

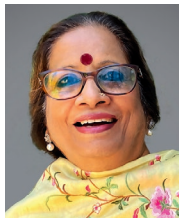


Restoring Dignity,  
Inspiring Change.



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2024**





## Building Global Collective Action for Dignified Work

Ms. Christine Nathan  
President

It is with great pride that I once again offer my greetings to our national member organizations, partners, and supporters worldwide. As we look back on the successes and achievements of 2024, I am filled with immense pride at our collective ability to continue fulfilling our mission to serve, integrate, and protect people on the move, despite the many and varied challenges we encounter.

In this era of crisis, it is with considerable sadness that I reflect on the circumstances of migrant workers. Though their lives and labor are crucial to creating global economic prosperity and advancement, in many instances, they remain undervalued and exploited in both destination and sending countries. Catholic Social Teaching recognizes the dignity of labor, the necessity of care in all forms of work, and the moral obligation to uphold the rights of workers and vulnerable people. The ongoing mistreatment of migrant workers continues to be an affront to the principles of our faith.

On this basis, one aspect of ICMC's work that is particularly close to my heart is "The Future of Work – Labour After Laudato si'" (FOWLS) project. Established in 2016 and coordinated by ICMC, this global initiative engages Vatican institutions, trade unions, business associations, interfaith actors, academia, grassroots organizations, and youth movements in exploring the future of work through the lens of *Laudato Si'*, and ensuring workers' rights and social justice are central to discussions on socioeconomic and ecological transitions and transformation.

Through my engagement with ICMC, I have seen firsthand how dignified work can transform lives. In 2024, our livelihoods projects spanned three continents, including literacy classes and vocational training in sewing, carpentry, and mechanics with 35 former child soldiers and survivors of human trafficking in the Central African Republic. This training not only provided these young men and

women with means to earn a living, but also helped restore their sense of self-worth. By transitioning from lives marked by violence and exploitation to ones rooted in productivity and dignity, they are now contributing to their communities and breaking cycles of poverty and trauma. Such direct experiences have strengthened my belief in the importance of bringing together a diverse range of partners through the FOWLS project—to help shape decent work opportunities that go beyond ICMC's own programs, in collaboration with people of all faiths, backgrounds, and genders.

2024 marked a critical point of consolidation and strengthening for the FOWLS Project. In May, FOWLS network members and different stakeholders gathered in Rome to reflect on their experiences and produce a joint roadmap for future engagement and action. I participated in this delegation that had the great honor of being received by Pope Francis in a private audience, during which he reaffirmed his simple but powerful message: "Care is work, work is care." While we mourn his loss, we continue to draw strength from his reminder that labor is not a commodity, and that decent work is essential to peace, human dignity, and integral development.

I would like to conclude by extending particular gratitude to the representatives of Episcopal Conferences from around the world who make up the membership of ICMC's Governing Committee. Their ongoing engagement, expertise, and support have been crucial to our ability to navigate these challenging times. In their name, I express my appreciation and admiration for the whole ICMC family, and for the inspiring support and solidarity we continue to offer our sisters and brothers on the move, all over the world. The inspiration we draw from our faith remains undimmed, and will provide the strength to nurture us as we continue our mission.



Cover photo: Girl at a hostel for internally displaced Ukrainians in Kyiv.  
© Andrey Gorb/ICMC



## Called to Solidarity and Fraternity in Challenging Times

Davide Bernocchi  
Secretary General

It is my great honor to address the ICMC global family - governing bodies, staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, and supporters - as Secretary General, following my appointment in June 2024.

It is incumbent on me to express my appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of my predecessor, Monsignor Robert J. Vitillo, whose steadfast commitment and courage throughout his eight-year tenure led ICMC to advance its mission in service of uprooted people. Amongst his many noticeable achievements, I wish to highlight the programmatic support that ICMC was able to ensure to the work of its members in more than 20 countries around the globe, in the past three years.

Our work in the latter part of 2024 sought to build on this legacy to further strengthen ICMC, consolidating our management capacity, increasing cooperation across the ICMC family, and ensuring the continuity of our services and assistance in several countries.

I look back with immense pride on the many partnerships and joint initiatives implemented with our members around the world, in countries including the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Chile, El Salvador, Haiti, India, and Papua New Guinea. Likewise, our solidarity with those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has never wavered, and in 2024, we continued to work closely with the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to strengthen a coordinated Church response to the emergency in the country. I firmly believe that our work in 2024 embodied the spirit of "God walks with His people," the theme chosen by our dearly missed Pope Francis for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees celebrated in September 2024.

While recognizing the accomplishments of our team in 2024, I must acknowledge the grave challenges ICMC has faced since early

2025. The unprecedented general suspension of funding for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and foreign assistance meant that ICMC, like so many aid organizations, was forced to make the difficult decision to cut critical services to refugees and people displaced by war and persecution in several countries around the world.

On behalf of the entire organization, I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to those staff members who have departed ICMC in 2025, because of the funding crisis. Their professionalism and commitment in the face of these unforeseen circumstances is truly remarkable. Our prayers and solidarity remain with the many thousands of families suffering the impact of the sudden withdrawal of aid and the advent of an uncertain future.

Despite these events, the election of Pope Leo XIV as the 267th Bishop of Rome and head of the Catholic Church gives us reason to hope in 2025. His missionary journey and his very first words as head of the Church demonstrate a strong commitment to peace and to closeness to those who suffer and are marginalized, including our brothers and sisters on the move. This encourages us to continue our mission with courage and hope, despite the difficulties present.

I also extend my gratitude to the generous institutional and private donors who continue to support ICMC in its walk alongside vulnerable refugees and displaced people.

Together, we draw strength and inspiration from the words of Pope Francis in his February 2025 letter to United States Bishops: "*I exhort all the faithful of the Catholic Church, and all men and women of good will, not to give in to narratives that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters. With charity and clarity, we are all called to live in solidarity and fraternity.*"



# OUR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

7,289 refugees departed to start a new life in the **U.S.A.**, thanks to support from the ICMC-operated Resettlement Support Center in Türkiye and Lebanon.

398 migrants living in irregular situations in **Chile** received immigration and employment assistance.

52,373 persons benefited from assessments conducted by 77 ICMC deployees to UN Refugee Agency operations worldwide, and the resettlement cases of 37,909 refugees were processed using ICMC deployees' assessments.

110 civil society delegates from 42 countries attended the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit in Switzerland in January 2024, under the coordination of the ICMC-housed GFMD Civil Society Secretariat.

200 children were re-enrolled in school in the **Central African Republic**.

150 psychologists and social workers in **Ukraine** attended training programs on post-traumatic stress, managing loss, and suicide prevention.

226 refugees in **Türkiye** were part of departure missions for resettlement to Europe through the Resettlement Support Facility.

3,102 children living in refugee camps in **Bangladesh** were reached through awareness-raising sessions on mental health and anti-trafficking.

1,476 refugees in **Malaysia** took part in gender-based violence awareness-raising sessions delivered by refugee volunteers.

- ICMC offices, direct operations, and joint projects with members and partners.
- ICMC deployment of experts in support of international organizations and national governments.
- Countries with both ICMC direct operations and deployments of experts.



# AFRICA

ICMC supported its members in Africa to ensure access to education for children in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, and Côte d'Ivoire, and create new livelihood and healthcare opportunities in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

## SUPPORTING CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION

In 2024, approximately 15 million children worldwide faced a range of protection challenges, including an estimated 7.2 million not enrolled in education.

