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the world, Pakistan is faced with a number of social and economic challenges, and is geologically predisposed to natural disasters such as floods and droughts. As the country's complex geography makes some of its territory barely accessible, damages to infrastructure and buildings resulting from natural calamities cause enormous harm to the lives of its residents and disrupt the local economy.

In 2014, ICMC's development activities in Pakistan focused on disaster risk reduction, facilitation of access to employment through vocational training, and improved access to basic education through rehabilitation of schools and provision of language classes to refugee children.

ICMC has been working on preventing and mitigating the impact of natural disasters in Pakistan since the 2005 earthquake. In 2014, ICMC worked with vulnerable communities living in disaster-prone areas to help them respond to floods and earthquakes, thus mitigating the risk and impact of natural disasters. In collaboration with its local partners, ICMC distributed disaster risk reduction kits, rehabilitated key infrastructure, developed school safety plans, and conducted hazard mappings. Activities aimed at enhancing disaster risk reduction also included awareness-raising sessions and workshops on disaster preparedness and development of mitigation plans, access to water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion. Community development volunteers and disaster management committees received specialized training which enabled them to respond effectively to natural disasters.

When a landslide struck the village of Mian Kalay in the District of Shangla in April 2014, the local community was able to immediately respond to the disaster, thanks to the local Disaster Management Committee and the mobilization of the villagers. The response activities were carried out in a very organized and efficient manner: everyone was asked to contribute, the

necessary tools were assembled, excavation and other necessary activities were properly organized. Women and children of vulnerable families were transferred to other houses, where they received shelter, food, and psychosocial support. Female members of the Disaster Management Committee also participated in the recovery efforts, in particular by providing assistance to vulnerable women and children struck by the disaster. This example demonstrates that effective awareness-raising and capacity-building activities can be a means of empowering local communities and building their resilience to cope with the effects of natural disasters.

In 2014, ICMC also provided livelihood support for Afghan refugees and Pakistani host communities in the Charsadda district of Pakistan. The project, which will continue throughout 2015, aims to increase access to employment through a set of measures including vocational training, small enterprise development support, provision of tool kits, provision of mini-grants, and establishment of linkages with potential employers. In collaboration with local technical institutes, ICMC identified 600 individuals from refugee and host communities who will receive vocational training by 2015. Half of the beneficiaries are women. Four training centers have been set up specifically to provide training to female members of the Afghan and local communities. Trainees learn valuable skills needed on the market: among others, shoe making, embroidery, and cloth making for women; electricity, motor cycle and car repair, and plumbing for men. These training courses provide beneficia-

ries with technical knowledge that can be immediately used to support income-generating activities. ICMC also identified potential employers, where successful trainees will be placed after their training period. Through the provision of job placement and the establishment of linkages with existing business enterprises, ICMC aims at fostering economic development in the Charsadda district of Pakistan.

In the Nowshera district, ICMC started a project to rehabilitate four governmental schools, with the aim of increasing the enrollment rate for children, including girls and Afghan refugees. The project also aims to improve acceptance of Afghan refugee children in public schools, and enhance social cohesion between local host communities and Afghan refugees. In particular, ICMC created computer labs for students and teachers, provided school furniture, and set up parent/teacher associations to strengthen the link between schools and communities.





In 2014, ICMC provided marketable skills training to 600 individuals. 50% of them were women.



ICMC organized 16 awareness-raising workshops on disaster risk reduction in targeted communities, which were attended by 389 individuals, including 134 women.



92 adults and 408 school children in local communities attended training sessions on water, environment, and sanitation.



Some 500 school children participated in hazard mapping exercises and development of school safety plans, which showed them how to respond effectively in case of disaster.



Trainees practice shoemaking during a workshop at the Female Skill Training Center Haleem Aabad in the Charsadda district of Pakistan.  
©ICMC / Ayoub Gohar

# Protecting **migrant workers** and assisting elderly people

Europe is marked by a rapidly aging demography: most countries experience declining or stagnating fertility rates, while life expectancy is on the rise. Given the high costs of institutional elderly care and the desire of the elderly to remain at home as long as possible, many families have invited migrants – among them women from Eastern European countries – to take care of their relatives. Yet, this often happens in irregular situations, whereby workers are hired without proper training and legal recognition for their work, which leaves them at risk of exploitation and abuse.

In order to respond to the growing need for qualified paramedical staff to take care of the elderly in Europe and to protect labor migrants in the homecare sector, thus reducing irregularities in migration, ICMC started the “ICMC Cares” program. Through “ICMC Cares”, paramedical professionals from Eastern European countries are recruited, trained, certified, and supported in the search of proper employment in assisting elderly people, particularly those affected by neurodegenerative diseases. “ICMC Cares” verifies that all caregivers work within an extended legal framework for the delivery of homecare services and are adequately integrated into the formal labor market.

