



Organizations Working on Migration: A resource list

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ABSTRACT Kit Lazaroo looks at the approaches of a number of organizations working in the field of migration. She covers organizations working on peace and security, social and economic development, emergency relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, human rights protection and the support of vulnerable minorities.

KEYWORDS complex humanitarian emergencies; forced migration; human trafficking; intergovernmental organizations; internally displaced persons; non-governmental organizations; refugees; social development

Introduction

Organizations tackling issues of displacement – forced migration, internal displacement, trafficked persons and voluntary migration – may take diverse approaches such as prevention through alleviation of poverty, disaster preparedness or conflict resolution, emergency relief, long-term development of displaced communities, research and policy development, advocacy and awareness raising. While the resource list focuses largely on transnational and intergovernmental organizations, there is a growing awareness of the crucial role played by small local groups, which have the advantages of cultural sensitivity, cost-effectiveness, local knowledge, established relationships with local authorities and the likelihood of a long-term presence (Weiss and Collins, 1996: 67; Cohen and Deng, 1998: 208). There is a growing recognition from transnational groups of the need to support and strengthen local groups, with a view to the long-term. Networking, information sharing and dialogue, across national borders and between different levels of organization, are now seen as fundamental to any work in this field (IOM, 2002).

Forced migration: refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons

The role of **United Nations** agencies in articulating international law and principles of human rights, and in fostering cooperation and partnerships

between governmental and non-governmental organizations, is pivotal in the field of refugees and forced migration. There are many UN organizations which work with refugees and displaced people, and the main ones are given here.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

www.unhcr.ch

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has the mandate of protecting the rights of refugees and displaced persons throughout the world, and acts in concert with other groups to achieve that end. It provides legal protection, food, shelter and other forms of emergency assistance; it ensures that the humanitarian agencies have safe access to displaced populations by seeking the cooperation of host governments; and it promotes lasting solutions by assisting refugees to settle in third countries or to return to their countries of origin once their safety is guaranteed.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

www.reliefweb.int/idp;

www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/index.html/

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is a focal point within the UN secretariat in terms of coordinating responses of UN and other agencies to natural disasters, complex emergencies and mass internal displacements.

Other UN organizations which work with refugees and displaced people as part of their wider remit, include: **United Nations Fund for Children** (UNICEF, <www.unicef.org>); **United Nations Development Fund for Women** (UNIFEM, <www.unifem.org>); **United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East** (UNRWA, <www.un.org/unrwa>); the **United Nations Economic and Social Council** (ECOSOC, <www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc>); the **World Food Programme** (WFP, <<http://www.wfp.org>>); the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN** (FAO, <<http://www.fao.org>>); and the **World Health Organization** (WHO, <www.who.org>).

The UN has also set up a number of regional

economic and social commissions promoting discussion and understanding within regions of issues such as demographic change, the need for social development to alleviate poverty, the need to address the difficulties of socially excluded groups, the contribution displaced people can make towards social and economic development and the general issue of migration.

The **United Nations Economic Council of Europe** (UNECE, <www.unece.org>), **United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America and Caribbean Countries** (UNECLAC, <www.eclac.cl>), **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific** (UNESCAP, <www.unescap.org>) and **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Africa** (UNESCWA, <www.unescwa.org.lb>).

International Committee of the Red Cross/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

www.icrc.org and

www.ifrc.org/what/response/refugees

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) work in numerous ways to promote peace and end human suffering. The Tracing Service assists people to contact relatives from whom they have been separated by conflict, civil unrest, or natural disasters.

Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees Asylum Seekers and Migrants

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/response/refugees/Perco/index.asp>

The Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) exists to coordinate transnational Red Cross projects and to develop 'common positions' among its member Red Cross Societies.

International Organization for Migration

www.iom.int

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is founded on the principle that 'humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and

society.' With 52 member states and 42 observers, it acts both in an operational capacity and as a watchdog to ensure human rights abuses do not occur.