In the **Central African Republic**, ICMC supported its national member, the Episcopal Commission for Migrants and Refugees (CEMIR), in re-enrolling 200 children in schools across four communities and providing assistance with school fees, equipment, and uniforms. ICMC support also enabled CEMIR to provide 2-day pedagogical workshops for teachers, covering mental health and psychosocial well-being, safeguarding, literacy, arts, and sports.

In **Burkina Faso**, ICMC support enabled its national member, the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees in Burkina Faso (CEPMR), to identify 30 vulnerable students from internally displaced and host families in three municipalities and provide assistance with school fees, equipment, and uniforms.

In the **Central African Republic** and **Côte d'Ivoire**, ICMC continued to build its members' capacity to implement the resilience approach to supporting displaced young people. 34 staff of CEMIR and the Episcopal Conference of Côte d'Ivoire (ECC) attended resilience approach training, subsequently providing 24 educational resilience workshops for 53 young people. In CAR, the project provided 12 psychosocial play sessions for 37 children and teenagers, and in Côte d'Ivoire, quarterly workshops for 25 parents.

## ENSURING HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

In 2024, refugees and migrants continued to experience severe challenges in accessing adequate physical and mental healthcare.

In Johannesburg, **South Africa**, where migrants struggle to access mainstream health services, ICMC support enabled the St Charles Clinic to provide health screenings for 179 migrant women. The project further ensured health screenings for 53 children, 33 of whom were referred for further specialist treatment.

In **Burkina Faso**, ICMC support ensured CEPMR continued a 12-month mental health and psychosocial intervention for displaced persons in three parishes. From January to August, 758 individuals attended six community awareness-raising mental health sessions, while 30 young people recruited by the project conducted community outreach. A further 746 persons took part in six psychoeducational sessions on supporting persons affected by trauma.

## CREATING NEW LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

In 2024, migrants and refugees returning to the **Central African Republic** included approximately 16,000 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups. They face severe challenges in finding employment. ICMC support enabled CEMIR to provide vocational training and literacy courses for 40 such young people, with 17 male and 18 female students passing final examinations in October.

“

*Thanks to [the ICMC-supported] training, I was able to start this workshop. At first I was working with my machine and a small table. [...] Little by little, I've been able to get a second sewing table, then a brother helped me get this room. That same money we make [in Europe], we can earn here too.*

”

Rosalie, a participant in the ICMC-ECC livelihood training for migrant returnees to Côte-d'Ivoire.



From June to August, in **Côte d'Ivoire**, ICMC support enabled ECC to provide an entrepreneurship and business management training program for 100 returned migrants, fostering their resilience and long-term reintegration.

In **Ethiopia**, the loss of soldiers in conflict has severe impacts for the livelihoods of their families. From January to June, ICMC support enabled the Catholic Vicariate Apostolic of Jimma-Bonga to provide agricultural production training to 120 wives and close relatives of deceased soldiers with training in agricultural production. 40 completed further business development training, and received small start-up grants, livestock, and farm tools.

ICMC also supported the creation of income generation activities in **Burkina Faso**, enabling CEPMR to provide 67 internally displaced and local people from three communities with a three-day training session on soap-making techniques, alongside soap-making kits. 21 beneficiaries had begun production activities by October.

## PROVIDING LIFESAVING SUPPORT

Throughout 2024, the ongoing deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel continued displacement toward **Côte d'Ivoire**, primarily from **Burkina Faso**. ICMC support enabled ECC to provide food and hygiene items to 63 vulnerable refugee and host community households (336 people) living in extreme poverty and insecurity, distributed from May to July.

ICMC support also enabled the provision of food assistance in **Burkina Faso**, where CEPMR identified 60 vulnerable displaced and local households across three sites, and worked with local social services to distribute basic food kits in September and October.



**200** children were re-enrolled in school in the Central African Republic.



**758** displaced people in Burkina Faso attended community awareness-raising sessions on mental health.



**120** relatives of deceased soldiers were trained in agricultural production in Ethiopia.

## MEMBER STORY

### PROMOTING SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH COMMUNITY SAVINGS

Although refugees in Rwanda are permitted to work, many face a range of challenges to access the labor market and become self-reliant.

In 2024, Caritas Rwanda responded to this need by providing training and small enterprise start-up loans for 50 residents of the Mahama refugee camp in eastern Rwanda. The training included a dedicated session on Saving and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), and training participants subsequently formed SILC groups, or shared savings pools from which members can borrow to support their needs. Four months after the training concluded, the groups had collectively saved USD 1,000.

“Being part of this SILC group is very important for me,” said participant Ibrahim Altayib Namriyn. “Instead of borrowing money from friends, I received a small loan of Rwf 60,000 [approximately 40\$] to purchase pesticides, which I repaid with low interest. Now, I plan to take a larger loan to expand my project.” Namriyn was able to install an irrigation system in the field he rents, and he can now grow vegetables even in the dry season.

Caritas Rwanda is mandated by ICMC's national member, the Episcopal Conference of Rwanda, to coordinate all actions carried out by the Church regarding social assistance, healthcare, and development.



Program participant Ibrahim Altayib Namriyn and a project staff in Namriyn's cabbage field © Caritas Rwanda



# AMERICAS

ICMC support ensured assistance for returnees and people on the move in Chile, Haiti, and Honduras, and access to protection and education for displaced children in Haiti and El Salvador. ICMC continued to contribute to strengthened Church collaboration on migration in the region.

## CONTINUING ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNING MIGRANTS

Over 200,000 Haitians were forcibly expelled back to **Haiti** from neighboring Dominican Republic in 2024, returning to face generalized violence, political instability, and acute humanitarian need. ICMC continued to respond via its partnership with its national member, the Episcopal Commission on Migration (CEMI). In February, ICMC support ensured the distribution of cash assistance to 20 returning migrants living in extreme economic hardship in Port-au-Prince.

In the border city of Ouanaminthe, ICMC support enabled CEMI to provide returnee families with training and assistance to establish small enterprises. In July, 62 families participated in a 3-day training session on developing a small business and received start-up grants.

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING

ICMC also continued to support access to education for children of returning migrants in **Haiti**, where the costs of attending school are prohibitive for many families. ICMC's partnership with CEMI ensured 400 returnee children aged 4-16 received school kits containing basic clothing and supplies.

In **El Salvador**, violence, insecurity, and displacement continued to create significant protection challenges for children. In response, ICMC supported its national member, Caritas El Salvador to implement a 12-month initiative to strengthen care networks for displaced children.

The project addressed barriers to children's education and well-being via 234 individual and group psychosocial support sessions, reaching 88 children and 51 caregivers, alongside 34 group psychosocial guidance sessions for caregivers. It also provided targeted cash assistance for 10 returnee families to meet basic needs and ensure their children's continued education.

## ACCOMPANYING IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

In 2024, **Honduras** remained a key transit country for migrants traveling through Central America. Just under 370,000 entered the country's southern border, facing significant risks along their migratory route.

Early 2024 saw the conclusion of a 10-month program to provide emergency humanitarian responses to people on the move, implemented by the Scalabrinian Sisters Association and Pastoral de Movilidad Humana with ICMC support. By February, the program had provided 1,434 transiting migrants with kits containing food, clothing, hygiene, and health items, alongside guidance on managing trafficking risks.