Developed as a public-private partnership, “ICMC Cares” is carried out in collaboration with regional public administrations, em-

ployment services, academic institutes, and private hospitals in Eastern Europe. The program is implemented by the ICMC Eastern Europe Foundation in Poland, which is registered as an employment agency, while the ICMC Headquarters in Switzerland provides support and coordination of different entities. The Foundation is registered under the high patronage of Mr Józef Jodlowski, President of the Carpathian Euroregion.

In 2014, ICMC launched its first training session for home caregivers in the Carpathian region of Poland. The regional employment administration registered 170 candidates to take part in this first phase of the program. In 2015, ICMC and its partners plan to deliver training to more domestic caregivers. In the coming years, “ICMC Cares” aims to expand its activities to various European countries.



Domestic caregivers from Eastern Europe provide qualified paramedical assistance to the elderly. Photo: Shutterstock

“ICMC Cares brings hope for both the selected candidates who acquire new professional skills, and for elderly and sick people who receive qualified care. We would like to express our gratitude for all activities related to the recruitment of candidates from the Carpathian Euroregion, for the support and protection offered to the candidates, as well as for the benefits associated with the implementation of the project in Poland and abroad.”

Mr Józef Jodlowski, President of the Carpathian Euroregion, during the official inauguration of “ICMC Cares” in Poland



In 2014, “ICMC Cares” registered 170 candidates to take part in the first phase of the program.



95% of the candidates were women, aged between 25 and 55.



The first 25 candidates received training from ICMC and its partners.



# Chairing a microfinance institution in Kosovo

The conflicts which took place in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990's forced many people to flee their homes to escape violence and seek refuge in Western European countries. The Kosovo Enterprise Program (KEP), founded by ICMC in 1999, was created towards the end of the conflict in Kosovo with the aim of supporting the refugees in returning home.

One of the main challenges identified by the Kosovar population after the war was to gather the start-up money needed to initiate or re-launch an economic activity. ICMC therefore decided to support individuals and smaller enterprises with microcredits, so that they could restore their destroyed houses, or buy seeds and equipment, especially in rural areas. Access to small loans was highly appreciated by the returning population and proved to be a successful measure in the recovery of economic activities in Kosovo. Over the years, the Kosovo Enterprise Program grew considerably and became a separate entity, KEP Trust, which is today the leading microfinance NGO in Kosovo. KEP Trust offers financial services to individuals and small entrepreneurs, as well as to marginalized and underprivileged groups of society.

Helping the Kosovars return to their country and support themselves economically contributed not only to the recovery of a war-torn nation, but was also instrumental in promoting social cohesion and solidarity. The model built

in Kosovo demonstrates that the creation of jobs in the country can strongly reduce the outflow of economic migrants: the opportunity provided by access to an additional source of income, even if in small amounts, can make an important difference when it comes to decide whether to remain at home or to migrate. Through the KEP program, beneficiaries have managed to reduce vulnerabilities and gain access to the regular bank system.

In 2014, KEP Trust served over 11,000 beneficiaries. At the governance level, the KEP Board – chaired by the ICMC Secretary General – looked into possible partnerships with other microfinance institutions in Kosovo. Under the tenure of the ICMC Secretary General, in the coming years KEP will continue to expand its microfinance portfolio, further support the creation of jobs in Kosovo, explore ways to increase social activities, and enhance the well-being of people, mainly marginalized and underprivileged groups in rural areas.



**Number of loans  
disbursed:**  
41,939.



**Average loan:**  
2,109 €  
(around 2,300 USD).



**Total outstanding portfolio:**  
18,053,708 € (equivalent to  
almost 20 million USD).



Kosovo Albanian woman from the rural village of Dranoc in Kosovo. Local villagers suffered many losses during the Kosovo war in 1999. Photo: iStock

# Coordinating the **Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE)**

In collaboration with civil society partners in Chile, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and Senegal, ICMC launched the global Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) in January 2014. MADE is an open working platform in which civil society organizations come together worldwide in regional and global networks to compare, collaborate, and change policies and practices that affect migrants and diaspora members, to ensure full respect for human dignity, rights, solidarity, the common good, and social cohesion in communities and countries everywhere.



ICMC's Head of Policy, John K. Bingham (left), and the MADE Program Manager, Wies Maas (right), present the MADE program during the 2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development in Stockholm, Sweden. © Texty.nl

Co-funded through 2016 by the European Union together with ICMC and its donors, MADE's primary objective is to build or strengthen civil society organizations that work on some of today's major challenges in migration and development: safe migration, sustainable development, decent work and social protection, and respect of the rights of all migrants and mem-

bers of their families. MADE advocates for a reform of a wide range of unfair practices in recruitment, placement, and employment of migrant workers. It also supports the organization of migrants and migrant diaspora in both policy-making and entrepreneurial business initiatives.

