



Restoring Dignity,
Inspiring Change.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Keeping Our Obligation of Service Front and Center

Dr. Anne T. Gallagher AO
President

In this time of unprecedented collective emergency, it has been too easy for us to put aside the fate of those who are living out the pandemic in a foreign land, often in situations of unimaginable hardship. Millions of migrant workers across the world have found themselves trapped with no way to return home safely. From Myanmar to Mozambique, from Venezuela to Nigeria, entire communities have been forced to flee violence, conflict, and severe economic distress.

Safety, when it can be found, often comes at a heavy price. At a rate unprecedented in our times, refugees are being increasingly condemned to a lifetime in camps that were only ever supposed to be a stopping point on their journey towards freedom from fear and persecution. This situation is only being made worse by draconian restrictions on mobility and widespread border closures that may well continue even after the health risks associated with COVID-19 are lessened.

And the unequal rollout of the vaccine at a time when the burden of disease and death is falling heavily on poorer countries does not bode well for migrants and refugees. According to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, out of 157 countries currently developing national COVID-19 vaccination plans, 124 (79%) have committed to include refugees and 31 (20%) are already doing so, including Jordan, which hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world relative to its national population. This is a good start, but it is not enough. Governments and the

international community must do all they can to protect those who are so vulnerable.

The International Catholic Migration Commission has experienced a difficult year. Our own operating capacity has been constrained in myriad ways at a time when funding cuts for the critical humanitarian work of refugee resettlement and support to migrants and refugees are becoming deeper and more common. Despite these limitations, solid progress has been made over the course of the year in reshaping ICMC to ensure its long-

term prosperity. In that regard I must express my deep appreciation to fellow members of its Governing Committee who have worked unsparingly with General Secretariat colleagues to build a strong and sustainable future for ICMC.

In working to address the many challenges that lie ahead, we must resolve to keep front and center our

core obligation to serve the world's migrants and refugees. As the Holy Father reminds* us: *"This is not a time for forgetfulness. The crisis we are facing should not make us forget the many other crises that bring suffering to so many people."*

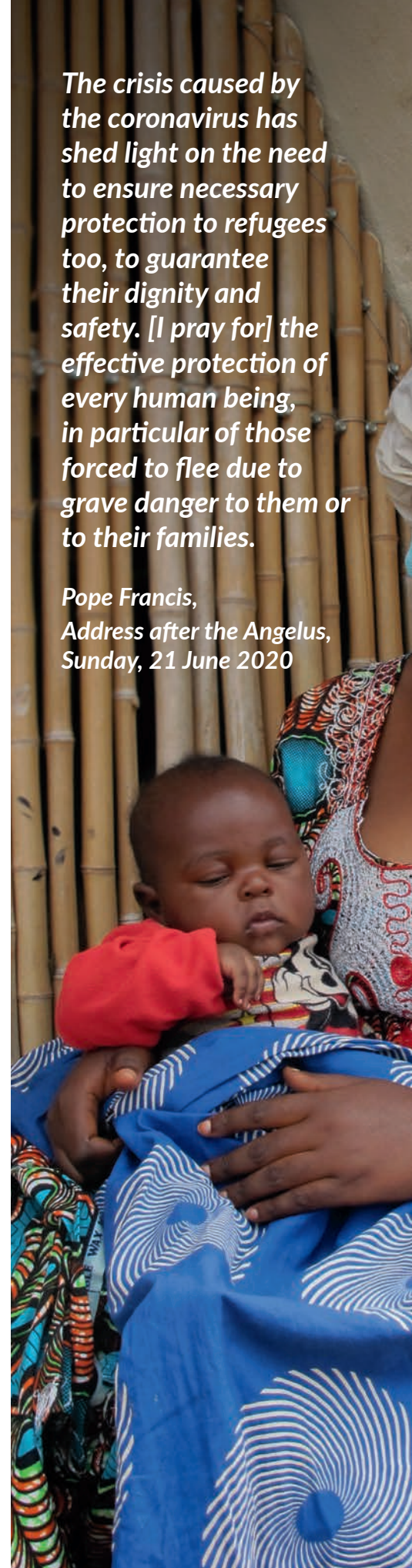
* Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi Message, 12 April 2020.

Cover photo: A Rohingya refugee boy at an ICMC-supported informal learning center in Malaysia. As refugees are not allowed to attend formal education, community-led initiatives provide children and adults with skills to be self-sufficient.

© Viola Berlanda/ICMC

The crisis caused by the coronavirus has shed light on the need to ensure necessary protection to refugees too, to guarantee their dignity and safety. [I pray for] the effective protection of every human being, in particular of those forced to flee due to grave danger to them or to their families.

Pope Francis,
Address after the Angelus,
Sunday, 21 June 2020



Read the full ICMC Annual Report online



Fulfilling Our Mission in a Year Like No Other

Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo
Secretary General

At the beginning of 2020, we at the International Catholic Migration Commission were intent on the goals we had set for the year and hoped that our efforts would be effective in serving those forced to leave their homes in search of freedom from persecution, safety from war and conflict, or decent work to overcome abject poverty or the threat of human trafficking. Little did we — as everybody else — know that our hopes and dreams, together with those of the people we serve, would be sorely threatened by a pandemic that stopped many daily activities previously considered routine throughout the world.

Despite the serious risks posed by COVID-19, ICMC greatly benefitted during 2020 from the grace of God, as it was able to count on the determination of our staff and volunteers, the support of our national member Episcopal Conferences, partner Catholic-inspired organizations, and other faith-based and civil society groups, as well as the loyal and sensitive accompaniment of our institutional and private donors, the wise counsel of our Governing Committee, and, most of all, the resilience and strength of the migrants and refugees themselves. Thus, as this report shows, ICMC succeeded in maintaining its services to assure safety and protection for migrants and refugees, as well as its advocacy for just policies that open new futures to uprooted people in all parts of the world.

