



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés



SECOND REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

ON ENHANCING DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND UNHCR ON REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT ISSUES

MAY 14 2018 • AMMAN, JORDAN



Second Regional Academia Roundtable Report

“A comprehensive refugee response should involve... national and local authorities, international organizations, international financial institutions, regional organizations, regional coordination and partnership mechanisms, civil society partners, including faith based organizations and academia, the private sector, media and refugees themselves.”

[New York Declaration, Annex 1, para. 2]

1. Background

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is facing a complex set of inter-related and dynamic challenges including **the biggest displacement crisis since World War II**. While representing 5% of the world’s population, **the MENA region accounts for 38% of global displacement**, with most countries in the region being affected either as countries of origin, transit or destination.

Academia, including think tanks, research centers, universities and professors, have demonstrated a strong ability and potential to contribute to a better understanding of such crises, as well as to generate evidence-based solutions, inform programming and influence policies **related to displacement, refugee needs and host communities**. They provide constructive fora for analysis and critical thinking, and offer a bridge between academic, policy, humanitarian development stakeholders. Because its strength lies in future-oriented and strategic thinking, academia can often offer fresh insights and advance **more comprehensive responses to current regional challenges with deeper analysis capacity**.

At a time when discussions on the future of engagement on displacement issues are taking place, following the September 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Global Compact on Refugees, **the voice of academia remains critical**.

In the New York Declaration, Member States stress that comprehensive refugee responses should involve a multi-stakeholder, “whole-of-society” approach that involves civil society partners, including academia.

Since the first MENA-wide academia roundtable of April 2017 in Amman, significant progress has been made with regards to the overarching goal of expanding and enhancing engagement and collaboration between academics in the MENA region and between academics and practitioners in the region. Embracing the above mentioned ‘whole of society’ approach, engagement between UNHCR and MENA-based academic institutions at local and regional levels has picked up significant momentum since the conclusion of the first roundtable. Among the significant strides:

- a) The UNHCR MENA Regional Bureau in Amman signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Columbia University Middle East Research Center. This marks the first example of strategic regional collaboration between academia and UNHCR MENA to better respond to the needs of displaced persons, refugees and host communities
- b) As part of operationalizing the agreement with Columbia University Middle East Research Center, a symposium on ‘Improving Refugee Access to Resettlement and Complementary Pathways’ took place in March 2018 in Amman. The primary objective of the seminar was to establish a better understanding among stakeholders of how to improve the access to resettlement and complementary pathways for Syrian refugees in the Middle East, by sharing preliminary findings of research studies on resettlement and complementary pathways among key stakeholders involved in refugee protection and discussing the implications of the research findings on humanitarian programming and advocacy.
- c) Initial stages of the development of an Arabic Journal with several discussions between the UNHCR MENA policy unit, WANA Institute and Al Manhal Publishing taking place over the past several months. A concept note was developed highlighting the aims and objectives of the journal and its role in the regional discourse on refugees.
- d) A catalogue of ongoing research and initiatives related to refugees undertaken by academic institutions in the region to foster greater collaboration and strengthen impact.

- e) Mapping of programs in refugee studies by academic institutions in the MENA region, including data on type of programs, courses offered, and fees for comparative analysis purposes.

Commensurate attention needs to be dedicated to **better understanding the role and relevance of academia in formulating evidence-based policies related to responding to the enormous displacement crises facing the region**. This situation must be understood against the challenging operating environment in which the region's academics and analysts operate. Moving beyond knowledge generation toward impacting the policy discourse in constructive and tangible ways is a challenge shared by think tanks globally, and remains a need in MENA. Furthermore, against chronic and severe humanitarian needs, policy research is often deprioritized.

Increased engagement with academic institutions in the MENA region is part of the key objectives of the MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement (MENA CSND), which aims to strengthen the role of civil society in responding to crises by providing a platform for civil society stakeholders in MENA to amplify their voices and actions in favor of the protection and assistance of displaced persons, and in support of host communities.

The second regional academia roundtable, co-hosted by UNHCR, the WANA Institute and the Columbia Global Center | Amman, took place on May 14th, 2018 and saw the participation of over 40 participants from various think tanks, academic institutions and research centers from across the MENA region. This gathering provided a platform for academia to frame its role in influencing policy, programs and discourse related to displacement in the MENA region in the context of major global processes including the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Further, this roundtable aimed to help formulate processes for more comprehensive evidence-based responses to regional displacement crises.

2. Main Areas of Discussion

Objectives of the roundtable, within the context of a comprehensive analysis include:

- i. How to reinforce academia within the MENA region, in line with the NYD and strengthen the channels through which academia can advance refugee studies;
- ii. How to better influence policies on displacement in the region;
- iii. How to create a better link between root causes and displacement;
- iv. How to consolidate the first Arabic language journal on refugees;
- v. How can UNHCR support academia institutionally and amplify their voices;
- vi. How to empower young scholars and students in the discussion on refugees and displacement and provide opportunities for refugee scholars;
- vii. How can the Second Academia Roundtable link with discussions on the Global Compact on Refugees and changes in how to respond to refugee crises from a “whole of society” approach;



3. Proposal of the Publication of the ‘First Arabic Language Journal for Refugee and Displacement Studies’ in the Region and Beyond

Following the first academia roundtable in April of 2017, participants recommended the development of an Arabic Journal which would be set out to enrich and fill the gap of Arabic content relating to refugees and displaced persons within the MENA region as well as, engage with refugee dialogue more directly by employing Arabic as the language of exchange.