**Chile** is a destination country for many migrants, mostly Venezuelans, seeking protection, stability, and employment. Immigration procedure delays mean many spend long periods in irregular situations, unable to seek regular employment in Chile and vulnerable to exploitation.

ICMC support enabled the Chilean Catholic Migration Institute to provide online and in-person immigration and employment assistance to 398 migrants living in an irregular situation. The project also accompanied

migrants during visa and regularization procedures and provided humanitarian assistance for migrant families experiencing unemployment.

## DRIVING COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

In **Latin America** and the **Caribbean**, ICMC supports advocacy and actions responding to the complex realities of migration, labor, and social justice, in close collaboration with Church and grassroots partners.

In September, ICMC joined Church organizations from around the world in Bogotá, **Colombia**, for two international meetings focused on refugees and migration: the 7th General Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Network on Migration, Displacement, Refuge and Human Trafficking (Red CLAMOR) and the first MigraRed international meeting on migration and asylum.

“  
We have had to deal with different types of people, from Venezuela, Colombia, Chile, Nicaragua, Peru, Ecuador. With support from our donors and our team of volunteers, we have tried to always assist migrants in the best possible way.  
”

Virgilio Galo, pastoral agent and volunteer for the ICMC-supported Pastoral Care of Human Mobility of Honduras' Ecclesial Migrants' Table.



Migrants in transit in Danli, Honduras.  
© IOM / Ismael Cruceta

Discussions focused on addressing the migratory situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting the multidimensional challenges migrants face in the region. The launch of the MigraRed network, a global initiative bringing together human mobility networks and Caritas worldwide, additionally ensured ICMC remains at the center of strengthened collaboration among Church networks focused on refugees and migration.

In November, ICMC participated in the second Fratelli Tutti Synodal Meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, organized by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM). Through “The Future of Work – Labour after Laudato si” project, ICMC contributed to the launch of the Network of Organized Labor of the Americas (RETO), a new regional platform bringing together 40 invited representatives of Church, business, trade union, and academic organizations across the region.



400 children whose families had recently returned to Haiti were given kits containing clothing and school supplies.



1,434 migrants in transition received food, clothing, hygiene and health items, and guidance on managing trafficking risks in Honduras.



398 migrants living in irregular situations in Chile were supported through immigration and employment assistance.

## MEMBER STORY

### CALLING FOR ACTION AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

For the past decade, the increasing number of migrants seeking protection at the U.S. southern border with Mexico has presented an ongoing practical and political crisis for successive U.S. administrations. From January 2021 to January 2024, more than 7.2 million migrants were estimated to have attempted to cross the border.

In January 2024, Catholic bishops of the Mexico-Texas border region issued a joint statement urging the governments of the United States and Mexico to implement concrete actions to improve the situation of migrants and their families at the border. Among the measures they proposed were expanded and more accessible legal migration routes, education and foster care for unaccompanied migrant children, and the provision of adequate accommodation at the border.

The statement's signatories included Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Migration of ICMC's national member, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop J. Guadalupe Torres Campos of Mexico, President of the Episcopal Commission of Pastoral Care for Human Mobility (DEPMH) of the Episcopal Conference of Mexico and ICMC Governing Committee member.



Migrant hoping to enter the U.S., at a shelter run by the diocese of Matamoros-Reynosa, Mexico.  
© Alejandro Cartagena / IOM



ASIA AND OCEANIA

In 2024, ICMC supported survivors of gender-based violence and engaged refugees in awareness-raising activities in Malaysia. ICMC support also ensured shelter and humanitarian assistance for refugees in Papua New Guinea, built leadership and self-reliance for migrant communities in Papua New Guinea, India, and Thailand, and strengthened child protection in Bangladesh and Malaysia.

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ICMC Malaysia assisted 723 survivors of gender-based violence, the majority of whom were women and girls. ICMC facilitated access to medical treatment, shelter placement, police reporting, emergency funding for legal, medical, and shelter services, cash and rental assistance, financial support to access childcare and keep children in school, and psychosocial support for adults and children. ICMC peer counseling also provided tailored emotional support to 90 survivors, mainly from the Rohingya community.

ICMC Malaysia continued to build awareness of gender-based violence in refugee communities. Our gender-based violence awareness sessions, delivered by refugee volunteers, reached 1,476 participants from the Rohingya, Somali, and Chin communities, and enabled ICMC to distribute 2,553 information, education, and communication materials. 35 refugee volunteers and staff from local NGOs and community organizations completed ICMC's Gender-Based Violence Training of Trainers program, ensuring strengthened links with refugee communities.

SHELTER AND DIGNITY FOR REFUGEES

For over four decades, conflict in West Papua, Indonesia, has displaced many thousands of people to neighboring Papua New Guinea.

In 2024, ICMC supported its national member, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, to ensure dignity and adequate shelter for West Papuan refugees living in the peripheries of the capital, Port Moresby. August saw the conclusion of an initiative to install latrines at three informal refugee camps. The program also facilitated health awareness activities and health checks in refugee camps.

ICMC continued to support a community of newly-arrived West Papuan asylum-seekers as they identified land to build a shelter. From September, ICMC support also ensured that 36 refugees and asylum-seekers – most of them elderly – who are ineligible for mainstream refugee programs in Papua New Guinea, received monthly cash assistance.

BUILDING LEADERSHIP AND SELF-RELIANCE

ICMC continued to build the resilience of refugee and migrant communities via training, capacity-building, and support for income-generating activities.

In India, the global COVID-19 pandemic prompted ICMC's national member, the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), to create a database of migrant workers linking them with public social protection programs. In May 2024, with support from ICMC, CCBI launched a 12-month initiative to help migrant workers access this support. Working across five locations in the suburbs of

“

*[ICMC's training on Child Cyber Safety] helped us frame what was necessary and what kids need to know, especially as the world is changing. [It educated us on] how to keep them safe and cater to their specific needs.*

”

Felix Mea Hing Jian, a teacher from the Dignity for Children Foundation who took part in ICMC's Child Cyber Safety Training.

Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the project established five Community Resource Centers for migrant workers and provided capacity-building and legal awareness training to six migrant leaders. These leaders were elected to lead People's Collectives, which aim to strengthen migrant workers' voices.

In Thailand, ICMC support enabled Caritas Thailand and the National Catholic Commission on Migration to facilitate 12 training sessions for 205 migrant leaders. The training aimed to build migrant leaders' capacity to understand the complexities of working in Thailand and support their communities. Trainings took place across 11 provinces and covered labor policies and regulations, risks of forced labor and human trafficking, community leadership, mental health, and domestic violence.



Educators from refugee community education centers participate in ICMC Malaysia's Child Cyber Safety Program, learning the necessary skills to protect children from online threats. © Christian Tasso/ICMC

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING

In 2024, 51 educators participated in ICMC Malaysia's Children Safety Programme training, and 53 more completed ICMC's Child Cyber Safety Programme. The program provided lesson plans and classroom materials to help educators implement their learning in the classroom.

From June to December 2024, ICMC supported Caritas Bangladesh's response to the challenges facing children in crowded refugee camps, and the limited resources available to support their mental health and protect them from trafficking.

Community counsellors visited 710 households and identified 82 children with mental health support needs and/or at risk of trafficking. 158 awareness-raising sessions on mental health, psychosocial wellbeing, and anti-trafficking and referral mechanisms reached


3,102 children, and 12 clubs for children were formed to promote anti trafficking messages within refugee communities.



723 refugee survivors of gender-based violence, primarily women and girls, were assisted by ICMC in Malaysia.