All of these issues were identified as key priorities in October 2013, when global civil society presented its landmark "5-year, 8-point Plan of Action for Collaboration with Governments" to the UN General Assembly at its High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development. ICMC played a significant leadership role in coordinating global civil society in the formulation of the Action Plan. The new civil society MADE network came together in 2014, "year one" of the Action Plan, to bring these issues forward at the local, regional, and global level.

At the regional level, MADE consists of important networks that connect and mobilize civil society organizations for concrete change on the ground and across borders. MADE's regional networks are led by Caritas Senegal in Africa; the International Network on Migration and Development and the Scalabrini International Migration Network - with assistance from Fundación Scalabrini - in Latin America and the Caribbean; Migrant Forum in Asia and ICMC Europe in Europe.

At the global level, ICMC's MADE Global Coordinating Office organizes activities of civil society organizations worldwide in processes that involve government decision-makers and international agencies. In particular, MADE coordinates civil society's activities in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which brings together policy-makers from a wide range of governmental agencies, UN and other international organizations, private companies, academic institutions, and civil society organizations to address key issues related to migration and development in practical and action-oriented ways.



“Through the MADE Network, we hope to achieve [...] policy changes for the benefit of people on the ground, preventing forced migration, protecting migrants, promoting their human rights, and strengthening their voice. Policies need to be implemented, and supported by changing perceptions in society to view migrants as actors and not objects in development, both at home and abroad.”

Bob van Dillen, Coordinator for the Working Group on Global Governance of Migration and Development, Cordaid (MADE's partner organization)

Thematically, three new global MADE working groups are shaping agendas on the future of migration: “Labor Migration and Recruitment”, led by Migrant Forum in Asia; “Diaspora and Migrants in Development”, organized in 2014 by the African Diaspora Policy Centre; and “Global Governance of Migration and Development” coordinated by the Dutch development NGO Cordaid.

In 2014, MADE led a group of around 40 civil society organizations in the drafting of the civil society “Stockholm Agenda”, a set of 9 goals and 21 targets aimed at including migrants and migration in new national and global development agendas, which will replace the UN Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015. The “Stockholm Agenda” was signed by 312 organizations worldwide and presented to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the European Union, as well as to governments and international agencies.

In collaboration with the NGO Committee on Migration in New York, MADE promoted the civil society “Sea Change” campaign to ensure protection at sea. The campaign was supported by 122 organizations around the world and presented to the international community during the UNHCR High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection at Sea in December 2014.

Regionally, MADE’s networks organized a series of civil society meetings in Africa (Dakar), Asia (Amman, Kuala Lumpur) and Latin-America (Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Lima) focusing on safe migration, human development, fair recruitment, and other issues in civil society’s “5-year 8-point Plan of Action”. These meetings boosted civil society collaboration and voice to governments, both in regional consultative processes and in national migration and development policy-making.

As a major tool for strengthening network communications and the civil society voice, MADE created a global contact database. Currently, it contains over 2,300 individual addresses and over 500 detailed profiles of stakeholders involved in migration and development issues, including NGOs, labor unions, academics, governments, as well as migrants and migrant groups from more than 100 countries. The database provides a solid basis to expand the network, reach out to new actors and regions, identify gaps, and communicate regularly with key actors in English, French and Spanish.



ICMC’s MADE led a group of around 40 civil society organizations in the drafting of the civil society “Stockholm Agenda”, which gained the support of 312 organizations worldwide.

MADE promoted the civil society “Sea Change” campaign to ensure protection at sea, endorsed by 122 organizations around the world.



MADE’s global contact database contains over 2,300 individual contacts and over 500 detailed profiles of stakeholders from more than 100 countries.

# Coordinating the civil society activities of the **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)**

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) brings together every year over 150 governments and 200 civil society organizations from around the world to discuss policies and practices affecting migrants, their families, and countries to and from which people migrate.

Participants include policy-makers from governmental agencies, UN organizations, NGOs, trade unions, the private sector, academia, as well as migrant and diaspora groups.

Through the Global Forum, States and civil society have the opportunity to discuss key challenges related to migration and development, share experiences, and enhance practical cooperation for change.

Since 2011, ICMC has coordinated the activities of global civil society in the preparation of and during the GFMD. During the two “Civil Society Days” of the GFMD itself, which take place immediately before a “Common Space” with governments and two “Government Days”, civil society organizations discuss key issues affecting migrants and draft recommendations to be presented to governments.

