



FADICA

Firstly, we need to become aware that the phenomenon of migration is not unrelated to salvation history, but rather a part of that history. One of God's commandments is connected to it: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."
(Exodus 22:21)

-Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2017

CATHOLIC SOCIAL INNOVATION IN TODAY'S GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

Executive Summary

Despite a rich history of innovation within the Catholic community, there has not been a systematic review or analysis of social innovation within the Catholic philanthropic world. Inspired by the recognition that Catholic ministries are creatively harnessing social innovation for those on the margins, and the fact that this combination of faith in action and innovation for others is not well known, Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities (FADICA) launched a three-year initiative to examine Catholic social innovation.

FADICA's Catholic Social Innovation Initiative seeks to expand the understanding, engagement, and support for high impact social innovation within discrete sectors of Catholic ministry. The Initiative identifies uniquely Catholic, innovative, high-impact approaches through the research and discovery of one particular challenge or issue each year for three years. In the first year of the Initiative, FADICA's members voted to focus on the global refugee and migration crisis.

FADICA partnered with the Center for Social Innovation at Boston College to conduct the research effort, which identified 64 innovative and solutions-oriented Catholic ministries globally that are accompanying and aiding refugees and migrants. The purpose of this report is to spotlight these inspiring and impactful programs as models and to highlight the findings of Boston College's team.





Introduction

Today we face the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are 65.6 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, including 22.5 million refugees. Nearly 20 people are displaced every minute. There are more people currently displaced than at any other point in recorded history, including the period after the Second World War.

The US Catholic Bishops and Pope Francis have been strong advocates for refugees and migrants around the world. Pope Francis has encouraged Catholics not to abandon refugees and other vulnerable people who have been “excluded and marginalized: without a job, without options, without a way out.” Catholic ministries and philanthropies have been inspired and challenged by Pope Francis’ vision, requiring new creativity and collaboration to meet people on the margins as a missionary church promoting human dignity and the common good.

Through the Catholic Social Innovation Initiative, FADICA has identified Catholic models, approaches, and organizations that are responding to the global refugee crisis by putting their faith into action and harnessing innovation.

Catholic social innovation is not new; Catholic priests, brothers, sisters, and lay people have been doing this work for centuries, but often under the radar. This study attempts to change that by spotlighting Catholic innovators and innovations. It also illustrates how Catholic social teaching (sometimes called one of the Church’s “best kept secrets”) informs and inspires innovation in Catholic ministries and organizations.

The research revealed that Catholic social innovation in the refugee crisis is made distinct by fostering or leveraging social capital and repurposing existing resources to solve a new problem.

In interviews with Catholic organizations, practitioners, clergy, and other experts, respondents identified almost 50 key trends in the refugee and migrant crisis. The Boston College research team organized these trends into four broad themes which are briefly described in this report.

General Definition of Social Innovation

Social innovation is defined by the Boston College Center for Social Innovation as *a new response to social problems ... [P]roblems that have been with us for some time but have been difficult to address **effectively** and/or **efficiently**. The response might take the form of a new service, organization, product, structure, paradigm, or approach to resource development. It should have the potential to transform the problem, the possibility of being **sustainable**, and the **promise of enhancing social justice**.*

Towards a Definition of Catholic Social Innovation

Two additional characteristics of social innovation are also important to Catholic social innovation in the refugee response: **fostering or leveraging social capital**, and the **repurposing of existing resources to solve a new problem**.

