

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of an elderly woman's face. She is wearing a black headscarf that covers her hair and the lower part of her face. Her eyes are looking slightly upwards and to the right. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of her skin and the folds of the fabric.

**2015  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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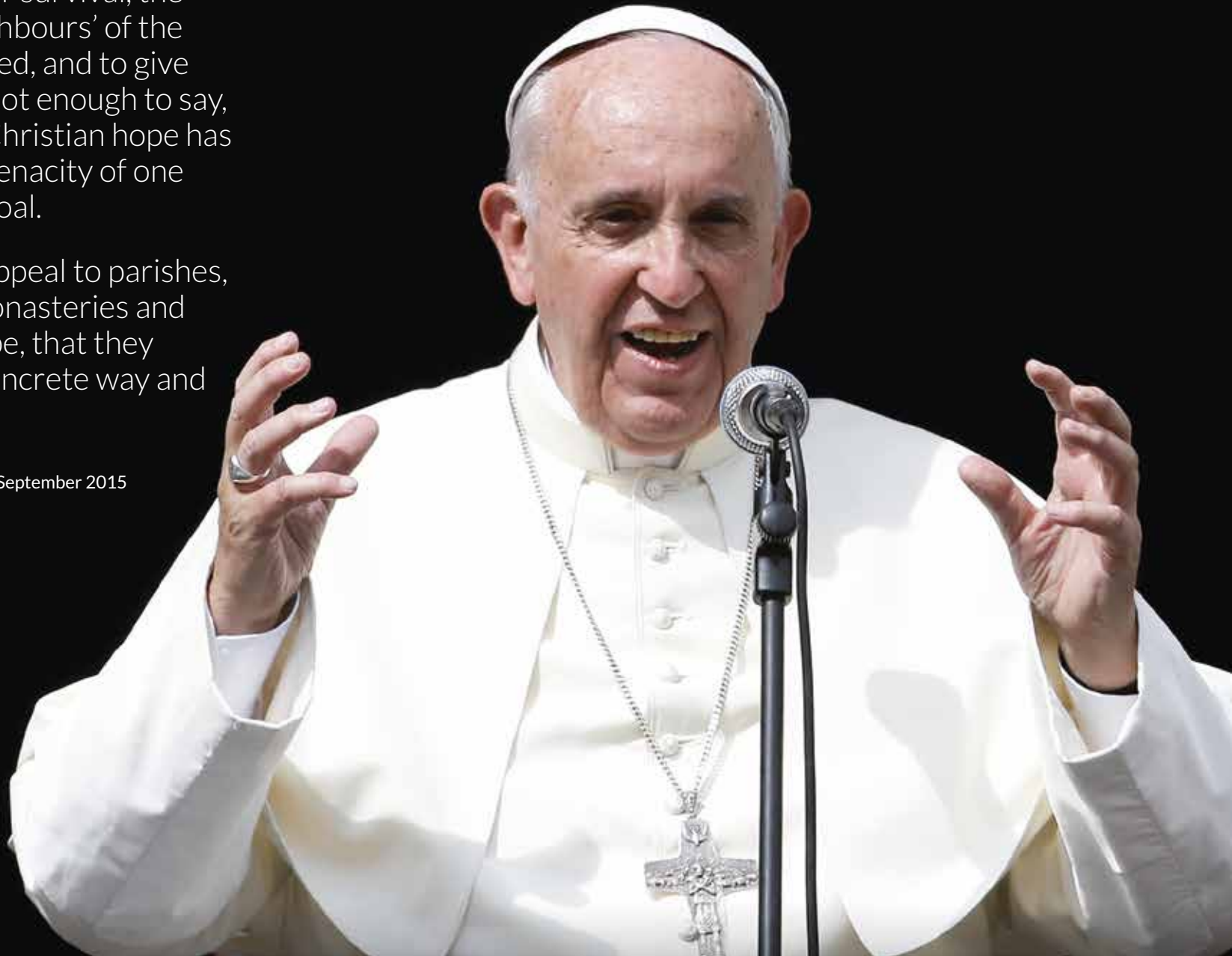
# Acronyms

ECHO	European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department
ECRE	European Council on Refugees and Exiles
EU	European Union
FORIM	Forum of Migrant-based International Solidarity Organizations
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
HIRDA	Himilo Relief and Development Association
ICMC	International Catholic Migration Commission
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRCC	Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
IRIS	International Recruitment Integrity System
MADE	Migration and Development Civil Society Network
MICIC	Migrants in Countries in Crisis
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PRM	United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
RCUSA	Refugee Council USA
RWPC	Refugee Women's Protection Corps
RSC TuME	Resettlement Support Center Turkey and Middle East
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
USCCB	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

“Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees who flee death from war and hunger, and who have begun a journey moved by hope for survival, the Gospel calls us to be ‘neighbours’ of the smallest and the abandoned, and to give them concrete hope. It’s not enough to say, ‘Take heart. Be patient’... Christian hope has a fighting spirit, with the tenacity of one who goes toward a sure goal.

Therefore [...] I make an appeal to parishes, religious communities, monasteries and shrines throughout Europe, that they express the Gospel in a concrete way and host a refugee family.”

Pope Francis, Angelus, Saint Peter’s Square, September 2015



# ICMC'S LEADERSHIP

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



Today we are living the worst crisis of forced displacement since the Second World War. There are now almost 60 million people fleeing violence, conflicts or persecutions. In a global context, that means that more than 40,000 people are forced from their homes every single day.

As the conflicts in Syria and elsewhere continued to generate staggering levels of human suffering, in 2015 huge numbers of refugees were hosted in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Greece, where resources have been inadequate. The only pathway Europe was able to offer to desperate refugees trying to access protection systems was across the life-threatening Mediterranean.

Amidst the current refugee crisis in Europe, the Schengen zone is at risk of collapse as a result of the reintroduction of temporary border controls in many countries. This points to a major breakdown of trust and cohesion amongst European States. Europe currently faces problems in dealing with the influx of refugees – which is admittedly large, but not unmanageable. A Union of more than 500 million citizens should not feel threatened by the arrival of a million or so of desperate refugees. Yet, the impact of the refugee crisis has come to threaten the process of European integration.

The hardest challenge for Europe involves understanding how to live well together and how to build diverse and thriving communities that also serve the 35 million residents of the European Union who were not born there. Europe needs to change in response to the migration flows. Access to schools, to public services, to employment, and to political representation should be ensured for all members of our communities in

a fair and equal manner. This also urges us to rethink our institutions, as well as our own attitudes about what it means to be Irish, British, French, German, Dutch, and so on.

In October 2015, I had the opportunity to visit the ICMC-run Resettlement Support Center Turkey and Middle East in Istanbul, through which thousands of refugees resettle to the United States every year. I was particularly impressed by the work ICMC does there, which I found extremely well-organized and efficient. Resettlement provides refugees with the opportunity to start a new life in another country, away from persecution and conflicts. It is therefore a durable solution for them. In the current context of massive forced displacement, resettlement opportunities should be expanded and involve the participation of countries not yet active in this regard, not only in Europe but globally.

Other legal pathways that allow refugees to find sanctuary without having to risk their lives must also be established. These include humanitarian admission programs, humanitarian and student visas, family reunification programs, and community-based sponsorships.

Rather than feeling threatened by what is unfamiliar and different, we need to acknowledge our diversities and seek a society that is defined by its values and not by its sense of nationality. We need to commit to a future that embraces integration. It offers us the chance to re-imagine and rebuild our communities in a more inclusive and sustainable way.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Peter Sutherland'.

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



The year 2015 marked the highest level ever recorded in worldwide displacement. In Syria, more than half of the population was uprooted, with over 4.5 million fleeing to neighboring countries and some 7 million internally displaced. The humanitarian needs have increased enormously and the call for properly managed solutions and shared responsibility led to contradictory attitudes, whereby the protection of refugees gradually seemed to become less important than the protection of borders. Relocation and resettlement agreements reached between May and September remained insufficient in numbers and resulted in new tensions, particularly on the recognition of protection needs.

A number of countries worldwide showed the political courage and willingness to open frontiers, but general feelings of solidarity and cohesion sadly dwindled. The growing complexity of migration issues and the increasing numbers of people on the move fueled xenophobic attitudes and questioned the traditional humanitarian response models.

Another major event in 2015 was the redefining of the Millennium Development Goals, which were replaced by the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in December. The central theme of the SDGs, "Leave no one behind", is a formula long carried by civil society. In its advocacy and coordinating role, ICMC particularly focused on the need to integrate concerns for safe and regular migration in these new goals. In the coming 15 years, ICMC intends to further contribute to these commitments and make them useful tools to better protect, accompany and integrate all migrants.