205 migrant leaders in Thailand attended training sessions on national labor policies and the risks of forced labor.



3,102 children living in refugee camps in Bangladesh were reached through awareness-raising sessions on mental health and anti-trafficking.

MEMBER STORY

BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS OCEANIA

2024 saw the launch of the Migrants and Refugees Oceania Network, founded by ICMC's four members in the region, the bishops conferences of Australia, New Zealand, Pacific, and Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBCPNGSI). The Network provides a platform for discussion, cooperation, and joint advocacy among its members, and a mechanism to improve communication between members and dioceses across the region.

“It will allow us to discuss migration issues at a regional rather than solely national level,” says Jason Siwat, director of CBCPNGSI's Migrant and Refugee Desk, who was inspired to create a regional network while attending an ICMC Governing Committee meeting. “I saw that in regions such as Africa and North America, the various national Catholic Bishops' Conferences are collaborating much more with each other than in Oceania. A strong network like theirs did not exist in our region.”

While migration challenges in the region are vast, the Network's initial focus is to improve communication between members, and address joint migration priorities related to climate-induced displacement, seasonal migrant workers' rights, and the plight of West Papuan refugees.



A migrant officer meets with West Papuan refugees. © Rainbow2/CBCPNGSI



EUROPE

In 2024, ICMC continued critical support for Church responses to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. ICMC Europe built capacity and support for strengthened and expanded pathways to protection for refugees in Europe. ICMC deployees supported UN and government activities for the refugee response in Greece.

STRENGTHENING  
COMPLEMENTARY  
PATHWAYS AND  
COMMUNITY  
SPONSORSHIP

According to the UN Refugee Agency, 2.4 million refugees worldwide could neither safely return to their country of origin nor integrate in the country where they had sought refuge in 2024. Fewer than 200,000 were resettled to third countries, leaving many more without access to lifesaving protection.

In light of the overwhelming need to expand global protection, ICMC Europe’s Share Network continued to strengthen European expertise and cooperation for education and labor pathways as additional routes to safety for refugees.

The network co-organized three roundtables to strengthen the scalability and sustainability of complementary education and labor pathways, held in Lisbon (May), Madrid (June), and Paris (October). Attended by a total of 133 representatives from national and local authorities, civil society, academia, the private sector, and students, the roundtables provided key moments for cross-country learning, peer exchange, advocacy, and future collaboration.

September saw the launch of the Higher Education for Refugees Cooperation Network (HERCoN), a new program implemented by a coalition of nine university, civil society and international organization partners from four European countries, led by the Share Network. Co-financed by the European Union’s Erasmus+

program, the two-year project will develop a community of practice and build education pathway awareness, capacity, and engagement amongst the higher education community within the EU.

2024 also saw the continuation of ICMC Europe’s work to expand, strengthen, and sustain community sponsorship of refugees as a key approach to improving integration outcomes in Europe.

In March 2024, the Share Network launched two major European sponsorship programs, co-financed by the European Union and bringing together a consortium of participants implementing national community sponsorship projects in **Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, and Spain**. Together, the programs worked to expand and diversify the stakeholders involved in European community sponsorship, build their capacity and expertise, and ensure sponsorship quality and innovation.

As part of these initiatives, the Share Network hosted a two-day online roundtable in September. 90 participants exchanged on sponsor mobilization, recruitment and retention strategies, and the role of nominating individual beneficiaries in community sponsorship. Drawing on the outcomes of these discussion, ICMC Europe led a discussion on sponsorship nominations at the November Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative Summit in Dublin.

In November, ICMC Europe co-hosted a one-day conference exploring links between sponsorship and private housing initiatives for refugees, held in Brussels and attended by 53 participants from 12 European

“  
If we empower  
communities to  
resolve their issues  
locally, we reduce  
the burden on host  
nations and give  
displaced people  
the dignity of  
self-reliance.  
”

Magdi Masaraa, founder of the French NGO project Durmongaa Éducation pour Tous, during a roundtable organized by the Share Network.

countries, and published a practical guide for practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders working on expanding safe and legal protection pathways for refugees.

By the end of 2024, the Share Network had recruited five Outreach and Engagement Coordinators to build sponsorship awareness and engagement among refugee and diaspora communities in **Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Portugal**. All are refugees or migrants with strong ties to local networks and refugee-led organizations. They will begin their work in 2025.

ADVOCATING FOR  
BETTER REFUGEE AND  
MIGRATION POLICIES

Throughout 2024, ICMC Europe continued to advocate for European policies and funding to support expanded and strengthened refugee resettlement, reception, and inclusion in the EU.



After arriving in France from Sudan in 2016, Magdi Masaraa enrolled in the Certificate for Young Refugees program at Sciences Po in Paris. He realized that education could pave the way to a better future for other refugee youth. © Viviana Díaz Frias/ICMC Europe

In April, ICMC Europe and 22 other civil society members of the EU Resettlement Coalition issued a joint statement on the newly adopted Union Resettlement Framework, a permanent and harmonized framework for resettlement and humanitarian admission to the EU. The statement identified increased capacity, improved monitoring, and participatory implementation as the three key priorities for EU resettlement action.

In June, ICMC Europe participated in the annual Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways in Geneva, led by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), presenting insights on global trends in education pathways and the organization’s work on identification, referral, and matching of refugees in the context of complementary pathways. As a member of the Global Task Force on Third Country Education Pathways, ICMC Europe supported the development of the Task Force’s technical advice working group and

contributed to developing and implementing the Task Force’s global advocacy strategy. In November, the Resettlement Coalition participated in the launch of the High-Level Committee on Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission, a multistakeholder platform supporting the European Commission to implement the Regulation.

Also in November, ICMC Europe’s Anna Coulibaly participated in the 9th meeting of the European Migration Forum (EMF), a platform for dialogue between European civil society organizations and institutions on immigration, asylum, and migrant integration. Focused on the implementation of the EU Pact Migration and Asylum, the meeting marked one year since Anna’s election to the EMF Bureau as a European civil society representative, playing a central role in planning and implementing annual EMF meetings.

MEMBER STORY

SUPPORTING  
MEDITERRANEAN  
SEARCH AND  
RESCUE MISSIONS

Since 2014, 30,000 people have lost their lives attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe. Fondazione Migrantes, ICMC’s member in Italy, is responding to the ongoing deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea by supporting lifesaving civil society Search and Rescue operations.

On 23-25 August 2024, the organization supported a joint initiative by the Search and Rescue platform Mediterranean Saving Humans and the diocese of Fano-Fossombrone-Cagli-Pergola, providing a support boat to accompany the Mediterranean vessel on its mission. Over a period of 24 hours, the mission saved the lives of 182 people on three vessels, including 63 children, many of whom showed signs of severe dehydration and prior torture. Onboard the support boat were medical personnel, an intercultural mediator, three journalists, and two Fondazione Migrantes staff.

“It was crucial to include journalists, because the world of communication plays a fundamental role in shaping accurate public opinion on migration,” says H.E. Monsignor Gian Carlo Perego, President of Fondazione Migrantes. “The hope is that Europe will once again take the lead in the control and rescue of migrants at sea.”



© Fondazione Migrantes




“

*As a future priest, this program gave me a lot – both as a person and as a minister. I am convinced that the experience I gained will become a solid foundation for my future priestly ministry, especially in accompanying people who have experienced loss, trauma, or are looking for support.*

”

Taras\*, a Ukrainian seminarian who took part in ICMC's training to help members of the clergy support people affected by the war.  
\*Name changed to protect identity.