In 2014, the Global Forum on Migration and Development took place in Stockholm, Sweden. In coordinating the “Civil Society Days”, ICMC worked directly with an International Steering Committee composed of 34 civil society leaders in migration and development, and in close cooperation with a broad range of partners representing migrant and diaspora groups, human rights and workers organizations, development agencies, academia, and the private sector.

Over the course of the two days of the civil society meeting, delegates deliberated in plenary and working sessions on the

central theme of “Shaping Migration and Development Goals: Global Movement, Change on the Ground”. The theme reflected the priority of civil society for the 2014 GFMD to translate the outcomes of the GFMD in 2012, and the UN General Assembly’s High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013, in particular the civil society “5-year 8-Point Plan” into concrete goals, targets, and indicators for local implementation, practices, and change. The civil society program was structured around the themes of: labor mobility, labor rights and decent work, protection of migrants and their families, empowerment of migrants and communities for social inclusion and human development, and ensuring that migrants and migration are integrated into the post-2015 global development agenda (which will replace the widely acclaimed Millennium Development Goals).

The GFMD “Civil Society Days” brought together 202 civil society delegates from 50 countries across the world, of which more than half were migrants. 125 representatives of governments, international organizations, media, and other guests and observers were also welcomed as participants in the GFMD civil society program. One of the outcomes was a unified global civil society statement which was presented to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and governments in the opening session of the GFMD “Government Days”. The statement highlighted changes needed to better organize labor mobility, protect migrants, and forge inclusive development.



**A total of 356 participants attended the GFMD “Civil Society Days” in 2014.**

**Participants included 202 civil society delegates from over 50 countries; 53 observers from regional and international organizations; 17 special guests and media representatives; 55 government representatives of 20 countries; and 29 staff, volunteers, and organizers from the government team.**

**Of the 202 civil society delegates:**

- **more than 50% were migrants and representatives from diaspora/migrant-led organizations;**
- **80 represented human rights organizations; 56 development groups; 37 labor organizations; 22 academia; and 7 the private sector.**
- **104 were from Europe; 51 from the Americas; 24 from Asia Pacific; 13 from Africa; and 10 from the Middle East.**



Michele LeVoy, Chair of the Civil Society Days of the 2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development, Stockholm, Sweden, May 2014.  
© Texty.nl

### Main civil society recommendations from the 2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development

- To ensure decent work and social protection for migrant workers and families
- To reform the migrant labor recruitment industry and better regulate placement and employment practices
- To create and better implement protection frameworks for migrants in distress, in transit and at borders
- To ensure laws and mechanisms that create alternatives to irregular migration and detention
- To ensure protection and empower children in contexts of migration
- To facilitate migrants and diasporas' contributions to job creation and public policy changes for development in sending and receiving countries
- To include migrants and migration in post-2015 development agendas at global and national levels



# Collaborating with IOM and ILO on **protection** of **migrant workers** and their families

In 2014, ICMC further brought attention to recruitment abuses and need for reforms before a range of oversight bodies, including the UN Committee on Migrant Workers, which monitors compliance with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the members of their Families (the Migrant Workers Convention), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In June 2014, ICMC presented a statement in the opening plenary session of ILO's annual labor conference calling on ILO and IOM to work together to strengthen and monitor the implementation of existing UN standards relating to migrant recruitment, placement and employment practices.

ICMC's staff participated in a high-profile ILO conference on fair recruitment in Turin and in an expert roundtable that IOM convened to develop and launch a new "International Recruitment Integrity System" (IRIS). Using ILO's standards and with input from ICMC and other experts, the IRIS system aims to articulate a set of principles and practices by which migrant recruitment actors of all kinds could be measured and either certified, sanctioned or de-certified for specific work. Substantial funding and other support of the ILO and IOM work from the EU, US and Australia - together with the EU funding to ICMC's own MADE global working group on recruitment reform - indicated strong government enthusiasm for these initiatives.



Overseas Filipino Workers waiting before boarding a flight at an international airport in Manila. © Reuters / Romeo Ranoco

# Receiving, welcoming, and integrating communities in Europe

Since 2012, ICMC has led the SHARE Network, a network of European local and regional authorities, as well as civil society organizations, which work together to promote the protection and integration of refugees in Europe.

An integral part of the European Resettlement Network and co-financed by the European Commission, the SHARE Network provides a platform for peer exchange between local and regional members, facilitates the inclusion of different actors in the wider European Resettlement Network, and raises general awareness on different resettlement aspects.

