



Restoring Dignity,
Inspiring Change.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Remaining Faithful to Our Mandate Towards the Forcibly Displaced

H.E. Bishop Giorgio Bertin, OFM
President

It is a privilege to greet so many of ICMC's national member organizations, partners, and supporters as we share with you the challenges our organization faced and the successes we achieved in 2021.

Last year was one of intense focus and effort to implement the recommendations which emerged from a one-year Strategic Review Process conducted in 2020 with the help of a Strategic Planning agency. This process aimed to assure the sustainability of ICMC during a period of challenge for many non-governmental organizations throughout the world and, above all, to keep migrants and refugees at the center of all our plans and services.

Thus, it seemed highly appropriate to initiate our renewal and restructuring efforts in 2021, which coincided with the 70th anniversary of ICMC's founding by the Venerable Pius XII. Pope Pius XII mandated the organization "to unite and organize existing Catholic associations and committees and to promote, reinforce and coordinate their projects and activities on behalf of migrants and refugees (Exsul Familia, 1952)."

ICMC has remained faithful to that mandate throughout its history. So, too, our organization has played an important role in delivering compassionate and effective humanitarian assistance, protection, facilitation of resettlement, and other durable solutions in so many of the world's 'hotspots'. ICMC has never ceased to join with many other faith-based and civil society voices clamoring for just and fair treatment, policies, and laws relating

to the millions of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and survivors of human trafficking.

This brings to my mind the gratitude and challenge offered to ICMC by Pope Francis during its quadrennial Council meeting in March 2018:

"In order to set free those who today are oppressed, rejected and enslaved, it is essential to promote open and sincere dialogue with government leaders, a dialogue that takes into

“ Our organization has played an important role in delivering compassionate and effective humanitarian assistance, protection, facilitation of resettlement and other durable solutions in so many of the world's 'hotspots' ”

account people's actual experiences, sufferings and aspirations, in order to remind everyone once more of his or her responsibilities. [...] Here too the Commission has been in the forefront, offering a valued and competent contribution to the development of much-

needed new ways for the international community to respond with foresight to these phenomena typical of our time.”

May the restructuring exercise in which ICMC has been engaged throughout the year of its 70th anniversary make it fit for purpose to live up to Pope Francis' invitation.

In closing, I wish to thank all of you for your collaboration with our organization; no matter what partnership role you have played with us, your passion and concern for migrants and refugees is a rich source of inspiration for our own steadfastness in this field. May God continue to bless the work begun by ICMC seventy years ago.

Cover photo: Children at ICMC member Caritas Djibouti's shelter for unaccompanied migrant children.



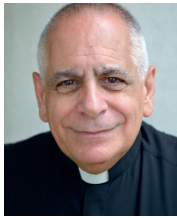
Photo: Children in a neighbourhood of migrant workers from Myanmar in Bangkok, supported by ICMC member Caritas Thailand. ©Corinne Brodeur/ICMC



Read the full ICMC Annual Report online

"[Make] no distinction between natives and foreigners, between residents and guests, since it is a matter of a treasure we hold in common, from whose care and benefits no one should be excluded."

Pope Francis, message for the 2021 World Day of Migrants and Refugees



Creative Methods Towards a More Just World

Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo
Secretary General

The year 2021 continued to test the adaptability of ICMC staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries. The COVID-19 pandemic, first envisioned as a short-term health challenge, soon became a longer-term trial as we struggled to find ways to maintain attentive and effective services to migrants and refugees, both through our direct operations and through our national member Episcopal Conferences and partners around the world. But this challenge also revealed itself to be an opportunity to refine our technological skills much more quickly than anticipated.

We learned how to rely on creative new methods of remotely interviewing migrants and refugees whose needs could not be postponed, even during times of "lockdowns." Refining methods that we had initiated in 2020, we remotely met with our staff to maintain ICMC's high standards of accountability, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation, and convened and participated in strong advocacy for just and fair policies that recognize the unique dignity of every person forced to migrate.

The needs presented by our beneficiaries seemed relentless, but I continued to be amazed by the determination, strength, and selflessness of staff, volunteers, and other partners as we encountered each challenge. I think, for example, of our determination to maintain the protection of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence within migrant and refugee communities. Our staff in Malaysia designed video training sessions on peace building in the home, very small apartments, sometimes shared by survivors, perpetrators, and several children.

These sessions included suggestions on how to preserve peace of mind and space despite crowded conditions and emotionally charged situations.

Through the numbers, and especially through the personal and institutional testimonies of ICMC beneficiaries and partners, you will note similar success stories achieved by ICMC's direct operations, its deployment services to international agencies and national governments, its member

organizations, and many ICMC partners.

Thus, we continued to deliver a wide range of humanitarian assistance and protection services in Jordan and Pakistan, assessed refugee status claims in 40

countries, facilitated resettlement to the U.S. for over 1,600 refugees and assisted the resettlement of many more in EU countries, and provided capacity-building for the integration of migrants and refugees in Greek municipalities. ICMC also quickly readied itself for the unforeseen challenge of assisting Afghan refugees evacuated to military bases in the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East, including former ICMC staff members.