Ukrainian seminarians in an ICMC workshop on providing psychosocial assistance to people who have lived through war trauma. © ICMC

DEPLOYING EXPERTS TO SUPPORT THE REFUGEE RESPONSE IN GREECE

The number of asylum claims lodged in **Greece** again increased in 2024, with just over 69,000 requests for protection received. The vast majority were registered by people arriving by sea to the Greek islands, placing immense strain on the country's reception system. Approximately 80% of those seeking protection in Greece were recognized as refugees in 2024, creating a need for assistance and support to facilitate their integration.

Via an agreement with UNHCR, ICMC continued to recruit and deploy experts to Greece to support the activities of both UNHCR Greece and the Greek government.

Throughout the year, ICMC provided crucial human resources and operational support to UNHCR Greece by recruiting and managing 35 expert personnel, 25 of whom were deployed to the country's capital

and surrounding area, and 10 to other locations throughout Greece. Deployees played a central role in enhancing UNHCR's organizational capacity in relation to child protection, gender equality, youth projects, communications, and planning.

Via UNHCR, ICMC deployed 6 additional experts to the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum. Deployees supported Greek authorities in the national refugee response, providing technical support, capacity building, and strategic advocacy on matters including border monitoring, combating racism and gender-based violence, child protection, and refugee integration.

In 2024, approximately 13,000 displaced children arrived by sea to the Greek islands, almost double the number arriving in 2023. ICMC deployed 23 expert staff to support the Greek operations of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); 22 to Athens and one to the city of Larissa. Deployees provided support

and assistance in areas including education, gender, child protection and guardianship, children's rights, health, monitoring, and communications.

SUPPORTING CHURCH RESPONSES TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN UKRAINE

As the war in **Ukraine** entered its third year, over 3.6 million people remained internally displaced. Throughout 2024, ICMC continued to focus its efforts in the country on improving the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of those affected by the ongoing conflict. ICMC prioritized working through Church networks to build the capacity of a diverse range of Catholic organizations to provide psychological assistance.


Together with the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Seminary of the Holy Spirit in Lviv, ICMC continued to train seminarians to properly recognize and respond to symptoms of psychological distress in conflict-affected populations. 850 seminarians participated in training workshops conducted in every Catholic seminary in Ukraine, 40 of whom benefited from further practical training via supervised ministry sessions in local cemeteries. 114 seminarians received free in-person and online psychotherapy sessions to help them manage their own trauma and psychosocial health.

In Lviv, ICMC support enabled the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Lviv to host five 3-day training programs for 150 psychologists and social workers providing mental health services at Roman Catholic diocesan mental health centers. These specialized trainings focused on topics including responding to post-traumatic stress, managing loss, and suicide prevention. ICMC support enabled the Chortkiv House of Mercy, a former children's facility now housing internally displaced children and adults with disabilities, to employ a team of 6 psychologists providing services to 92 adults and 88 children.


ICMC continued to support interventions responding to the particular mental health impacts of long-term conflict for children and families. This support enabled the St. Nicholas House of Mercy in Lviv to ensure the ongoing provision of psychosocial, developmental, and

behavioral assistance to 100 local and displaced children, and the Children's Space for internally displaced persons in Beryslav, southern Ukraine, to provide a range of social and developmental activities for 150 children dealing with displacement-related stress and trauma.


In Ternopil, ICMC supported the Archcathedral of the Immaculate Conception to provide a summer therapeutic weekend retreat program for internally displaced and local families suffering from post-traumatic stress. The program ensured adults benefited from a range of therapeutic activities using art, mindfulness, and group approaches, provided 20 art therapy weekend activities for children aged 5-14, and ensured 20 individual sessions for adults, conducted with a psychotherapist and catechist. In Lviv, ICMC supported the Nativity Mother of God Parish to provide a 6-day summer respite break for 10 persons with disabilities and their parents/caregivers, and enabled the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish to facilitate a series of summer camps to support the integration of 60 children displaced to the Lviv region.



**150** psychologists and social workers in Ukraine attended training programs on post-traumatic stress, managing loss, and suicide prevention.



**64** deployments of experts in Greece supported the refugee and child protection responses of UNHCR, UNICEF, and government operations.



**600+** people attended ICMC Europe's webinars, roundtables, and events.



An Afghan family at the Malakasa refugee camp near Athens.  
© Stefano Schirato/ICMC



# MIDDLE EAST

In 2024, ICMC continued to support the refugee resettlement activities of the United States and European countries, contributing to the resettlement of 7,289 people who had sought protection in Türkiye and Lebanon. ICMC continued to support those affected by the February 2023 earthquake in Syria, and migrants and asylum-seekers in the Holy Land who lost their livelihoods due to conflict.

## FACILITATING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TO THE U.S.

As a designated partner of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) at the U.S. Department of State, ICMC has assisted persons seeking resettlement to the U.S. for more than 40 years.

ICMC's Resettlement Support Center - Türkiye and the Middle East (RSC TuME) had offices in **Türkiye** and **Lebanon**, at which ICMC staff conducted refugee resettlement processing, provided pre-departure cultural orientation, and facilitated medical screenings for refugees who could neither safely return to their country of origin nor remain in the country where they sought refuge.

In 2024, ICMC RSC TuME staff conducted pre-screening interviews for 9,654 refugees, presented 10,463 persons identified as in need of resettlement to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and coordinated individual medical examinations for 10,637 persons. A further 6,901 refugees selected for resettlement participated in pre-departure cultural orientation classes facilitated by ICMC staff.

7,289 refugees assisted by ICMC in Türkiye and Lebanon departed for the U.S. during the year, just under 10% more than the previous year. Priority caseloads included survivors of the February 2023 earthquake affecting Türkiye, U.S.-affiliated Afghans, LGBTQ+ persons, and those participating in Welcome Corps, a new U.S. private sponsorship program launched in January 2023.

## EXPANDING EUROPE'S RESETTLEMENT CAPACITY

Since 2019, ICMC has supported the growing resettlement efforts of European countries via the Resettlement Support Facility (RSF) in Istanbul, in collaboration with Jesuit Refugee Service. The RSF is a crucial tool for coordinating European refugee-related activities, and a central component of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)'s operations.

In 2024, the RSF supported 16 national selection missions for 2,401 refugees, an increase of more than 185% from 2023. It also supported ten pre-departure orientation missions for 1,471 refugees, and eight departure missions for 226 refugees. ICMC provided logistical support for delegations from eight European countries conducting missions to Türkiye to select refugees referred for resettlement by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), facilitating medical screenings for 110 refugees, preparing refugees for travel, and coordinating departures.

