



Restoring Dignity, Inspiring Change

Media Guide | UN Summit, 19 September, 2016

Information for Journalists

This document will provide journalists with information as they prepare stories and narratives for the summit on refugees and migrants on September 19th and 20th. ICMC is available to answer any questions about our programs and advocacy.

Background information

In response to the largest humanitarian crises of our lifetime, world leaders and NGOs will convene a summit on September 19th to address the pressing issues that are facing the more than 65 million people displaced around the world. Most especially, 28 million children are displaced by violence. ICMC is particularly concerned with highlighting the role of faith-based organizations, based on a centuries-old tradition, that provide migrants and refugees with immediate humanitarian assistance and, subsequently, facilitate integration or resettlement for those who are unable to return to their home countries.

How is ICMC helping?

Malaysia

Refugees in Malaysia are at increased risk for domestic and physical abuse. ICMC provides emergency shelter, healthcare and counseling to victims of domestic violence and their children. During times of crisis and personal upheaval, such as becoming a

refugee, stress can become toxic and lead to violence against loved ones. ICMC has worked with over 6,000 adults to prevent violence in the home by providing counseling to men who wish to improve their behavior and play therapy for children to help them cope with trauma.

Greece

During 2015 nearly 850,000 people made the harrowing journey at sea to attempt to reach the safety of the Greek Islands. In 2016 ICMC has tripled its staff presence in Greece to respond to the changing refugee needs. Currently 120 staff members are assisting refugees arriving on the Greek islands. In response to the great needs of unaccompanied children, ICMC opened a transit support center for refugee children who traveled to the islands alone. ICMC provides access to emergency facilities, housing, legal support, interpretation services, medical assistance and psychosocial support. While the children wait for determination of their situation, ICMC provides them with a comforting environment where they can play and learn.

Turkey and Lebanon

With funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), ICMC operates the Resettlement Support Center for Turkey and Middle East in Istanbul, Turkey and Beirut, Lebanon. The Resettlement Support Center for Turkey and Middle East has more than 100 staff members and resettles more than 7,000 refugees every year. Since 2009, it has helped resettle more than 40,000 refugees to the United States.

ICMC processes the applications of refugees referred by UNHCR for resettlement to the United States, within the framework of the US Refugee Admissions Program. If a refugee application is approved by the US Government and US Department of Homeland Security, the RSC accompanies the refugees on their journey to complete the additional requirements for their secure admission into the USA. It also provides a range of other services linked with resettlement, including medical examinations and cultural orientation classes for both adults and children. Cultural orientation is aimed at informing the refugees about American society and bureaucracy as well as facilitating their integration within the new community.

Jordan

Inside Jordan, Syrian refugees are not allowed to work. With no legal means of generating income, they struggle to access basic food, water, shelter, and hygiene-related supplies for themselves and their family members. To aid them in their long stay in Jordan, ICMC helps families make ends meet and provide comforting protection for women and children. ICMC provides cash and rental assistance to keep them housed and safe and provides fuel and heaters to protect them against the cold winters. In ICMC's Protection Center, our

caring staff empowers women to attend literacy classes and recover from the many traumas of war through group therapy sessions.

Syria

Since 2007 ICMC has been partnering with long-standing local organization Terres des Hommes to implement protection programs for refugees and displaced people inside Syria, in the greater Damascus area. ICMC protected against homelessness by providing cash assistance to cover rent expenses as well as essential items to ward off the winter such as blankets and heaters. Because it is often almost impossible to receive specialized healthcare in a warzone, ICMC helps thousands of Syrians and Iraqi refugees receive primary care, prosthetics, prescription eyeglasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs and medical shoes. 1,300 pregnant women were able to deliver their babies in a clean, safe environment with adequate medical support.

Pakistan

For decades prior to the outbreak of the Syrian conflict, Afghans were once the largest group of refugees in the world. Pakistan was host to 2 million Afghan refugees, more than any other country. Today, ICMC continues to provide services to the many families that cannot return to Afghanistan still. To support them in their ongoing struggle of surviving in a foreign land, ICMC is helping Afghans to become independent, empowered and hopeful again. ICMC provides skills training workshops for carpet weaving, shoemaking, carpentry and woodworking. Graduates of the workshops are provided with business training and start-up kits to launch their own businesses.

ICMC also rehabilitated two government schools for rural boys and girls living in Pakistan. These schools enabled 565 students to receive top education in a safe and inspiring environment. The corner stone of the new schools is a fully equipped science laboratory.

Advocating and Inspiring Change

Global Forum on Migration and Development

Since 2011, ICMC has coordinated the activities of global civil society in the preparation of and during the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The GFMD brings together every year over 150 governments and 200 civil society organizations from around the world to discuss policies and practices affecting migrants, their families, and countries to and from which people migrate. Participants include policy-makers from governmental agencies, UN organizations, NGOs, trade unions, the private sector, academia, as well as migrant and diaspora groups. Through the Global Forum, States and civil society have the opportunity to discuss key challenges related to migration and development, share experiences, and enhance practical cooperation for change.

USA-based Resettlement Advocacy

ICMC joined with 40 non-governmental organizations to call upon the US government to keep addressing the protection needs of refugees and other uprooted people through higher levels of humanitarian financing and committing to the creation of 200,000 refugee and humanitarian admissions in 2017. The letter also urged the Obama administration to pledge to increase legal employment opportunities and grant access to quality education and non-formal education activities to refugee children.

For further information on ICMC's programs and activities, please visit [our website](#).

Media Contact

For more questions about ICMC's refugee and migrant protection programs and advocacy please contact, Barbara Sartore, Communication Officer, at sartore@icmc.net.

Quotes

"We hope that the world will heed these tragic scenes and indeed desperate need, and respond in a way worthy of our common humanity."

- Pope Francis, Lesbos, Greece, April 2016

"ICMC has been grateful for the determination of the Summit planners to propose necessary actions, with a needs-first orientation, centered on the dignity of human persons and grounded in the principles of international solidarity and human rights. We hope that that much post-Summit attention will be focused on new and "do-able" solutions, such as complementary pathways for admission and integration, and on more flexible procedures to expedite resettlement. In this regard, faith-based and other civil society organizations will continue to offer strong engagement."

- Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, ICMC Secretary General

Photos and Video

Photos and video will be available following the September 19th event for use. Please contact Barbara Sartore, Communications Officer, at sartore@icmc.net.