In many European cities and municipalities, proper housing for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable and low-income groups is becoming increasingly difficult to find. In the context of resettlement, the lack of housing is an important factor affecting the countries' capacity and readiness to receive refugees. In order to inspire creative solutions and new initiatives in housing for refugee resettlement, ICMC Europe - together with its SHARE partners and members - developed a number of good practices. The SHARE report "A Place to Live, a Place to Stay: A Good Practice Guide for Housing in Refugee Resettlement" was published in March 2014.

During the same month, SHARE - together with the Finnish Red Cross - supported the "Refugees Need a Home" event, consisting of a "Refugee Tent Tour" aimed at raising visitors' awareness about life in a refugee camp and encouraging municipalities and cities to offer resettlement and humanitarian admissions places for Syrian refugees.

Naturally, moving into a new country is a momentous change for refugees, who experience an abrupt shift in lifestyle and often feel excluded from the local communities. For many of them, becoming involved in volunteering activities can play a fundamental role in creating social relationships, facilitating reception and adaptation, and supporting long-term settlement and integration. At the SHARE Network Conference in October 2013, SHARE partners and stakeholders identified volunteering as a priority area for refugee integration. In 2014, the SHARE Network has taken this recommendation forward by focusing on expanding capacity for volunteering in refugee resettlement.

In October 2014, ICMC and the Dutch Refugee Council organized a seminar titled "What Makes Volunteering Work?" in Germany. The event, which was led by 25 experts in volunteering for refugee integration from nine European countries, set important foundations to develop tools, guidelines, and resources for the 2015 SHARE peer exchange program on volunteering, entitled "SHARING through Mentoring".



A refugee family in the resettlement process to Germany attending a pre-departure cultural orientation class in Turkey. © IOM







# ICMC'S MEMBERS AND CHURCH NETWORKS

ICMC voices the migration concerns of the Catholic Bishops Conferences worldwide and works with a variety of Church organizations to advocate for rights-based policies and sustainable solutions for refugees and migrants. ICMC's policies are developed in close interaction with the ICMC Governing Committee and the Secretariat of State of the Vatican.



# The ICMC Council Meeting

On 26-28 May 2014, the ICMC members, the Governing Committee, several high-level guests, and the ICMC staff participated in the 56th ICMC Council Meeting in Rome, Italy.

The ICMC Council Meeting provides a framework for dynamic exchanges on the many global challenges related to migration and the role ICMC is to play as an international, Catholic actor in this field. It also provides the opportunity to contribute to a strategic vision for the years to come and shape the future of the organization.

In 2014, over 100 participants attended the meeting, including the Secretary of State and other representatives of the Vatican; the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People; representatives from over 50 Bishops' Conferences around the world; members from the Asia and Africa Working Groups and from several other partner organizations.

Among the contributions provided by guest participants, IOM's Deputy Director General, Ambassador Laura Thompson, demonstrated appreciation for the work of ICMC's members in fostering dialogue and awareness on migration issues and expressed the desire to continue joint efforts for the promotion of the rights of migrants. Laurens Jolles, UNHCR's Regional Representative for Southern Europe, commended the developing partnership between the UN Refugee Agency and faith-based organizations, highlighting how these are often the first to respond to the needs of individuals and communities in the initial stages of humanitarian crises. Peter Sutherland, invited in his capacity of UN Special Representative for International Migration, shared his views on the Global Forum on

Migration and Development and the shifting perceptions on migration in Western societies.

His Beatitude Gregorios III, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, of Alexandria and of Jerusalem, as well as member of the ICMC Governing Committee, reported about the state of affairs in Syria. His Beatitude stressed the need to foster mutual respect between Christians and Muslims, especially in times of crisis: "the current conflict is not between the two religions", he explained, "but one which targets the Syrian society as a whole". After reporting about the World Council of Churches and the Holy See, which took place in January 2014, His Beatitude expressed the desire for Church leaders, Christians and Muslims, to be actively involved in the achievement of a political solution to the conflict. The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Rev. Fr. Imad Twal, also highlighted the importance of the Church in providing faith, hope, and support for refugees, migrants and their families.

Mr. Jozef Jodlowski, President of the Carpathian Euroregion, Governor of the Rzeszow County, and High Patron of the "ICMC Cares" program was also invited to attend the ICMC Council Meeting. He rejoiced at the efforts made to build ethical and professional standards for caregivers and to reduce illegal recruitment practices, while also enhancing cooperation with Eastern European countries.

During the three days' meeting, the ICMC Secretary General Johan Ketelers presented ICMC's main achievements of the past four years and introduced the new strategic framework, which will direct ICMC's work throughout the 2015-2018 period. Regional sessions focusing on Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe allowed ICMC's members to share views and experiences on the migration challenges they face in their respective regions. These exchanges contributed to developing key recommendations on how to strengthen the ICMC members' network worldwide.