## POST-EARTHQUAKE SUPPORT IN SYRIA

Within **Syria**, the impact of two colossal earthquakes along the Türkiye-Syria border in February 2023 continued to intensify a dire humanitarian situation characterized by conflict, violence, and displacement. In 2024, ICMC continued to support a 12-month initiative implemented by Pro Terra Sancta, begun in mid-

*Pre-departure training prepares individuals resettling to a new country for the practicalities and cultural adjustments they will encounter upon arrival. It aims to manage expectations, reduce stress, and build a foundation for successful integration.*

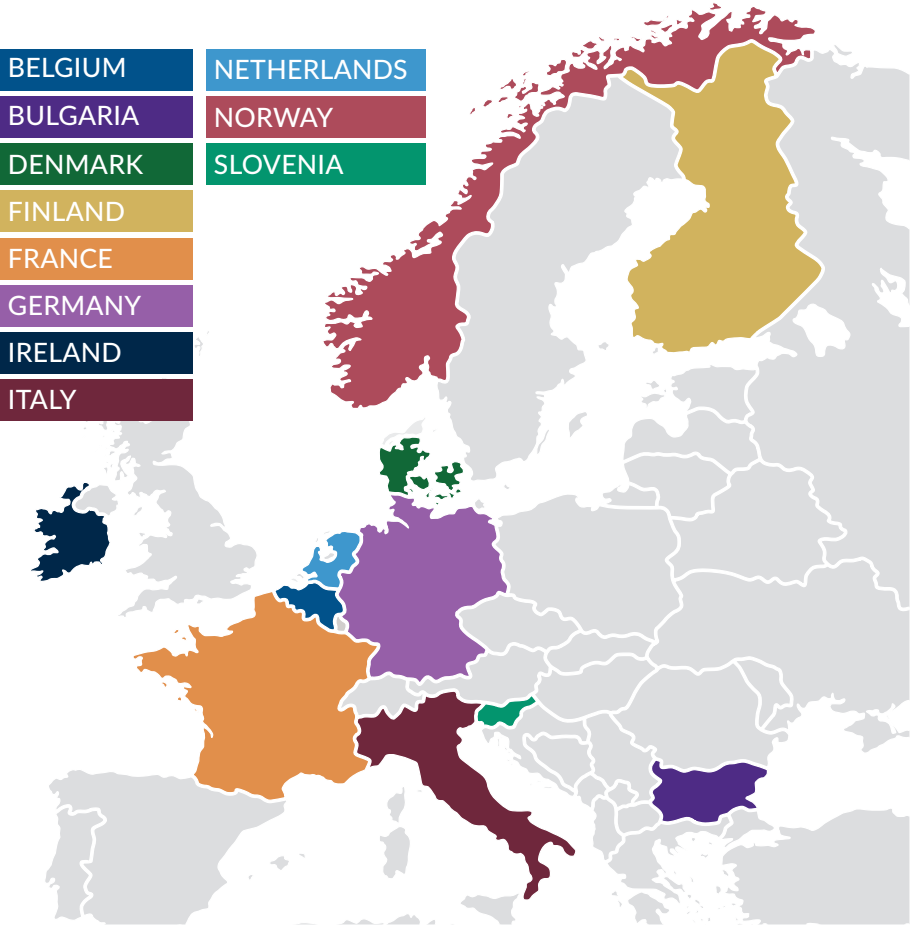


Refugees in Istanbul selected for resettlement to the Netherlands identify their countries of origin and destination during a pre-departure orientation mission facilitated by the Dutch government. © Stefano Schirato/ICMC

2023. By the project's conclusion in August, 3,100 persons had received psychosocial and health support, household kits, and hot meals.

## HELPING MIGRANTS IN THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE

In 2024, ICMC continued supporting the Vicariate for Migrants and Asylum Seekers of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem to assist migrant and asylum-seeking families in the **Holy Land**, many of whom have been left unable to provide for their basic needs due to conflict in the region. 80 families received support including food and hygiene packages, assistance for tuition fees, and cash support for basic living expenses.



Countries for which selection, pre-departure and departure missions were facilitated by the EUAA's Resettlement Support Facility in Türkiye in 2024.

## MEMBER STORY

### EGYPTIAN PARISHES ASSIST SUDANESE REFUGEES

By the end of 2024, over 600,000 registered Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers lived in Egypt. Most had arrived in the country within the previous two years, fleeing the civil war that erupted in Sudan in April 2023 and the subsequent humanitarian catastrophe. Over one-third were children, and many suffered from chronic health conditions.

Since the conflict's outbreak, five Catholic parishes of the Apostolic Vicariate of Alexandria, which spans the whole country, are specifically dedicated to assisting Sudanese refugees. A sixth focuses on Eritrean refugees who fled Sudan, and a seventh on Egyptians from Sudan. By May 2024, they had already registered 15,000 people in need of assistance.

"Our challenge is to assess the exact needs and who is most in need, and how we can prioritize our resources in such a dramatic situation," says Father Mina, parish priest of Sakakini, Alexandria. The parishes help with access to food, healthcare, housing, education, and transportation. They also respond to the immense need for psychosocial support through activities such as games for children and workshops on psychological challenges for adults.



Father Jal of the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart in Alexandria meets with Sudanese refugees coming to receive a food basket. © Sean Sprague / Alamy



# GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

In 2024, ICMC continued to advocate for decent work and social justice, ensure a voice for civil society in global migration processes and discussions, and support global resettlement and refugee protection operations.

## CIVIL SOCIETY'S VOICE IN GLOBAL DISCUSSIONS ON MIGRATION

Since 2011, ICMC has served as the secretariat for the Civil Society Mechanism of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD). This informal platform allows governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to exchange and cooperate on issues related to migration and development. ICMC coordinates civil society engagement in the process.

The GFMD French Chairmanship concluded on 23-25 January 2024 with the 14th GFMD Summit, held in Geneva. The Civil Society Mechanism coordinated the Summit participation of 110 civil society delegates from 42 countries, just under half of whom were members of migrant or diaspora communities. 45% of civil society delegates traveled from countries in the Global South.

On the eve of the Summit, civil society preparation concluded with a 3rd Civil Society Preparatory Meeting, themed 'The State of Migration and Human Rights.' With the GFMD Mayors Mechanism, Business Mechanism, and the Migration Youth & Children Platform, the Civil Society Mechanism additionally co-facilitated the pre-Summit workshop 'Climate Action in a Green/Just Transition,' producing a joint message for the Summit's opening session.

At the Summit, the Civil Society Mechanism co-chaired the GFMD Roundtable on Climate Change and Human Mobility alongside the governments of Argentina and Fiji. It also hosted the 'Government and Civil

Society Chat Circles' session, bringing together civil society leaders from 29 countries, and co-facilitated an official Mechanism-led side event on migration narratives in collaboration with the government of the United States of America, the GFMD Working Group on Public Narratives and Migration, and the International Centre for Migration Policy and Development (ICMPD).

Following the Summit, the Civil Society Mechanism began a new work program to prepare engagement in the 15th GFMD, led by the government of Colombia from April 2024. ICMC coordinated the civil society preparation process, hosting a series of global virtual consultations to inform civil society advocacy at official GFMD events.

A series of five online Regional Consultations held in July brought together over 800 participants, representing 400 civil society organizations, to gather inputs on the draft thematic priorities for the 2024-2025 GFMD. Following the official launch of the 15th GFMD Process the Civil Society Mechanism launched its Thematic Dialogues series, with a first online Civil Society Thematic Dialogue bringing together 560 representatives to reflect on challenges and opportunities related to the GFMD priorities.

In November, the Civil Society Mechanism coordinated a delegation of 11 representatives attending the 1st GFMD Preparatory Meeting in Geneva, sharing with government representatives the key issues identified by global civil society.

“

*I joined the ICMC roster because I wanted a chance to directly impact refugees' lives by helping them rebuild their lives after fleeing persecution and violence [...] Working as a Resettlement Expert in Karongi, Rwanda, has been incredibly rewarding because of the tangible contribution resettlement makes to the well-being and future of the refugees.*

”

Josephine OPIYO,  
ICMC deployee in Rwanda

## COORDINATING CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION

Since 2016, ICMC has coordinated the Civil Society Action Committee, the largest global platform uniting civil society for collective strategy and engagement in international migration policy and governance. Throughout 2024, the Action Committee engaged with a wide range of global migration partners and processes to ensure a voice for global civil society.