Building on the need for the journal, it is necessary to create a coordinated approach that utilizes innovative tools and methodologies to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability throughout the region and the globe. Academics confirmed the importance of a phased approach for the journal with a clear multi-levelled objective,

specified audience/readership and language. This journal will start with awareness, and culminate over time into being a tool for policy formulation. A survey to consolidate different perspectives from various disciplines on the topics and themes of the journal was recommended.

“The knowledge production of this Journal will be from the region, by the region and for the region”

The Arabic Journal would be composed of a combination of academic research and general public-friendly material. The journal would act as an incubator for young scholars and researchers including thorough book reviews. A key goal would be enriching the discourse on refugees and displacement in the MENA region, through a sustainable and consolidated effort among academic institutions, research centers, think tanks and UNHCR.

4. Academia’s Current Engagement in the Response to Refugee Crises in the Region

Participants highlighted ongoing initiatives and embedded programs aimed at supporting refugees and addressing displacement in the MENA region. An example presented was the University of the People that offers ‘tuition-free degrees to Syria’s lost generation’ giving refugees credibility through US-accredited, certified degrees and increased knowledge in business administration or computer science at the university’s virtual camps. The non-profit, tuition-free, accredited American online university reaches out to the least upwardly mobile population who are most in line with the institution’s mission, to open the gates to higher education to qualified students and those most in need of education in order to overcome other barriers. Participants committed to the need for a ‘one-refugee policy’ to ensure the inclusivity of refugees of all nationalities in scholarship opportunities.¹

“The language used when telling the refugee story is a critical element and tool that must be considered when framing the discourse on refugee issues. This is essential in promoting a more positive narrative.”

An updated matrix (Annex II) of ongoing initiatives and practices by academic institutions on displacement issues, identifies to date opportunities for further education of refugees and efforts in shaping the discourse on displacement to be more positive overall.

5. The Role of Refugee Studies Centers (RSCs) in the MENA Region in Responding to Displacement Crises

Refugee studies centers have a role in the development of a knowledge base to help governments and respective authorities in formulating evidence-based policies relating to the response and prevention of displacement.

Refugee studies is an emerging field with 30 % of the think tanks and research centers in the MENA region focusing on refugees and displacement accounting for a total of 27 study centers that have been set up throughout the MENA region and in coordination with reputable academic institutions and universities.²

Reiterating the responsibility and role such research plays on the ground, contribution to the international debates and discourse on refugees was called for. Empirical research was mentioned as essential in the MENA region, depending on the capabilities and resources of such institutions, while also progressing outside of the national level in order to reach international platforms and discourse.

¹ For more information visit www.uopeople.edu

² Taken from the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs Database, American University of Beirut

“The relation between policy and research is complex. The New York Declaration directly states the role of academics in drawing on policies and were called on to create mechanisms for policy implementation. There is room for participation of academics in local or international negotiations”

Regional events on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and on preparations towards the Global Compact on refugees provides a valuable opportunity and platform to complement and further elaborate discussions at the global level. The essential idea of the Global Compact is to improve the way in which the international community responds to large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations. Academia can play a significant role in shaping the refugee narrative by putting it within the broader picture of the region, focusing on the future developmental trajectory, while aiming to depoliticize. There was recognition of the importance of engagement on global governance of refugee protection and international relations, with the discussions on the Global Compact being a relevant opportunity to feed into. With UNHCR acting as a catalyst for academia and potential future participation in the overall global discussion on refugees and displacement, the amplification of local voices of civil society and academia members can be achieved.

6. Innovative Collaborations with Meaningful Impact

This session called for broadening the scope of partnerships across the region, as well as, across sectors to enhance the delivery of protection and assistance to persons of concern. Columbia Global Center | Amman and UNHCR’s partnership was presented as the first example of strategic regional collaboration between academia and UNHCR MENA to better respond to the needs of displaced persons, refugees and host communities. This partnership allowed for opportunities such as valuable data access and resources, which was highlighted as a major challenge faced by academia in the region.

Separation among Syrian Refugee Families in Jordan, a cross-sectional, mixed-methods study that explored the impact of family separation, was conducted by CUMERC in partnership with UNHCR MENA, was highlighted as a good example of effective partnership and consolidated efforts that allowed for qualitative data collection from 85 Syrian refugee families across Jordan. Noting the importance of establishing academic partnerships with humanitarian actors, it was suggested to seek creative ways to disseminate information through academic and non-academic distribution.

The session stressed the importance of readiness on the part of academics to be flexible and adaptable in creating such partnerships with UN agencies and NGOs. Attention was brought to a major ongoing challenge for academia which is quantitative and qualitative data collection. It was suggested to create the base for joint fund raising for such data collection as well as, improving data sharing across various sectors. Academics, the private sector and NGOs play different roles in reaching a common objective.

Private sector partnerships and engagement of businesses and stakeholders in being part of solution-planning and concrete protection intervention was highlighted as a good practice in MENA where there is a great deal of interest. This can potentially provide possible solutions for the lack of funding for completing large studies, as recommended by the participants.