“ Creativity and flexibility were the key operative words as we adapted to travel restrictions, lockdowns, and other challenges to directly accompanying people on the move or meeting government officials and policymakers. We prioritized the safety of our beneficiaries and staff. ”

Creativity and flexibility were the key operative words as we adapted to travel restrictions, lockdowns, and other challenges to directly accompanying people on the move or meeting government officials and policymakers. We prioritized the safety of our beneficiaries and staff by purchasing personal protective equipment and adapting workspaces to allow for social distancing. When public health authorities restricted our in-person contact with people served by our programs, we shifted to interviewing, counselling, and informing them remotely. At headquarters, most staff worked from home while a few assured a daily presence to respond to emergencies in the field.

Amid these challenges, we continued a year-long strategic review of the organization to assure its future sustainability, quality, and effectiveness in a time when many

non-governmental organizations are experiencing financial challenges.

In 2020, ICMC experienced the vulnerability and frailty that is the daily reality of migrants and refugees and truly learned the lesson so boldly and wisely preached* by Pope Francis: “Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other.”

* Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi Blessing, Extraordinary Moment of Prayer, 27 March 2020.

Photo: A Rwandan refugee in Uganda.
© Mathias Eick/European Union, 2021



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE & DEVELOPMENT

ICMC provided essential services, including healthcare and education, to help refugees meet basic needs in the face of the global pandemic and lay a foundation for a more sustainable future.



A man sanitizes his hands at ICMC's health clinic in Koga Camp in northwestern Pakistan. With such protective measures, ICMC was able to continue providing urgently needed medical care amid the pandemic. © ICMC Pakistan

ENSURING HEALTH IN PANDEMIC TIMES

In northwestern **Pakistan**, ICMC provided vital healthcare for nearly 86,500 refugees. More than 2,500 pregnant women received antenatal care, and ICMC supported nearly 3,500 deliveries.

ICMC Pakistan facilitated health education sessions with more than 16,300 people. As the pandemic worsened, ICMC provided information about the coronavirus and supported the set-up of a COVID-19 intensive care unit in Buner district. In Islamabad and Punjab province, ICMC provided 1,320 medical treatments to refugees.

In **Jordan**, ICMC promoted COVID-19 safety and prevention.

MEETING ESSENTIAL NEEDS

Cash assistance from **ICMC Jordan** allowed vulnerable families to pay rent, meet urgent needs, and ready living spaces for winter, and reduce or avoid debt. A pandemic cash assistance project supported over 915 families.

In Islamabad and Punjab province, **ICMC Pakistan** provided financial assistance to 29 extremely vulnerable Afghan refugee families, while the ICMC youth center in Hassan Abdal organized refugee community donations for at-risk households.


ICMC's assisted over 19,650 children in **Pakistan's** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province with schooling and supplies. In Islamabad and Punjab province, ICMC helped to enroll children in school and cover related costs. ICMC enhanced its work in response to the pandemic, including incentive pay for teachers. The ICMC urban hub in Rawalpindi-Islamabad oriented more than 125 students for upcoming courses.

LAYING A SUSTAINABLE FOUNDATION

In Islamabad and Punjab province, **ICMC Pakistan** offered refugees language and skill development courses, livelihood counselling sessions, and entrepreneurial training.

In **Jordan**, 200 students from refugee and host communities graduated from ICMC vocational training in one of seven trades. More than 700 took Arabic or English literacy classes.

A total of 22 Rohingya refugee women completed **ICMC Malaysia's** new livelihood trainings on hand sanitizer production and basic childcare. ICMC also offered two levels of English literacy classes.



93,233

textbooks, bookbags, uniforms, lap desks, and pandemic hygiene kits were distributed to support refugee children's schooling in Pakistan.



86,342

patients, including 470 persons with disabilities, received primary healthcare at ICMC-run clinics in 11 refugee camps in northwestern Pakistan.



19,658

forcibly displaced children — 38% girls — accessed an education in 62 refugee village schools in northwestern Pakistan.



620

individual sessions were conducted by ICMC livelihood staff to support refugees in Pakistan in finding paid employment.



109

enrollments in English classes offered by ICMC Malaysia and partners for Rohingya refugees.



4,800

children in Jordan received an educational and recreational kit for their schooling.



5,640

hygiene and personal care kits were distributed to refugees and at-risk host community members in Jordan.



12,615

refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in 2,523 households received cash assistance for rental payments, winter expenses, emergency or other essential needs.

MEMBER'S STORY

LIFE-SAVING ASSISTANCE DURING LOCKDOWN

ICMC members and partners came together to give life-saving support to migrants across India following a national COVID-19 lockdown imposed with only hours' notice.

Tens of millions of migrant workers lost their livelihood overnight, says Sr. Rani Punnaseril HCM, Secretary to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India's (CBCI) Commission for Migrants North Region. They were left without food or shelter, stranded up to thousands of kilometers from their home villages.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), with the Archdiocese of Delhi, provided food to stranded migrants and helped to feed over 50,000 people in some seven weeks' time, as well as advocating for migrants' access to food rations.

The Jesuit-run Indian Social Institute assisted migrant families to access government support and retain housing.



The Ranchi Archdiocese in Jharkhand state, India, reached out to cycle rickshaw drivers during the pandemic. Source: Vatican News

PROTECTION & PREVENTION

ICMC offered life-saving protection to forcibly uprooted people in the face of COVID-19, while working with communities to transform attitudes and relationships to prevent violence and abuse.