Allow me to close by thanking our generous institutional and private donors who provided us with the encouragement and financial support to serve so many thousands of forcibly displaced people in great need.

I believe that, through its record of service, ICMC made a significant contribution to the vision articulated by Pope Francis when he invited all people of good will to make a commitment toward an "Ever Wider 'We.'"

"Through remote means, we convened and participated in strong advocacy for just and fair policies that recognize the unique dignity of every person forced to migrate."



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE & DEVELOPMENT

ICMC's flexible and innovative programs in Jordan, Malaysia, and Pakistan ensured that refugees and vulnerable members of host communities received a range of vital humanitarian services during the second year of the pandemic.



ICMC Pakistan medical staff at the launch ceremony for the new COVID-19 ward. ©ICMC

[This new COVID-19 ward] will allow refugees, the host community and the population of adjacent districts to access comprehensive specialized care at their doorstep. Having these services close to home is a basic human right with the potential of saving many lives.

Dr. Syed Rizwan Ali, former ICMC Advisor Health and Nutrition

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE

ICMC delivered primary health care to over 114,050 patients in **Pakistan's remote Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province**, among them 755 people with disabilities. Our hospital and maternity home staff oversaw 3,745 deliveries, while 828 births were supported at ICMC-run labor rooms.

ICMC held over 2,570 sessions to **promote better health and hygiene**, reaching just under 24,100 community members. Some 13,000 refugees took part in our **awareness-raising sessions about COVID-19**.

In April, ICMC co-inaugurated a state-of-the-art COVID-19 ward at the government-run hospital in Buner district.

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

ICMC Jordan met with members of over 2,000 vulnerable households to discuss their need for financial and social support and identify

those at particular risk. Among these households, 335 received **emergency funds** to cover essentials. We supported more than 120 families with **cash assistance for housing costs** for a period of three months to reduce the risk of their falling into rental debt or being forcibly evicted.

In **Pakistan**, we **provided vulnerable refugee families in Islamabad and Punjab province** with different forms of assistance including subsistence allowances, cash assistance for groceries, and one-time financial payments.

OPENING THE PATH TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

In **Malaysia**, 47 Rohingya refugees took part in an ICMC training program on income-generating activities. Those finishing the program received materials and tools to start their own businesses. Over 135 Rohingya refugee children and adults completed online **English and Malay literacy courses**, while 70 attended **digital literacy courses**.

ICMC Jordan ran five different **vocational training courses**, supporting 90 refugees and vulnerable Jordanians to develop the skills needed to secure a job or launch their own businesses. By the end of the year, nearly 240 men and women had completed our three-month courses in **Arabic and English literacy**, and another 85 were enrolled in the program.

In Islamabad and Punjab province, **ICMC Pakistan** enrolled 30 refugees from Afghanistan and other countries in **English language and skill development courses**. Over 110 women completed **vocational courses** at ICMC's **Urban Cohesion Hub**.



114,052

Afghan refugees and vulnerable Pakistanis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province received essential health care in 11 ICMC-run clinics



1,863

refugees and vulnerable Pakistanis received COVID-19 care through ICMC's dedicated hospital services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province



95%

of beds in the new ICMC-supported COVID-19 units in Pakistan's Buner district were occupied from April to August



4,119

births were supported through skilled healthcare workers in ICMC programs in northwestern Pakistan



24,091

refugees in northwestern Pakistan learned how to improve their overall health and hygiene



335

vulnerable refugee and host community households in northern Jordan received emergency financial support



323

men and women took part in ICMC's Arabic and English literacy courses in Jordan



254

Rohingya refugees participated in vocational training and literacy classes supported by ICMC Malaysia

MEMBER'S STORY

REGREENING A REFUGEE CAMP

In August 2017, a military crackdown drove some 745,000 persecuted Rohingya people from Myanmar across the border to Bangladesh, where forests were cut down for shelter and fuel. The refugees suffer from the hot sun, floods, and landslides in the deforested Cox's Bazar camps.

In 2021, Caritas Bangladesh launched a campaign to plant 50,000 trees to stabilize the hillsides and offer shade. The year-long initiative is also providing solar streetlights and gas cylinders.