7. Concluding Session: A Conversation with Harvard Kennedy School

The concluding session focused on steps to be taken after the roundtable in order to move forward and catalyze further discourse and research on refugee crises in the region and on displacement. To fit the refugee story within the broader dynamics in the region, it was suggested to remain focused on the lived realities and livelihoods of people in areas of conflict and crises by collaborating, connecting and effective partnerships across different disciplines to ensure a ‘whole-of-society’ approach.

The Middle East Initiative (MEI) at Harvard Kennedy School are currently working on a mapping project on what Harvard University is doing in reference to the Syrian refugee crisis including hosting students that are at risk to study at Harvard, a consortium of universities that are working on middle-eastern studies including the refugee crisis, as well as, participating in engagements such as the academia roundtable in order to collaborate, connect and better support initiatives on refugee issues and displacement in MENA. The attendance of Harvard Kennedy School stood as a reaffirmation of their openness to further engagement on refugee related issues and a commitment to support research on and the development of refugee situations in the region.

“Today, we are taking a step forward towards stronger collaboration through the sharing of the wealth of knowledge and experiences at our disposal which will lead to greater and more meaningful impact on the ground for refugees.”



8. Next Steps and Recommendations

1. Moving forward with the interdisciplinary Arabic Journal on Refugees and Displacement, there should be a phased approach including a clear objective and designated audience/readership.

- a. Language
 - i. The language of this Journal should be Arabic, with translation of vital parts and sections such as the abstract and summaries provided in order to have a global impact.
 - ii. It should be scientific and methodological to ensure credibility
 - iii. It should also be digestible and accessible for content on refugees and displacement to impact policy and practice
- b. Structure/Content
 - i. Build wide readership and engagement through young academics having the possibility to contribute
 - ii. Include a ‘policy brief’ or a 3-4 page summary for outreach before publishing studies
 - iii. Content will be interdisciplinary feeding into the knowledge base of a diverse readership (economics, law, political science, history)
- c. A phased approach of awareness building, followed by policy formulation to be adopted

Next Steps:

- i. Approval of budget by UNHCR by June 2018
- ii. Approval of Journal Setup with Al Manhal and the WANA Institute with a 9 week timeframe
- iii. Have a joint meeting with those involved in setup (UNHCR, Al Manhal, WANA Institute) and finalize agreement by July 2018
- iv. Publish first issue by January 2019

2. Contribution of academia to finding solutions

- a. There is a need for a ‘one-refugee policy’ to ensure the inclusion of refugees of all nationalities in scholarship opportunities and academic programs.
- b. There should be programs in the region, sponsored by universities in Europe and North America for those who cannot access them abroad, especially ensuring the involvement of youth.
- c. Create mobility-focused programs in order to allow international students with national students and refugees to come together.

- d. Strengthening collaboration between Refugee Studies Centers and Universities and exchange programs across centers

Next Steps:

- i. Quarterly Consolidation of updates of ongoing research and initiatives related to refugees by academia roundtable participants
- ii. Continuation of partnerships and agreements with academic institutions across the region and beyond it
- iii. Facilitating contributions for academic scholarships within the region on behalf of various stakeholders

3. Contribution of academia to international debates and discourse on refugees

- a. Inclusion of academia actors in regional events and discussions on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and on preparations towards the Global Compact on Refugees
- b. Engagement in global governance of refugee protection and international cooperation therein
- c. Academics from the MENA region should be involved in the international conferences being held on refugees and displacement
- d. Proposal of an international conference to raise awareness on refugee issues and to serve as a possible channel of transmitting information and conveying the region's message
- e. UNHCR to focus on 'localization' to amplify the local voices of civil society members in the society to participate in global-level discussions, thereby including academic partnerships to ensure related research has an operational impact

Next Steps:

- i. Facilitating the involvement of academic actors within discourse on refugees and displacement at the global level – including discussions on the New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
- ii. Creating opportunities for knowledge sharing between academia within MENA and academic institutions in other parts of the world

4. Ensure a 'whole-of-society' approach in creating effective partnerships across disciplines, in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

- a. Need for more innovative collaborations across the board with a meaningful impact on the ground
- b. Academics should have a readiness for flexibility and adaptation
- c. UN agencies should allow for greater access to qualitative and quantitative data for research studies, as well as, investing in academia's research capacities
- d. Build the capacity of regional researchers to become experts on refugee issues through academic partnerships

Next Steps:

- i. Through initiatives such as the Arabic Journal on Displacement, build local capacities of academic actors in relation to policy analysis and advocacy
- ii. Enabling private sector actors to be part of solution-planning and concrete protection intervention, thereby creating potential solutions to funding large studies
- iii. Strengthen communication with academic actors in order to facilitate timely and accurate cooperation that is directly related to on the ground developments in relation to refugees and displacement

Annex I: Second Academia Roundtable Agenda

Academia Roundtable Landmark Hotel- JERASH HALL Monday 14 May 2018		
9:00-9:15	Registration and Welcome Coffee	
9:15-10:00	<p>SESSION 1 Introduction, Workshop Objectives and Regional Overview/Update</p> <p>Ms. Shaden Khallaf, Senior Policy Advisor, UNHCR MENA</p> <p>Dr. Omar Rifai, Director, WANA Institute</p>	<p><u>Reference questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the regional developments relating to Global Processes on refugee protection regime (Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the Global Compact on Refugees)? • How have the current regional refugee crises shifted policies and influenced politics, and vice versa? • What and who has influenced the varying levels of global attention and resources received by different refugee crises? • What is the role of think tanks in the region? <p><u>Outcome:</u> Common understanding of global trends and the regional situation on refugee and displacement issues</p>
10:00-11:30	<p>SESSION 2 What is the role of the ‘First Arabic Language Journal for Refugee and Displacement Studies’ in the region and beyond?</p> <p><u>Proposed Facilitator:</u> Mr. Mohammad Al Baghdadi, CEO, Al Manhal</p> <p><u>Resource Person:</u> Ms. Juliet Dryden, Director of Programme, WANA Institute</p>	<p><u>Reference questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the objectives of this journal? • What is the need for, and the potential role of, an Arabic language journal on displacement? • How can an Arabic journal on displacement and refugee studies influence policy in the region? • What are the main challenges and limitations? <p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and way forward
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with family unity concept and work undertaken as part of the MENA CSND • Mapping of relevant research topics
16:30-17:00	<p>SESSION 6 Conversation with Harvard Kennedy School</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms. Shaden Khallaf, Senior Policy Advisor, UNHCR MENA</p> <p>Dr. Hilary Rantisi, Director, Middle East Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School</p>	<p><u>Reference questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the conversations that took place today guide us moving forward? • What are concrete actions that all of the participants in this room can commit to for the coming year? • How will we commit to and follow up on agreements and partnerships? <p><u>Outcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set of Recommendations • Plan for 2018 and onwards
20:00	Dinner	Location TBC

Annex II: Updated Academia Matrix

Catalogue of Ongoing Research and Initiatives related to Refugees – May 2018

MATRIX ACADEMIA INITIATIVES				
AREA OF ENGAGEMENT	ACTIVITY	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	TYPE OF INSTITUTION
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Civil Society Network for Displacement 	Algeria	Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD)	Research Center
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facts of the day Infographics on refugee issues 	Lebanon	Issam Fares Institute for public policy	Research Center
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing network of researches in Morocco working on the development of refugee/asylum legislation. Training and research on refugee issues in Morocco. 	Morocco	Network of Researchers (UNHCR)	Network
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement to create collaboration opportunities and capacity building initiatives Capacity building of MPs and judges 	Algeria	Higher School of Magistracy and the Law faculty	University

Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for government on refugees and migrants (with IOM) • Short courses on refugees and displacement • Training and capacity-building program to provide professional-standard training in community interpretation for migrant and refugee interpreters who work in aid agencies and other organizations that serve migrants and refugees in Egypt. 	Egypt	Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, The American University Cairo	Research Center/University
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society capacity building initiatives (focus on public health) • In partnership with other academic institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building the capacity of PhD students to become research assistants ○ Training programs for students that want to be involved in research and matching them with Columbia students to work in teams during the data collection phase • 	Jordan	Columbia University Middle East Center	Research Center

Course-Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree on Human Rights 	Algeria	Higher School of Magistracy and the Law faculty	University
Course-Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters programme on Migration and refugees Studies • Graduate Diploma on Migration and Refugee Studies • Possible collaboration with Cairo University on "refugee law" program 	Egypt	American University Cairo	University
Course-Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dean of Faculty will implement "refugee law" programs as part of the curricula starting next year • Possible collaboration with American University in Cairo on "refugee law" program 	Egypt	Cairo University	
Course-Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Diploma social work with migration and refugees • Masters Degree on social work /migration and Refugee • Offering scholarship at tertiary level for Syrian and other refugees nationalities in Jordan • Offering exchange students a chance to study and to enrol as interns with institutions working with refugees 	Jordan	German Jordanian University	University

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer school, at international post graduated level , social work and political science students • Organising activities with youth and local community at the university , focusing on connecting academic with practice in the field of refugees. <p>Connecting idea of MENA civil society with university activities. This through academic and NGOs collaborations, ie, there is a potential for job opportunities for refugees graduates.</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International research collaborations with universities of Germany, Sweden, UK, Spain, Italy, Swiss land universities about unaccompanied asylum seeking children (preparation process) 		German Jordanian University	
Course-Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters Degree on Migrants and Refugees 	Mauritania	University of Law	University
Course-Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master’ degree on Human Rights Module mobility refugees and statelessness 	Morocco	Faculty of Law University Hassan II	University
Course-Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “University of the People” program that offers Undergraduate and Master’s Degrees in health sciences - free online tuition targeted for Syrian Refugees 	United Arab Emirates	New York University Abu Dhabi	University

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some students can get accredited certificate that can be used for entrance into other universities ○ Students with highest grade receive free tuition at the New York University in Abu Dhabi 			
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project with Free University of Berlin, Universities in Benghazi, Rabat and Cairo 	Algeria	Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD)	Research Center
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research on refugee returns ● Study on Impact of Separation on Refugee Families in Jordan 	Jordan	Columbia University Middle East Center	Research Center
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International research collaborations with universities of Germany, Sweden, UK, Spain, Italy, Swiss land universities about unaccompanied asylum seeking children (preparation process) 	Jordan	German Jordanian University	University
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research on refugee birth registration and documentation finalized ● Ongoing research on impact and effectiveness of cash-based interventions ● Research on “Informality” – access of services by refugees through informal sectors 	Lebanon	Issam Fares Institute for public policy	Research Center

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee women empowerment in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon 			
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research in cooperation with NGOs Bridge the gap between political and humanitarian approaches and trying to understand demographic, political and security concerns incorporating human rights approach. 	Lebanon	Notre Dame University	University
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research being conducted on refugees' incentives to voluntary repatriation, with field research in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Outcomes will be linked with current proposed political solutions. The study will also look into conditions inside Syria analysing what are the preconditions needed for returns, with recommendations that may influence government and UN programming. 	Lebanon	Carnegie Middle East Centre	Think-Tank
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006 book on refugee and migrants rights in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. 	Morocco	UNESCO Center (Law and Migration)	Research Center
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research on refugees with historical, sociologic and legal approaches 	Morocco	Moroccan Center for Refugee Studies	Research center
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study assessing the impact of the Libyan crisis on Egyptian migrants to Libya is completed. The study was funded by 	Egypt	Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, The American University in Cairo	Research Center/University

	<p>International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study on the conditions of asylum seekers whose claims for asylum were rejected in Egypt is completed. The study was funded by the International Institute for Environment and Development • The study analyzing migration policies, practices, and flows in North Africa is completed. The study was funded by the International Labour Organization. • The study on migration policies, practices, and flows in a sub-region of North Africa is completed. The study was funded by the Ford Foundation. • A project mapping the complex legal rights and entitlements of asylum seekers, refugees, and unsuccessful asylum seekers in Egypt started in August 2017. The project is funded by the European Commission. • A project assessing the administrative reasons for statelessness amongst migrants in Egypt and Morocco started in September 2017. The project is funded by the London School of Economics and Political Science 			
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Research				
Service Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal clinics providing legal support to refugees 	Algeria	Higher School of Magistracy and the Law faculty	University
Service Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to tertiary education for Syrian refugees (1,000 approx) with and without scholarships. Erasmus Plus programme Specific needs of refugees considered (study room, transportation, course preparations) Collaboration with Rescue Project of Yarmouk University 	Jordan	Zarqa University	University
Service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarships provided to refugees for tertiary education in the Unites States of America Establishment of public law centres to engage global community 	Jordan	Columbia University Middle East Center	Research Center
Service Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher education for refugees 	Mauritania	University of Law	University
Service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal clinics provided for citizens and migrants including refugees 	Morocco	University Hassan II Casablanca	University
Service Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarships provided to refugees for graduate study at any discipline at the American University in Cairo 	Egypt	The American University in Cairo	University

Student mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students offering language courses to refugees 	Egypt	American University Cairo	University
Student Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research undertaken by students around the country – bottom-up approach on issues relating to displacement. 	Lebanon	Saint Joseph University	University
Student Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of youth conference on youth engagement in responding to refugee crises in the region. • Providing opportunities to students by linking with UN Agencies (UNHCR) to provide internships across the MENA region. • Information sessions for students with UNHCR practitioners. 	United Arab Emirates	American University in Dubai	University

Annex III: Participants' Biographies



Dr. Hocine Labdelaoui, Professor of Sociology at Algiers University, Associate Research Director and Team Leader of Migrations and Mobilities at the Center for Research in Applied Economics for Development (CREAD) – **Algeria**

Labdelaoui is a Team Leader of International Migration in Algeria at the Department of Sociology at the University of Algiers. He is also the Editorial Director of the journal *AFFKAR & AFFAK*, University of Algiers. He is also an Associate Consultant at the National Center for Studies and Analyses for Population and Development (CENEAP). Hocine Labdelaoui is a member of the scientific councils: the Center for Legal and Judicial Research (Ministry of Justice), the Thematic Agency for Research in Humanities and Social Sciences (Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research), National School of Management and Administration of Health (Ministry of Health and Population).

His main fields of research include International Migration, Youth, Local and Community Development, Adult Literacy. He is the author of several publications on Algerian emigration, foreigners in Algeria, international migration, youth and local development

Email:



Dr. Hossam El Deeb, Lecturer, Public International Law at the German University in Cairo-GUC and Cairo University – **Egypt**

Hossam El Deeb is an experienced international lawyer and partner at ELDEEB Law Office. He is a certified arbitrator with a demonstrated history of working in the law practice industry and former legal officer at the National Council of Human Rights in Egypt. He was a former researcher at Amnesty International-UK as well as a former RSD eligibility officer at UNHCR-Cairo. Skilled in

arbitration, international law, transitional justice, dispute resolution, legal writing, and international relations. He received his PhD in International Law from Brunel University London and LLM International Law and Human Rights from Queen Mary University of London and currently a lecturer at Cairo and German University in Egypt.

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Dr. Maysa Ayoub, Research and Outreach Manager of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo - **Egypt**

With a background in political sociology, Maysa Ayoub's research interest include migration policies, integration and livelihoods of minorities, and diaspora and transnationalism. She has conducted research and published on the livelihoods of different groups of refugees in Egypt. Ayoub also has been teaching part-time in the Sociology unit of AUC's Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology and Egyptology, teaching introductory courses on social theory and Arab societies.

Ayoub is a PhD candidate in the Euro-Mediterranean studies program at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. She has an MA in sociology and a graduate diploma in migration and refugee studies, both from AUC. Prior to joining AUC, she worked with local and international research institutions as well as nongovernmental organizations.

Email: maysa@aucegypt.edu



Dr. Mohamed Bader, Professor of Comparative and International Criminal Law and Islamic Law, Northumbria Law School, Northumbria University in Newcastle, UK; Visiting Professor German

University in Cairo, Egypt (GUC) – **Egypt**

Professor Mohamed Elewa Badar joined Northumbria School of Law as a Reader in comparative and international criminal law in July 2013. He previously held a position as a Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Brunel Law School, London. He has also taught and acted as a convenor of International Law & Islamic Law module at Durham Law School.

Dr. Badar served as Senior Prosecutor and Judge in Egypt from 1997-2006. He is currently a Senior Expert for Euromed Justice IV. He also served as a senior Police investigator in Egypt. He was a member of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. He worked as an expert for UNICRI, UNODC and CTBTO. Prof Badar is the author of The Concept of Mens Rea in International Criminal Law and has published 22 articles in refereed journals as well as 13 chapters in prominent books, such as the Commentary on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

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Dr. Ramadan joined Ibrachy & Dermarkar in 2013 as Partner after 7 years of vast experience at several leading international and local law firms in the United States, the United Kingdom and Egypt. Dr. Ramadan is a former Senior Associate at DLA Piper Cairo office and a former Attorney at Bryan Cave LLP London and Washington D.C. offices. Dr. Ramadan worked for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. in 2008 and a former Associate with I&D in 2006. His corporate experience includes; general corporate commercial, labor and employment, contracts and dispute resolution.

Dr. Ramadan is also an Assistant Professor of Public International Law at Cairo University School of Law and an Adjunct Professor of International Law at American University in Cairo. Dr. Ramadan taught law before at Maastricht University School

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Dr. Ahmad Al-Mousa,
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He joined the Center in April 2015. He is responsible for

identifying relevant scholarly projects with the aim to expand them regionally to address urgent current questions, and establishing collaborative partnerships with other Global Centers. Prior to joining the Center, Ahmad was the Research Manager for the Entrepreneurial and Investments Projects Development Company (Oasis500) in Jordan. Ahmad worked as a Strategic Development Officer in Australian NGOs to improve processes employed around the social and economic inclusion of immigrants and humanitarian entrants. He has experience in practice-led policy development and advocacy at state and federal levels, and applied experience in examining and evaluating organizational strategies to address issues relating to effective utilization and exchange of social capital in multicultural workplaces and communities

Ahmad earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the American University of Cairo in 2000; his Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies from the Diplomatic Academy of London at the University of Westminster in 2001; his Master of Science in Business Information Technology also from University of Westminster in 2003; and his Ph.D. in Diversity and Knowledge Management from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 2009.

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Ms. Dorsey Lockhart,
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Dorsey is an economics researcher focused on refugee economic inclusion as well as the wider-ranging issue of job creation in the WANA region. She joins the WANA Institute with more than 7 years of experience in policy and programming related to economic growth and sustainable wealth creation.

Dorsey holds a master's in Business Administration from IE Business School in Madrid and a masters in Development Studies from Georgetown University. Dorsey's areas of expertise include development studies and private sector development.

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Dr. Fawwaz Ayoub Momani is an Associate Professor of Psychological Counselling. He is currently the Director of the Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Forced Migration Studies Centre at Yarmouk University in Jordan.

He has 27 published papers. He has expertise in forced migration and has many distinguished publications in the field of forced migration. He is a member of the T20 Task Force on Forced Migration. He worked with an international team for preparing education needs in the Context of Forced Migration, was lunched in Berlin and delivered by Chancellor Angela Merkel to the Summit of the G20. He participated in many of international conferences. He has several running grants with many international funding agencies for implementing projects related to refugees and host community.

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Ms. Insherah Mousa,
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She oversees JRS/Jordan's projects and operation, with a focus on Access to higher education in emergencies and social protection through home visit project.

Prior to joining JRS in 2016, Insherah was with CVT/Jordan for 8 years, as psychosocial team leader with intensive experience in trauma healing and MHPSS programs. She has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Jordan University and a Master's in clinical Psychology from Jordan University.

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Ms. Juliet Dryden,
Director of Programme of
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Juliet has worked in the field of international relations for the last 20 years specialising in programme management, development and donor relations. She began her career at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and Chatham House (RIIA) in London before moving to the United Nations where she held a number of positions in Cairo, Gaza and Jerusalem with OHCHR, UNRWA, and OCHA.

She has also worked for the London School of Economics (LSE IDEAS). She holds a master's degree in International Relations from the University of East Anglia.

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Ms. Katrina Barker,
Junior Researcher

Katrina joins the Human Security Economics team to assist with projects

concerning migration, refugee hosting and post-conflict scenarios in the WANA region. While in university, she engaged in the practice of policy formulation through her work at the Parliament of the United Kingdom under Cabinet Minister Theresa Villiers, and at Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.

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Mr. Mohamed Al Baghdadi, President and CEO, Al-Manhal – Jordan

As President and CEO, Mohamad is responsible for setting the strategy

and overall management of the company. Mohamad has over 15 years of experience in electronic publishing and international library sales. In 1998, Mohamad co-founded Ebrary, the world's first academic eBook technology services provider, and continued on as its Vice President of International Sales until 2008. During his time at ebrary he grew the international business from zero to over 4000 library customers in over 140 countries. In 2008 Mohamad moved to Dubai to become the CEO of TechKnowlege FZLLC, the Middle East's leading electronic information service provider.

Mohamad was educated in the US, with a BSc. in Systems and Control Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and an MBA in International Trade and Market Development from the Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management.

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Dr. Omar Rifai, the Director-General of the WANA Institute as well as the Senior Advisor to HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal at the Majlis El Hassan, The Royal Hashemite Court .- Jordan

From 2015 until 2017, he was the Director of the Arab Affairs Unit and the Representative of the Commissioner-General at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Amman. Prior to that, Dr Rifai was a Secretary-General of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry (twice), President of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, and the first Executive Director of the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) Forum.

Dr Rifai joined the Jordanian Diplomatic Service in 1975 and served in Jordan's missions in Cairo, Bern, New York, London and Washington between 1976 and 1994. Between 1994 and 1996, he held the positions of Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Director of the Special Bureau at the Foreign Ministry in Amman. He was also a member of the Jordanian delegation to the Jordan-Israel peace talks in 1994. In 1996, Mr Rifai was sworn in as an Ambassador. Between 1996 and 2008, he headed Jordan's diplomatic missions in Israel, Italy and Egypt, and was also Jordan's Permanent Representative to the Arab League in Cairo. From 2004 until 2005, and 2009 until 2017, he was a part-time lecturer in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Jordan, and regularly lectured foreign students in Study Abroad Programmes in Jordan. The career diplomat is a graduate of Harvard University and Georgetown University.

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Mr. Youssef Qahwaji, Researcher, Civil Society of the West-Asia-North Africa Institute, WANA – Jordan

Youssef joins the Civil Society Team with 5 years of experience in supporting youth activism and political participation in the WANA region. He joined ActionAid in 2012 as the Jordan Programme Officer and was later on appointed as the Regional Programme Officer. He focussed on supporting youth activism and political participation, while engaging with youth and civil society organisations in Arab countries.

He also established the first regional youth activism network in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco. Afterwards, he joined USAID as a Data Analysis Officer, researching youth economic empowerment. Through his role at WANA, he hopes to further help civil society organisations improve their work and create positive local change, as they are main players in the development process and key actors in their local communities.

Youssef holds a BA in Tourism Management and Sustainability from the Hashemite University of Jordan. Youssef's areas of expertise include youth networking and empowerment, campaigning, mobilizing, and advocacy, women's rights and gender identities, civil society and radicalization among Arab youth.

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Dr. Sahar Al-Makhamreh, Associate Professor at German Jordanian University. - **Jordan**

She has been a lecturer on the BA Social Work

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She is currently leading an establishment of a Master Program of Social Work /Migration and Refugees at German Jordanian University. She is also an instructor of the Professional Diploma for Migrant and Refugees Studies. She is currently focusing on developing social work with refugees and professionalizing social work, along with many international publications.

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Ms. Wisam Barhoumeh, Project Management Unit Officer (PMUO) at Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians (HOPES) – **Jordan**

Wisam has previous experience in the field of education and counselling of students. Wisam joined the HOPES team in Amman, since the beginning of the project's implementation in 2016 as a Project Management Unit Officer (PMUO), engaged with the project's activities in Jordan & providing technical and administrative support in Jordan and other countries in the region where the project is implemented.

Wisam received her BA in Translation from the German Jordanian University, and afterwards successfully completed a higher diploma in Social Work; Migration and Refugees from the German Jordanian University as well.

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Ms. Shaden Khallaf, Senior Policy Advisor, UNHCR MENA Director's Office, Amman – **Jordan**

Shaden is an international expert on

refugee and humanitarian affairs in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). She currently serves as Senior Policy Advisor in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) MENA Director's Office in Amman. With 18 years of experience and travel across the region, she has expertise in strategic planning and policy formulation, international human rights law and refugee protection, partnership and stakeholder analysis, advocacy and communications, post-conflict transitions and solutions, bridging relief and development, the prevention of violent extremism, and the sustainable development goals.

She has catalyzed and spearheaded the design of innovative partnerships with civil society, academia and the private sector on refugee issues through the MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement. Shaden has also previously lectured at the Department of Law and the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy of the American University in Cairo, as well as published on displacement in MENA. Shaden has featured in publications among "trailblazing Arab women" in the humanitarian and development fields, and is a

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Ms. Yara has a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and

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She has 14 years of local and international experience in project identification, implementation and management as well as working with the private sector. She has expertise in working with refugees, host communities, youth empowerment, advocacy, communications, women's rights and student mentoring.

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Dr. Jihad Nammour, Programme Coordinator, Arab Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights, Global Campus Arab World, Saint Joseph University of Beirut- **Lebanon**

Jihad Nammour is ARMA Academic Coordinator. He is lecturer at the Institute of Political Sciences. Legal theory and Political sociology are his areas of study. Jihad holds a DEA in Law and Political Science from Saint Joseph University.

His latest research focuses on forced migration. He develops educational programmes within several Lebanese NGOs, including Sakker el Dekkene and Peace Initiatives.