Two girls take part in an activity at the child-friendly space at ICMC's protection center in Irbid, Jordan. The safe space allows vulnerable children aged 12 and younger to develop social skills and build resilience. © Stefano Schirato/ICMC

PROTECTING CHILDREN AT RISK

Over 6,125 refugee children safely played and learned in **ICMC Jordan's** child-friendly spaces. ICMC expanded work to prevent child marriage, with life-skills courses for some 195 girls from refugee and host communities, and awareness-raising training for community leaders.

In **Pakistan**, ICMC trained over 50 refugee and host community youth in leadership skills in Hassan Abdal and offered activities for children from refugee and host communities in Rawalpindi-Islamabad.

In December, ICMC introduced its new Child Safeguarding Policy to ensure heightened protection for children's rights and well-being.

HOLISTIC SUPPORT FOR HIGHLY VULNERABLE GROUPS

ICMC adapted protection services to respond safely to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and provide further psychosocial support.

ICMC Jordan's protection centers raised awareness among 4,330 refugee and host community members about preventing violence. ICMC trained over 30 men and boys to work for gender equality, provided psychosocial counseling to 300 adults and children, and addressed COVID-related stress.

ICMC Malaysia assisted nearly 2,200 vulnerable refugees through its SGBV response, including case management support for some 300 survivors. A total of 115 survivors and their children found refuge at a safe shelter. ICMC expanded its material assistance services for highly

vulnerable survivors and their children and offered counseling and play therapy to 144 SGBV survivors and their children.

ICMC's Refugee Protection Corps of 14 women and 4 men created videos to raise awareness about SGBV among more than 1,300 refugees. Corps members trained more than 40 refugees as SGBV focal points and nearly 60 educational staff in child safety.

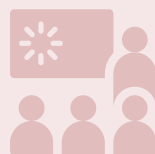
ICMC Pakistan conducted over 1,100 counselling and psychosocial interventions for refugees and re-opened a safe shelter with essential services. In Rawalpindi-Islamabad, ICMC offered counseling sessions for vulnerable adults and community sessions on protection-related topics such as gender-based violence.

#Protection



ICMC participated in the Refugee Referral Network in Pakistan that coordinates agency efforts to strengthen protection and other services to refugees.

1,301



refugees received awareness training on sexual and gender-based violence from the Refugee Protection Corps in Malaysia.

1,107



counselling and psychosocial interventions by ICMC counselors supported Afghan and non-Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

2,183



refugees were assisted by ICMC Malaysia's services in response to sexual and gender-based violence.

6,128



young refugees and Jordanians attended learning activities at ICMC Child-Friendly Spaces in Irbid and Mafrq.

17,361



refugees and Jordanians were supported through activities of ICMC Jordan protection centers in Irbid and Mafrq.

#World RefugeeDay



ICMC Jordan held online World Refugee Day activities to foster acceptance and tolerance between refugee and host communities.

30



meetings with Afghan refugees and Pakistanis resulted in the creation of 9 local committees and the identification of 46 outreach workers for the Rawalpindi-Islamabad urban cohesion hub.

MEMBER'S STORY

A PASSPORT TO LIFE FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

"A birth certificate is a passport to life," says Sister Maria de Lurdes Lodi Rissini of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference's (SACBC) Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees. Without birth registration, a child cannot access health, education, and protection. The most vulnerable are children born to undocumented migrants.



Lucky, 12, does not have any ID. Thus his mother had to negotiate with the nearby school so he could attend classes. Photo © Hélène Caux/UNHCR

In 2020, SACBC urged governments to protect all children by registering births "irrespective of nationality or legal status of parents." The 10 August statement for African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Day called States to strengthen vital documentation systems to close gaps in protection and prevent statelessness. The bishops insisted such access must include migrants and refugees because "they, too, carry the same intrinsic human dignity like everyone else."

RESETTLEMENT & COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

By adapting its resettlement services to the COVID era and facilitating operational expertise, ICMC helped governments and other stakeholders to offer protection and a chance at a new life to refugees. ICMC advocacy and research contributed vital insight on building inclusive local communities.



A refugee resettled to a village in central France learns French from a local schoolteacher. In rural areas, welcome is a community effort, with villagers sharing their time and skills to help newcomers integrate. © Benjamin Loyseau/UNHCR

PATHWAYS TO A HOPE-FILLED FUTURE

Despite pandemic restrictions, the ICMC Resettlement Support Center facilitated long-term solutions for refugees living in Turkey and Lebanon, continuing a long-standing partnership with the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. ICMC staff provided case management assistance, medical screening, and pre-departure cultural orientation sessions via remote platforms, helping the United States to resettle 695 forcibly displaced people.

ICMC continued operating the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) Resettlement Support Facility in Istanbul. This partnership allows EASO to assist EU Member States and non-EU-member countries in Europe as they offer refugees a chance to begin anew. ICMC supported resettlement missions from four countries in Europe and facilitated resettlement activities for over 1,050 refugees.

EQUIPPING EU MEMBER STATES FOR RESETTLEMENT

Through the EU-FRANK project, ICMC Europe helped strengthen the capacity of EU Member States to offer refugees international protection via resettlement. ICMC Europe was a lead facilitator of the project's practitioner network on pre-departure orientation. The peer learning space supported EU Member States to create or expand programs to ease refugees' transition to a new country. ICMC Europe organized workshops on cultural orientation and study visits to the ICMC-run EASO Resettlement Support Facility in Istanbul.

PROMOTING INTEGRATION IN EUROPE

ICMC Europe partnered with the SHARE Network, which promotes refugee resettlement in local communities, to help shape the European Commission's new action plan on integration. The NGOs urged engaging both newcomers

#EU Resettlement

ICMC welcomed the Dutch Minister for Migration to its Resettlement Support Facility in Istanbul, which supports EU Member States to fulfill refugee resettlement pledges.



and communities through multi-stakeholder partnerships. They recommended a rights-based approach and more community-based sponsorships. And they stressed the need for targeted integration support for refugees, unaccompanied children, and other vulnerable people on the move.

