MEDITERRANEAN MUNICIPALITIES AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITIES HOSTING REFUGEES

MAY 30-JUNE 1ST, 2016
KEMPINSKI HOTEL
AMMAN, JORDAN

With the support of:
CONTEXT
The five year Syrian conflict is having disastrous humanitarian, social and economic consequences both in Syria and in neighboring countries. With about 7.63 million internally displaced Syrians (IDPs), the Mashreq region and Turkey are facing an unprecedented and protracted refugee crisis that places extraordinary strain on host countries and communities. The number of registered Syrian refugees in the Mashreq has reached more than 4.8 million, while almost 900,000 have already applied for asylum in Europe as of December 2015 (UNHCR), more than half of which are under the age of 18. More than 85% of refugees live among host communities across the region. There, they share space, resources, employment and services with their hosts, placing additional strain on local communities and overwhelmed public services. Local governments in the region have had to mobilize extraordinary resources to respond to this unprecedented crisis, which has tested their abilities not only to deliver their usual services, but also to ensure services extending beyond local governments’ traditional responsibilities (education, employment, aid relief and emergency shelter, health, etc.) Conversely, lacking municipal service provision can generate tension and exacerbate the vulnerability of refugees and host communities while jeopardizing social cohesion. Local governments in the Mashreq region and Turkey often have limited responsibilities and struggle to respond to current demand.

Indeed, host communities are crucial players in the development and bottom-up implementation of effective interventions to ensure refugees’ and citizens’ welfare in the context of this crisis, and need more substantial support. In addition, local economic opportunities to generate local growth and employment are needed to strengthen the welfare of host communities, while providing for refugees’ self-reliance and capacity to contribute to the local economy.

RATIONALE
After consulting with a dozen of key development and humanitarian organizations working directly with host local governments, it appeared that while evidence of successful local experiences in managing refugee influx and hosting is still thin, local governments facing similar challenges would benefit from exchanging on their successes and failures.

In this sense, this workshop aims at catalyzing the capitalization, dissemination and scaling-up of knowledge on good practices and experiences from the Mashreq region and beyond in order to work towards their mainstreaming into current and future operations and policies. Rather than focusing exclusively on challenges, exchanges will be framed around the Syrian refugee crisis as an opportunity for host communities to innovate on and improve infrastructure, services and governance systems, and to enhance the response capacity and resilience of local communities in the face of the refugee crisis and other external shocks.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES
In line with the Strategic Directions set out by the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) for Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, this event will support local governments and authorities in managing the shock of refugee influx. It will bring together regional and global “know-how”, and provide a platform for sharing of lessons learned and innovative practices. The peer-to-peer learning is designed to strengthen the resilience capacities and service delivery systems of local governments and authorities by:

- Strengthening their response capacity through action-oriented exchanges and linking innovative policy development with national policies and international support.
- Exchanging on innovative regional and international experiences and policies in support of refugees and IDPs, informed by the 3RP regional protection framework.
- Reinforcing host communities’ economic, social, and institutional resilience by expanding economic and livelihood opportunities for refugee and vulnerable populations.
- Stimulate cross-country learning in and between Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Palestine and other MENA and European communities affected by the protracted crisis.
TARGET AUDIENCE
This event is designed for local governments (technical staff and elected representatives), central government focal points for municipal affairs, local NGOs/community initiatives from: the Mashreq & Turkey.

Selected representatives from Egypt, North Africa and European cities and networks will also participate. Additionally, technical humanitarian and development institutions, regional organizations, academics and researchers are expected to attend.

About the CMI Mediterranean Refugees and Host Communities Program
As a regional hub for innovative knowledge on urgent Mediterranean and cross-regional issues, the CMI, in collaboration with the WB and its partners, is initiating Peer-to-Peer Learning to support the common welfare of refugees and host communities with the aim to support a wider Community of Practice. It is embedded in the wider CMI Mediterranean Refugees and Host Communities Program, which aims at contributing to the regional response to the current refugee crisis in MENA and its spillover effects in Europe through “Just-in-Time” knowledge dissemination. It supports cross-regional exchange between Middle Eastern and European hosting countries by facilitating knowledge-sharing between MENA host countries as well as South-North exchanges.