This study proposes a straightforward preliminary working definition of Catholic Social Innovation, to be refined over the course of the project and in consultation with interested leaders and stakeholders: *Catholic Social Innovation is the engagement in social innovation as a result of being motivated by the Catholic Social Tradition and values, and the act of employing programmatic choices that specifically embody those values.*

Catholic Social Teaching and Social Innovation

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching and values used in this project

Human Life and Dignity

Respect for and promotion of the life and dignity of every human person

Common Good

A commitment to preserving and promoting the common good (the conditions that allow people to realize their human dignity and potential)

Rights and Responsibilities

Promotion of citizens' rights and obligations to each other as members of the human community

Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Demonstrating a preferential option for and with the marginalized or vulnerable

Dignity of Work

Acknowledging and promoting the inherent dignity of work and the rights of workers

Solidarity

Respecting our interdependence and interconnectedness as human brothers and sisters

Subsidiarity

Keeping resources and solutions as local as possible, preferably with those experiencing the problem when appropriate

Care of the Earth

Care of the planet and our natural resources so that they may be used by all

Integral Human Development

Addressing the needs of the whole person and/or whole community; addressing a need with awareness of the larger ecosystem of human development

"Welcoming the Stranger"

Emphasizing radical hospitality or offering a new interpretation of what it means to welcome the stranger in an immigrant church

Red dots = Catholic-led projects; green dots = Sister-led projects

Catholic Innovation in Refugee Response

FADICA partnered with the Center for Social Innovation at Boston College whose extensive research, led by Prof. Tiziana Dearing, identified more than 170 promising Catholic socially innovative programs. The report focused on 30 Catholic-led projects in the 32 countries with the highest numbers of refugees and migrants, and 34 Catholic sister-led projects, which were considered across all countries.

Programmatic responses represent a truly wide range of innovations – from social enterprises, to volunteer-led peer mentoring programs, to parishes resettling refugee families, to integrated child care and school readiness centers where adults also can develop their skills. There are Catholic sisters converting their own home into a shelter (Stone House), college students mentoring migrant youth (Fairfield University), and a puppet company and a nonprofit teaming up to help children process trauma of war and displacement (No Strings).

Models for economic self-sufficiency abound: From Chad to Poland to Louisville, Kentucky - across continents these innovations touch every stage of responding to and supporting the needs of refugees and migrants.

Projects Map and Listing

The following map illustrates the breadth of the Catholic innovative response. The 64 projects that follows is not an exhaustive list, but rather a representation of Catholic social innovation. As noted, over 150 additional projects were identified through this project, and there are many more examples throughout the world.



CATHOLIC-LED PROJECTS

Academic Programs

Jesuit Worldwide Learning
Worldwide (at the “margins”)

Advocacy for Private Sponsorship

Scalabrini International Migration
Network (SIMN)
Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile,
Germany, Italy, United States

American Friends

Catholic Charities Maine Refugee &
Immigration Services
Maine, United States

Border Immersion Program

Colorado Vincentian Volunteers (CVV)
Mexico / United States

Catholic Immigration Integration Initiative

Center for Migration Studies
United States

Centro San Juan Diego

Archdiocese of Denver
Colorado, United States

Children and Mothers Partnerships (CHAMPS)

Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB)
Haiti, Kenya, Peru, South Sudan, Zambia

Common Table & Common Earth Gardens

Catholic Charities
Kentucky, United States

I Get You

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
Europe

ICMC Cares

International Catholic Migration
Commission (ICMC)
Europe

Intern/Student & Refugee Exchange

Catholic Social Services
Alabama, United States

Legal Fellow Program

Kino Border Initiative (KBI)
United States / Mexico

Little Ripples

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
Chad

Livelihoods Project

Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town
South Africa

LOOM

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of
Chicago
Illinois, United States

Ministry to the Internally Displaced Persons in Malakal

Solidarity with South Sudan
South Sudan

Model for Integral Human Development

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Worldwide

No Strings Partnership

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq

Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR)

Migration and Refugee Services
US Conference of Catholic Bishops
United States

Pastoral Migratoria

Archdiocese of Chicago
Illinois, United States

Proyecto Pastoral

Dolores Mission Parish
California, United States

Refugee Health Partnership

Catholic Charities
Arizona, United States

Refugee Women’s Protection Corps (RWPC)

International Catholic Migration
Commission (ICMC)
Malaysia

Resettlement Support Center (RSC)