Resettlement remains a core activity for ICMC. With more than 120,000 thoroughly conducted interviews, the accompaniment of thousands in their preparation to start anew as permanent residents of the USA, and the continued efforts to convince governments globally to increase the number of refugees received, ICMC contributed to offer better life perspectives to so many refugees. Words of profound gratitude and faces expressing great appreciation for the work done and the support received are hard to translate, but belong to the satisfaction of all ICMC staff in the field. Their work is of great meaning to numerous beneficiaries.

The challenges are growing, the suffering is increasing. Let us remain active, hopeful and aware that through the voices of millions in the world who are working with and in civil society organizations there is a way to halt the xenophobic attitudes, to broaden humanitarian responses and to make a promising difference in the lives of millions. This feeling was confirmed once again this year by the growing number of individual donors, who demonstrated with great empathy their interest in the work done by ICMC. I would like to thank them for their commitment, especially because we fully realize that the means given are only the tip of a mountain of solidarity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Johan Ketelers.





# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2015 witnessed a number of dramatic developments in the refugee crisis in the Middle East. Over 1 million migrants, refugees and asylum seekers crossed the Mediterranean in search of safety or better opportunities in Europe. European countries struggled to establish adequate reception mechanisms, to process asylum requests, and to efficiently redistribute refugees within the European Union.

Many asylum seekers, refugees and migrants who attempted the sea crossing never managed to reach Italian or Greek shores: over 3,700 people died at sea during their journeys. Of these, around 800 lost their lives in a single shipwreck off the Libyan coasts in April. This tragedy contributed to bring the migration issue to the top of the agendas of European leaders and to divert migration flows towards the Balkan countries. Many of these countries responded by shutting borders and building walls to keep migrants and refugees out.

In the context of this dramatic and chaotic situation, ICMC continued to work with refugees and migrants at all stages of their migration path. Displaced Syrians and Iraqi refugees in the **Greater Damascus** area received essential relief items, as well as crucial health treatments. Through its programs in **Northern Jordan**, an area densely populated by Syrian refugees, ICMC distributed humanitarian aid to vulnerable households, particularly during the coldest winter months. Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities in need were provided with rent or cash assistance to cover accommodation and other everyday expenses. In addition, they were able to access educational and psychosocial activities at the ICMC Protection Center in Mafraq.

The ICMC Resettlement Support Center Turkey and Middle East, located in **Turkey** and **Lebanon**, helped refugees – who had gone

through an extensive screening and approval process – in their resettlement to the United States, where they were able to find security and start a new life as permanent residents of the USA. Based at key locations on the islands and at the Greek border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the ICMC staff worked with UNHCR in **Greece** to assist the Greek authorities in managing the reception of incoming asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

ICMC continued to coordinate the efforts of civil society and to connect church partner organizations **across Europe** to support the reception, protection and integration of refugees arriving in the EU countries, exchanging best practices and informing policy agendas at the European and international level. At the advocacy level, ICMC also reiterated its calls on various international fora in **Geneva, Brussels, Istanbul, and Washington** – among other places – to encourage governments worldwide to create safe humanitarian channels for regular migration and to adopt a common approach to address the current refugee crisis.

Although the response to the Middle East refugee crisis was the main focus of ICMC's work in 2015, humanitarian assistance and protection activities continued to be delivered in other parts of the world. In **Malaysia**, ICMC continued to raise awareness on sexual and gender-based violence among the local refu-

gee population, while also offering counseling and support to victims of abuse. In **Pakistan**, ICMC provided safe shelters to refugee families facing serious protection concerns, and offered medical, educational, and counseling services to a larger number of families. In addition to conducting awareness-raising programs on gender-based violence, ICMC also provided vocational training to refugees and host communities, who could learn new skills and start small businesses. At the same time, the rehabilitation of two public schools contributed to increasing the school enrollment rate for both boys and girls.

In **Eastern Europe**, the “ICMC Cares” program – which provides paramedical training and certification to aspiring home caregivers and supports them in seeking employment abroad – was further developed, with a view of expanding its activities in additional locations. At the **global level**, the ICMC-coordinated MADE Network continued to work on migration and development issues, bringing grassroots and regional perspectives to policy-making and advancing the protection needs of vulnerable migrants worldwide.

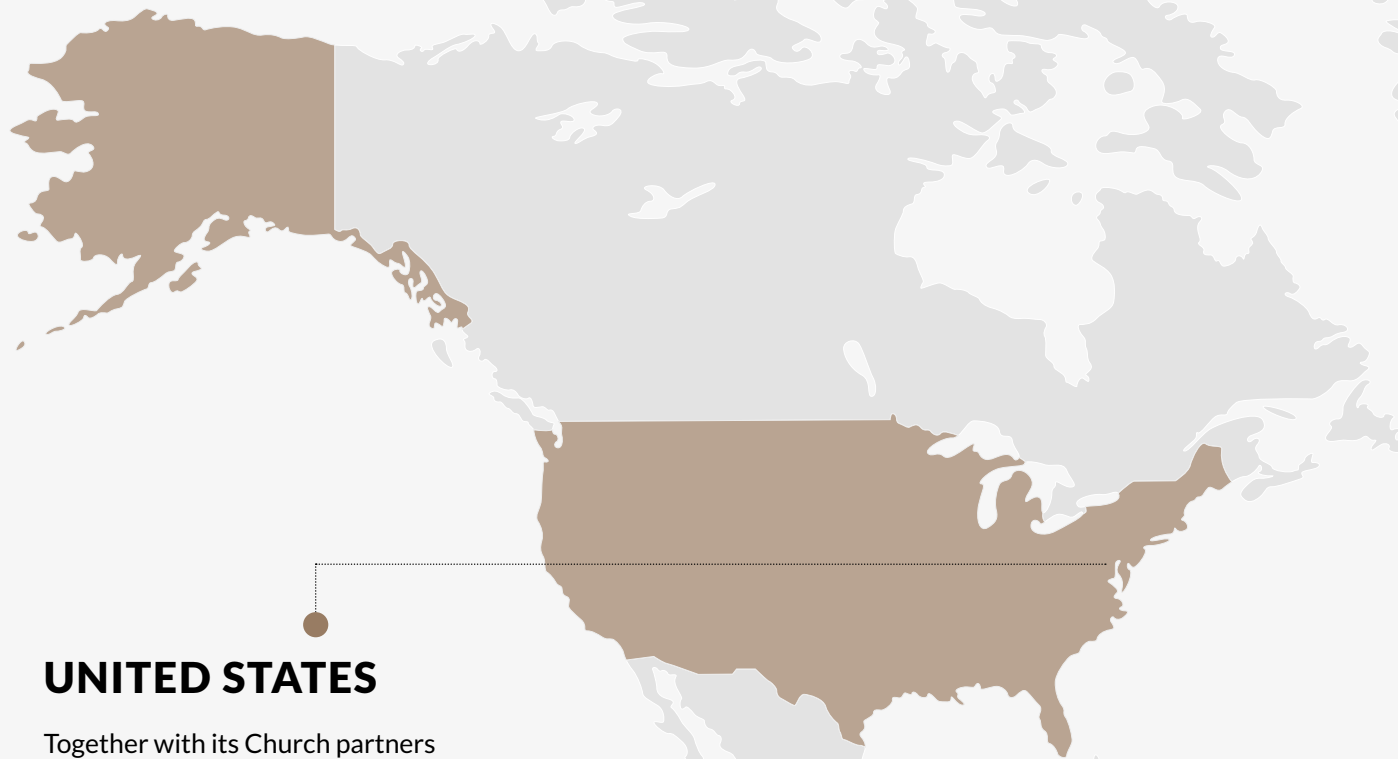
“ICMC calls for an immediate intervention of the international community to address the root causes of these migration flows and urgently develop structured and efficient resettlement. The boats are full, when will our conscience be?”

Johan Ketelers, Secretary General of ICMC, commenting on a shipwreck killing over 400 refugees and migrants off the Libyan coasts on 15 April 2015

Full statement available at: [bit.ly/ketelers-statement](http://bit.ly/ketelers-statement)



# A SNAPSHOT OF OUR 2015 RESULTS



## UNITED STATES

Together with its Church partners and other NGOs, ICMC advocated forcefully to keep the **United States resettlement program** a viable and life-saving option.

## BELGIUM

**140** representatives from municipalities, regions, NGOs, citizens' initiatives, faith-based organizations from **20** European countries participated in the SHARE Network conference in Brussels.

## SWITZERLAND

ICMC authored and delivered a statement to the UN Human Rights Council on behalf of **125** organizations, expressing concerns for the number of migrants' deaths in the Mediterranean.

## ● POLAND

“ICMC Cares” and its partner organizations provided training and certifications to over **100** paramedical professionals.