ICMC Europe and SHARE surveyed local community efforts to welcome and integrate refugees, with a focus on how COVID-19 has impacted integration.



1,054

refugees benefited from logistical and other resettlement activities at the ICMC-operated EASO Resettlement Support Facility in Istanbul.



695

refugees resettled to the United States with ICMC resettlement support services.



#Integration

In December, a webinar led by ICMC Europe and SHARE explored how refugees and migrants can participate in decision making and design of integration programs.



#Rural Integration

In July, ICMC Europe and SHARE began a project to promote refugee participation in designing integration measures in rural areas of France.

MEMBER'S STORY

WELCOMING REFUGEES IN COVID TIMES

A pioneer in the Canadian government's private refugee sponsorship program, the Diocese of London (Ontario) has welcomed nearly 1,675 forcibly displaced people over the past five years — a part of resettlement efforts promoted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Canada.

In 2020, the Diocese moved to virtual platforms to complete 300 sponsorship applications and offer refugees emotional support amidst the pandemic. Staff also ensured that new arrivals had information and necessities for the required quarantine.

The Diocese's inland support unit provided virtual orientation sessions and food, grocery vouchers, and COVID-19 essentials. Funds for refurbished laptops helped refugees access online services.

"Not responding or delaying help was simply not an option," says Claire Roque, inland services specialist.



Parishioners of the Diocese of London, Canada, welcome a Syrian refugee family. Photo source: St. George Parish Facebook page

ADVOCACY

Drawing on its experience on the ground, and together with partners, ICMC raised its voice in global and regional forums for policies to protect the safety, rights, and dignity of migrants and forcibly displaced people, at increased risk in the COVID-19 pandemic era.



A Rohingya refugee family is reunited in Indonesia. With her daughter, Jajuma fled ethnic violence in Myanmar and survived a perilous attempt to reach her husband in Malaysia. ICMC advocacy prioritizes family reunification. © Jiro Ose/UNHCR

ADAPTING MIGRATION POLICY TO PANDEMIC REALITIES

During a review of action taken on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, ICMC stressed the need for implementation to adapt to pandemic realities. ICMC called for access to services for all migrants, expanded regular migration pathways, and alternatives to detention.

PROTECTING THOSE SEEKING REFUGE

ICMC advocated for stronger action by EU Member States to protect vulnerable asylum seekers along the Greek-Turkish border. On World Refugee Day, ICMC and other faith-based organizations highlighted the precarious situation of internally displaced persons and the need for better protection. Regarding climate change-related displacement, ICMC urged more global cooperation in response.

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

ICMC noted how COVID-19 was a chance for a reset on protecting forcibly displaced children, especially unaccompanied minors. ICMC urged governments to act in the best interests of the child and ensure that children are not at increased risk of violence or barriers to education because of the pandemic. ICMC advocated for ending child detention and facilitating family reunification.

SAFETY, RIGHTS, DIGNITY IN EUROPE

As the pandemic spread, ICMC Europe and other NGOs called EU governments to urgently relocate unaccompanied migrant children living in dangerous conditions in Greek island reception camps. They urged prioritizing family reunification and criticized ongoing human rights violations.

ICMC Europe advocated for better protection of seasonal migrant workers in the agri-food industry. In September, ICMC Europe joined a call for the EU to revive refugee resettlement, on hold due to the pandemic.

ICMC Europe urged a rights-based approach for the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, including expanded regular admission pathways and access to housing, work, and social assistance. The NGOs advocated for fairer responsibility-sharing for refugees and migrants among EU Member States.



#EUHotspots

Following the Moria fire, ICMC Europe and 70 NGOs reiterated a call for swift action to protect and relocate asylum seekers living in EU hotspots on the Aegean islands.



#COVID19

In March, ICMC, with 100+ NGOs, called for a global, systematic humanitarian response to COVID-19 rooted in the right to health regardless of migration status.



#US Resettlement

In August, ICMC, with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and 180+ organizations, urged the U.S. Administration to bring refugee resettlement back to historic levels in 2021.



#Durable Solutions

In September, ICMC took up UNHCR's invitation to serve on the global refugee agency's reference group on resettlement and complementary pathways for its 8-month mandate.



#Child Protection

ICMC recommended to the International Organization for Migration's Council that States support family reunification and strengthen data-gathering for better child protection policies.



#End Detention

In a Friedrich-Ebert Foundation article, ICMC Director of Policy Stéphane Jaquetmet explored how the COVID-19 pandemic offers an opportunity to end migrant detention.



#Anti Trafficking

At a Congressional hearing, the Head of ICMC's U.S. Liaison Office highlighted the role of faith-based organizations in combating human trafficking and protecting survivors.



#Vaccine Access

In May, the ICMC Secretary General co-signed an open letter from academics and health experts demanding universal access to COVID-19 vaccines by putting them in the public domain.

MEMBER'S STORY

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

In 2020, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) advocated for humane U.S. migration policies.

USCCB welcomed a January court ruling strengthening the possibility to resettle refugees. In late February, USCCB urged continuing the 40-year-old U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and highlighted the contributions of resettled refugees. Following a temporary immigration stop in late April, USCCB stressed the need for a pandemic response rooted in unity, with immigrants as partners in economic recovery.