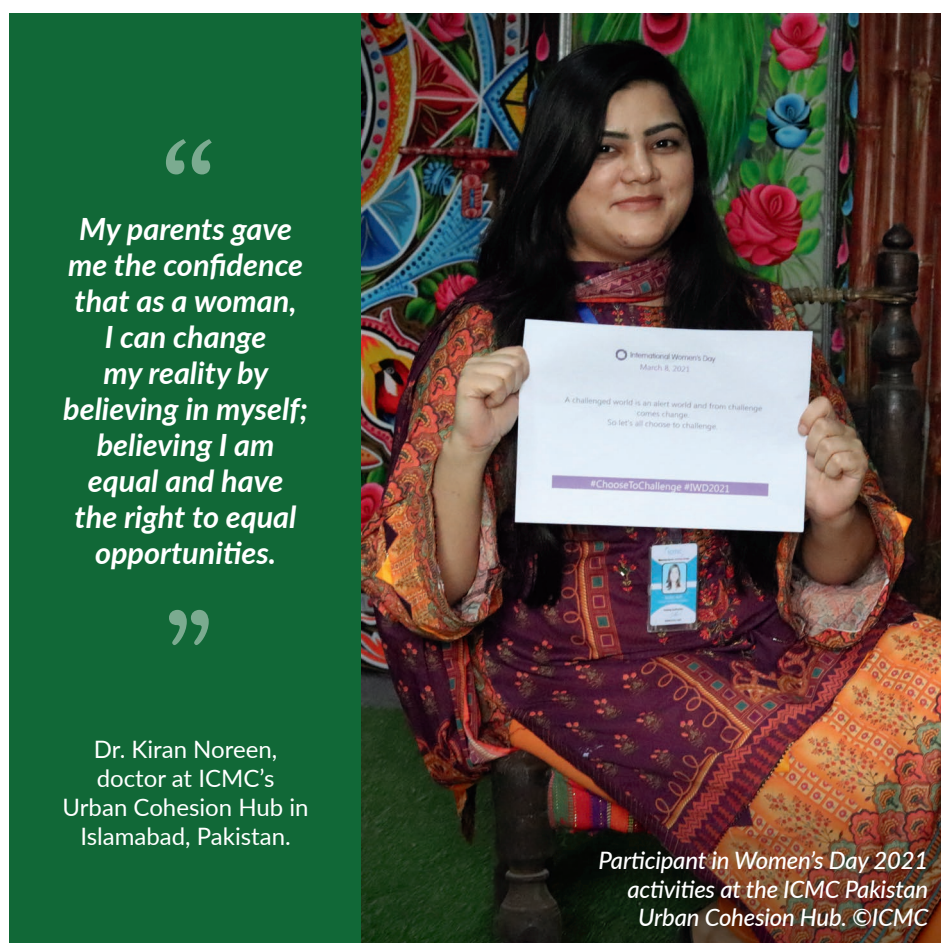
The campaign builds on Caritas Bangladesh's pioneering reforestation work with UNHCR since 2018. "Before we had no place to sit, but now as [these] trees grow bigger, our boys and girls can sit in the shade, and we are at peace too," says refugee Ali Mia.



Rohingya refugee joins efforts to re-green camp forests in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. ©UNHCR/Saikat Mojumder

PROTECTION & PREVENTION

With adaptability and creativity, ICMC has provided vital protection to refugees and vulnerable members of host communities at heightened risk due to the ongoing pandemic, in Jordan, Malaysia, and Pakistan.



“
My parents gave me the confidence that as a woman, I can change my reality by believing in myself; believing I am equal and have the right to equal opportunities.
”

Dr. Kiran Noreen,
doctor at ICMC's
Urban Cohesion Hub in
Islamabad, Pakistan.

Participant in Women's Day 2021
activities at the ICMC Pakistan
Urban Cohesion Hub. ©ICMC

CARING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK

In **Jordan**, 65 adolescent girls and young women who are survivors or at risk of child marriage took part in our **life skills courses**. Our **youth empowerment program** gave just under 565 young people a safe place to talk about the issues they are facing and find ways to address them together.

In **Malaysia**, ten teachers from two refugee learning centers and 13 parents from a school serving refugee communities completed ICMC training on children's safety. We also produced an animated video for the Rohingya refugee community showing how to respond to and prevent child sexual abuse.

At ICMC's **Urban Cohesion Hub in Islamabad, Pakistan**, over 230 children participated in the Child Friendly Space activities, more than 65 Afghan refugee children took Urdu literacy classes, and 150 students benefitted from learning resources.

PROTECTING HIGHLY VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2021, ICMC Malaysia maintained a **Refugee Protection Corps (RPC)** of 17 members. Our **case management** staff assisted over 200 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). As COVID-19 lockdowns continued in 2021, ICMC Malaysia published three new animated videos in our series aimed at preventing SGBV. These clips **raise awareness in the Rohingya refugee community** about sexual harassment, domestic violence, and child sexual abuse.

In **Pakistan**, eight families needing protection found refuge in our **safe shelter**, where they received medical assistance, counseling, English and computer instruction, recreational opportunities, and schooling for their children. We provided **legal assistance** to over 115 people seeking asylum, referring them to a specialized NGO where necessary.

Amidst the ongoing pandemic, ICMC Jordan used social networks and video conferencing to enhance protection for vulnerable children and adults. Through our **positive parenting course**, 710 parents and caregivers learned effective, nonviolent disciplinary strategies that promote their children's development and create a safe family environment.



2,438

girls and boys participated in age-appropriate activities at ICMC Jordan's Child Friendly Space



21,607

refugee children had access to quality education in northwestern Pakistan



871

vulnerable youth from refugee and host communities received counseling at ICMC's Urban Cohesion Hub in Islamabad, Pakistan



68,291

uniforms, hygiene kits, and lap desks were distributed to school children by ICMC Pakistan, and **2,438** children in Jordan received educational supplies



961

refugees were assisted through ICMC Malaysia's programs for sexual and gender-based violence survivors



572

young and older people in Jordan connected through ICMC's intergenerational groups



10,850

viewers in the Rohingya refugee community in Malaysia watched videos from ICMC's series on preventing sexual and gender-based violence and creating peace at home



629

members of refugee and host communities in Islamabad attended information sessions on sexual and gender-based violence protection

MEMBER'S STORY

A SAFE PLACE FOR UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT STREET CHILDREN

Because of Djibouti's relative prosperity, the country attracts migrants from neighboring countries in search of a better life. Among them are many unaccompanied Ethiopian children who end up living alone on the streets of the capital, hundreds of kilometers from their families.