International Catholic Migration
Commission (ICMC)
Turkey & Lebanon

SENA Partnership

Cáritas Colombia
Colombia

Supporting Refugee Children with Disabilities

Cáritas Liban and Catholic Relief
Services
Lebanon

Team Refugee Program

Catholic Charities
New Mexico, United States

The Refuge Café

Catholic Charities
Arizona, United States

Train the Trainer

Catholic Charities Maine Refugee &
Immigration Services
Maine, United States

Ubuntu Academy

Connecticut Writing Project
Connecticut, United States

SISTER-LED PROJECTS

Advocacy for Immigrants

Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
United States

ACRATH Companionship

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)
Australia

Asylee Women Enterprise (AWE)

Collaboration among eight women religious communities
Maryland, United States

Bethany House of Hospitality

Collaborative effort of eight women religious
Illinois, United States

Building a Network

Unione Internazionale Superiore Generali (UISG)
Worldwide

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP)

Brigidine Sisters
Australia

Canberra Advocacy

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)
Australia

Center for Overseas Workers (COW)

Good Shepherd Sisters / St. Mary Euphrasia Integrated Development Foundation, Inc.
Philippines

Comprehensive Training Courses

Province of Good Shepherd Sisters of Bolivia / Chile (GSS)
Bolivia & Chile

Dare to Live in Peace

Dominican Sisters of Peace
Ohio, United States

Diabetes Prevention Program

Proyecto Juan Diego
Texas, United States

Doors to Hope

A Ministry of Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Kentucky, United States

Douglaprieta Trabaja

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Mexico

Education Services

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) Life Center
New York, United States

Good Shepherd Centre for Women and Children (GSCWC)

Good Shepherd International Foundation
Thailand

Good Shepherd Welfare Center (GSWC)

Good Shepherd Sisters Malaysia
Malaysia

Human Trafficking Educational Toolkits

Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR): Region 9 (WI)
Wisconsin, United States

Immigration Legal Services

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) Life Center
New York, United States

Immigration Program

Proyecto Juan Diego
Texas, United States

Jóvenes en Acción

ARISE
Texas, United States

Las Casas English as a Second Language (ESL)

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose
California, United States

La Posada Providencia (LPP)

Sisters of Divine Providence
Texas, United States

Latino Ministry

Holy Family Parish
Ohio, United States

Migrants Programme

Unione Internazionale Superiore Generali (UISG)
Italy

Mother of Mercy Clinic

Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena & Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)
Jordan

Network Building

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking
United States

Orientation and Assistance for Bolivian Migrants

Province of Good Shepherd Sisters of Bolivia / Chile (GSS)
Chile

Projects for Peace in Lebanon

Good Shepherd Sisters Lebanon
Lebanon

Residential Kindergarten

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Jerusalem

Shelter, Orientation, and Assistance to Prospective Migrants

Province of Good Shepherd Sisters of Bolivia / Chile (GSS)
Bolivia

Springs Learning Center

Dominican Sisters of Peace
Connecticut, United States

Stone House

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN)
Pennsylvania, United States

Telecenters

Province of Good Shepherd Sisters of Bolivia / Chile (GSS)
Bolivia & Chile

Work and Education: Training and Skills Centers

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Tunisia

Trends in the Catholic Response to the Refugee Crisis

In interviews with Catholic organizations, practitioners, clergy and other experts, respondents identified almost 50 key trends in the refugee and migrant crisis. The Boston College research team organized these trends into four broad themes - **hotbeds**, **policy and governance**, **attitudes**, and **service delivery**.

Hotbeds	Policy & Governance	Attitudes	Services Delivery
Hotbed trends focus on geographic areas where the crisis is most extreme	The policies of a country, region, or global structure	Notable changes in attitudes cited by interviewees	Holistic approaches (which reflect Catholic principle of integral human development)

Responsive Philanthropy

Those interested in partnering with innovative Catholic and sister-led Catholic organizations could consider some or all of the following funding principles and practices.

HELPFUL FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Embracing the following funding principles in your approach to grants can be helpful in effectively supporting Catholic Social Innovation in the refugee-migration crisis.

Patience - This is an enormous, intractable problem. Be patient for results and stay with grantees as long as they are staying with the problem.