International Rescue Committee

www.theirc.org

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) was formed in response to the plight of Jewish refugees during the Second World War, and is now involved across the 'refugee lifecycle', providing emergency assistance, enabling those who are in exile to become self-sufficient, and assisting with the resettlement of refugees in the US.

Médecins Sans Frontières

www.msf.org

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is known for its work in delivering health-related relief in complex emergencies. In situations where services are under great strain or may be non-existent, MSF collaborates with the host government's health ministry to bring about the rehabilitation or rebuilding of the health structure. MSF has developed a human rights advocacy model, where it sees its role as witnessing, and speaking out about, human rights abuses, with the aim of pressuring governments and mobilizing the international community to end such abuses.

Oxfam International

www.oxfam.org

Oxfam International has developed expertise in both emergency relief projects – such as water, sanitation, public health, food and nutrition – and also in long-term community development. It is an example of a group that uses its experience at a grassroots level to provide legitimacy for its campaigns at national and international levels.

Caritas

www.caritas.org

Caritas provides relief for emergencies and catastrophes, seeking to alleviate need and promote social justice. It conducts its activities according to the principles of partnership, respecting the right of displaced people to self-determination.

Jesuit Refugee Service

www.jesref.org/refugee/jrs.htm

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) runs a wide range of development programmes, its mission is 'to accompany, serve, and defend the rights of refugees'. JRS places a strong emphasis on improving education, skills acquisition, income generation and self-reliance. JRS works with IDPs, those undergoing premature repatriation, unaccompanied minors and the survivors of landmines.

Lutheran World Federation

www.lutheranworld.org

The Lutheran World Federation, through its Office for International Affairs and Human Rights, takes a holistic approach to relief, rehabilitation, disaster preparedness and sustainable development. It has representative status with the UN, and encourages church communities to play an advocacy role for displaced people.

World Council of Churches

www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/international/uprooted/index-e.html

The World Council of Churches works with uprooted people through its International Affairs, Peace and Human Security team. The team supports and facilitates practical actions at local levels, seeks to influence policy at national and regional levels, and encourages churches to address the causes of forced movements.

International Islamic Relief Organization

www.arriyadh.com/English/organisations/charity_org/islamic-relief-org.htm

International Islamic Relief Organization works in a number of African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries to assist Muslims who face disasters endangering their safety, religious beliefs or their freedom.

In Africa, there are several networks which seek to support and strengthen the capacity of local NGOs, including the **South African National NGO Coalition** (SANGOCO, <www.sangoco.org.za>), which promotes grassroots action in the fields of poverty and land and food security, and hosts international forums; **West**

African NGO Network (WANGONET, <www.wangonet.org>), which provides resources to NGOs, the media and education groups, and seeks to improve the information technology and communications capacities of NGOs, as well as hosting the **Social Humanitarian Aid Network** (SHANET, <www.wangonet.org/shanet.org>), a directory of African NGOs. The **All Africa Conference of Churches** (www.aacc-ceta.org) is active in a number of ways to promote the welfare of refugees, including relief, community development, education and information resources.

Asian NGO Coalition

<http://www.angoc.ngo.ph>

The Asian NGO Coalition (ANGOC) seeks to strengthen Asian NGOs, particularly through strategic networking, with a focus on issues such as food security, agrarian reform, and participatory government.

National and regional organizations

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

www.osce.org

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) works to prevent, manage and resolve the conflicts that lead to mass displacements, to provide early warning of such conflicts to the international community, and to mediate in disputes.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

www.oecd.org

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) monitors the social and economic effects of refugee and migration movements. This includes the role of migration in alleviating labour shortages, links between migration, demography and economic growth, and the fiscal impact of migration.