Participants at the ICMC Council Meeting in Rome, Italy, May 2014. © ICMC



# ICMC's regional working groups on migration

In order to improve its understanding of migration in the various regions of the globe, discuss key trends, and identify common challenges, ICMC created in recent years two regional working groups on migration in Asia and Africa.



ICMC's members attend the second Asia-Pacific Congress on Migration, Family and Mission, organized in Taichung City, Taiwan, September 2014. © ICMC

These working groups are composed of ICMC's members and aim to contribute to the global debates on migration challenges, through readings of the day-to-day reality at the grassroots level.

The ICMC strategic plan adopted in 2014 includes the idea of developing a third working group in Latin America. Important steps in this direction have already been taken, including closer collaboration with the ICMC members, the Scalabrini Fathers and Caritas partners.

## The Asia Working Group

The Asia Working Group, established in 2008 and chaired by H.E. Bishop Precioso Cantillas from the Philippines, emerged from the willingness to strengthen the voice of the Church in Asia and establish a platform for exchange on migration and development issues.

In 2014, the Asia Working Group focused its work on the relationship between family and migration, discussing in particular

how migrant families in Asia overcome the challenges of separation and deal with increased material wealth through remittances. Particular focus was also given to the growing concerns of migrant families often separating and recomposing differently in the country of immigration, and of children brought up by neighbors of grandparents. Their perception of family values may not only affect their own lives, but also contribute to shaping the social cohesion of tomorrow's society. The working group also concentrated on means to ensure the well-being of immigrant children, and discussed a number of recommendations which were sent to all ICMC's members in Asia.

During the Council Meeting in May 2014, the Asia Working Group added a number of commitments to the ICMC strategic plan. The working group expressed its determination to expand and strengthen the regional collaboration and the interaction with ICMC's headquarters, with a view to enhance information sharing, and work towards the harmonization and strengthening of the voice of the Church in Asia on migration.

## The Africa Working Group

The Africa Working Group, chaired by Rev. Fr. Mesmin-Prospér Massengo, was initiated in September 2012, in collaboration with the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM). The working group includes the Secretary Generals of the eight Regional Episcopal Conferences of the African continent. The objective of the working group is to support the Church in Africa in further protecting and promoting the rights of migrants, especially by providing technical and advisory support, engaging local stakeholders and generating greater awareness.

The first meetings of the working group revealed that much more emphasis had been given to refugees and displaced and less to labor migrants. It was observed that local economies lack understanding, visibility, and responsive commitment to labor migration in African countries. The Africa Working Group intends to become the forum that promotes dialogue on these issues.

At the ICMC Council Meeting in May 2014, the Africa Working Group emphasized its commitment to expand and build on the collaboration with ICMC and SECAM in researching and advocating internationally for the protection of African migrants, inside and outside the continent. The working group will particularly focus on creating the necessary legal structures, enhancing good governance in the monitoring of human mobility, and promoting the full respect of human dignity in migration.



# Networking activities of the **ICMC liaison office** in Washington DC

Since 2006, the liaison office of ICMC in Washington DC has been co-located with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The office liaises with US institutional donors in Washington, and conducts policy work for ICMC in the United States on a broad range of migration issues, with a focus on the protection of women and children.

In 2014, joining together with Church networks in the United States and Central America, ICMC worked to focus attention on the plight of unaccompanied children in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The summer of 2014 saw a rapid escalation in the numbers of children fleeing gangs and violence and making their dangerous journey through Mexico in an attempt to reach the United States. ICMC's liaison office served on the US Bishops mission delegation to the region and gave briefings on findings throughout the year to both government officials and NGOs. ICMC also conducted a workshop on "Root Causes" at the National Convening of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and worked closely with Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, in preparation for his congressional testimony. ICMC advocated with UNHCR to increase screening of the minor migrants in transit and with the US State Department to conduct best interests determinations for Central American children in need of resettlement.

Joining the delegation from the Committee on Migration of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Head of the ICMC liaison office in Washington traveled to Turkey in September 2014 to assess the impact of the growing humanitarian refugee crisis caused by the Syrian conflict. One of the objectives of the mission was to express solidarity and to strengthen



Unaccompanied children and a family sit in the bed of a police truck after being detained for the lack of identity documents at the border between Honduras and Guatemala. © Reuters / Jorge Cabrera

partnerships with Catholic migration ministries in the region and better understand their important protection role with Syrian refugees. The Head of the ICMC liaison office in the US met with Syrian refugees awaiting resettlement at the Resettlement Support Center for Turkey and Middle East in Istanbul,

participated in home visits with refugees served by Caritas Turkey, conducted focus groups at the Chaldean Church, and visited a refugee school operated by Don Bosco. ICMC contributed to the report "Refuge and Hope in the Time of ISIS", and served on several USCCB panels and workshops.