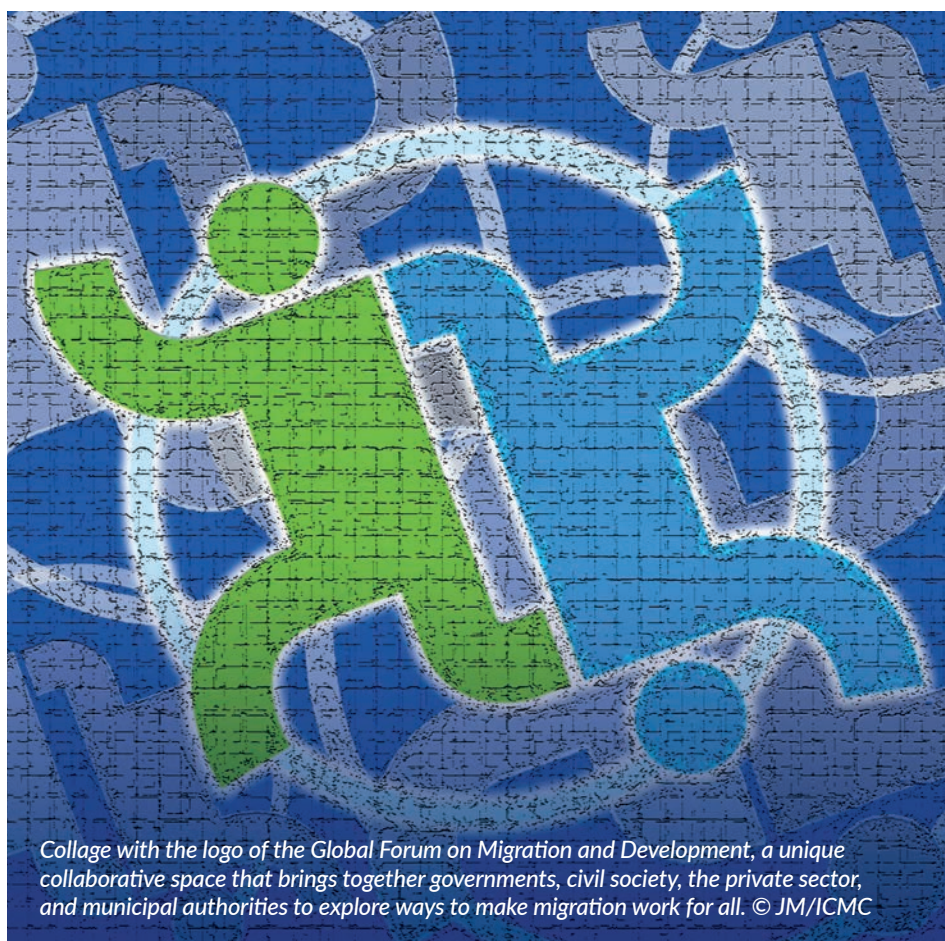
After being approved for resettlement, this young refugee attended cultural orientation and language classes at the ICMC-run U.S. Resettlement Support Center in Turkey. © ICMC Archive

The bishops called for better protection of migrant farmworkers, particularly given heightened pandemic vulnerability. "To defeat the virus, no one must be left out."

In late August, USCCB co-signed an appeal for a return to historic refugee admission levels in 2021, noting refugees' vital role as frontline workers.

CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION

ICMC coordinated civil society advocacy on the global stage to promote rights-based governance of migration, with a call to reorient policy and practice in the COVID era toward non-discrimination and protection of migrants.



Collage with the logo of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, a unique collaborative space that brings together governments, civil society, the private sector, and municipal authorities to explore ways to make migration work for all. © JM/ICMC

IMPLEMENTING RIGHTS-BASED POLICY

In 2020, ICMC-coordinated civil society advocacy called for pandemic response and recovery to include migrants and refugees. ICMC urged a focus on building back differently to address systemic gaps and discrimination.

On 7 April, the Civil Society Action Committee, co-convened by ICMC, together with 300 NGOs, appealed to government at all levels to protect uprooted people and recognize their role as essential workers. Advocating for solidarity, the statement “First, Save Lives!” included good practice examples.

In June, an Action Committee report mapped out civil society work to promote implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). A webinar series reviewed progress on each of the GCM’s 23 objectives.

In December, the Action Committee published a foundational document on GCM implementation in the COVID-19 era. The paper urges a focus on better lives and sustainable futures by expanding regular pathways and increasing global cooperation.

BUILDING BACK BETTER FOR MIGRANTS

ICMC coordinated civil society engagement in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in 2020, including in working groups on narratives and COVID-19. At two “Friends of the Forum” meetings, ICMC served as civil society spokesperson and stressed the importance of the GFMD for partnerships and inclusive pandemic responses.

ICMC facilitated civil society input in the lead-up to the 13th GFMD Summit in early 2021. ICMC organized the Civil Society Preparatory Meeting, which identified advocacy priorities for the Summit, including social protection, regular migration pathways, fighting xenophobia, and access to services.

ICMC also coordinated civil society action during the Summit. A networking session with governments highlighted advocacy priorities as vital elements in global pandemic recovery, and a side event addressed wage theft. Civil society stressed the GFMD’s crucial role in ensuring that migrants are not left behind in the pandemic era.

#Migration



The Action Committee held webinars on countering negative narratives and mitigating COVID-19's impact on migrants and their rights and on the Sustainable Development Goals.

#Migrants



A virtual event on International Migrants Day co-organized by the Action Committee highlighted migrant rights issues and #ItTakesACommunity, a campaign for positive narratives about migrants.

#Protect Migrants



In a 12 March statement, the Action Committee denounced the use of migrants at the Greece-Turkey border as political bargaining chips, calling on States to protect migrants' rights.

#Migrant Justice



The Action Committee joined NGOs and trade unions in an urgent call for a transitional justice mechanism to address wage theft due to migrant worker repatriation during the pandemic.