## ● GREECE

**44** experts were deployed by ICMC to support UNHCR’s operations in key entry points.

## ● TURKEY / LEBANON

**11,038** individuals were interviewed at the Resettlement Support Center Turkey and Middle East. **40%** were Syrians.

## ● SYRIA

Over **2,800** individuals received life-saving and other types of healthcare assistance.

## ● JORDAN

ICMC supported **4,121** Syrian and Jordanian households with either cash or in-kind assistance to respond to families’ needs during the cold winter months.

## ● PAKISTAN

The livelihood support project run by ICMC benefited a total of **4,387** persons. **70%** of those who received training from ICMC were supported in finding suitable jobs.

## ● MALAYSIA

ICMC Malaysia reached out to **5,911** adult refugees with awareness-raising messages on sexual and gender-based violence.

## AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

In the framework of the ICMC-UNHCR Resettlement Deployment Scheme:

- ICMC’s resettlement experts assessed the needs of **121,736** persons and referred **104,570** persons for resettlement consideration to UNHCR. **33,656** of them were Syrian refugees.
- ICMC’s child protection experts conducted **3,873** best interest determination assessments concerning **8,787** persons. Through these processes, the most appropriate long-term measures for unaccompanied or separated refugee children were determined.

At the 2015 Global Forum on Migration and Development, **339** participants attended the Civil Society Days. About **50%** of the civil society delegates were migrants or represented organizations led by migrants or diaspora.

In 2015, MADE organized **32** regional, thematic and civil society network meetings and webinars around the world, with **865** participants from more than **70** countries.

# A GLOBAL RESPONSE TO THE MIDDLE EAST REFUGEE CRISIS





# Syria

Five years since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, the humanitarian and economic situation in the country continued to worsen. Even in urban and rural areas of Damascus, living conditions became of serious concern: internally displaced Syrians – together with Iraqi refugees and local host communities – struggled to maintain adequate living standards.

As the exchange rate of the Syrian pound to the USD reached record highs in November and the buying power of Syrians continued to shrink, many households could no longer afford to cover the costs of basic items such as food, let alone life-saving healthcare assistance or the monthly rent. Continuous gas and electricity shortages made it hard to keep houses warm during the coldest months, hindering commercial and economic activities, as well as the daily work of humanitarian organizations. As local salaries lost purchasing power and most refugees remained incapable of working legally in the country, the population underwent enormous suffering and hardship.

While several NGOs were forced out of Syria as the conflict intensified, ICMC was able to continue providing humanitarian aid in the Greater Damascus area through its collaboration with its long-standing local partner Terre des Hommes Syria. Despite extremely challenging working conditions, throughout the year ICMC and its partner were able to distribute essential



Children stand in the ruins of a destroyed building in Baba Amr, Homs, Syria. © UNHCR / Andrew McConnell

items – such as hygiene kits for adults and children, blankets, mattresses and heaters for the winter – and everyday household items – such as kitchen sets, cleaning tools, and tarpaulins.

People in need received assistance, referrals for health treatments and life-saving surgery. Thanks to the support received, beneficiaries were able to purchase essential medical devices, especially prosthetics, wheelchairs, medical shoes, hearing aids and glasses. ICMC also covered rental payments for vulnerable families, so as to ensure adequate shelter for each household.

“My son’s life was in danger after delivery. The incubator was too expensive and it was impossible for us to pay for it. He might have lost his life without it.”

A beneficiary of ICMC’s health assistance, whose baby was born with a congenital malformation and required incubation

Over **2,800** people benefited from life-saving and other types of healthcare assistance.



Almost **1,300** Syrian women benefited from pregnancy healthcare services, including antenatal and postnatal visits and delivery assistance.

Around **970** families received household items, such as heaters, mattresses, and blankets.



Over **730** individuals benefited from cash assistance to cover rent expenses.

Over **580** individuals were provided with medical devices, such as prosthetics, prescription glasses, wheelchairs, and medical shoes.



# Jordan

At the end of 2015, over 634,000 Syrians were registered as refugees with UNHCR in Jordan, but estimates suggest that over 1.4 million were living in the country, making it difficult for the authorities to manage vulnerable, deprived and traumatized Syrians.

As the majority of these refugees were hosted outside of the camps, in urban or rural areas, substantial strain was placed on available water, electricity, health services, and schools, often resulting in tensions with Jordanian host communities. The legal limitations set to restrict refugees' access to work continued to make Syrians highly dependent on humanitarian aid, as families would otherwise not have been able to provide for their own housing and sustenance.

During the cold winter months, ICMC supported over 4,000 households with either cash or in-kind assistance. More than 2,800 Syrian and Jordanian households received cash assistance to independently manage their daily expenses during the winter, as part of an ECHO-funded project run in collaboration with INTERSOS, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Save the Children Jordan. Over 500 households received cash assistance through a project funded by the Jordan Humanitarian Response Fund administered by OCHA. 800 vulnerable families living in rural areas of Northern Jordan received heaters,

“When we first moved into this apartment, we didn't have any assistance. Our landlord was understanding, but we didn't want to keep delaying what was due. ICMC has given us stability and peace of mind. We can now spend the money we save on better quality food, hygiene and cleaning supplies.”

A Syrian woman whose family received rental assistance

blankets, gas cylinders, and gas refill coupons thanks to funding from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). In addition, around 550 extremely vulnerable households were provided with rent assistance to pay for their accommodation during an average of four months. ICMC also supported over 900 families with basic hygiene packages, including house cleaning kits, as well as personal hygiene kits for adults and babies.

In 2015, ICMC continued to provide cash for rent in Northern Jordan. By delivering both cash and in-kind assistance during the winter months, ICMC was able to meet different households' needs. Families in rural areas and individuals with mobility issues were provided with in-kind materials, as it would have been difficult for them to access cash assistance. Families living in urban areas or with easier ability to move to the marketplace received cash assistance, which allowed them to spend the money on the items they needed the most.

Aside from delivering basic relief items and financial assistance, ICMC continued to offer a range of psychosocial services through its Protection Center located in Northern Jordan. The Center provided illiterate women with Arabic literacy classes and offered focus group discussions in which women had the opportunity to freely discuss their daily problems, traumatizing experiences, or situations of abuse and violence. Children participated in recreational and psychosocial activities offered at the Protection Center, where they also received school supplies and other educational materials.

In 2015, the ICMC Protection Center expanded its activities to also serve vulnerable Jordanian families, so as to bring the Syrian and Jordanian communities together and foster integration.



**4,121** Syrian and Jordanian households received either cash or in-kind assistance to respond to families' needs during the cold winter months.



**5,207** school-age children received educational recreational kits with school supplies.



© European Union / Ahmad Abdo

On 1 November 2015, the European Union Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides visited an ICMC-run project in Northern Jordan.

Read more about the visit:  
[bit.ly/ECHO-Jordan](http://bit.ly/ECHO-Jordan)

# Turkey and Lebanon

Without any decisive outcome to peace negotiations and inter-governmental debates, the ever-deteriorating political instability caused by the Syrian conflict continued to force hundreds of thousands of Syrians to seek protection in neighboring countries.

In Turkey, the number of Syrians grew from 1.6 to 2.5 million. In Lebanon, in the face of overwhelming numbers, new registrations of Syrians were temporarily suspended in May. By the end of 2015, over 1 million Syrians were registered in Lebanon.

For more than three decades, ICMC has partnered with the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) to process the application of refugees referred by UNHCR for resettlement to the USA. Through its offices in Istanbul and Beirut, the ICMC-run Resettlement Support Center Turkey and Middle East (RSC TuME) organizes pre-screening interviews, medical examinations, and cultural orientation classes for those refugees awaiting resettlement to the USA.

In 2015, the RSC TuME began processing larger numbers of Syrian applications. In terms of resettlement, Syrians constituted a relatively new and emerging refugee population. Unlike Iraqis – for example – who have a long resettlement history, not many Syrians have been processed for resettlement in the past years. Traumatized and confused, Syrian refugees struggled to understand the options available to them as a durable solution to their displacement. Many also continued to hope being able to return to their homes once the conflict is over. However, an increasing number felt tempted to abandon the resettlement process to the USA and depart for Europe, a solution that appeared to meet their immediate need to feed, house, clothe, and protect their families. In 2015, tens of thousands fled to Europe by land and sea, risking their lives.

In this context, the ICMC staff at the RSC TuME worked hard to respond quickly and effectively to the challenges posed by the Syrian applications, and continued to process applications for resettlement from other refugees, in particular Afghans, Iraqis, and Iranians. The RSC TuME expanded its case manage-

ment activities by hiring additional staff, in order to increase its capacity to assist higher numbers of refugees. It also worked to improve external communications, so as to better inform refugees about the resettlement procedure, confirming interview appointments, and encouraging refugees to remain in the program.