# Catholic-inspired **NGO Forum**

In 2014, ICMC performed leading roles in several movements of Catholic-inspired NGOs.

As leader since 2010 of the migration group of the Forum of international Catholic-inspired NGOs, ICMC convened members during 2014 as a special “push group” to propose to global civil society a unified position on convincing UN Member States to include migrants and migration in the new set of Sustainable Development Goals that would be adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. Over a course of six months, the members of the push group elaborated 9 goals with 21 targets, circulated them for comment to a broader set of NGOs, development organizations, migrant and diaspora associations and labor groups, and presented the position for final review and endorsement in civil society events at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in May.

With more particular focus, ICMC also continued to work actively with a core working group of eight Catholic-inspired international NGOs to promote the inclusion of decent work and social protection within the new Sustainable Development Goals—with distinct emphasis on youth and migrants. Having developed a joint statement in 2013 co-signed by 38 Catholic organizations, the working group further elaborated the position with related rationale and advocacy strategy at a seminar in the Vatican in May, in which ICMC was a presenter. Throughout 2014, ICMC worked to organize direct contacts between the Catholic organizations and governments worldwide. Group members advocated with governments both in countries where they had programs or members, and in international centers like Brussels, New York and Geneva, including a breakfast table that ICMC organized and hosted in Geneva with Catholic organizations speaking with representatives of leading governments and the European Union.



St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square, Vatican City. The Forum was conceived as a means to enhance dialogue and exchange between Catholic NGOs and the Holy See. Photo: Shutterstock

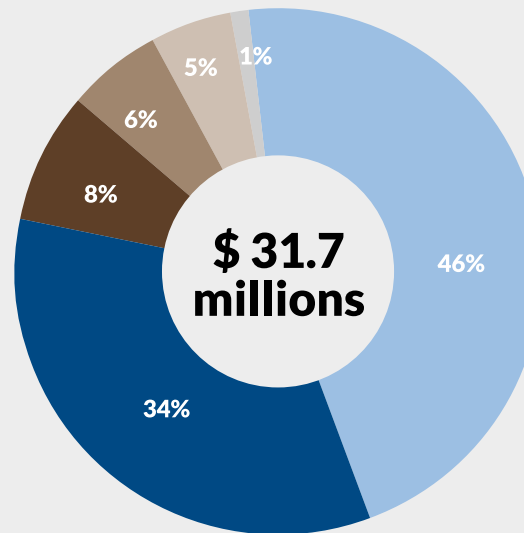
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2014, the ICMC total funding reached 31,710,000 USD, a 24% increase compared to the previous year. Funding for overall program activities increased by 6,096,000 USD.

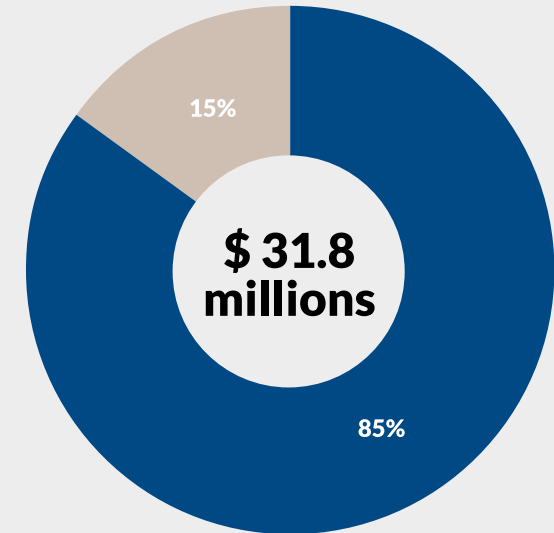
Increased funds were allocated by the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) for the resettlement program in Turkey and humanitarian activities in Syria and Jordan; by USAID for humanitarian activities in Syria; by UNHCR for the ICMC-UNHCR Resettlement Deployment Scheme and for projects in Pakistan; and by the European Commission for Migration and Development activities.

Private donors (individuals) increased their support to ICMC by 66%, testimony of human solidarity in light of the growing number of humanitarian crises around the world.

In 2014, ICMC used 85% of the funds received from both institutional and private donors for direct project implementation, and managed to maintain structural costs at 15%. Compared to 2013, the total amount spent directly to meet the needs of ICMC's beneficiaries increased by 23%.