The EU has a number of bodies particularly concerned with refugees and forced displacements. The **European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office** (ECHO, <www.europa.eu.int/comm/echo>)

facilitates a network of agencies that assist at humanitarian emergencies within Europe; and the **European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights** (EIDHR) is concerned with the protection of minority groups in the European community (www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/eidhr/index_en.htm)

The **European Council on Refugees and Exiles** (ECRE, <www.ecre.org>) has 72 member organizations from 28 European countries. It works in the field of policy development and research, legal analysis, advocacy, information resources, networking and capacity building. One of its notable members is the **Norwegian Refugee Council** (NRC, <www.nrc.no>), which coordinates emergency relief projects and is undertaking crucial work in the area of IDPs, through the **Global IDP Project** (www.idpproject.org).

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

www.saarc-sec.org

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) works to find ways of promoting the individual dignity and quality of life of all citizens of its member countries, and relationships of trust and cooperation between nations.

African Union

<http://www.african-union.org>

The African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity), through its Bureau for Refugees, Displaced Persons and Humanitarian Affairs, promotes training, education and income generation amongst refugees, and also can provide emergency relief.

Other African regional groups include the **Economic Community of West African States** (ECOWAS, <www.ecowas.int>), **South African Development Community** (SADC, <www.sadc.int>) and the **Intergovernmental Authority on Development** (IGAD, <www.igadregion.org>).

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

www.cidh.oas.org

The Inter-American Commission on Human 133

Rights (CIDH) has the power to investigate and disclose human rights abuses occurring in the Americas, and has a special Rapporteur on IDPs. The CIDH makes recommendations to the **Organization of American States** (OAS, <www.oas.org>), the key regional body in the Americas concerned with the promotion of peace and security.

The Permanent Consultation on Internal Displacement in Americas

www.cpdia.org.br

The Permanent Consultation on Internal Displacement in Americas (CPDIA) receives and analyses information on displaced persons, makes recommendations and provides technical assistance, works to establish a legal framework regarding IDPs, conducts formal meetings and educational programmes, and supports grassroots projects.

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

www.adpc.ait.ac.th

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, based in Thailand, assists Asian countries to strengthen their disaster management capabilities, and thus has a role in the prevention of mass displacement due to natural disasters.

Research, education, information resources

The Asian Research Center for Migration

www.chula.ac.th/INSTITUTE/ARCM/main.htm

The Asian Research Center for Migration based at the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand (formally the Indochinese Refugee Information Center) promotes links between academic institutions, government, NGO and international groups.

The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration

www.iasfm.org

The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration promotes the scientific

knowledge of forced migration and an understanding of appropriate and effective practice through an independent community of scholars and practitioners.

Migration Policy Institute

www.migrationpolicy.org

The Migration Policy Institute, based in Washington, is an independent think-tank, which aims to study the movement of people, and to analyse, develop and evaluate policies regarding migration. Areas of research include migration management, refugee protection and the international humanitarian response, and immigrant settlement and integration.

Human Rights Watch

www.hrw.org/refugees/

Human Rights Watch (HRW) works to identify, investigate and report on human rights violations and raise public awareness. It also makes recommendations to governments and to the UN. It has been particularly active in the area of abuses committed against refugees and IDPs.

Amnesty International

www.amnesty.org

Amnesty International (AI), a group well known for its campaigns on behalf of prisoners of conscience, has recently broadened its mandate so that its members can now speak out about a range of human rights abuses.

Minority Rights Group

www.minorityrights.org

The Minority Rights Group (MRG) grew out of a concern that ethnic minorities often had no voice in decisions made by governments that had significant impacts on their welfare. Refugees, migrants, and IDPs very often come from ethnic minorities, or become a minority as a result of their dislocation.

International Crisis Group

www.intl-crisis-group.org

International Crisis Group (ICG) positions teams of political analysts inside or close to countries deemed to be at risk of violent conflict and makes

recommendations to key international decision-makers and the involved governments based on their field reports. It is currently concerned with 30 crisis-affected countries.

Refugees International

www.refugeesinternational.org

Refugees International is a Washington-based group which seeks to assess the refugee situation, briefing governments and international NGOs.

Refugees Studies Centre

www.rsc.ox.ac.uk

The Refugees Studies Centre, based at the University of Oxford, has a programme of research covering legal, political, theoretical, and practical perspectives on asylum and the refugee experience. The Centre publishes the newsletter *Forced Migration Review*.

