CMI Mediterranean Refugees and Host Communities Program

(2016-2021)

The Challenges

Instability and conflicts are having disastrous humanitarian, social and economic consequences in the entire Mediterranean region. As refugees flee to other countries, host communities and governments are carrying the biggest burden of the refugee crisis and need to be supported in return.

Program Objective

To strengthen the resilience and response capacity of host communities and refugees to forced displacement

Focused on medium-term development needs, the program aims at building the response capacities of host local governments and at strengthening evidence-based development solutions to forced displacement.

It contributes to the resilience of both refugees and their hosts through targeted capacity building and learning activities, and through promoting social and economic inclusion of refugees with a special focus on youth and women. Mobilization of the private sector and engagement of diaspora in host countries/communities is also an essential element to build the welfare of host countries and prepare the welfare of host countries and prepare the ground for return and reconstruction in the future.

Target Audience

Middle Eastern, Turkish, North African, European host countries and municipalities, local NGOs/CBOs, central government representatives in charge of municipalities, development partners, practitioners and researchers.

What we Offer

- **Focus on Local Economic Development and Private Sector Mobilization in forced displacement contexts**: technical hub of expertise offers analysis of experiences on local economic development and policy dialogue on refugee integration in the labor market, including through entrepreneurship.
- **Targeted learning and periodic training workshops** on strategic planning for local economic development and private sector mobilization.
- **Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network**: bilingual online and face-to-face discussions, cross-country municipal twinning groups, field trips, annual network meetings and exchanges on a collaborative online platform.
- **Collections of good practices and experiences** on refugee inclusion and solutions to development challenges and forced displacement in host communities.
- **Dissemination** of evidence and data on forced displacement and refugees’ economic potential to host countries and socio-economic inclusion policies for refugees.

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Program Areas

Pillar 1: Strengthening capacity and service delivery in host communities

Objectives/ Expected outcome: Local governments have enhanced their response capacity to forced displacement, have started to develop LED strategic plans and offer improved services to forcibly displaced (refugees, IDPs, returnees) and host populations.

Instruments: The “Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network” and private sector/diaspora networks: knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer learning and online platform support, capacity building, actionable knowledge, analytical work.

Pillar 2: Enabling environment for socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants

Objectives/ Expected Outcomes: Medium term socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced, including women and youth, is promoted and their contribution to the welfare of host countries supported, including increased capacity of doing business in host entities, and improved regulations for refugee economic integration.

Instruments: Analysis, stakeholder discussions, women and youth engagement.

Goals

• Development solutions to displacement and migration challenges in the Mediterranean: the program adopts a programmatic multi-partner approach focusing on the local (cities) and Mediterranean level to enhance social and economic opportunities for forcibly displaced, economic migrants, and host/receiving communities, with a special focus on youth, climate change and women.

• Inter-municipal and inter-regional capacity building and learning around priorities identified by its beneficiaries: (i) enhancing local economic development opportunities, (ii) mobilizing the private sector in favor of a stronger local and regional integration, (iii) promoting social cohesion and inclusion, and (iv) supporting migrants’ and refugees’ access to education, income, and labor to be an actor of change in the Mediterranean.

Who Are We?

The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), a regional multi-partner platform, contributes to the regional response to forced displacement in the Middle East and North Africa and its spillover effects in Europe.

Selected Key Outputs

Networks and Community of Practices

• Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network, comprising more than 120 municipalities from 5 countries: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Turkey, created for mutual learning on hosting forcibly displaced at the local and community level and supported through regional capacity building and networking activities – scaled-up to East Africa and South Asia regions for South-South exchange;

• Diaspora Initiative established: Syrian International Business Association (SIBA). CMI mobilized Syrian investors and partners for a more substantial Syrian Diaspora engagement and facilitated SIBA steering committee meetings and the preparation of the first General Assembly.

Capacity Building

Training activities with CMI-developed technical Modules on LED Strategic Planning, Private Sector Mobilization, support for refugees’ socio-economic inclusion.

Analysis and Actionable Knowledge

• Two Compendia of Experiences in hosting refugees (2017 and 2018)

• Surveys of host municipalities focusing on Local Economic Development helped design follow up activities.

• Joint CMI-WB publication on Syrian Investors in Host Countries in CIHEAM & AFD’s Mediterr report (2019)

Implementation Support

• Upstream project support to WB projects in MENA, East Africa and Afghanistan (ongoing)

Knowledge Sharing

• Showcase of HMLN members’ experiences in HMLN and external learning events

Knowledge Support

• Bi-annually Newsletter

• Program website

• Online knowledge base

• Host Municipalities Learning Network Online Collaborative Platform (C4D)

CMI’s Partners

Agence Française de Développement (AFD), German Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Center for Migration and Policy Development (ICMPD), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UN Group, United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), and the World Bank.