- United States' governmental agencies
- UN Institutions (UNHCR)
- EU (ECHO, HOME, DEVCO)
- Other donors/grants
- Private donors
- Members contributions, fees, and miscellaneous



- Projects
- Structural costs



## 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, 2014, 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 the requirements of Swiss law, ICMC statutes and the consolidation and valuation principles as set out in the notes. 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, 2014, comply with Swiss law, ICMC statutes and the consolidation and valuation principles as set out in the notes.

## 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

  
Karine Szegedi Pingoud  
Licensed audit expert  
Auditor in charge

  
Lisa Watson  
Licensed audit expert

Geneva, June 29, 2015  
KSZ/LWA/vga

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

# PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

## Greece

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

## Indonesia

- American Center for International Labor Solidarity
- Nanda Dian Nusantara Foundation
- Joint Forum of Women
- Child Protection Institution
- Embun Pelangi Foundation
- Afada Women Forum
- Indonesian Migrant Worker Union
- Migrant Worker Joint Forum
- Sekar Foundation

## Malaysia

- Enrich Counselling and Therapy Centre
- Life Line Association Malaysia
- Malaysian Child Resource Institute
- Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd (PKGS)
- Women's Aid Organization (Pertubuhan Pertolongan Wanita)
- Women's Center for Change (WCC) Penang

## Pakistan

- Sarsabz Foundation (SF)
- Farmers Development Organization (FDO)
- Pakistan Rural Development Program (PRDP)

## Poland

- Regional Public Employment Administration in Rzeszow
- Local government of the Rzeszow county
- Instytut Badawczy
- Hospital Center for neurodegenerative diseases Gorne

## Syria

- Terres des Hommes Syria

## European Resettlement Network

- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

## Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE)

MADE includes close to 800 partner organizations, of which the following had a coordinating role in 2014:

- African Diaspora Policy Center
- Caritas Senegal
- Cordaid
- Fundación Scalabrini
- International Network for Migration and Development (INMD)
- Migrant Forum in Asia
- Scalabrini International Migration Network

## SHARE

- Accem
- Austrian Red Cross
- Caritas International
- City of Aachen
- City of Bradford
- City of München
- City of Sanctuary
- City of Créteil
- Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME-CEC)
- Euro Cities
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
- Horton Housing
- Hull City Council
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Mairie de Paris
- Office of Immigration and Nationality of Hungary
- Refugee Action
- Refugee Council
- Save me Flüchtlinge Aufnehmen
- Sheffield City Council
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

## Church partners

- Secretariat of State of the Vatican
- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People and other related Pontifical Councils
- Cor Unum
- The Holy See Mission in Geneva

## Others

- Caritas Internationalis and its members
- Participants in the Catholic-Inspired NGO Forum
- Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking
- Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- InterAction
- International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- International NGO Platform on the Migrant Workers' Convention
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)
- NGO Committee on Migration, New York
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
- Refugee Council USA (RCUSA)

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# MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE

## **President**

Mr Peter Sutherland (Ireland) – as of November 2014  
Mr John Michael Klink (USA) – until November 2014

## **Elected members**

H.E. Christoph Cardinal Schönborn (Austria)  
H.E. Thomas Christopher Cardinal Collins (Canada)  
H.E. Oscar Andres Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga (Honduras )  
H.E. John Cardinal Njue (Kenya)  
His Beatitude Gregorios III (Syria)  
H.E. Archbishop Emilio Carlos Belaunzarán ( Mexico)  
H.E. Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila (USA)  
H.E. Bishop Precioso Cantillas (Philippines)  
H.E. Bishop Joseph Pibul Visitnondachai (Thailand)  
H.E. Archbishop Simon Ntamwana (Burundi)  
Sr. Maryanne Loughry (Australia)

## **Representatives of the Holy See**

H.E. Archbishop Silvano Tomasi (Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva)  
H.E. Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil (Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People)

## **Counselors**

H.E. Bishop Nicolas DiMarzio (USA)  
Ambassador Johnny Young (USA)  
Rev. Mons. Slawomir D. Kawecki (Poland)  
Sr. Janete Ferreira (Ecuador)  
Mr Bernard Ryelandt (Belgium)

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**Administration and Finances**  
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**ICMC-UNHCR Resettlement  
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The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is a non-governmental organization working in the areas of refugee and migration issues. ICMC protects and serves migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, and victims of human trafficking, regardless of faith, race, ethnicity or nationality.

Founded in 1951 in the wake of the massive human displacement caused by the Second World War, ICMC responds to challenges of uprooted people and their communities, implementing and advocating for rights-based policies and sustainable solutions through a worldwide network of Catholic Bishops Conferences, and alongside governmental and non-governmental partners.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, ICMC has affiliated entities in Brussels (ICMC Europe), Washington DC and Boston (ICMC Inc.), and operational offices in Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Turkey.

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