Throughout the year, the RSC TuME organized 5,541 medical examinations and offered cultural orientation classes to 4,066 individuals (adults and children) in the resettlement process to the USA. By the end of the year, the RSC TuME was able to resettle 5,199 men, women and children to the United States.



In October 2015, ICMC's President Peter Sutherland visited the RSC TuME in Istanbul.

Learn more about his visit:  
[bit.ly/Sutherland-RSC](http://bit.ly/Sutherland-RSC)



**11,038** individuals were interviewed at the RSC TuME. **40%** were Syrians.

**5,199** refugees departed to the United States through the RSC TuME.



The RSC TuME organized **5,541** medical examinations and offered cultural orientation classes to **4,066** individuals (adults and children).

“I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for everything ICMC has done for us during our time in the resettlement process. Thanks so much for all of your consideration and hard work regarding my case. My little daughter and I owe our lives to all of your respected staff.”

A refugee supported by the RSC TuME





An Afghan migrant carries her baby after arriving by a raft on the Greek island of Lesbos in November. © Reuters / Yannis Behrakis

## Greece

In 2015, Greece saw a dramatic increase in the flow of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers fleeing war, conflicts, persecutions, and poverty in search of protection in Europe. Over 858,000 incoming people were registered in Greece in 2015.

Almost all of them arrived by sea, making the country the first port of entry to Europe. The vast majority of those who reached the Greek shores were Syrians; others were from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, and other countries. One out of three were children.

Faced with a severe economic crisis and gravely affected by austerity measures and dramatic cuts on public resources, Greece struggled to manage the reception of the incoming migrants and refugees. On the Greek islands in particular, local authorities continued to be largely understaffed and lacked the necessary resources to ensure fair and dignified reception conditions to all new arrivals.

Arriving on small boats crossing from Turkey – many barely surviving the dangerous journey – refugees and migrants often had very few or no belongings with them and knew little about the protection assistance available to them. Given the economic crisis and the lack of job opportunities in Greece, most refugees and migrants only remained in the country for a few days before moving forward on the Balkan route – initially through the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia and Hungary, and later through Croatia when Hungary closed its border with Serbia – ultimately attempting to reach northern European countries. Due to these large flows and to border restrictions imposed by neighboring States, migrants and refugees concentrated at the frontier between Greece and FYROM,

often stranded for months in makeshift camps in appalling living conditions.

Operational in Greece since 2010, ICMC continued to partner with UNHCR to strengthen the capacity of the country to receive, register, and protect people seeking international protection. The ICMC team in Athens selected and recruited 44 professionals with a thorough expertise in legal issues to work within UNHCR's operations in Greece. Most of these professionals supported UNHCR at key entry points (Chios, Kos, Leros, Lesbos, Rhodes, and Samos) where considerable numbers of Syrians arrived. The ICMC staff informed new arrivals about their rights, identified common issues through interview sessions, and assisted the authorities in dealing with reception procedures and preventing informal returns.

Additional ICMC staff members continued to be deployed to the Central Asylum Service and the Regional Asylum Offices in Athens and in other locations, where they provided support to the national authorities in activities such as quality control of the asylum procedure run by the Asylum Service, legal matters, information analysis, project management, as well as research and management of country of origin information.



**858,000** migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were registered in Greece in 2015. Almost all of them arrived by sea.



ICMC deployed **44** experts to support UNHCR's operations in Greece. ICMC's experts were deployed to key entry points in **Chios, Kos, Leros, Lesbos, Rhodes, and Samos**, as well as in reception sites in Athens and along the Greek border with FYROM.



# Advocating for **increased protection** for refugees from the Middle East

As the number of tragedies increased in the Mediterranean, with thousands of people dying, ICMC increased the strength and frequency of its advocacy calling on governments and inter-governmental organizations to increase means of offering protection to people in need. In particular, ICMC advocated for the protection of Syrian refugees in high-level meetings and platforms of the United Nations and other international agencies.



A refugee woman waits to cross the Greek border into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. © UNHCR / Achilleas Zavallis

In March, ICMC authored and delivered a statement to the United Nations Human Rights Council – on behalf of 125 organizations working on migration issues – expressing serious concerns for the number of migrants’ deaths in the Mediterranean and the lack of appropriate and coordinated responses from EU Member States and other governments. The statement called for increased efforts to address the root causes of migration and to expand resettlement opportunities and other humanitarian admissions.

During its meeting in Rome on 20 April, the ICMC Governing Committee expressed deep concerns about the tragedies unfolding in the Mediterranean. A few days later, ICMC issued a set of key actions needed to respond to the emergency, both in the short and long-term. In particular, ICMC called for the adoption of a comprehensive plan of action, including the cre-

ation of safe humanitarian channels for regular migration, the promotion of reception and integration models for both refugees and migrants, and the search for political solutions that effectively protect populations in and from conflict-torn countries. The statement was widely shared by civil society organizations and international agencies.

Speaking at the Council Meeting of the International Organization for Migration, held in November, ICMC advocated once again for a comprehensive plan of action similar to the program with which the international community came together to address the flow of Vietnamese refugees between 1979 and 1997. ICMC highlighted that such a plan would actualize the commitment of “facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration”, which was undertaken by 193 governments in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“It is time to reanimate cooperation that offered so much relief a generation ago to boat people in Southeast Asia, including robust resettlement and visas for safe, orderly migration within a Comprehensive Plan of Action. It is also time to fix the Dublin Regulation for greater solidarity, humanity and consistency in providing asylum across Europe. Among other things, asylum seekers should no longer be forced back to the country of first access to ask for asylum.”

John K. Bingham, Head of Policy at ICMC, in a statement delivered to the Human Rights Council in March

Read the full statement: [bit.ly/bingham-statement](https://bit.ly/bingham-statement)

# Europe: promoting **safe and legal pathways**, solidarity and welcoming communities in Europe

Located at the center of European policy-making, the ICMC office in Brussels continued to closely follow the political developments of the refugee crisis as over 1 million people crossed the Mediterranean in search of refuge and protection in Europe.

Through intense advocacy efforts, ICMC continued to call for increased resettlement and other safe and legal pathways for refugees in Europe, including humanitarian admissions, community-based sponsorships, extended family reunification, humanitarian visas, and academic scholarships. Published in June, the report **10% of refugees from Syria: Europe's resettlement and other admission responses in a global perspective** highlighted the situation of millions of Syrian refugees living in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon lacking access to employment, education and health assistance. The report called for increased humanitarian aid and solidarity towards Syrians, and urged governments to adopt a comprehensive plan of action to offer 400,000 resettlement and other types of admission places to Syrian refugees.

“The SHARE Network has not been just about exchanging best practices – it has also helped to create a culture of resettlement and welcome in Europe.”

Michael Diedring, Secretary General of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), speaking as a panelist at the SHARE conference in October 2015

ICMC Europe also followed closely the implementation of proposals launched in the framework of the European Agenda on Migration, which included the relocation of refugees from Italy and Greece, two countries facing extreme migratory pressure because of their location at the external borders of the European Union.

Partnering with the Forum of Migrant-based International Solidarity Organizations (FORIM), ICMC Europe also raised awareness on the positive contributions that migrants bring to society, disseminating factsheets and other information tools to counter common misconceptions about migrants.

The activities of the SHARE Network led by ICMC Europe concluded four years of fruitful cooperation and exchange between European regions, cities, civil society partners and churches involved in refugee reception and integration. Enhanced by the many citizens' initiatives sparked everywhere in Europe in the framework of the unprecedented refugee inflow, SHARE organized and facilitated several conferences, training programs, visits, and webinars to exchange best practices and strengthen refugee reception and integration at the local level. The SHARE Network conference, which gathered over 140 participants in Brussels on 20 October, represented an occasion to discuss placement policies and refugee integration. During the event, the Network published a policy statement, “Protecting and Welcoming Refugees in Europe”, which was endorsed by 40 organizations.



Since 2012, the SHARE Network engaged with **1,200** local stakeholders in **23** European countries.



**140** representatives from municipalities, regions, NGOs, citizens' initiatives, faith-based organizations from **20** European countries participated in the SHARE Network conference.



On 20 October 2015, ICMC's President Peter Sutherland addressed a statement at the SHARE conference in Brussels on “Protecting and Welcoming Refugees in Europe: responding to an unprecedented refugee crisis”.