In May, the Action Committee presented a statement on regular migration pathways at the International Dialogue on Migration in New York, and organized a discussion between 11 Action Committee representatives and IOM Director-General Amy Pope. In September, ICMC co-organized 'Migration for the Future,' an official Summit of the Future side event in New York. The event focused on the future of human mobility, international cooperation, and sustainable development, and featured a civil society panel with



ICMC deployee Josephine Opiyo with refugees during a resettlement counselling session in Kizibarefugee refugee camp. © Josephine Opiyo/UNHCR

leaders from youth, academia, and faith-based organizations.

The Action Committee also supported its members' participation in the Regional Migration Review Forums associated with the Global Compact for Migration process, taking place in 2024 for the Europe, North America, Central Asia (UNECE), Middle East and North Africa, and Africa regions. Throughout the Regional Reviews, Action Committee members participated as members of stakeholder advisory groups, as panelists at Multistakeholder Hearings, and in key thematic sessions during intergovernmental reviews.

2024 also saw the Action Committee forging closer partnerships with United Nations treaty bodies, specifically the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW). In March, the Action Committee and its Working Group on Race and Migration submitted a concept paper

for the CERD-CMW Joint General Comment/Recommendation on State Parties Obligations on Public Policies for Addressing and Eradicating Xenophobia.

## PROMOTING THE 'CARE IS WORK' APPROACH

Since 2016, ICMC has coordinated the "The Future of Work – Labour after Laudato Si'" (FOWLS) project, a global initiative exploring the future of work through the lens of *Laudato Si'*. The project engages Vatican institutions, trade unions, business associations, interfaith actors, academia, grassroots organizations, and youth movements in advocacy for policies that recognize 'care is work, work is care', emphasizing the inseparable link between work, care, and the protection of our common home.

In May, ICMC coordinated Care is Work, Work is Care: Towards Building a Global Transformative Community and Contributing to

the Global Development Agenda, a global consultation gathering 65 representatives from the Holy See, Episcopal Conferences, international organizations, NGOs, trade unions, faith-based organizations, academia, and civil society, held in Rome.

Participants were received by His Holiness Pope Francis in a private audience during which the Holy Father advocated for decent and dignified work and better treatment of migrants. The consultation introduced Roadmap for a Common Journey, a FOWLS Project publication taking stock of project activities and providing a framework for future joint action in five interrelated priority areas, and methodologies to promote social dialogue among diverse stakeholders.

In June, an ICMC delegation participated in the 112th International Labour Conference in Geneva, the annual high-level meeting at which the International Labour Organization (ILO) brings together representatives from governments, employers, and workers from 187 member states to discuss and set labor standards and policies.

ICMC President Christine Nathan delivered statements to the ILC plenary and the General Discussion Committee on Decent Work and the Care Economy, promoting the FOWLS Project's 'Care is Work, Work is Care' approach and highlighting the particular needs and situations of migrants and refugees. The delegation also presented the FOWLS Roadmap publication to senior ILO staff, and mapped future collaboration in the context of ICMC's membership of the ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice.

In October, ICMC promoted the 'Care is Work, Work is Care' approach and the FOWLS Project Roadmap to a European audience at the Care Dialogue organized by UNI Care Europa in Brussels. The event brought together a wide array of stakeholders to discuss dignified work and social justice, to reflect on areas including Catholic social teaching and trade union advocacy, fair wages, working conditions, and collective bargaining rights.



# GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING UNHCR RESETTLEMENT AND PROTECTION OPERATIONS

2024 marks a decade of consecutive increases in global displacement, with just over 123 million displaced people worldwide. Many live in extreme precarity and insecurity, and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimated that more than 2.4 million needed resettlement to a third country.

For more than 25 years, ICMC has been deploying refugee protection and resettlement experts to UNHCR field operations across the world.

The ICMC Deployment Scheme roster includes experts from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, with wide-ranging expertise in crucial areas of protection and resettlement processing. In 2024, 500 roster members brought expertise in resettlement (351), refugee status determination (266), complementary pathways to protection (23), child protection (128), sexual and gender-based violence (76), and anti-fraud (58).

This wide-ranging expertise enables ICMC to match deployee skills and experience to the specific requirements of each field operation. In 2024, the ICMC Deployment Scheme facilitated 79 deployments to UNHCR operations in 30 countries, in Africa (25), Asia-Pacific (17), the Americas (17), Europe (1), and the Middle East and North Africa (19). 77 experts were deployed, with some undertaking more than one assignment.

52,373 persons benefitted from assessments conducted by ICMC deployees, and 11,703 resettlement cases (37,909 persons) were processed using deployee assessments. Deployees also conducted assessments to determine the best interests of 1,984 children, and Resettlement Status Determination assessments for 489 cases, all of which were processed.

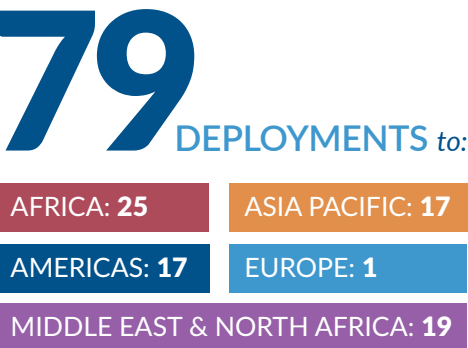
## OVERVIEW OF ICMC GLOBAL DEPLOYMENT SCHEME

500 active roster members comprised of the following profiles:

- Resettlement (351)
- Refugee status determination (266)
- Complementary pathways to resettlement (23)
- Child Protection (128)
- Sexual and gender-based violence (76)
- Anti-fraud (58)



Geographical area to which people were deployed:



ICMC deployment scheme experts by area of expertise and geographical region of deployment. 1 icon (👤) = 10 experts, rounded to the nearest 10.

## STRENGTHENING UNICEF'S CHILD PROTECTION CAPACITY

Since 2020, ICMC has deployed experts to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) operations through the ICMC-UNICEF Standby Agreement. These experts provide on-the-ground protection experience in remote or insecure locations, enabling UNICEF to quickly scale up operations or bring new technical expertise to protracted crises.

In 2024, ICMC deployed 6 specialists to support critical responses in UNICEF country operations in Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza/Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, and Somalia. Together, they worked to build the capacity of key stakeholders to improve child protection responses, and created collaboration frameworks to better integrate child protection across sectors.

# ON THE EVE OF ITS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, ICMC REMAINS COMMITTED TO ITS MISSION

A long chapter of ICMC's history has come to a close. Since the beginning of 2025, the international aid sector has been shaken by unprecedented donor budget cuts. These cuts have significantly reduced the capacity of NGOs to address the most pressing needs of millions of vulnerable people around the world, amidst a spiking number of man-made humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

In response to these challenges, ICMC – like many peer organizations – has been forced to terminate several longstanding refugee-assistance programs across the globe. Unfortunately, thousands of refugees have been left without critical support, and many of ICMC's professional and dedicated staff have lost their jobs.

As resources for humanitarian and development aid continue to decline while needs grow dramatically, more and more people are turning to local churches and faith communities for lifesaving help. The Church – and ICMC with her – cannot ignore those suffering in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and many other places on earth: *"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me"* (Matthew 25:35).