Mediterranean Refugees and Host Communities Knowledge Action Program website (http://bit.ly/1PRVgmZ)

The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a multi-partner platform where development agencies, Governments, local authorities and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene in order to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean region. Members of the CMI are Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, the European External Action Service (observer), the City of Marseille, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank Group. Web: www.cmimarseille.org; Twitter: @cmimarseille; Facebook: CMI Marseille
### Day 1 – Monday, May 30, 2016

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<th>Time</th>
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| 09.00 - 10.00 | Official Opening session: Welcoming Addresses and Introductory Remarks | H.E. Eg. Walid Muhi Al Masri, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
Saleh Al Kilani, Refugee Affairs Coordinator, Ministry of Interior, Jordan  
Ellen Hamilton, Lead Urban Specialist, Social Urban Rural & Resilience Global Practice, World Bank  
Tarek Osseiran, UN Habitat Country Program Manager, Lebanon  
Ahmed Hawamdeh, Mayor of Mafraq, Jordan  
Issam El Hadi, President, Union of Municipalities of Kalaat Al Istiklal- Bekaa, Lebanon  
Hassan Mandeel, Deputy Governor, Babil Governorate, Iraq  
Mehmet Abdullah Aksoy, Head of Health and Social Services Department, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey  
Akram Abuallan, Mayor, Al Thahiriya Municipality, Hebron Governorate, Palestinian Territories |
| 10.00 – 10.15 | Workshop Presentation & Event Logistics | Ebba Augustin, Facilitator, CEO of SAANED, Jordan |
| 10.15 - 11.00 | Host Communities at the Forefront of the Refugee Crisis – How to increase Resilience? | Janette Uhlmann, Senior Program Officer, Center for Mediterranean Integration, France  
Fawzi Masad, Amman Chief Resilience Officer, Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan  
Karen Jacobsen, Acting Director, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, United States |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | Networking fair with information booths | All partners are invited to display their activities. Participants are invited to register to Day 1 Working Groups. |
| 11.30-12.00 | Introduction to Thematic Session I: Intergovernmental frameworks and institutions of cooperation to improve local resilience to the refugee crisis | All speakers and discussants have 7 minutes speaking time, followed by 60 minutes of Q&A and open discussions. |
| 12.00 - 13.15 | Working Group I.1: Local governments at the forefront of strengthening local resilience: planning and implementing resilience policies at the local level | Tony Sfeir, Chief Resilience Officer, Municipality of Byblos, Lebanon  
Salam Badreddine, Union of Municipalities of Sahel Zahrani, Lebanon |
| 12.00 - 13.15 | Working Group I.2: Central and local government collaborations to improve services to refugees and migrants | Mehmet Abdullah Aksoy, Head of Health and Social Services Department, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey  
Rodopi Panidou, Head of Legal Affairs, City of Offenbach am Main, Germany |
| 12.00 - 13.15 | Working Group I.2: Central and local government collaborations to improve services to refugees and migrants | Stephen Commins, Associate Director, Global Public Affairs, Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California |
Working Group I.3: Developing sustainable financing for the provision of municipal services to refugees and citizens

Presentation: Akram Abu Allan, Mayor of Thahiriya, Hebron Governorate, Palestinian Territories
Discussant: Issam El Hadi, President, Union of Municipalities of Kalaat Al Istiklal- Bekaa, Lebanon
Q&A and Open Discussion

Moderator: Philip Bottern, Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank

13.15 - 14.30
Lunch Break

14.30 – 15.00
Introduction to Thematic Session II: Service Delivery and Preparedness of Local Governments, including in collaboration with non-governmental actors

15.00 - 16.30
Working Group II.1: Innovations for mid-term housing and shelter solutions for refugees SARA

Presentation: Iman Zaki, Program Manager, UN Habitat, Jordan
Discussant: Elias Jourdi, Project Manager, Integrated Urban Shelter Program in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, Norwegian Refugee Council
Q&A and Open Discussion

Moderator: Ellen Hamilton, Lead Urban Specialist, World Bank

Working Group II.2: Innovative Collaborations between local governments, NGOs/CBOs and the private sector for services to citizens and refugees: leveraging the capabilities and resources of non-governmental actors

Presentation: Mustafa Majed Hijazi, Council Member, Municipality of Saida, Lebanon
Discussant: Andrija Rudic, Mayor, Municipality of Kutina, Croatia and Lauranne Callet-Ravat, Project Manager Turkey (Gaziantep), Expertise France

Moderator: Sima Kanaan, Lead Social Development Specialist, World Bank

Working Group II.3: Innovative solutions for improved waste management for citizens and refugees

Presentation: Nader Bitar, Council Member, Municipality of Hebron and Ahmad Sokkar, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Joint Service Council for Solid Waste Management for Hebron & Bethlehem Governorates, Palestinian Territories
Discussant: Mario Goraieb, Project Manager and Head of Training Department, Arc en Ciel NGO, Lebanon
Q&A and Open Discussion

Moderator: Ibrahim Dajani, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, World Bank

16.30 - 17.30
Report back from Rapporteurs on Day 1
Day 2 – Tuesday May 31, 2016

08.30 - 09.30  Networking fair with information booths
Open Space
All partners are invited to showcase their activities

09.30 - 09.35  Welcome to Day 2: Agenda Review
Plenary room–all participants
Ebba Augustin, Facilitator, CEO of SAANED, Jordan

09.35-09.45  Keynote Speaker
Plenary room–all participants
Saroj Kumar, Vice President, Fragility, Conflict & Violence, World Bank

09.45 -10.15  Introduction to Thematic Session III: Local Economic Development and Labor Market Integration
Plenary room–all participants

10.15 -11.45  Working Group III.1. Developing shared growth in areas affected by the refugee crisis: from national to local actions
Working Group rooms
All speakers and discussants have 7 minutes speaking time, followed by 60 minutes of Q&A/open discussions.