Watch the video:  
[bit.ly/sutherland-share](http://bit.ly/sutherland-share)

# Global Forum on Migration and Development: **forced migration** and **refugee protection** as part of the debates

For the fourth consecutive time, in 2015 ICMC was called to organize the civil society activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which took place in Istanbul from 12 to 16 October. The GFMD began with two Civil Society Days that ICMC coordinated, which gathered 225 civil society representatives from around the world to prepare direct input to governments in a day of shared meetings followed by two days of a summit of over 150 governments.

Both civil society and government representatives took forward a wide diversity of migration and development issues, including implementation of the new, 15-year Sustainable Development Goals that 193 governments had unanimously adopted at the UN General Assembly a few weeks earlier, better protection of migrants in crisis and on the move, integration and empowerment of migrants and diaspora, respect for labor rights, and reform of migrant worker recruitment practices. Convened in the country which hosts the largest number of refugees, the GFMD touched for the first time in its history on issues directly related to refugees and forced migration.

ICMC's President and UN Special Representative for International Migration Peter Sutherland provided a dynamic vision and practical inspiration throughout the five days of the GFMD, including as a key panelist during the Civil Society Days, where he urged more organized admission paths for refugees into safe countries and the need for responsibility sharing among European States. He highlighted with concern xenophobic attitudes increasingly spreading within Western societies and the need to counter anti-refugee sentiments.

ICMC's Head of Policy John K. Bingham led a full working session of civil society on development alternatives and solutions to forced migration, authoring an "action paper" that was quoted at length by Anne C. Richard, Assistant Secretary of State

for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) of the United States' Department, during the corresponding government roundtable. A special session dedicated to protection and identification of durable solutions for refugees was moderated by Petra Hueck, Head of ICMC Europe, who also presented ICMC Europe's latest report **10% of refugees from Syria: Europe's resettlement and other admission responses in a global perspective**, published in July 2015.

The Civil Society Days were chaired by Ignacio Packer, the Secretary General of the Terre des Hommes International Federation, and Fatumo Farah, Director of the Dutch branch of the Himilo Relief and Development Association (HIRDA). Farah, herself a refugee who was forced to flee her home in Somalia, shared her story with the audience. In a moving presentation, panelist Abu Kurke Kabeto – a young man who left Ethiopia in 2008 due to increasing violence against his ethnic group – recounted his dramatic journey across the Mediterranean, on a dinghy boat carrying 72 people, of whom only nine survived.

Speaking at the GFMD Opening Ceremony before all of the civil society participants and 500 governmental delegates, Ignacio Packer presented the recommendations that emerged from the civil society debates. Particular attention was devoted to the Syrian refugee crisis and other forced displacement situations in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe.



**339** participants attended the 2015 GFMD Civil Society Days, of whom **225** were civil society delegates.



About **50%** of the civil society delegates were migrants or represented organizations led by migrants or diaspora.



Delegates came from **4** continents:  
**30** countries in Africa,  
**33** in Asia,  
**26** in the Americas, and  
**25** in Europe.



The Civil Society Days agenda featured over **80** thought-leaders and discussion starters from civil society and observers.



“Today, as I see many more people going through the same experience – like little Alan Kurdi who was found dead on a beach in Turkey – my heart is broken. I feel very sad about what is still happening. The international community can do something to stop this situation.”

Abu Kurke Kabeto, one of the nine survivors of a boat stranded in the Mediterranean for two weeks, speaking at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Istanbul

Listen to Abu Kurke's speech:  
[bit.ly/abu-gfmd-2015](http://bit.ly/abu-gfmd-2015)





# The response of ICMC's members to the refugee crisis in **Europe**

The Catholic Church in Europe has a long-term track record of involvement in refugee and migrant assistance, providing support both in countries of departure and first arrival. During the refugee crisis of 2015, European Catholic Churches responded to the urgent needs of refugees and migrants by providing immediate care to the people most in need, such as food, clothes, and shelter.

“We are conscious that the resettlement of refugees is a complex process. The participation of local communities as partners in planning is vital to develop support that will address the many needs of refugees and be sustainable for all involved.”

A representative from the Irish Catholic Church speaking about the integration of refugees from the Middle East in Ireland



Following on the Angelus message in September 2015, in which Pope Francis called on every parish to take in a refugee family, Catholic communities across Europe have been actively “welcoming the stranger”, by opening doors, offering shelters and other facilities to refugees from the Middle East.

Catholic communities in Europe have not only been crucial in providing assistance to people on arrival, but were also instrumental in offering integration support. Many communities offered language courses to refugees and migrants so that they could better integrate into their new country and eventually find

jobs. Catholic churches also worked to foster respect and promote understanding between local communities and refugee families to overcome feelings of fear and distrust. For instance, in Sweden, Catholic parishes set up meeting places for refugees of different cultural and religious backgrounds to create an atmosphere of trust and cooperation. In England and Wales, the Catholic Church offered courses on “Understanding Islam”, as a way of helping Catholics learn more about Muslim perspectives and allow them to freely discuss their attitudes and judgements.



**22,600** asylum seekers were accommodated in **1,600** Italian dioceses.



The Catholic Church in Greece distributed **2,000** packs of food two times per week, and clothes once a week, to refugees and migrants stranded in Idomeni, near the border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



The Archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, offered **1,000** places for refugees in his parishes.

# The ICMC response in the **United States**

Through its liaison office in Washington DC, ICMC continued to ensure that the refugees resettled to the United States from its Resettlement Support Center in Turkey and Lebanon experience a smooth transition to their new country.



A refugee girl at the Anza Elementary School in El Cajon, California. © ICMC

In close collaboration with Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), as well as with other national resettlement agencies and public offices, ICMC carried out follow up activities and policy work to protect and help refugees upon their arrival in the United States. This included working directly on the cases of refugees seeking to reunite with family members, advocating for specific cases to be referred, and raising awareness about special needs of incoming refugees.

In 2015, a main focus of ICMC's policy work in the United States was the resettlement of Syrian refugees. Together with Refugee Council USA (RCUSA), ICMC advocated for extraordinary measures to be taken by the United States Federal Government to increase the number of Syrian refugees admitted in the USA in 2016. ICMC also centered attention on the plight of religious and ethnic minorities from Syria and Iraq.

In November, after the terrorist attacks in Paris, ICMC worked to counter fear and anti-refugee sentiments in the USA. Jane Bloom, ICMC's Head of Office in Washington, presented the comprehensive United States resettlement procedure to different stakeholders in the USA to clarify the nation's thorough vetting process and met with Refugee State Coordinators to help them advise their Governors on security screening. Sadly, by the end of 2015, thirty-one governors had declared their opposition to resettling Syrian and Iraqi refugees within their respective States. Together with its Church partners, RCUSA and other NGOs, ICMC continued to advocate to keep the resettlement of Syrians and Iraqis a viable and life-saving option.

With its leading role in resettling Iranian Baha'i and other religious/ethnic minorities from the Middle East to the United States, ICMC continued to maintain close relations with new-

ly-arrived minorities and their religious leaders, and widely shared knowledge gleaned to improve reception and integration of incoming refugees. In February, representatives from the ICMC USA office visited El Cajon, a town in California home to thousands of Chaldean Catholics from Iraq, many of whom were processed by ICMC through its offices in Istanbul and Beirut. ICMC's staff members conducted home visits and focus group discussions, in order to identify – through the stories shared by the resettled refugees – best practices and possible gaps of the resettlement process. Meetings and roundtable discussions were also held with the Chaldean Bishop, other church representatives, Catholic Charities, as well as with police and school officials, who – together – form the foundation for successful integration of newly arrived refugees in the United States.

“I live in peace and safety here. Back in Iraq, I never knew if my husband would come home alive each night.”

A Chaldean Iraqi refugee, resettled from the ICMC RSC TuME in Beirut, now living with her son and husband in El Cajon, California







RESPONDING TO  
OTHER REFUGEE AND  
MIGRANT NEEDS



# The ICMC-UNHCR Resettlement Deployment Scheme

Since 1998, ICMC has collaborated with UNHCR to deploy highly qualified professionals to UNHCR's offices around the world.

Through the ICMC-UNHCR Resettlement Deployment Scheme, ICMC sends experts in resettlement, refugee status determination, and child protection to work within UNHCR's field operations to identify and refer vulnerable refugees for resettlement to third countries.

Over the years, the Resettlement Deployment Scheme has significantly enhanced UNHCR's capacity to identify and resettle vulnerable refugees, including women at risk, unaccompanied children, survivors of torture or violence, people with disabilities and other persons in need of protection.

In 2015, UNHCR renewed its partnership with ICMC and increased the program's funding, as well as the number of experts sent to field operations. The Resettlement Deployment Scheme administered and managed 189 highly qualified professionals in 2015, the highest number achieved so far. In 97% of the cases, the Resettlement Deployment Scheme was able to recruit and propose qualified candidates to UNHCR's field offices within a timeframe of 2 months, which constitutes an important achievement, as many UNHCR's assignments are in remote and difficult locations. The majority of these experts were sent to Africa and the Middle East.