Volunteers and migrant children prepare lunch at Caritas Djibouti's day shelter.
©Christian Tasso/ICMC

ICMC member Caritas Djibouti works to protect unaccompanied street children in this context of extreme vulnerability. Since 2004, children can shower, have a meal, receive healthcare, take part in educational activities, and play in safety at a day shelter. Each child is registered and comes under the care of a social worker, who helps ease the path of reintegration. The shelter welcomes 120 children daily.

"This is a place in Djibouti where unaccompanied migrant street children feel at home and free," says the shelter's manager.

RESETTLEMENT & COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

In 2021, ICMC continued to operate its support centers for refugee resettlement in Turkey and Lebanon and promoted the welcome and integration of refugees having arrived to host countries.

“

We wanted to concretize the Gospel's call to all of us to receive refugees as our neighbors and show that refugees can be welcomed and can successfully integrate when given the right support.

”

Fr. Reynaldo Rodrigo Roman Diaz, speaking about the whole-of-community approach to refugee welcome and integration.



OFFERING REFUGEES PROTECTION THROUGH RESETTLEMENT

ICMC operates one of the world's largest support operations for refugee resettlement through its centers serving refugees currently living in Turkey and Lebanon.

In 2021, we continued to **assist the U.S. government with resettlement processing and associated services**. We scaled up our office in Lebanon as the admissions program began to rebuild its capacity to give forcibly displaced people a chance for a future in safety and dignity in the United States.

We received over 9,200 new referrals from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and conducted pre-screening for approximately 500 people under consideration for resettlement. Our center offered pre-departure medical tests to over 3,000 refugees, while more than 900 took part in classes to prepare for life in their new home

country. We collaborated with the U.S. government to resettle 1,676 refugees, an increase of more than 140 percent from the previous year.

In 2021, ICMC also continued to operate the Resettlement Support Facility (RSF) of the **European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)** in Turkey. We facilitated services for nearly 2800 refugees seeking international protection in the region, with participation from Belgian, Dutch, German, Romanian, and Swedish resettlement missions.

PROMOTING RESETTLEMENT AND INCLUSION IN EUROPE

ICMC Europe continues its leadership of the Share Network, a platform that supports EU-based communities as they welcome refugees and migrants. In 2021, we promoted the **inclusion of newcomers in rural areas throughout the region and quality programs for communities to sponsor refugees** arriving through

#Refugee Integration



In December, ICMC Europe–Share Network and partner organizations in the SprInG project launched the Join Us campaign to develop a toolkit for refugee integration.

#World RefugeeDay



A webinar for World Refugee Day highlighting the need to empower women on the move for better inclusion in Europe featured the ICMC Jordan program manager.



Fr. Reynaldo Rodrigo Roman Diaz SVD with a group of sponsored refugees in Vicenza, Italy. ©Share Network

government resettlement schemes or complementary pathways such as humanitarian visas.

Through the SIRA project (Expanding Social Orientation & Integration in Rural Areas), the Share Network engages communities and newcomers to strengthen integration in ten rural areas in France, Greece, Poland, and Spain. In 2021, we established ten regional, multistakeholder platforms for cooperation, which led to 26 roundtable discussions and provided training in inclusion and intercultural skills to nearly 470 people.

Between August and September 2021, we selected ten pilot actions on rural integration. These initiatives are trialing ways to address challenges as newcomers begin settling into life in a rural community.



2,788

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



1,676

refugees resettled to the United States with ICMC resettlement support services



468

local and regional integration actors in Europe participated in ICMC-organized platforms for cooperation



#EUAsylum

ICMC Europe presented the Share Network's community sponsorship work to the EU Agency for Asylum and liaised with the agency on complementary pathways for Afghan refugees

MEMBER'S STORY

OFFERING A SPIRIT OF WELCOME

"It was dangerous for anyone who worked with the U.S. because the Taliban saw them as traitors. My husband's life was in danger." When this refugee — and thousands more like her and her husband — were evacuated from Afghanistan in 2021, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) supported them as they resettled in the USA.

Through its Migration and Refugee Services (MRS), USCCB worked with Catholic Charities agencies nationwide to "ensure the warm welcome, safe relocation and resettlement" of nearly 12,000 Afghan refugees in 2021. MRS and Catholic Charities helped them find affordable housing, enroll their children in school, look for a job, stay in touch with their families — and begin to deal with the traumatic upheaval in their lives.



MRS and Catholic Charities nationwide sprang to action to welcome Afghan evacuees resettled to the U.S. ©Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton

ADVOCACY

In 2021, ICMC's advocacy encouraged governments to place uprooted people at the center of the policies they enact. We advocated for the protection of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people throughout the world, with a particular focus on people on the move in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and at the borders of the European Union.

“

We, faith-based communities around the world, will not be silent while today in Myanmar tens of thousands are displaced from their homes and forced to flee in search of protection.

”

Joint inter-faith statement on the crisis in Myanmar



CALLING FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION

ICMC participated in the first **High-Level Officials Meeting convened by UNHCR**, the UN Refugee Agency, to review progress on implementing the **Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)**. The meeting led to the proposal of 20 concrete recommendations, including expanding resettlement programs and complementary admissions pathways, increasing inclusion and access to services, and ensuring more meaningful refugee participation.

In 2021, ICMC served as civil society rapporteur for the **UN working group on refugee participation within the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR)**. A particular focus was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on resettlement programs. The working group helped to ensure that refugees' experiences figure in recommendations for collaborative action.

During the **47th session of the Human Rights Council** in June, ICMC and 50 other NGOs spoke out against

the use of “pushback” practices — that is, when governments force asylum-seekers back over international borders without any opportunity to seek protection.

In October, ICMC joined more than 25 international NGOs to highlight the **perilous situation of internally displaced people (IDPs)**. Our open letter stressed the urgent need for international collaboration to protect the human rights of IDPs and prevent internal displacement.

ADVOCATING FOR AFGHANS IN NEED OF PROTECTION

As the **humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan** intensified, ICMC and more than 20 resettlement organizations urged the U.S. government to immediately evacuate Afghan people under threat of violence or other persecution and to expedite processes for refugee admission to the U.S.

ICMC played an active role in the development of a joint statement from the **UN global Family Reunification Network (FRUN)** urging all involved to prioritize the protection of family unity in the response to the refugee crisis in Afghanistan.

During a **knowledge-sharing event about the situation in Afghanistan** organized by FRUN, we outlined our collaboration with the UN Children's Agency, UNICEF, to deploy child protection experts to interview unaccompanied Afghan refugee children.



People from Myanmar's Karen ethnic group after having fled their village due to fighting, June 2021. ©Keystone/STR /AFP

PROMOTING ACCESS TO ASYLUM IN EUROPE

In late November, ICMC Europe joined more than 100 organizations to demand that the European Union take swift action to protect uprooted people caught in the **humanitarian crisis at its borders with Belarus**. We urged Member States to ensure that their response respected people's right to seek asylum and guaranteed humanitarian access.

Just before the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council met in December, ICMC Europe released a joint statement urging the EU to protect vulnerable **migrant children at its borders**. Signed by more than 20 human rights and civil society organizations, the statement called on Member States to prioritize the sharing of responsibility for new arrivals by using existing mechanisms to reunite families and to allow the voluntary relocation from border areas of unaccompanied children.



#Climate Displacement

ICMC co-sponsored a side event on the impact of climate change on mobility and human rights during the Human Rights Council's 48th session in October.



#StopFamine

Through the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, ICMC joined over 260 NGOs in calling on world leaders to work for ceasefires to armed conflicts and to assist the millions of people suffering from famine.



#Human Trafficking

The ICMC Secretary General and ICMC Director of Policy spoke at a November webinar on migration and human trafficking organized by "adlaudatosi," an anti-trafficking and ecology forum.



#GetResettlement Moving

ICMC Europe continued to advocate on resettlement in the context of COVID-19, contributing to the global Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) meetings by facilitating a session on refugee participation.

MEMBER'S STORY

PROTECTION FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

In 2021, ICMC members throughout the world advocated for the protection of Afghan refugees, calling for a swift, united international response in the wake of the Taliban takeover and the withdrawal of international troops in August.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops highlighted the plight of those needing to be evacuated and expressed particular concern for Afghan women and girls. Their statement stressed the commitment of the Church in the U.S. to welcome Afghan refugees.



The front of the international airport in Kabul, crowded with people trying to board a flight to leave the country, on 17 August 2021. ©Voices of America

The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) and the Conference of European Churches urged EU Member States to protect the vulnerable by bringing Afghan refugees to safety through humanitarian corridors and other safe pathways.

ICMC members in the British Isles and the Asia-Pacific region called on national governments to do more to ensure resettlement for vulnerable Afghans.

CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION

ICMC continues to play a lead role in coordinating global civil society advocacy for rights-based policies and practices that improve the lives of migrants. In 2021, the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was again at the top of the agenda as we focused our efforts in guiding civil society to prepare for a milestone review of GCM implementation in 2022.



Beneficiaries of the Casa Monarca migrant aid association in northern Mexico, an ICMC partner supported by the Archdiocese of Monterrey. ©Christian Tasso/ICMC

STEPPING UP RIGHTS-BASED MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Throughout 2021, the Civil Society Action Committee, a global platform co-convened by ICMC, **brought together civil society actors to develop joint advocacy priorities** for the UN's first comprehensive review of Member States' progress in implementing the GCM. This process culminated in the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) held in New York in May 2022.

From May to August, we offered civil society groups the opportunity to consult amongst themselves and with Member States and other key groups to identify issues needing urgent attention in order to progress towards making the GCM a reality.

This dialogue resulted in **shared commitments related to implementing the GCM**, such as addressing racism and discrimination, countering toxic narratives, protecting the rights of migrant

workers, expanding regular migration pathways, and seeking alternatives to detention.

From September to December, ICMC led an Action Committee process that drew on the outcomes of the consultations to **develop priority IMRF advocacy points for civil society**. The position paper "12 Key Ways for States to Get Back on Track" outlines themes that require urgent action if further progress is to be made to implement the GCM. These include ensuring migrants' access to social services and protections and simplifying processes for regularizing their status.

ADVOCATING FOR MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Preparations for the IMRF assessment process also featured prominently in ICMC's work within the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). We serve as the coordination office for civil society engagement in the GFMD. Under the guidance of ICMC, civil society actors gave feedback on the review forum's thematic priorities and processes to prepare the GFMD's contribution to the IMRF.

ICMC organized a **global civil society preparatory consultation**. These discussions highlighted joint priorities and proposals for the continued implementation of the GCM's objectives, including the need to engage all stakeholders to meet the GCM objectives of ensuring migrants' access to services and

“

We call for a distinct paragraph on migrants [that] recognizes the critical role migration plays towards sustainable development and that upholds the human rights of migrants.

”

Open Letter from the Action Committee to President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

their active participation in decision-making. We stressed that migrants must be able to access justice systems and receive health care, including free vaccines, regardless of their migration status — something the pandemic brought into sharp focus.

#GlobalCompact Migration



Eight webinars in 2021 concluded discussions co-organized by the Action Committee to review progress on the GCM's 23 objectives in its first two years of implementation.

AMPLIFYING MIGRANT VOICES

In 2021, ICMC ensured that civil society was engaged in a way that assured that migrants' lived experiences were at the forefront of international migration discussions.

Through the Action Committee, ICMC co-organized the **People's Migration Challenge (PMC)** platform to mobilize civil society actors and amplify their voices and concerns within global forums on migration governance.

From April through December 2021, ICMC co-led a **PMC webinar series that highlighted pressing issues faced by migrant and migrant-rights organizations** and explored actionable solutions linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These discussions focused on five priorities — migration, COVID-19, and a new social contract; race and ethnicity in migration; regular pathways and irregular migration; detention and return; and migration and climate change.

As part of the **GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration**, ICMC guided civil society's leadership of the **"It Takes a Community (ITAC)"** social media campaign in September and October 2021. Launched in late March 2021 by the GFMD, this global initiative shares stories on social media of how migrants and refugees are contributing to their new communities, including their crucial involvement in responses to the pandemic and recovery efforts.



#Detention

The Action Committee co-published a policy brief on immigration detention that explores decriminalization, status regularization, and detention alternatives.



#VaccineAccess

In February, the Action Committee signed an open letter calling for States to provide universal and timely access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, without any distinction.

#Sustainable Development Goals



At the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July, the Action Committee organized events on GCM implementation and on migration and the pandemic.



#Racism

In September, the Action Committee's Working Group on Race and Migration began preparing a training series to address racial injustice within civil society.

CAPACITY BUILDING & RESEARCH

In 2021, ICMC strove to further our knowledge of current and evolving issues around migration that impact the lives of uprooted people worldwide. We continued to create opportunities for communities of welcome, authorities at all levels, and people on the move to share experiences and gain needed tools and skills to make migration work for everyone.



Children beneficiaries of ICMC Jordan's services during a home visit by ICMC staff. ©Stefano Schirato/ICMC

PROMOTING DECENT WORK IN THE PANDEMIC ERA

ICMC coordinated the project “The Future of Work – Labour after *Laudato Si*,” a joint initiative that aims to rethink the world of work into one that is person-centered. We strove to bring the results of the project’s research to those shaping labor policy and practice at all levels of society. We worked closely with the Vatican’s COVID-19 Commission to monitor the impact of the pandemic on workers.

ENHANCING INTEGRATION IN EUROPE

ICMC Europe published the results of **research on the impact of COVID-19 on the welcome of refugees**. In partnership with the EU and academia, ICMC Europe kicked off research within the SprINg project to develop more sustainable

practices to support the **integration of newly arrived migrants** in communities across Europe. Within the Share Network’s Quality Sponsorship Network (QSN), ICMC Europe began a research project to **support better integration of refugees by improving the design of community sponsorship programs**.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN JORDAN

ICMC Jordan conducted two research projects to **improve protection for children on the move**. Our study on child marriage in refugee and host communities examined the causes of this practice, which has devastating impacts on children. A second study mapped the pandemic’s impact on violence against children in the home. We outlined steps rooted in the local context to end domestic violence against children in Jordan.

BUILDING CAPACITY TO WELCOME AND PROTECT

Through the Share Network, ICMC Europe partnered with Citizens UK to **strengthen the efforts of groups that sponsor refugees**. We aim to help them engage the wider community and local authorities, and to support community sponsorship in rural areas.

ICMC Malaysia provided senior staff at the **Rohingya Society in Malaysia (RSM)** transitional home with skills training in case management, shelter assessment, and employee recruitment. In Jordan and Malaysia, **40 staff completed training on how to better protect children from online exploitation**.



#Research

To date, 105 publications and reports on labor issues have been produced within the ICMC-coordinated “The Future of Work – Labour after *Laudato Si*” project.



#BestPractices

A total of 4,250 people from 70 countries have participated in meetings to develop a world of decent, dignified work for all.