Presentation: John Speakman, Advisor, World Bank - “Jordan Special Economic Zones”
Discussants: Maha Kataa, Coordinator for the Syrian Refugee Response in Jordan, International Labor Organization (ILO) and Abdel Majeed Alharahsheh, Mafraq Governorate, Jordan
Q&A and Open Discussion
Moderator: Susan Razzaz, International Expert

Working Group III.2. Increasing the absorption capacity of the host labor market and refugees’ access and capacities to enter it

Presentation: Mohammad Amoush, Deputy Executive Director, Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship, Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), Irbid, Jordan
Discussant: Hania Bitar, Director, PYALARA, Palestinian Territories
Q&A and Open Discussion
Moderator: Cyril Dupré, Regional Program Coordinator on Civil Society, ACTED

Working Group III.3: Developing the agricultural sector and jobs in rural communities affected by the Syrian refugee crisis

Presentation: Bruno Minjauw, Lebanon Resilience & Liaison Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Discussant: Rania Hokayem, National Project Coordinator in Lebanon, International Labor Organization (ILO)
Q&A and Open Discussion
Moderator: Dorte Verner, Lead Agriculture Economist, World Bank

11.45 -12.15  Networking fair with information booths
Open Space
All partners are invited to showcase their activities

12.15 -13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 - 13.45  Radio SouriaLi- Presentation on Syrian Voices
Plenary room–all participants
Iyad Kallas, Co-Founder
13.45 - 14.15
Plenary room–all participants

Introduction to Thematic Session IV: Building and strengthening social cohesion between refugees and host communities

14.15 - 15.45
Working Group rooms

Working Group IV.1. Innovative examples on strengthening social cohesion: multi-service centers for vulnerable populations and collaborations between NGOs and municipalities

*Presentation:* Ümit Algan, Researcher, International Middle East Peace Research Center, Turkey
*Discussant:* Bryn Boyce, Technical Coordinator, Community Empowerment & Livelihoods, Danish Refugee Council

*Q&A and Open Discussion*

*Moderator:* Michael McDonald, Area Coordinator for Northern Jordan, ACTED Jordan

Working Group IV.2. Coping with extreme refugee influx: developing best practices for building and maintaining peaceful co-existence

*Presentation:* Ali Afan, Mayor of Sarhan, Jordan
*Discussant:* Caroline Boustany, Health Coordinator, International Rescue Committee, Jordan

*Q&A and Open Discussion*

*Moderator:* Heidemarie Gutsche, Advisor, Global Program Refugees, GIZ

Working Group IV.3. Non-violent approaches to conflict resolution in host communities: international experiences in conflict mediation

*Presentation:* Mark Clark, CEO, Generations for Peace NGO, Jordan
*Discussant:* Halil Ibrahim Akinci, Director of the Strategic Development Department, Sultanbeyli Municipality, Turkey

*Q&A and Open Discussion*

*Moderator:* Britta Krueger, Policy Advisor, GIZ

15.45 - 16.15
Open Space

Networking fair with information booths

All partners are invited to showcase their activities

16.15 - 17.00
Plenary room–all participants

Report back from Rapporteurs on Day 2

17.00 - 18.00
Plenary room–all participants

Towards communities of practice: existing initiatives and follow-up to support host communities

*‘Global Alliance for Urban Crises’ (DFID, IRC, UNDP, UCLG-MEWA, UN Habitat)*
Samer Saliba, Urban Response Learning Manager, International Rescue Committee

*‘Local Government Expertise for the Middle East’ Initiative*
Wencke Mueller, Project Manager, Engagement Global, Germany

The CMI ‘Mediterranean Refugees and Host Communities Program’
Janette Uhlmann, Senior Program Officer, Center for Mediterranean Integration, France
Logistics of the field visit on Day 3

18.00 -18.15
Plenary room—all participants

Concluding remarks

Sima Kanaan, Lead Social Development Specialist, World Bank

19.30

Departure for Dinner

Half-Day 3 – Wednesday June 1st, 2016: field trip

Half-day field trip to the Municipality of Irbid, one of the main host communities in Jordan. Discussion with local stakeholders on Syrian refugee integration. Registration for the field trip will take place on May 30 and 31.

08.00
Departure from Kempinski Hotel

- Welcome by the Mayor of Irbid
- Presentation of the Cities and Village Development Bank Project
- Discussion with JOHUD-Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development

14.30
Return to the hotel
(Lunch Boxes will be provided)