Flexibility - Pressing needs change quickly, especially in this volatile funding climate. Commit to the kind of flexibility that allows you and your grantees to be agile and responsive.

Subsidiarity - Trust that your grantees and those who are closest to the challenge know what to do and how to do it. Fund their innovations and ideas.

Partnership - Commit to being a partner with your grantees, not just an investor. Be willing to problem-solve with them, and to use your social capital to help them.

Blended dollars - With emerging social enterprises, be open to using for-profit dollars as well as philanthropic dollars to help confront this crisis.

HELPFUL FUNDING PRACTICES

Prospective donors could incorporate some or all of these funding practices.

Reward success according to the work - Emergency response work will produce outputs (e.g., number of people housed and fed), but may not produce many long-term outcomes. Long-term, holistic approaches should produce long-term outcomes for the target populations (e.g., economic self-sufficiency). Appropriately and explicitly match your definition of success for a grant to the type of work it is funding.

Fund general operating support - There are few better ways to offer flexible funding than general operating support.

Fund with continuity - Make longer-term or easily renewed commitments to organizations that are being innovative, to give them time to show results and to match the depth of their commitment to the problem.

Fund for scalability - Many of the projects identified could be scaled to more communities or replicated. Fund scaling or replicating, and provide grantees access to technical support, market research and funding for collaboration to bring great ideas to more people.

Welcome new and qualitative metrics - Complex problems like the refugee and migrant crisis don't always lend themselves to quantitative measures of success. Pioneering approaches don't necessarily have precedent for how to measure them effectively. Therefore, accept and embrace new and qualitative metrics from grantees, especially if they can explain a clear theory of change behind those metrics or show where such metrics have been used elsewhere.

Create some risk capital - One of the core definitions of innovation is "new." New initiatives sometimes fail. Consider allocating some of your grant portfolio to "risk capital" that allows you to invest in new ideas and absorb the losses if they fail. Then, fund learning from the failure so you and the grantee get smarter.



Conclusion

At its core, FADICA's Catholic Social Innovation Initiative seeks to support human flourishing and a vital Church by expanding the understanding, practice and support for high impact social innovation within Catholic ministries.

This is an opportunity and invitation for Catholics to be inspired by Catholic social teaching and the way it has taken shape in innovative solutions to the refugee crisis.

The spotlighted organizations have the potential to inspire the nonprofit and philanthropic sector, which increasingly seeks impactful and innovative solutions in the field of refugee work and humanitarian work in general.

Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities (FADICA)

FADICA is the leading philanthropic peer network serving as a catalyst for a vital Catholic Church, Catholic ministries and human flourishing. We promote the growth and effectiveness of Catholic philanthropy inspired by the joy of the Gospel and the Catholic social tradition. FADICA supports its members through education, exchange, fellowship and faith, research, joint funding opportunities, and interaction with Catholic leadership.

Acknowledgements

The Catholic Social Innovation Initiative year one focus on the global refugee crisis would not have been possible without FADICA members, who selected this topic among five possible themes, and the generous support of the foundations and donors who made this project possible. Thank you to the entire FADICA community, for their passion and interest in living out their philanthropic vocation in solidarity with Catholic organizations and those they serve.

FADICA would like to thank all the Catholic practitioners around the world who generously participated in the study through interviews, consultations, and content review so that their creative, innovative, and tireless efforts could be shared more widely.

FADICA gratefully acknowledges Professor Tiziana C. Dearing and her team of graduate students working with Boston College's Center for Social Innovation: Samantha Allen, Bethany Schmid, and Maria De Las Nieves Edwards Cosmelli, for uncovering the power of Catholic social innovation through research and analysis.

Thank you to Kathy Dempsey, who consulted with FADICA and prepared the report for public distribution; and to the FADICA team who coordinated the project, especially Alexia Kelley who brought forth the concept of discovering and spotlighting Catholic social innovation and those who illustrate it.

Photographs courtesy of:

Scalabrini International Migration Network
International Catholic Migration Commission
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul