



# 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

**D**espite 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

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Scalabrini International Migration Network  
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