CONCEPT NOTE & PROGRAM

MEDITERRANEAN MUNICIPALITIES AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS
PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITIES HOSTING REFUGEES

MAY 30-JUNE 1ST, 2016
KEMPINKSI HOTEL
AMMAN, JORDAN
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.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
- 3RP Response Plans

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.crimarseille.org; Twitter: @cimarseille; Facebook: CMI Marseille
Day 1 – Monday, May 30, 2016

09.00 - 10.00  
**Official Opening session: Welcoming Addresses and Introductory Remarks**

- **H.E. Eg. Walid Muhi Aldin AlMasri**, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*
- **Ellen Hamilton**, Lead Urban Specialist, Social Urban Rural & Resilience Global Practice, World Bank
- **Tarek Osseiran**, UN Habitat Country Program Manager, Lebanon

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  
  *Presentation of Survey Finding “Needs and Achievements of Host Communities in the Mashreq”*
- **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 & Working Group registration**

- Group picture and coffee break. 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 coordination and cooperation to improve local resilience to the refugee crisis**

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**

- **Presentation**: **Tony Sfeir**, Chief Resilience Officer, Municipality of Byblos, Lebanon
- **Discussant**: **Salam Badreddine**, Union of municipalities of Sahel Zahrani, Lebanon

  - Q&A and Open Discussion  
    - **Moderator**: **Samer Saliba**, Urban Response Learning Manager, International Rescue Committee

**Working Group I.2: Central and local government collaborations to improve services to refugees and migrants**

- **Presentation**: **Mehmet Abdullah Aksoy**, Head of Health and Social Services Department, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey
- **Discussant**: **Rodopi Panidou**, Head of Legal Affairs, City of Offenbach am Main, Germany

  - Q&A and Open Discussion  
    - **Moderator**: **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 directed to refugees and citizens**

- **Presentation**: **Akram Abu Allan**, Mayor of Thahiriya, Hebron Governorate, Palestinian Territories
- **Discussant**: **Issam El Hadi**, Mayor of Qaleet Al Istiklal, Lebanon

  - Q&A and Open Discussion  
    - **Moderator**: **Philip Bottern**, Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>13.15 - 14.30</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>14.30 – 15.00</td>
<td>Introduction to Thematic Session II: Service Delivery and Preparedness of Local Governments, including in collaboration with non-governmental actors</td>
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| 15.00 - 16.30| Working Group II.1: Innovations for mid-term housing and shelter solutions for refugees  
*Presentation*: Iman Zaki, Program Manager, UN Habitat Jordan  
*Discussant*: Elias Jourdi, 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 citizens and refugees: leveraging 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 citizen 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 (JSC - H&B), 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**

Network fair with information booths

All partners are invited to showcase their activities

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**09.30 - 09.35**

Welcome to Day 2: Agenda Review

**Ebba Augustin**, Facilitator, CEO of SAANED, Jordan

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**09.35-09.45**

Keynote Speaker

**Saroj Kumar**, Senior Vice President for CSSA Fragility, Conflict & Violence, World Bank*

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**09.45 -10.30**

Introduction to Thematic Session III: Local Economic Development and Labor Market Inclusion

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**10.30 -12.00**

Working Group III.1. Developing shared growth in areas affected by the refugee crisis: from national to local actions

*Presentation:* **John Speakman**, Advisor, World Bank: “Jordan Special Economic Zones”


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 – The 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 agriculture 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) and **Nadine Saba**, Director and Governor Advisor, Akkar Network for Development, Akkar Governorate, Lebanon

Q&A and Open Discussion

*Moderator:* **Dorte Verner**, Lead Agriculture Economist, World Bank

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**12.00 -13.30**

Lunch Break

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**13.30 - 13.45**

Radio SouriaLi - Presentation on Syrian Voices

**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  
**Plenary room—all participants**

**Working Group IV.1. Innovative examples on strengthening social cohesion: multi-service centers for vulnerable populations and collaboration 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, Northern Jordan Area Coordinator, 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 experience on dialogue events through trained conflict mediators**

*Presentation:* Ghimar Deeb, Community & Social Cohesion, UNDP  
*Discussant:* Ed Beswick, Generation for Peace NGO, Jordan*  
*Q&A and Open Discussion*

*Moderator:* Britta Krueger, Policy Advisor, GIZ

15.45 - 16.15  
**Aula**

**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**

*The Global Alliance for Urban Crisis (DFID, IRC, UNDP, UCLG-MEWA)*  
*Samer Saliba,* Urban Response Learning Manager, International Rescue Committee

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

*CMI “Mediterranean Refugees and Host Communities Program”*  
*Janette Uhlmann,* Senior Program Officer, Center for Mediterranean Integration
**18.00 -18.15**

*Plenary room*—*all participants*

**Saroj Kumar,** Senior Vice President for CSSA Fragility, Conflict & Violence (FCV), World Bank*

**Representative,** Greater Amman Municipality*

Logistics of the field visit on Day 3

**19.30**

Departure for Dinner

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### Half-Day 3 – Wednesday June 1st, 2016 (morning): Field trip

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

**8.00**

Departure from Kempinski Hotel

- Welcome by the Mayor of Irbid
- Presentation of the Cities and Village Development Bank Project
- Neighborhood Visit and discussion with Stakeholders
- NGO visit*

**14.30**

Return to the hotel

*(Lunch Boxes will be provided)*