Pivoting the Conversation in Community Development: Co-creating Open Educational Resources in the Community Mobilization in Crisis Project

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What is the Community Mobilization in Crisis Project

• CMIC’s framework is designed to provide refugees and host community members access to higher education through in-class, online, and experiential learning tools.
• The program aims to connect refugees and host community members while enhancing their community mobilization skills needed to develop interventions and initiatives in their respective communities.
• Partnerships with institutions and grassroots in Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, and Brazil: Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut, Chams Network, Dalia Association, Youth Speak, University of Brasilia
Why Community Mobilization?

- A tactic and a strategy to empower local communities
- Can be used to address immediate issues and structural issues
- Particularly useful for helping communities become more self-reliant, less dependent on aid, and more likely to make decisions through inclusive and democratic processes.
Decolonizing Community Mobilization Education

Localizing Curricula:

- Decentering the predominant N. American models of community mobilization and their literature,
- Developing pedagogical materials based on the experiences of community leaders with experiences in managing mobilizations and initiatives in a similar or relevant context, and inviting them to participate in the program’s development and implementation
- Drawing from circle-learning pedagogical principles to create a dialogic learning environment—which moves away from the colonially-inherited, top-down educational models so prominent in the region
Co-creating open educational resources:

Developing pedagogical materials

Over 30 interviews conducted with community mobilizers in Canada, Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraqi Kurdistan

Semi-structured interviews conducted in order to allow space for the community mobilizers themselves to emphasize certain knowledge and experiences that they wish to share and highlight.
Reaching out to different **types** of community mobilizations in the local region in order to:

- **Ensure** that the curriculum encompasses the different means through which individuals and communities organize in theirs contexts and with respect to their **local resources**
- **Avoid** a one-dimensional representation of CM in the region as the alternative to the N. American Model
- Showcase examples of how to work with **similar** and **relevant local resources, circumstances, and cultural contexts**
Our role in the co-creation

Collection of the experiences of local community mobilizers from communities

Organization into an online open access digital curriculum:

Building the curriculum through an “inclusive” approach to dialogue between research and teaching

*the divide between the academic community and those outside of it does not define who are “experts”, who are “mobilizers”, and who are “participants”*

Highlighting and grouping key themes and findings from the different interviews into relevant and cohesive **Course Units**, in which expertise are packaged in ways to best disseminate knowledge

Integration of interviews with **transformational activities** in popular education and adult learning
Our Resources

Open Educational Resources: turning on camera and text interviews into interactive, remixable, open learning resources
Multiple audiences: Community Leaders from protracted refugee contexts, NGO and Gov. workers, University students, Social Entrepreneurs
Digital: mobile and tablet friendly content, digitized curriculum
Accessible: free to use, low-bandwidth-friendly, able to be passed around via USB or hard drive
Trilingual: Arabic, English, and French with the possibility of extending into Kurdish, Turkish and other languages
Our Support

• Establishing “Incubator Hubs” with Chams Network, our grassroots partner, in North Lebanon in order to support community-led initiatives through offering distance-guidance and on-ground staff support for the community
• Pilot courses on Community Mobilization in different sites worldwide with follow-up support by the CMIC team and our partner
• redesigning the curriculum based on feedback and engagement with community - open and free dialogue
Get in touch with us!

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