#Race & Migration



In September, the Action Committee launched an internal dialogue on race and migration, supported by a newly created ad hoc working group.

#Health Care



At a UN high-level policy discussion in December, the Action Committee advocated for migrants to have access to universal health care.

#Migration & SDGs



At the STEP into a Better World conference on sustainable development, the Action Committee co-organized workshops on regular pathways, wage theft, narratives, and structural racism.

#Moria Fire



At the 45th UN Human Rights Council in September, an Action Committee statement urged a swift response following the Moria fire in Greece in order to assist and protect migrants.

MEMBER'S STORY

WORKING TOGETHER IN AN ERA OF CHANGE

The 13th Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit was about designing changes in a time of epochal change, says Father Fabio Baggio, Under-Secretary of the Vatican's Migrants and Refugees (M&R) Section and part of the Holy See's official GFMD delegation.

The disastrous impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers was a Summit topic of concern for the M&R Section, which had been hearing from Catholic-inspired organizations — stories of migrants losing their jobs, being forced to repatriate, being denied social assistance. Stories revealing broken economic and social systems.

For the M&R Section, the multilateral GFMD is an opportunity to "discuss together how to implement the Global Compact [on Migration]" and ensure that all people including migrants and refugees can develop as integral human beings.



Catholic-inspired organizations in India provided food and shelter to migrant workers stranded because of the lockdown. Photo source: Indian Social Institute

CAPACITY BUILDING & RESEARCH

ICMC played a leading role in identifying strategies for a decent, dignified world of work, and in designing pathways to harness labor migration for development and to integrate migrant trafficking survivors.



Migrant children in a slum in Bangalore, India, where a Jesuit organization provides assistance. Advocacy work led to a school being opened, but living conditions remain poor, with no running water, electricity, or sanitation. © Christian Tasso/ICMC

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICA

ICMC Europe co-launched nine roadmaps to advance achievement of migration-related Sustainable Development Goals in six West African countries. As the culmination of the MADE West Africa program coordinated by ICMC Europe, the plans represent concrete steps to involve all of society in “leaving no one behind.”

The roadmaps aim to harness the benefits of intra-regional migration for development in Ghana and Sierra Leone, improve protection of workers’ rights in Guinea and Senegal, and strengthen diaspora contributions to development in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Togo. A regional roadmap integrates program learnings to guide pandemic recovery.

FOR A CARING WORLD OF WORK

The ICMC-coordinated project *The Future of Work, Labour After Laudato Si* concluded three years of research on labor market trends and migration. ICMC co-produced the outcomes report *Care Is Work, Work Is Care*, which links decent work to care for our common home. ICMC facilitated an outcomes webinar that highlighted the need for global communities of transformation.

ICMC published findings of project research it coordinated on jobs, demography, and migration. The report *Towards a Better World* presents perspectives, research, and Catholic- and faith-inspired best practices, and explores the pandemic’s impact on migration. The photojournalism book *Driven by the Depth of Love* puts a human face on migration, with portraits of migrants and their journeys.

PATHWAYS TO INTEGRATION

ICMC Europe and partners ended the *Right Way* research project by publishing tools to support integration of survivors of sex trafficking in Europe. A person-centered handbook for migrants and host communities looks at survivor experiences, recommended support, and best practices. An online tool aids in the journey to autonomy.

ICMC Europe co-organized a project webinar, which urged that integration be tailored to survivors’ needs and build relationships of trust. *Right Way* offers an anti-trafficking approach that aims to break cycles of violence.



#COVID-19

ICMC co-organized *The Future of Work* webinars on COVID-19 and migrant workers in the Asia-Pacific, Asia-Oceania, and Africa regions.



#Collaboration

A new book on joint advocacy by the Holy See and ILO for fairer worker treatment included the ICMC-led *The Future of Work* project.



#EU Partnerships

ICMC Europe presented MADE West Africa insights at a European Commission InfoPoint conference on migration and development.



#Global ValueChains

The ICMC *Future of Work* Project Manager moderated a panel on labor at the 2020 meeting of the Catholic-Inspired Organizations Network.



#Right Way

The ICMC Europe *Right Way* project report details integration research and practice, and EU laws regarding sex trafficking survivors.



#MADE WestAfrica

ICMC Europe organized a webinar on protection and recruitment with MADE West Africa stakeholders in Guinea and Senegal.



#Anti Trafficking

Seven pilot projects were conducted by ICMC Europe partners to trial the *Right Way* integration model in Italy.



#Better Migration

Nine MADE West Africa roadmaps were launched by ICMC Europe and partners to improve migration and development in the region.

MEMBER'S STORY

FORMING IMMIGRANT LEADERS

U.S. Catholic Hispanic immigrant communities are growing fast but are under served due to a lack of priests and religious.

In 2008, the Archdiocese of Chicago, which has 130 parishes with Hispanic congregations, launched *Pastoral Migratoria* to train immigrants as community lay leaders. Based on Catholic Social Teaching, the six-week curriculum links to issues facing immigrant communities. Its graduates accompany immigrant families, lead workshops and provide information, and work for systemic change.



Migrant community leader and member of Pastoral Migratoria. Source: Christian Tasso, Driven by the Depth of Love.

In 2020, the program taught immigrant leaders to use digital tools to offer communities pastoral care, a meeting space, and information sessions.

Pastoral Migratoria has trained more than 200 Hispanic leaders in 40 parishes and has started national pilot project including an annual training institute.

DEPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS

Through the deployment of 200 qualified personnel despite pandemic restrictions, ICMC supported UN humanitarian agencies and governments in providing vital protection and resettlement services for uprooted people around the globe.