Center for Migration Studies

www.cmsny.org

The Center for Migration Studies in New York provides a range of activities and resources devoted to understanding and educating the public on the causes and consequences of human mobility at both origin and destination countries. It publishes the journal *International Migration Review*.

African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies

www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/ACOHRS.htm

The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies publishes papers and provides documentation regarding movements of people and their rights.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

www.womenscommission.org

The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children is an affiliate of the IRC. It aims to enable refugee women and children to have a voice in the issues which involve them, and acts as a resource, providing experts for field assessments, research, and training.

International Centre for Migration Policy Development

www.icmpd.org

International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) provides information about source countries to assist receiving countries to assess asylum claims. It assists countries to develop policies to prevent illegal migration and organized crime.

HURIDOCs

www.huridocs.org

HURIDOCs assists those who work in the field of human rights to establish and develop relevant information technology networks, providing the relevant training and software. An example of their work is the International Refugee Documentation Network.

Trafficking and slavery

A number of UN bodies are involved in the area of slavery and trafficking, including **UNIFEM**, **UNICEF** and the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**. Relevant conventions include the Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, (1989). Member states are assisted in meeting the requirements of these conventions, for example, through the **Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings** (www.unodc.org/unodc/trafficking_human_beings.html), which fosters a transnational approach where countries on the demand side of the equation work in partnership with countries on the supply end.

International Labour Organization

www.ilo.org

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has a mandate to develop international standards of labour. It operates from the principle that social justice must be the foundation of relations between workers and employers. It has formulated conventions regarding human trafficking, and also regarding the rights of migrant workers.

Anti-Slavery International

www.antislavery.org

Anti-Slavery International speaks out against contemporary forms of slavery, including the use of child labour, child slavery, forced prostitution, and forced marriages.

Coalition Against Trafficking and Slavery

www.trafficked-women.org

The Coalition Against Trafficking and Slavery (CAST) is an 'alliance of nonprofit service providers, grassroots advocacy groups, and activists' which seeks to support the human rights of the victims of trafficking, providing them with medical and psychological support, protecting them against involuntary repatriation, and to enable them to resist prosecution.

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

www.inet.co.th/org/gaatw/bodyframe.html

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GATW), recognizing that many anti-trafficking approaches result in the criminalization and stigmatization of women who migrate to work in informal sectors, seeks to reinterpret and redefine anti-trafficking instruments in the interests of migrant women.

Child Workers in Nepal

www.cwin-nepal.org

Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) provides a range of services for those who are victims of child slavery, including a helpline, health and counselling services, advocacy, education, and training in self-reliance.

Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation

www.wotclef-ng.com

Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) is active in Africa, and acts to intervene in cases of forced marriage, and provides legal assistance and promotes the education of those vulnerable to slavery.

The Protection Project

www.protectionproject.org

The Protection Project analyses laws regarding trafficking, has established a database regarding those laws, and has developed maps of routes of human trafficking.

Settlement of migrants and refugees

Scalabrinian Missionaries

www.development.scalabrini.net

The Scalabrinian Missionaries is a religious organization with a particular concern for the needs of those who have migrated as a result of overseas labour programmes. They work to raise awareness in the local communities about the needs of migrants, and provide education and development programmes.

International Social Service

www.iss-ssi.org

International Social Service assists in the case of complex personal and legal problems that have arisen out of forced migration and which require a transnational approach. It also acts on behalf of unaccompanied minors.

Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture

www.torturecare.org.uk

The Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture provides the survivors of torture with medical, practical, and psychotherapeutic support in the UK. It documents evidence of torture, provides training for professionals who may work with survivors of torture, educates the public about the issue, and aims to ensure that Britain honours its international obligations to those who have suffered torture. Its website provides links with similar organizations in other countries.

Adult Multicultural Education Services

www.ames.net.au

Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES) in Australia, supported by Federal legislation and

government funding, ensures that all newly arrived migrants have access to a total of 510 hours of English language tuition.

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