#Capacity Building

“The Future of Work – Labour after *Laudato Si*” project’s website made available in English, French, and Spanish 147 articles and advocacy resources for a person-centered world of work.



#EU MigrationPolicy

At the 6th European Migration Forum in October, ICMC Europe–Share Network presented results from its research on the pandemic’s impact on refugee integration.



#Community Sponsorship

In November, the University of Ottawa featured as a research innovation ICMC Europe’s new study into stakeholder engagement in sponsorship programs.



#Social Protection

In a “Future of Work” blog post, a theologian with the Latin American Episcopal Conference reflected on work and care and the need for fair conditions for all workers.



#CareIsWork

The project manager of “The Future of Work – Labour after *Laudato Si*” reflected on care as a new aspect of labor in an article for a Spanish Catholic magazine for workers.



#WorkIsCare

In a Labor Day article for Digital Religion, a Catholic Latin American theologian discussed implications of the “Care is work, work is care” report co-published by ICMC.

MEMBER’S STORY

IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

In March 2021, ICMC’s two members in India, the Commission for Migrants of the Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) and the Worker’s India Federation, an initiative of the Office for Labour of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India (CBCI), published the study “Tribal Migrants in Delhi City: A Pre-Covid and Post-Covid Analysis.”



Internal migrant in a Tribal migrant workers’ village next to a brick kiln in Delhi. ©Christian Tasso/ICMC

“The study was an attempt to look into various factors behind migration, the various problems these Tribal migrant workers face,” said Father Jaison Vadassery, who provides leadership for both of the Catholic Bishops’ entities that ran the study. The research emphasized the increased level of vulnerability since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on study findings, ICMC members recommended a policy strategy that addresses the different issues facing migrant workers.

DEPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS

ICMC maintained a roster of over 500 experts ready to deploy on short notice to support UN agencies and governments in their work to protect vulnerable people around the world. Our experts specialize in resettlement, response to and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, child protection, refugee status determination, complementary pathways to refugee resettlement, and anti-fraud.



A recently evacuated young Afghan boy carries a child at the Ramstein U.S. Air Base, Germany, in August 2021. ©AP Photo/Matthias Schrader

PROVIDING PROTECTION EXPERTISE WORLDWIDE

The ICMC Deployment Scheme continued its longstanding partnership with the UN Refugee Agency in 2021 by sending 103 legal, social, and protection experts as auxiliary staff to UNHCR duty stations in 35 countries on five continents. Our experts boosted UNHCR's capacity to refer particularly vulnerable refugees for resettlement to third countries, where they could start a new life in safety and dignity.

In 2021, we maintained a roster of 518 persons, offering expertise in resettlement, response to and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, child protection, refugee status determination, complementary pathways, and anti-fraud. An increase in UNHCR funding during the year enabled us to expand refugee protection by extending the contracts of 30 of our experts and deploying 44 more personnel than initially planned. A partnership with the Government of Canada's agency

for immigrants and refugees (IRCC) funded the deployment of 14 of our experts.

To respond to the limited number of places in government resettlement programs worldwide, ICMC experts also carried out tasks aimed at expanding opportunities for refugees to find protection in a third country through complementary pathways such as private sponsorships, university study, or family reunification.

STRENGTHENING PROTECTION FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED CHILDREN

ICMC sent four experts to UN Agency for Children (UNICEF) operations to strengthen the protection of internally displaced children and their families in Sudan, South Sudan, and Libya.

At the urgent request of UNICEF and the U.S. government, ICMC deployed five additional child protection experts to U.S. military bases in Doha, Qatar, and Ramstein, Germany, to provide protection for some 270 refugee children and adolescents who had been evacuated from Afghanistan and were unaccompanied or had been separated from their parents or primary caregivers.



103

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

“

Using a child-friendly approach, we helped to reduce the uncertainty and anxiety faced by unaccompanied children once they arrived in the U.S.

”

Alfonso Masso,
child protection expert
deployed to the
U.S. military base in
Ramstein, Germany

From mid-September, ICMC child protection experts worked nearly around the clock to identify children at risk, assess how best to meet their protection needs, and ensure that they received support through counseling and safe care arrangements through their resettlement to the United States. By liaising with third country governments, our experts helped reunite children with their families in the U.S. and in several European countries.



518

-strong roster of ICMC experts ready for rapid deployment across the world

PROTECTING REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN GREECE

ICMC continues its cooperation with UNHCR in Greece through a deployment partnership that has provided operational support to the UN Refugee Agency and national authorities since 2010. In 2021, we deployed 73 ICMC experts to UNHCR to support Ministries of the Greek government by providing international protection to nearly 9,165 newly arrived refugees and migrants.

ICMC experts assisted a range of other activities — reception of new arrivals; protection, particularly of children on the move; assessment of vulnerable people's refugee status; cash support and accommodation; response to and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence; issues related to statelessness; and refugee integration.

We deployed experts to work with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum to assess the refugee status of people seeking international protection, receive newly arrived refugees, and provide them with accommodation.

In October, ICMC deployed a child protection expert to the Greek non-governmental organization METAdrasi in Athens. This new partnership strengthens both protection for and integration of children on the move alone.