ICMC expert Gibson Karuma advises refugees in Kigeme Camp in Rwanda. For forcibly displaced people, receiving adequate information about their rights and available services is vital. © Gibson Karuma/ICMC Archive

PROTECTING REFUGEES IN A COVID ERA

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created a complex context for the ICMC Deployment Scheme, which for 20 years has sent ICMC experts in refugee settlement and protection to support field operations of the UN Refugee Agency.

Despite lockdowns and travel bans, ICMC responded to resettlement needs worldwide, in partnership with UNHCR and the Canadian government. ICMC deployed 82 experts to field operations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA). It maintained a roster of 507 experts, allowing it to react rapidly to evolving needs.

ICMC personnel shifted to remote interviewing procedures to assess refugees' resettlement claims. They advocated with resettlement States for more flexible processing to ensure that resettlement quotas were maintained. ICMC experts submitted the cases of 24,416 refugees for consideration for resettlement to third countries, strengthening UNHCR referral capacity during the pandemic.

The deployment of experts in child protection, refugee status determination, complementary admission pathways, and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence provided further vital support.

STRENGTHENING UNICEF'S CHILD PROTECTION CAPACITY

In 2020, ICMC launched a deployment partnership with UNICEF to provide rapid, vital help for children, women, and families caught in humanitarian disasters. Through this arrangement, ICMC is deploying experts in child protection, psychological support, and the prevention of gender-based violence to UNICEF operations worldwide.

ICMC sent its first expert under the agreement to assist UNICEF's operation in Libya, where political





instability and armed conflict has uprooted children and families. The pandemic has increased the risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse for some 47,000 migrant and refugee children in the destination and transit country. Based in Tunis, Tunisia, this ICMC expert coordinated and enhanced child protection efforts to ensure that children could not only survive but also thrive.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN GREECE

In 2020, 118 ICMC experts in Greece supported UNHCR and national authorities to respond to the international protection needs of nearly 95,000 newly arrived refugees and migrants, one-third children.

ICMC experts assisted UNHCR to register uprooted people arriving in Greece, improve reception conditions, and develop fairer, faster asylum procedures. They provided information about the asylum process and supported documentation procedures.

ICMC experts assessed the protection needs of children on their own and other vulnerable people to decide a course of action in their best interests and prioritize placements. ICMC assisted UNHCR, in coordination with the European Asylum Support Office, in relocating unaccompanied children to EU Member States as part of an agreement to protect vulnerable asylum seekers.

Since detention is a core policy of Greek authorities to address irregular migration, ICMC personnel supported UNHCR efforts to improve detention conditions and prevent arbitrary detention. An ICMC deployment to the Ministry of the Interior helped facilitate access to protection for stateless persons.

ICMC personnel strengthened refugee integration efforts across Greece. An advocacy expert worked with the Racist Violence Recording Network to respond to xenophobic violence.

After the fire in Moria camp on the island of Lesbos, ICMC experts helped UNHCR provide asylum seekers with shelter and essential items.



118

ICMC protection experts deployed in Greece to support the Government and UNHCR.



24,416

refugee cases submitted by ICMC experts for consideration for resettlement to third countries.



82

ICMC experts deployed across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.



4

top resettlement States: Canada, Sweden, Australia, Norway. Traditional leader U.S. dropped to 10th, alongside Italy.



94,950

newly arrived refugees and migrants in Greece received protection services for which ICMC personnel provided crucial expertise.

CHURCH NETWORKING

In a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, ICMC networked with Catholic Episcopal Conferences and Catholic-inspired organizations to promote intensified action and advocacy to serve and protect uprooted people.



An internally displaced woman and her child in Dori in northern Burkina Faso. Thousands of Burkinabe have fled violent attacks on their home villages and are now sharing scarce resources with vulnerable host communities. © Sylvain Cherkauou/UNHCR

A CATHOLIC-INSPIRED PANDEMIC RESPONSE

As the pandemic emerged and spread, ICMC highlighted COVID-19's disproportionate impact on uprooted people and called for solidarity and empathic action. An ICMC reflection on 18 March urged national member organizations and individual Catholics to show mutual care by adopting preventive measures and supporting migrants and refugees.

In April, ICMC launched a pandemic response webpage and held a webinar on the disastrous effect of COVID-19 on displaced populations. ICMC stressed that treatment and vaccines, once developed and approved, must be accessible to refugees and migrants. The webinar reported on Catholic-inspired action

and ICMC's continued efforts to serve and protect uprooted people in the midst of the pandemic.

ICMC worked closely with the Vatican's COVID-19 Commission, created in March, at the initiative of Pope Francis, to build a healthier future rooted in care for the whole human family. ICMC also has been involved in analyzing the pandemic's impact on the world of work and workers, including those forced to migrate in search of work.

PROTECTION FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS

An ICMC webinar for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees explored how displacement affects families. The event included panelists from Episcopal Conferences in India and Burkina Faso, ICMC's Deployment Scheme and program in Jordan, and the Secretary General. An ICMC blog post highlighted the benefits

of migration by looking at ICMC involvement in refugee resettlement to the United States and the vital contributions migrants make, particularly as front-line and essential workers.

ICMC contributed to the new Vatican resource *Pastoral Orientations on Internally Displaced People*, which aims to equip the Church to serve people uprooted within their home country.

ICMC and its national member organization in Burkina Faso launched a program to protect internally displaced children in the North of the country through schooling, healthcare, psychosocial support, and assistance with vital documentation.

#Anti Trafficking



At an anti-trafficking conference organized by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, the ICMC Secretary General spoke on the root causes of this form of modern-day slavery.

#US Immigration



At a conference on Catholic immigration initiatives in the U.S., the ICMC Secretary General spoke about maintaining hope in crisis situations and using research to better serve migrants.