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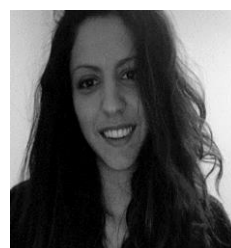
Ms. Marie-Noëlle AbiYaghi, Head of Research, Lebanon Support - **Lebanon**

Marie-Noëlle is a founding member and the head of

research at Lebanon Support. She is also an associate researcher at the Institut Français du Proche-Orient (IFPO), and a member of the Lebanese Sociological Association. A former researcher at the Centre for Lebanese Studies, Saint Anthony's College at the University of Oxford, she has also collaborated with several local and international organisations.

She specialises in the sociology of contentious politics in contemporary Lebanon, with a focus on socialisation processes and collective behaviour, transformation of commitment and logics of disengagement, as well as gendered dynamics within social movements. She also focuses on (re)production processes and forms of social control, order, and discipline. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, France.

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Léa Yammine, Director of Publications, Lebanon Support - **Lebanon**

Léa joined Lebanon Support's team in 2013 and helped plan the

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previously worked as a designer, art director, and project manager in creative organisations.

Léa holds a BA in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut, and an MA in Culture, Creativity & Entrepreneurship from the University of Leeds, UK.

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She currently coordinates various research and collaborative initiatives on refugee issues in Lebanon and the Arab region. Her professional experiences have exposed her to extensive work in policy-oriented research that has been translated into informed public-policy decision making by local and regional leaders, policymakers, and key stakeholders.

Prior to joining IFI, Yara worked at the Department of Health Management and Policy at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American university of Beirut (AUB), in the capacity of a Project Manager/Research Associate. Her work involved substantial research in various health care-related domains, as well as coordination of various health systems strengthening projects. She holds a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics from AUB and a Master of Public Health (concentration in Health Management and Policy) from AUB.

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Hind is currently the Director of the Casablanca Law Clinic in Morocco, holding a PhD in Private Law. She is also the Director of the Moroccan Center for Refugee Studies. Also, Dr. Hind is a coordinator of Masters in Comparative Law of Judicial Proceedings as well as a coordinator of the Mobilities, Refugees and Statelessness Module in the Master's Degree for Human Rights. Hind is a founding member of the Laboratory of Criminal Justice and Comparative Systems as well as a member of the Editorial Board of the Moroccan Journal of Law, Economics and Management. Her current areas of research include the status of foreigners, justice, refugees, educational innovation and the reform of the higher education system.

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Dr. Besma is a founding member of the Research Unit in Law and International Relations at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Tunisia. She is a former Human Rights Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights -Tunisia Office.

She is a regional expert in International Humanitarian Law (TOT) in the MENA Region. Besma is a reviewer as an academic expert of a University Course Manual on Terrorism and Counter-terrorism that was prepared by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC.

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Her research focuses on forced migration, displacement and immobility, conservation and development, and identity and heritage in the Arab world and the Western Indian Ocean region. Her publications include *Islands of Heritage: Conservation and Transformation in Yemen* (Stanford University Press, 2018); an award-winning co-edited volume, *The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space, and the Freedom of Movement* (with Nicholas De Genova, Duke University Press, 2010); and several articles on the transformation of Yemen's Soqatra Archipelago into a World Heritage Site.

She has received fellowships and grants from the Council of Middle East Studies at Yale University, the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, Fulbright-Hays (DDRA), the Social Science Research Council (IPFP), and the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), and the Andrew F. Mellon Foundation. Her current project, an ethnographic study of Yemeni migrant and refugee communities in Somaliland and Djibouti, has been funded by NYUAD.

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As a part of the EDA's MENA Peace and Security Programme, he specialises in Middle Eastern regional security affairs, with a particular focus on Iraq, Iran and the Arab Gulf States. Prior to joining EDA, Dr. Gervais was assistant professor at the Institute of International and Civil Security at Khalifa University and visiting researcher at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), Abu Dhabi. He also worked as a researcher for the Kuwait Program at Sciences Po and as a post-doctoral fellow at the Institut de Recherche Stratégique de l'Ecole Militaire in Paris.

He received his PhD in 2011 from Sciences Po. His doctoral thesis focused on the development of the UAE armed forces, in relation to Abu Dhabi's state-building strategies. His publications range from academic books, book chapters and peer-reviewed articles to policy briefs and reports.

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Dr. Isa was previously the Director of the Nationality Department from 2006 to 2014. He was the Head of Legal Affairs and Courts until 2006. He is a representative of the Ministry of Interior in the joint committee between the Ministry of the Interior and the Supreme Council of Women, as well as, a chairman of several administrative investigation and specialized legal and administrative committees.

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She received her Master's degree in Middle East Studies from the University of Chicago. As Director,

Hilary has expanded MEI's program offerings to best serve a variety of constituents, including Harvard students, faculty, staff and alumni, regional partners and peoples in the Middle East and the general public. Hilary has spearheaded MEI's growth, enhancing critical learning on and about the Middle East at Harvard through multi-disciplinary Executive Education programs, high-level sector specific workshops, faculty research and support, student mentoring and internship funding, professional development seminars, public education events and more.

Prior to joining HKS, Hilary worked with civil society organizations in Israel-Palestine and focused on religion, politics, and grassroots mobilization efforts in Jerusalem. She co-edited the book *Our Story* (1999) and has written numerous journal articles, and been an active public speaker on issues pertaining to the Middle East region. Hilary is a native Arabic speaker.

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