Throughout the year, ICMC's experts assessed the needs of 121,736 persons and referred 104,570 persons for resettlement consideration to UNHCR. The refugees considered for resettlement came mostly from Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia. ICMC's resettlement experts submitted the cases of 33,656 Syrian refugees for consideration to UNHCR, thus contributing significantly to UNHCR's capacity to refer Syrian refugees for resettlement and other forms of legal admission to third countries.

ICMC's child protection experts conducted 3,873 best interest determination assessments concerning 8,787 persons. Through these processes the most appropriate long-term

measures for unaccompanied or separated refugee children were determined. Other experts were also involved in refugee status determination procedures and assessed the eligibility of 1,928 persons for refugee recognition.

The partnership between ICMC and the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) also continued throughout the year. In the framework of this project, the IRCC provided funding for 21 ICMC's experts in 16 locations in 9 different countries. The majority of them were deployed to Africa.

“Resettlement is the only viable option for refugees here in Ethiopia. But the places available for resettlement do not match the refugees' needs. Vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied or separated children need special care. We need to create more resettlement options for them.”

A government official in a refugee camp in Ethiopia, where ICMC's experts were deployed in 2015



In 2015, ICMC's experts worked in **78** UNHCR field offices in **39** countries. The majority of them were deployed to Africa (**57%**), followed by the Middle East (**19%**), Asia (**16%**), and other regions (**8%**).



ICMC's resettlement experts assessed the needs of **121,736** persons and referred **104,570** persons for resettlement consideration to UNHCR. **33,656** of them were Syrian refugees.



Jason Bell is a child protection expert working within the framework of the ICMC-UNHCR Resettlement Deployment Scheme. In 2015, he was based in the UNHCR sub-office of Shire, in Northern Ethiopia near the border with Eritrea.

Learn more about his job and the challenges of working with unaccompanied refugee children: [bit.ly/jason-ethiopia](http://bit.ly/jason-ethiopia)

# Malaysia

In 2015, the over 150,000 registered refugees living in Malaysia were still struggling with the consequences of a vast legislative void.

As Malaysia is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and lacks a precise national legal framework defining the rights and duties of the forcibly displaced, numerous Burmese refugee communities in the country – as well as many other asylum seekers and migrants who have not yet had their status determined – lacked access to education, medical care, and employment opportunities. In this context, violence and abuses against women and children remained dramatically frequent, yet rarely denounced due to cultural norms and fear of repercussions.

During 2015, ICMC continued to strengthen the community-based approach of its activities to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV) among Burmese and other urban refugee populations in Malaysia.

Through its hotline service, which allows victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to seek immediate help, ICMC assisted 95 cases of domestic violence, rape, child abuse and sexual harassment. In addition, ICMC provided emergency shelters to SGBV victims and their accompanying children, and offered them medical and psychosocial care, counseling, transportation and interpretation services. Children who suffered or witnessed abuses benefitted from play therapy. In some cases, the men who perpetrated violence against their spouses or children also attended individual or family counseling sessions, in order to prevent repeated abuse of their family members. In particular vulnerable cases, emergency cash and material assistance was also provided to survivors of gender-based violence.

A group of Burmese volunteers, trained by ICMC as Refugee Women's Protection Corps, carried out awareness-raising activities about SGBV among 5,911 adult refugees in Kuala Lumpur, the Klang Valley and Penang. Reaching out to Rohingya, Chin and other Burmese refugee communities, ICMC's

volunteers conducted SGBV training and general awareness activities in homes, schools, and community centers. The Rohingya volunteers recruited by ICMC are often illiterate, but after receiving proper training, they develop the courage and public speaking skills to raise awareness from house to house in various communities.

ICMC also worked with community-based organizations to run smaller projects aimed at preventing sexual and gender-based violence within Burmese and Rohingya refugee communities. The Kuala Lumpur Women Support Centre assisted survivors of GBV in a variety of ways and organized several workshops, which were attended by 94 members of the Rohingya community. In light of the encouraging outcome, the project was expanded in December to also include English literacy and baking classes. In collaboration with Coalitions of Burma Ethnic Malaysia, ICMC launched a GBV capacity-building camp project to raise awareness on GBV among refugee youths aged 13-17. Youth training courses were designed to instruct on safety precautions when going out, the importance of respecting each other, and how to deal with stress.

Working closely with UNHCR in Malaysia, ICMC also referred GBV cases to UNHCR for formal reporting and legal advice. Furthermore, at the request of UNHCR, ICMC's peer counselors provided counseling to SGBV survivors living in community shelters supported by UNHCR. Survivors reported that they found such counseling services crucial to cope with trauma and rebuild their emotional stability and trust.



In 2015, ICMC Malaysia reached out to **5,911** adult refugees in Kuala Lumpur, the Klang Valley and Penang with awareness-raising messages on SGBV.

“I am very thankful to ICMC for helping me financially and for giving me, through counseling, the strength to cope with my situation. I did not hope for that much from ICMC when I reported my case.”

A 29-year-old Chin woman who received emergency cash assistance from ICMC



In May 2015, representatives from ICMC Malaysia discussed community-based protection approaches for urban refugees in a webinar co-organized with UNHCR.

**Learn more about the event:**  
[bit.ly/webinar-malaysia](http://bit.ly/webinar-malaysia)

# Pakistan

With over 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees, Pakistan remained in 2015 the second biggest refugee-hosting country in the world. Its vulnerable refugee population is faced with a number of daily struggles, from receiving assistance and protection when suffering physical violence and abuse to accessing training and employment opportunities.



An Afghan refugee boy participates in a Children Hygiene and Sanitation Training organized by ICMC in the district of Charsadda, Pakistan. © ICMC / Adnan Naseem

In 2015, ICMC continued to provide assistance to refugees and other vulnerable individuals in Pakistan through several projects aimed at protecting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGVB), improving livelihoods, and rehabilitating public schools.

SGVB survivors and other refugees with serious security concerns were ensured protection and medical care through safe shelter, psychosocial support, and counseling sessions, which enabled them

to overcome depression and fear. The ICMC staff also worked with UNHCR in Islamabad to conduct assessments and home visits to determine the best interests of children at risk and find the best durable solutions to ensure their protection.

In the Charsadda district, ICMC continued to provide livelihood support to Afghan refugees and Pakistani host communities. ICMC provided vocational training, cash grants, placement mento-

ring and networking opportunities with potential employers, so that beneficiaries could set up small-scale businesses and increase their household income.

ICMC also worked to rehabilitate the infrastructure of two public schools in the Nowshera district: a primary school for boys, and a high school for girls. The project aims to increase the enrollment rate for children, including Afghan refugees. Additional classrooms, a badminton court, a fully equipped science laboratory along with new toilets and lavatory areas were built. ICMC also provided the schools with a wide range of items, including desks, chairs, hygiene kits and first aid boxes. Students were also exposed to key personal hygiene lessons through the distribution of awareness-raising materials and the attendance of health education classes. In the primary school, the number of students increased from 119 to 160, of whom 83 were Afghan refugees. The high school, for female students, also saw an increase in numbers: 405 girls were enrolled in 2015, compared to 390 the year before. In addition, ICMC was able to minimize the dropout ratio and increase students' daily attendance by 98%.



In 2015, the livelihood support project benefited **4,387** persons. **70%** of those who received training from ICMC were supported in finding suitable jobs.



ICMC conducted **382** individual and **47** group counseling sessions for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, improving psychological conditions of traumatized refugees.



Thanks to the rehabilitation of infrastructure of two public schools, the number of students increased from **119** to **160** in one school (for boys); from **390** to **405** in the other school (for girls). Students' daily attendance increased by **98%**.

“I am grateful to ICMC for granting my son a full scholarship to continue his education after 5th grade.”

A refugee supported by ICMC in Pakistan



# ICMC Cares

In the past decades, the European population has witnessed a significant rise in life expectancy, which resulted in an increased need to offer specific homecare assistance to elderly people who do not want – or cannot afford – to access institutional elderly care.

Caregiving services are often provided by Eastern European labor migrants, who move to Western countries in search of employment opportunities. Yet, due to their limited knowledge of the language or of local labor laws, they easily fall victims of abuse and unfair employment conditions.

In order to provide a structured response to the growing demand for caregivers to assist elderly people in Europe, while also protecting migrant workers from potential labor exploitation, in 2013 ICMC initiated the “ICMC Cares” program. Through the program, qualified training and certifications are provided to paramedical professionals from Eastern European countries, who are later employed in the homecare sector.

In 2015, “ICMC Cares” trained and certified 25 caregivers of Polish origin in the Neurological Hospital in Gorne, Poland.

After the training, which focused on neurodegenerative diseases, the qualified caregivers were employed in local hospitals and socio-medical institutions in the Carpathian region, with the aim of consolidating their skills before being employed in Western European countries. Partner organizations of “ICMC Cares” trained and certified 75 additional caregivers, while more than 150 candidates from Poland, Ukraine and Georgia were selected to participate in the program in 2016.

In spite of growing feelings of fear in the region towards migration movements, “ICMC Cares” developed new partnerships with local authorities, regional public employment services, as well as with other institutional and private partners. Additional training centers and hospitals joined the program, thus enlarging the network of educational infrastructure available to provide trainees with valuable professional skills. The cooperation between Eastern and Western European countries was also strengthened, especially in view of providing placement opportunities to certified professionals in Western Europe.



© ICMC



“ICMC Cares” and its partner organizations provided training and certifications to over **100** paramedical professionals.



**150** candidates from Eastern European countries were selected to join the training program in 2016.



**6** training centers and **2** hospitals joined the program in 2015.

“It’s always a pleasure to see people with skills helping people in need. Our aim is to provide good people with specialized paramedical skills to Western European countries, which need these professionals in the homecare sector. I do believe in the great potential of this collaboration.”

Dr. Rafal Bieniada, President of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology in Gorne, Poland



# Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE)

Coordinated by ICMC and with projects and partners across four continents, the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) is a working platform in which civil society organizations come together to take forward rights-based policies, practices, and advocacy strategies affecting migrants worldwide.

The MADE Network is partly funded by the European Union, with substantial co-funding raised and allocated by ICMC.

In 2015, the MADE Network insisted on the explicit inclusion of migrants and migration in the new global UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which 193 governments unanimously adopted at the UN General Assembly in September 2015. As MADE advocated, key matters such as the protection of migrant workers' rights, the development of safe, orderly and regular forms of migration, and the fight against human trafficking have been included in the SDGs, which apply to all migrants – regardless of legal status.

The MADE Network continued its policy work on the reform of migrant workers' recruitment practices, in order to end and prevent widespread abuse, particularly in sectors such as domestic and homecare work, construction, agriculture, tourism and hospitality. Migrant Forum in Asia, a MADE partner, organized meetings throughout Asia and engaged with the migrant workers themselves to propose new legal and regulatory means to ensure a fair recruitment and employment of migrant workers. The MADE efforts in this area coincided with those of other international agencies, which also aimed to reform the recruitment practices of migrant workers, particularly the International Recruitment Integrity System coordinated by IOM and the Fair Recruitment Initiative developed by ILO.

Together with the Global Coalition on Migration, MADE coordinated the global involvement of civil society in the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiative, a states-led process aimed at increasing the protection of migrants before, during and after crises. In addition, MADE funded national advocacy projects in Cambodia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Morocco, Senegal, and Sri Lanka, that were targeted at promoting policies for the well-being and protection of migrants and their communities.

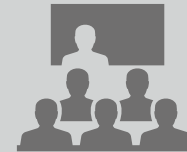
MADE Africa and MADE Europe worked together with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to influence the outcomes of the intergovernmental Valletta summit on 11-12 November. Following a consultation process with over 3,000 stakeholders across continents, partners formulated civil society recommendations for the Valletta Action Plan that were presented to European and African leaders at the summit.

Building the MADE Network, ICMC was able to secure significant resources, capacity and multi-year continuity for its work with partners around the world. Within the MADE program, ICMC's Coordinating Office also organized the annual civil society activities in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), working closely with an International Steering Committee of 33 leading civil society organizations and networks active in migration and development around the world. MADE provided means to ensure regional and thematic work before, during and after the GFMD.



Emmanuel, a Haitian immigrant in Chile, shares his personal experience of integrating in a new country.

**Watch the video:**  
[bit.ly/emmanuel-chile](http://bit.ly/emmanuel-chile)



In 2015, MADE organized **32** regional, thematic and civil society network meetings and webinars around the world, with **865** participants from more than **70** countries.



The MADE database reached over **3,000** contacts, with detailed profiles of about **920** experts and practitioners in migration and development.



**80** civil society leaders participated in the MICIC consultations that MADE and the Global Coalition on Migration co-organized, mostly in Belgium, the Philippines and Senegal.

# COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

In 2015, ICMC worked to considerably enhance its external communications, contributing to drawing public attention to the tragedies unfolding in the Mediterranean, the walls and fences being built in certain Eastern European countries, the violence against refugees and migrants to keep them out of their borders, and the dire conditions of so many refugees living in makeshift camps in Greece and elsewhere.

Active on various social media networks, ICMC regularly published relevant and timely content on the refugee crisis originated in the Middle East and the response of the governments in Europe, as well as on refugee and migration issues in other parts of the world. ICMC engaged with followers and supporters and ensured a prompt feedback to all inquiries, including from the refugees themselves.

As a result, the ICMC social media audience remarkably increased in 2015, with the number of followers recording a growth of 90% on LinkedIn and 123% on Twitter. The most popular Facebook organic post, linking to an interview with an ICMC child protection expert working with unaccompanied refugee children in Ethiopia, reached over 4,800 users and gathered over 260 comments, shares and likes in a few days. ICMC also made available a number of high-resolution pictures from its programs and field activities on a new Flickr account.

At the end of the year, ICMC launched a new version of its main website [www.icmc.net](http://www.icmc.net), featuring an improved design accessible on multiple devices, new pages and content, and additional

functionalities allowing improved access to Programs, News, and Publications. A section called “Refugee and migrant voices” was also created to give visibility to individual stories of people forced to flee contexts of conflict, persecution or poverty.

Throughout the year, the ICMC Communications team worked very closely with the ICMC Office in the United States to draw public attention to the growing needs of refugees and migrants, and raise funds to support a further expansion of ICMC’s programs worldwide. ICMC reached out to more than 20,000 donors and supporters with program updates, policy developments, and stories from beneficiaries. The calls for support – issued through emails, individual letters, donor visits, and social media campaigns – were heard and, at the end of 2015, ICMC was able to allocate 1,000,000 USD to ICMC’s field operations, church and advocacy work.

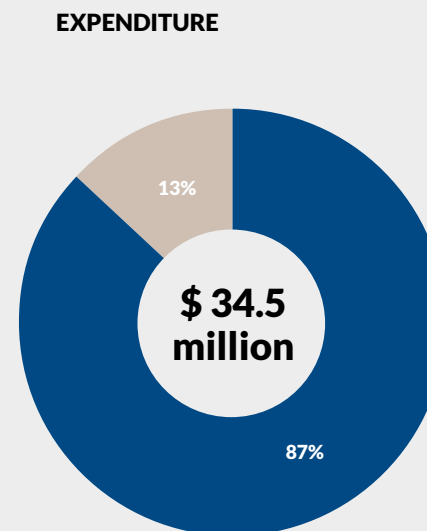
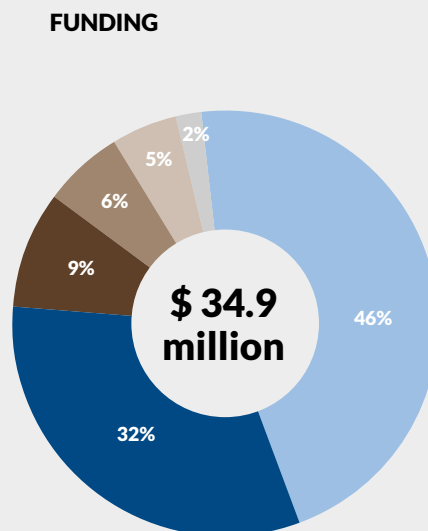
Programs benefiting from individual donations	Amount (USD)	Percentage
Middle East programs (Syria and Jordan)	USD 215,000	21%
Mediterranean (including Greece)	USD 200,000	20%
Migration and Development	USD 150,000	15%
Pakistan programs	USD 60,000	6%
Support to unaccompanied children	USD 60,000	6%
Support to the parishes in Damascus, Syria	USD 55,000	6%
Working Groups on Migration (ICMC’s members)	USD 50,000	5%
Completion of programs in Indonesia	USD 30,000	3%
ICMC Cares	USD 30,000	3%
Administrative charge	USD 150,000	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 1,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2015, the ICMC total funding reached 34.9 million USD, which represents a 10% increase compared to the previous year. Funding for overall program activities increased by 3.1 million USD.

This includes, in particular, activities funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the Deployment Scheme in Geneva, by the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) for programs in Turkey and Jordan, and by the European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) for activities in Jordan.

Net income from private donations (individuals) increased by 63%. In 2015, ICMC used 87% of the funds received from both institutional and private donors for direct project implementation, and managed to reduce its structural costs to 13%, which represents a 2% reduction from the previous year.