#Global Compacts



At a Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa event on the future of work, the ICMC Secretary General urged partnering with governments to implement the Global Compacts.

#Church Networking



With the launch of its new website, ICMC offered new ways for its Church network to learn about and engage in work to serve uprooted people.

#Migration



The ICMC Secretary General talked with the Catholic news service *Crux* about actions people of faith can take to promote safe migration that benefits everyone.

#COVID-19



The Secretary General shared ICMC perspectives on migration and COVID-19 with media serving Catholic audiences, including *Vatican News* and *EWTN Global Catholic Network*.

#Anti Trafficking



The ICMC U.S. Liaison Office, the U.S. Episcopal Conference, and a Catholic-inspired network held a mass on the international day for awareness about trafficking.

#With Refugees



For World Refugee Day in June, ICMC used social media to test Catholic knowledge about those forced to seek refuge from war, violence, or persecution.

MEMBER'S STORY

CALLED TO OFFER PROTECTION FOR REFUGEES

In 2020, three prominent Cardinals urged the Church in Europe to work together to open new paths to a dignified future for refugees living in camps in Greece. They called on the Catholic Bishops' Conferences in EU member countries to advocate with their respective governments to set up humanitarian corridor programs. Such programs offer safe and regular admission pathways that complement traditional resettlement programs led by governments.

Their letter highlighted Pope Francis' example of welcoming, in 2016, refugee families living in reception camps in Lesbos, Greece.



Residents of Moria camp, Greece, May 2019. © Tanja Zwack/ICMC

With their appeal, the Cardinals included guidelines from the Community of Sant'Egidio outlining a process for the Episcopal Conferences to work with the Greek government and respective national governments to establish humanitarian corridors.

DONORS & FINANCES

ICMC is deeply grateful to all its donors for their trust, support, and commitment to our common mission of protecting and serving uprooted people wherever they are and regardless of their status.

A variety of donors funded ICMC's work during 2020. Government and multilateral funding covered a significant percentage of ICMC's operational and advocacy programs. This funding was complemented by contributions from ICMC national members and Vatican offices as well as Catholic foundations.

Private donors made a crucial contribution to help migrants and refugees restore their lives with dignity and hope through ICMC's work. In 2020, the ICMC, Inc. Development Office in Boston, U.S., was supported by **10,725 individual donors** who gave **19,414 gifts**.

To all of them, we are deeply grateful.

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS AND PARTNERS

German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Government of the United Arab Emirates
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)
United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

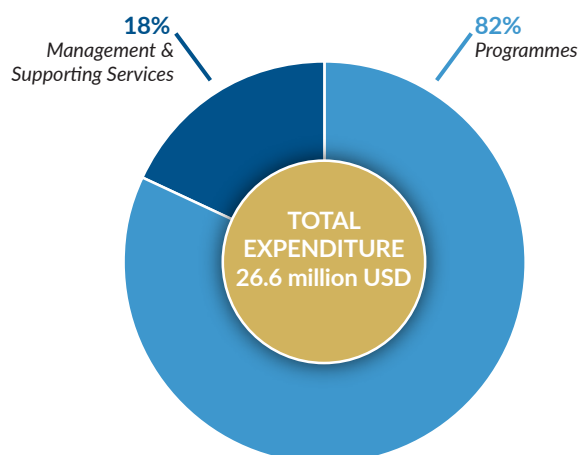
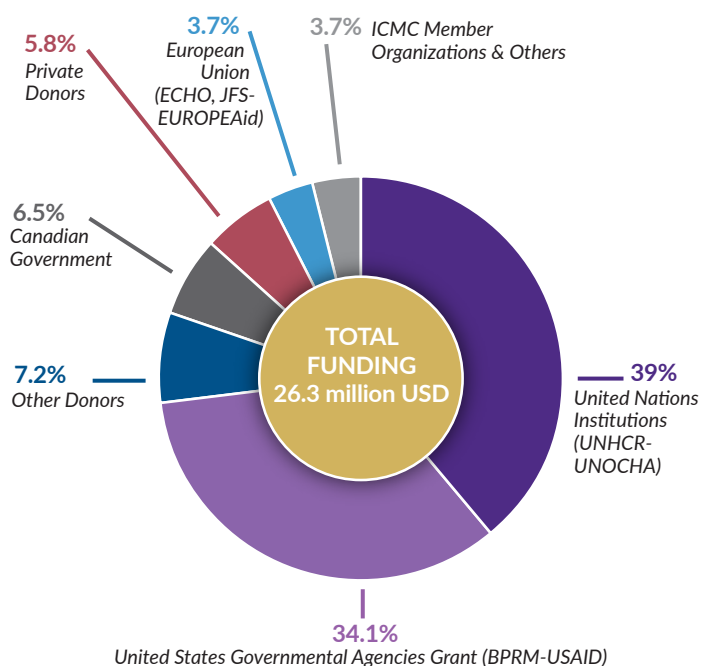
European Asylum Support Office (EASO)
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
European Commission
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

FOUNDATIONS AND NGOS

Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity
Porticus Foundation
Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities

FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

For a copy of the Statutory Auditor's Report and Consolidated Financial Statements 2020, please visit [ICMC.net/2020](https://www.icmc.net/2020).



ICMC acknowledges the contributions of the **1951 Founders' Circle**, a group of donors who made a commitment of USD 1,000 or more during 2020. ICMC is deeply grateful to all its private donors for their support as well as for their prayers and partnership, without which we could not carry out our mission. For more information and a full listing of 1951 Founders' Circle donors, please visit [ICMC.net/2020](https://www.icmc.net/2020).



To support migrants and refugees assisted by ICMC
please visit www.icmc.net/donate