Since its founding in 1951 by Pope Pius XII, ICMC has worked to unite and coordinate Catholic associations and committees serving migrants and refugees. For almost 75 years, it has provided direct assistance to uprooted people and advocated for

their rights at the international level, while amplifying the Church's voice and strengthening its action in many countries worldwide.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to fostering hope through the mission of welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating people on the move. In a world facing mounting crises, this mission continues to be a source of solidarity and a sign of the dignity of every human being as a child of God. Let us embrace "the promise of a present and a future where the dignity of all as children of God is recognized" (Message of Pope Leo XIV for the 111<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees).



"Angels Unawares" sculpture by Timothy Schmalz, in St. Peter's Square, Vatican, commemorating migrants and refugees. © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk



DONORS & FINANCES

“ Thank you for all the work that ICMC does, it is so very needed. We like supporting Catholic ministries and feel that our support is used wisely in the face of so much need. Daily we pray for those displaced and traumatized by war, violence and oppression as we sleep securely in our home with all our needs met. ”

Cathy and Tim Richard  
(long-time donors to ICMC)

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 2024. 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.

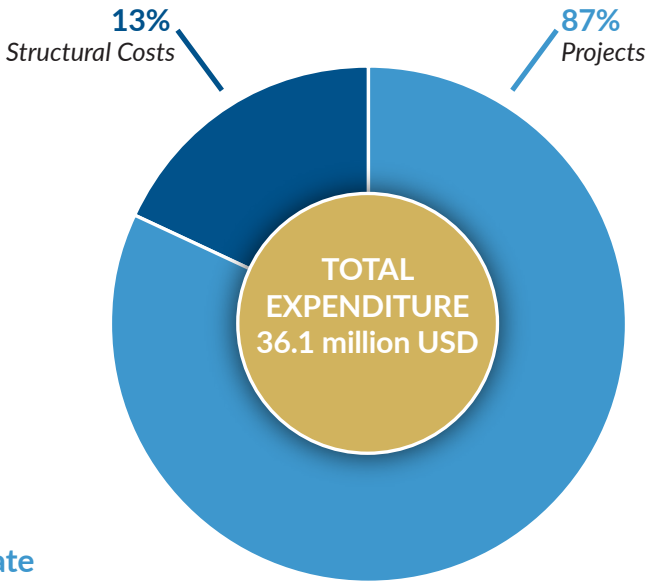
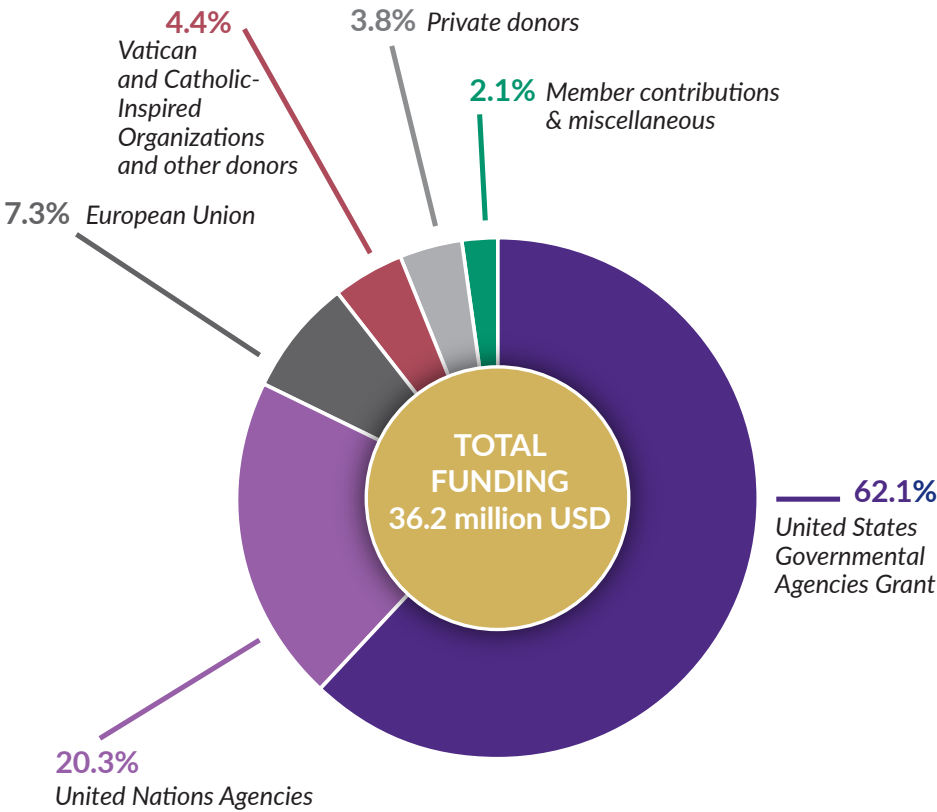
In addition, generous contributions from private donors enabled us to respond where needed most to help migrants and refugees restore their lives with dignity and hope. We are deeply grateful for the continued and inspiring support that comes from the U.S. and around the world.

 To support migrants and refugees assisted by ICMC please visit [www.ICMC.net/donate](http://www.ICMC.net/donate)

FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

ICMC's total funding in 2024 was 36.2 million USD. Total expenditure was 36.1 million USD, 87% of which was allocated to programs that directly benefit vulnerable uprooted people around the world, while 13% 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 2024, visit [www.icmc.net/icmc-donors-finance-2024](http://www.icmc.net/icmc-donors-finance-2024)



INSTITUTIONAL DONORS, PARTNERS AND FOUNDATIONS

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)
European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	United States Agency of International Development (USAID)
European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (EU-AMIF)	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	

CATHOLIC CHURCH-RELATED DONORS, INCLUDING ICMC NATIONAL MEMBER EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES AND FOUNDATIONS

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Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference	Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference of Taiwan	Episcopal Conference of Peru
Bishops' Conference of Burkina Faso and Niger	Conference of Catholic Bishops of Belarus	Episcopal Conference of Spain
Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE)	Conference of the Latin Bishops of the Arab Regions	Episcopal Conference of Malta
Catholic Bishops' Conference of Burundi	Croatian Bishops' Conference	German Catholic Bishops' Conference
Catholic Bishops' Conference of Canada	Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development / Migrants and Refugees Section, Vatican City	GHR Foundation
Catholic Bishops' Conference of Côte d'Ivoire	Diocese of Djibouti and Apostolic Administration of Mogadishu	Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
Catholic Bishops' Conference of India	Episcopal Conference of Argentina	Italian Episcopal Conference
Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea	Episcopal Conference of Austria	Latvian Bishops' Conference
Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei	Episcopal Conference of Belgium	New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference / Caritas New Zealand
Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand	Episcopal Conference of Chile	Porticus Foundation
Catholic Development Office - Caritas Gambia	Episcopal Conference of Colombia	Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities
		Tanzania Episcopal Conference
		United States Conference of Catholic Bishops / Migration and Refugee Services



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

ICMC was founded in 1951 by Pope Pius XII in the wake of the massive displacement caused by the Second World War. ICMC convenes a global network of national Conferences of Catholic Bishops and other Catholic-inspired institutions, as well as other partners responding to the needs of migrants and refugees at national and local levels. ICMC also collaborates closely with the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and its Secretariat of State.

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

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, ICMC has offices in Brussels, Washington, D.C., and Athens. ICMC staff work in over 50 countries.

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