COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION IN CRISIS

RE-MAPPING PRACTICES FOR TEACHING IN LEBANON AND THE ARAB WORLD

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Tuesday March 27th, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
In 2014, former president of the University of Ottawa, Allan Rock, secured a 50,000$ donation to begin developing a framework for a tertiary education program from Syrian refugees.

Now, 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.

The original team at the University of Ottawa has built a partnership with the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut, both for the development of materials and the implementation of programming.
LEBANON:

1 in 4 people in Lebanon is a refugee:
- Syrian Refugees, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)
- Socio-economic vulnerabilities affecting refugees and Lebanese; instigating tensions among the communities
- Legal restrictions on refugees not allowing them to work, barriers to services and education

2017 PLANNING FIGURES

- 5.9 million Estimated population living in Lebanon
- 3.3 million People in Need
- 2.8 million People Targeted
  - 1.5 million Displaced Syrians
  - 1.03 million Vulnerable Lebanese
  - 257,400 PRL
  - 31,500 PRS

52% of displaced Syrians, 10% of Lebanese are extremely poor (<$2.4/day) along with 6% of Palestine Refugees from Syria (<$2.5/day)

91% of displaced Syrians are in debt. Average cumulative debt $857

60% of displaced Syrians over 15 years old are without legal residency
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.
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
DIGITAL ADVANTAGES

- **Multiple audiences:** Community Leaders from protracted refugee contexts, NGO and Gov. workers, University students, Social Entrepreneurs

- **Interactive:** online mobile and tablet friendly content, digitized curriculum

- **Cheap to pass around:** open source educational materials, low-bandwidth-friendly, download to a USB and SHARE!

- **Trilingual:** Arabic, English, and French *with the possibility of extending into Kurdish, Turkish and other languages*
MATERIALS

- **Case study selection:** context-specific research in Canada, Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraqi Kurdistan

- **Multimedia:** on-camera interviews with mobilizers, on-line curriculum and resources, in-class learning and activities

- **Translation:** Arabic, English, and French

CMIC team members with community organizers in Palestine 2018
PLAN GOING FORWARD

- **Certificate program:**
  - **August/September 2018:** launching a small-scale pilot in the Bekaa valley, a historically marginalized region of Lebanon that hosts the highest concentration of refugees in the country
  - **Long-term:** offer several rounds of longer certificate level programs to students from all over Lebanon

- **Materials: use and measurements**
  - Survey participants in the pilot program
  - Assess and analyze key findings
  - Identify best practices and limitations: what do we need to change?
CONTACT US!

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