73

ICMC protection experts deployed to Greece to support the Greek government and UNHCR



9,163

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



24,925

refugee cases submitted by ICMC experts for resettlement to third countries



#ICMC Greece

By establishing the NGO “ICMC Greece,” we prepared to expand our in-country programming to complement our deployment of experts to UNHCR.

CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

ICMC works in a variety of ways to strengthen Catholic-inspired action and advocacy serving and protecting uprooted people and promoting migration that benefits all. In 2021, this included networking and joint projects with our national member organizations, collaboration with the Vatican and Catholic organizations, and communications initiatives to share information and experiences.



Displaced children and staff at the ICMC-CEPMR Child Friendly Space in Burkina Faso.
©Conference of Catholic Bishops of Burkina Faso/ICMC

When the children return home, they are happy to show their parents what they have learned that day. The parents tell us that their children are more stimulated and cheerful when they attend sessions at the center.

Fr. Rodrigue Fidèle Sanon, about the Child Friendly Space in Burkina Faso

PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIONAL MEMBERS

In India, we launched a new project with the migrant commission of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) to assist returned internal migrants who, because they were employed in low-paying, precarious work, have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The initiative provides entrepreneurial training to migrant laborers forced to return to their homes in Delhi City and the bordering states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in northern India after pandemic-related job loss.

ICMC partnered with our national member organization in Burkina Faso to build up services for children and their families displaced in the North of the country by conflict between armed groups. In the midst of a volatile security situation, we supported the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees of Burkina Faso (CEPMR) to provide vital protection and educational and recreational

activities for 100 children, and parenting and other classes for their caregivers at our Child Friendly Space in Bourzanga. Scholarships granted through the joint project have enabled 33 forcibly displaced children to continue their schooling.

CATHOLIC-INSPIRED GLOBAL RESPONSES

For the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), ICMC promoted the Pope's call to remember and pray for those displaced by violence and persecution. We urged Catholics throughout the globe to move "Towards an Ever-Wider 'We'" by extending hospitality to, building bridges with, and advocating on behalf of uprooted people.

Ahead of the WDMR, ICMC and 11 other NGOs from the Migration Working Group of the International Forum of Catholic-inspired Organizations appealed for increased respect for the rights and dignity of refugees, migrants, and all people on

the margins of society. In the joint statement, we advocated against the continued militarization of borders that prevents people from accessing protection.

During Lent, ICMC and 30 other Catholic-inspired organizations highlighted the vulnerability of migrant workers at sea. As a member of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAH), ICMC urged those in the Church to raise awareness of the growing yet invisible humanitarian crisis affecting seafarers and to take action to reduce the threat of exploitation and health issues heightened by COVID-19.



133

displaced and local children and their families found a safe space through a partnership with ICMC's national member in Burkina Faso



146

returned migrants were equipped to support themselves and their families thanks to a partnership with ICMC's national member in India



70,037

users were reached through ICMC Facebook and Twitter channels



108,000

users visited the ICMC website, which published 99 articles and web items on the work of the organization and its members and partners

#Food Justice



At a webinar on food justice hosted by the Vatican in May, the ICMC Secretary General highlighted research on reducing poverty-driven migration by promoting livelihoods in agriculture.

#Migrant Workers



The ICMC Secretary General spoke at a conference in May held by the Pontifical University in Rome that explored the Church's role in raising awareness of migrant workers and their rights.

#Integration



In May, the ICMC Europe Director brought an experience-based advocacy perspective to discussions on integration at the migration working group of Bishops' Conferences in the EU.

#Resettlement



The ICMC U.S. Liaison Office Head spoke at a webinar organized in October by the U.S. Bishops' Conference on the future of the nation's refugee resettlement program.

MEMBER'S STORY

NETWORKING TO SERVE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

ICMC national member Caritas Bolivia led the launch of a national chapter of Red Clamor (Outcry Network) in 2021 to respond to increasing migration trends in Bolivia. The Episcopal-supported network brings together Catholic-inspired organizations serving uprooted people in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Red Clamor Bolivia was born in early December. The seventeen founding members tasked Caritas Bolivia to lead the new section in its first two years as it supports the Church in Bolivia to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate people on the move.

"This action shows us a light of integration and hope. [...] It gives us strength to continue, especially for our children," said a migrant at the founding ceremony.



The representatives of the member organizations of the Bolivian chapter of Red Clamor at its founding ceremony. ©Caritas Bolivia

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 in 2021. 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, Vatican offices, and 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 2021, the ICMC, Inc.

Development Office in Boston, U.S., was supported by 9,441 individual donors who gave 21,955 gifts.

To all of them, we are deeply grateful.

FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

ICMC's total funding in 2021 was 27.7 million USD. Total expenditure was 26.9 million USD, 83% of which was allocated to programs that directly benefit vulnerable uprooted people around the world, while 17% was dedicated to management, support to field offices, awareness-raising, and fundraising.

For a copy of the Statutory Auditor's Report and Consolidated Financial Statements 2021, please visit [ICMC.net/2021](https://www.icmc.net/2021).



ICMC acknowledges the contributions of the 1951 Founders' Circle, a group of donors who made a commitment of USD 1,000 or more in 2021. 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/2021](https://www.icmc.net/2021).

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