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

- Projects
- Structural costs

**Report of the statutory auditor**

To the Governing committee of  
International Catholic Migration Commission, Geneva

**Report of the Statutory Auditor on the Consolidated Financial Statements**

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of International Catholic Migration Commission ("ICMC"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, and the consolidated statement of activities, consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the consolidated financial statements for the year then ended. In accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21, the content of the performance report is not audited.

**Management's Responsibility**

Management is responsible for the preparation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, the requirements of Swiss law and ICMC statutes. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**


In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and comply with Swiss law and ICMC statutes.

**Report on Other Legal Requirements**

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 69b Civil Code (CC) in connection with article 728 Code of Obligations (CO)) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a paragraph 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements according to the instructions of management.

We recommend that the consolidated financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Deloitte SA  
  
Karine Szegedi-Pingoud  
Licensed audit expert  
Auditor in charge

  
Lisa Watson  
Licensed audit expert

Geneva, May 23, 2016  
KSZLW/Wa

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



## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31

(USD 000's)

ASSETS	2015	2014
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,692	4,401
Accounts receivable and prepayments	754	830
Due from US donors (finished projects)	230	266
Due from US donors (ongoing projects)	354	2,607
Due from other donors (finished projects)	0	495
Due from other donors (ongoing projects)	467	0
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>10,497</b>	<b>8,599</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets	103	122
<b>Total non current assets</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>8,721</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2015	2014
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals	2,138	2,247
Provisions	1,599	1,665
Unexpended funds on-going programs	2,541	975
Due to other donors (finished projects)	837	552
Due to US Government (finished projects)	8	179
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>7,123</b>	<b>5,618</b>
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>		
Long-term liabilities	12	0
<b>Total long-term liabilities</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>7,135</b>	<b>5,618</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		
<b>Unallocated-designated (after proposed appropriations)</b>		
Administration reserve	1,349	1,349
General reserve	1,721	1,845
Council Meeting reserve	33	33
Surplus/(deficit) to be allocated	362	-124
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>3,103</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>8,721</b>

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31

(USD 000's)

	2015			2014				
	Unallocated	Allocated US Federal Funds	Other Funds	TOTAL All Funds	Unallocated	Allocated US Federal Funds	Other Funds	TOTAL All Funds
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>								
<b>Public support :</b>								
US Government grants	1,819	14,081		15,900	1,378	12,995		14,373
Other grants and contributions	1,028		15,207	16,235	903		14,078	14,981
<b>Self funded projects :</b>								
Development working group			9	9			0	0
<b>Revenue:</b>								
National contributions		171		171		266		266
Private donations		2,225		2,225		1,724		1,724
Investment income		9		9		7		7
Miscellaneous		350		350		359		359
<b>Total public support and revenue</b>	<b>5,602</b>	<b>14,081</b>	<b>15,216</b>	<b>34,899</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>12,995</b>	<b>14,078</b>	<b>31,710</b>

	2015			2014				
	Unallocated	Allocated US Federal Funds	Other Funds	TOTAL All Funds	Unallocated	Allocated US Federal Funds	Other Funds	TOTAL All Funds
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
<b>Management general</b>								
Personnel costs	2,576			2,576	2,558			2,558
Office expenses	473			473	692			692
Travel	51			51	40			40
Equipment and maintenance	119			119	123			123
Project/program development	42			42	42			42
External relations	56			56	66			66
Fundraising	980			980	1,085			1,085
Meetings (Governing Committee, General Assembly)	69			69	43			43
Donation	650			650	0			0
Training	8			8	4			4
Miscellaneous	23			23	42			42
Foreign exchange losses	193			193	66			66
<b>Programs</b>								
Funded by US Government		14,081		14,081		12,995		12,995
Funded by Europe			2,788	2,788			2,365	2,365
Funded by UN			10,498	10,498			9,923	9,923
Funded by other donors			1,921	1,921			1,790	1,790
Self funded project			9	9			0	0
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>5,240</b>	<b>14,081</b>	<b>15,216</b>	<b>34,537</b>	<b>4,761</b>	<b>12,995</b>	<b>14,078</b>	<b>31,834</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>362</b>			<b>362</b>	<b>-124</b>			<b>-124</b>
Change in net assets	362			362	-124			-124
Net assets – beginning of year	3,103			3,103	3,227			3,227
<b>NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR</b>	<b>3,465</b>			<b>3,465</b>	<b>3,103</b>			<b>3,103</b>

Further financial information is provided in the "Consolidated Financial Statements and Performance Report 2015" available at [bit.ly/icmc-financial-statements](http://bit.ly/icmc-financial-statements).



# PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

## Operational partners

- Academy of International Relations, Warsaw, Poland
- Enrich Counselling and Therapy Centre, Malaysia
- Foundation ICMC Eastern Europe, Warsaw, Poland
- John Paul II Neurological Hospital, Gorne, Poland
- Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, Gorne, Poland
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- INTERSOS
- Local Government of the Carpathian Region
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Post-diploma Educational Centre for medical staff, Warsaw, Poland
- Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd, Malaysia
- Regional Employment Administration of the Carpathian Region
- Save the Children Jordan
- Soul Garden, Malaysia
- Terre des Hommes Syria
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Women's Aid Organization, Malaysia
- Women's Centre for Change (WCC), Penang, Malaysia

## Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE)

As of 2015, over 900 civil society organizations had signed up to the MADE Network. Among its coordinating partners were:

- AFFORD (African Foundation for Development)
- Caritas Senegal

- Cordaid
- Fundacion Scalabrini-Chile and the Scalabrini International Migration Network
- International Network on Migration and Development (INMD)
- Migrant Forum in Asia

In addition, the following six organizations are implementing the MADE pilot fund projects:

- Asociación Centro Internacional Para la Protección de Los Derechos Humanos de las Personas Migrantes (ACIDEHUM)
- Association pour le Développement Economique Social Environnemental du Nord (ADESEN)
- Collectif des Communautés Subsahariennes au Maroc
- Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM)
- Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)
- Sarvodaya Women's Movement

## SHARE Network

- Accem
- Austrian Red Cross
- Caritas International
- City of Aachen (Germany)
- City of Bradford (United Kingdom)
- City of München (Germany)
- City of Sanctuary
- City of Créteil (France)
- Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME-CEC)
- Eurocities
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
- Horton Housing
- Hull City Council (United Kingdom)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Mairie de Paris (France)
- Office of Immigration and Nationality of Hungary
- Refugee Action
- Refugee Council
- Save me – Flüchtlinge Aufnehmen
- Sheffield City Council (United Kingdom)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

## Church

- Secretariat of State of the Vatican
- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People
- Cor Unum
- Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE)
- The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE)
- Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM)
- The Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva

## Inter-governmental institutions and other partners

- Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII
- Caritas Internationalis and its members
- NGO Forum of Catholic-inspired organizations
- Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking
- Dominican Order of Preachers
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Global Coalition on Migration
- InterAction
- International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Steering Committee for the Campaign for Ratification of the Migrants Rights Convention
- Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)
- NGO Committee on Migration, New York
- Office of Human Development (OHD) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
- Refugee Council USA (RCUSA)
- The Scalabrini International Migration Network

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

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# DIRECTORS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS/OFFICES



## Secretary General

Johan Ketelers  
(until 31.05.2016)

Rev. Mons. Robert J. Vitillo  
(from 01.06.2016)

## Policy

John K. Bingham

## Operations

Walter Brill

## Administration and Finances

Florence Joigneault

## Communications

Nathalie Perroud

## ICMC-UNHCR Resettlement

Linda Besharaty

## Deployment Scheme

Andrzej Sados

## ICMC Cares

Wies Maas

## Migration and Development (MADE)

Petra Hueck

## ICMC Europe

Jane Bloom

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Slaviya Stoyanova

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Linda Samardzic

## RSC TuME



**Published by**

ICMC Headquarters  
1, rue de Varembe  
PO Box 96  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 22 919 10 20  
Email: info@icmc.net  
Website: www.icmc.net

**Project management and editing**

Nathalie Perroud

**Writing**

Chiara De Luca  
Barbara Sartore

**Contributors**

Jehanzeb Anwer, Linda Besharaty,  
John K. Bingham, Jane Bloom, Walter Brill,  
Raphaelle Goyet, Emma Horton, Petra Hueck,  
Florence Joigneault, Johan Ketelers,  
Jackie Loo, Leila Marzo, Cristina Palazzo,  
Nicolas Pouzargue, Andrzej Sados,  
Sophie Van Haasen, Peter Vogelaar

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A woman near the border of Iraq who received  
humanitarian assistance from ICMC in 2015.

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

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

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

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