Center for Mediterranean Integration

“Mediterranean refugees and host communities Program”

May 31th, 2016 – Amman  Peer To Peer Learning Workshop
The CMI: A Multi-partner Platform Focusing on Regional Public Goods


Who?: development agencies, governments, local authorities and civil society from around the Mediterranean.

How?: exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean.

Members

Partners

And many others

5 Themes with an overarching thematic focus: Youth

- Education, Innovation, Employability
- Refugees and Mobility
- Violent Extremism
- Climate Change (Water & Energy)
- Territorial Cohesion and Urban Development
The Refugee Crisis in the MENA Region

Registered Syrian refugees in MENA (Source: UNHCR, as of 31st March 2016)

- MEWA Host countries and communities are carrying the biggest burden of the refugee crisis. 86% of Syrian refugees are hosted in the Mashreq and Turkey.
- Regional Spillover: Europe is currently hosting only 8% of Syrian refugees. The overall migrant crisis is however unprecedented in a number of ways and is a challenge to the EU’s adaptation and integration capacity.
The urgent need to respond to the crisis

From a development perspective, the Syrian refugee crisis presents significant mid-long term challenges within host communities and countries in MENA and in Europe.

• Host communities are at the forefront of the crisis and are bearing the brunt -> need to step-up support to host communities
• Worsening perceptions of refugees in host communities, threatening social cohesion -> need for action that encourages acceptance amongst hosts
• Frustration and loss of skills caused by idleness -> need for jobs that do not compete with locals searching for employment
• Risk of a “lost generation” phenomenon amongst Syrian youth and children -> need for educational opportunities

How can the international community support host countries and communities in preparing the eventual mid-term return of refugees and reconstruction of Syria?

• Comprehensive response including financing, operational support as well as knowledge and advisory services to host countries in the Middle East and Europe is needed.
The CMI’s Mediterranean Refugees and Host Communities Program
Applying and Sharing Knowledge on forced displacement

Scaling-up of regional knowledge and awareness: offering up-to-date, evidence-based knowledge on development solutions to forced displacement for clients and partners in MENA and Europe.

Program webpage

Periodical newsletter (over 6,000 recipients)

Online knowledge base
Per Subregion/country

Media Partnerships: CMI/France Médias Monde group partnership
The CMI Response

The regional CMI program spans mid-to-long term, bringing together actors from all levels to share best practices and innovative solutions to the challenges of hosting refugees:

**Pillar 1**

**Addressing the welfare of host communities**

- Stocktaking of regional/ international experiences/knowledge (Online base/Survey)

- Regional peer-to-peer learning for host municipalities and local stakeholders (Gaziantep, 4/2015; Amman, 5/2016)

- "MENA+ ‘Host’ community of Practice”

**Pillar 2 (MENA and Europe):**

Refugee inclusion for common welfare

- Consensus-building among refugee host countries on solutions to forced displacement e.g. “The Welfare of Syrian Refugees: Evidence from Jordan and Lebanon”

- Shared good international practices on refugee inclusion and new innovative programs with a Europe/MENA audience

**Pillar 3 (MENA and Europe):**

Syrian Diaspora and Investor Mobilization for Integration Reconstruction

- Promote innovative programs with a Europe/MENA audience
Next steps: 1. Survey question on support for host communities:

Knowledge exchange

In which topic on hosting refugees would you be most interested to learn about through knowledge/peer-to-peer exchange?

- 68% Deliver priority
- 62% Work with the priv...
- 16% Fiscal transfers from nati...
- 59% Alternative sources of...
- 46% Inclusion of refug ee a...
- 43% Boost local economi c...
- 16% Preventive solutio ns a...
- 27% Involve communi ties in refu...
- 3% Other topic(s). Plea...

Capacity building

- 97% confirmed their need for additional technical support, training of capacity building

- Fields of interest for support:
  - Technical Training / CB for municipal staff
  - Crisis management
  - Municipal service provision in various sectors (water/Inf)

- 98% expressed interest in exchange with European host municipalities
Follow up recommendations from sessions

- Need for data/analysis on municipal reality (Communicate and exchange it!)
- APPROACH: Build resilience to achieve innovation (build resilience of “citizens”)
- COORDINATION: Better targeted international support and coordination (Donors, NGOs)
- PARTNERSHIPS: Build strong partnerships; “connect cities”
- INCLUSION: involve Syrian municipalities/ European municipalities; involve also “small” municipalities
- AREAS:
  i. Support develpt of municipal infrastructure in priority sectors areas (SWM/Housing);
  ii. Support CB for municipal staff to improve management and planning to serve better citizens/refugees
      Syrian transfers of skills to Jordanians
  iii. Interest in P2P learning: the more concrete the better
NEXT STEPS

• **WS Objective: Kick-start ‘MENA Host community of practice’**

• **Definition: Municipal Networks of Practitioners that learn and exchange experience on how better respond to the refugee crisis**

• **Mechanism: Peer to Peer learning- specific and targeted**

• **Question: What are your concrete recommendations to put this P2P learning network into practice?**
Thank you – we will be soon in touch again.