

Refugee & Migrant Initiatives

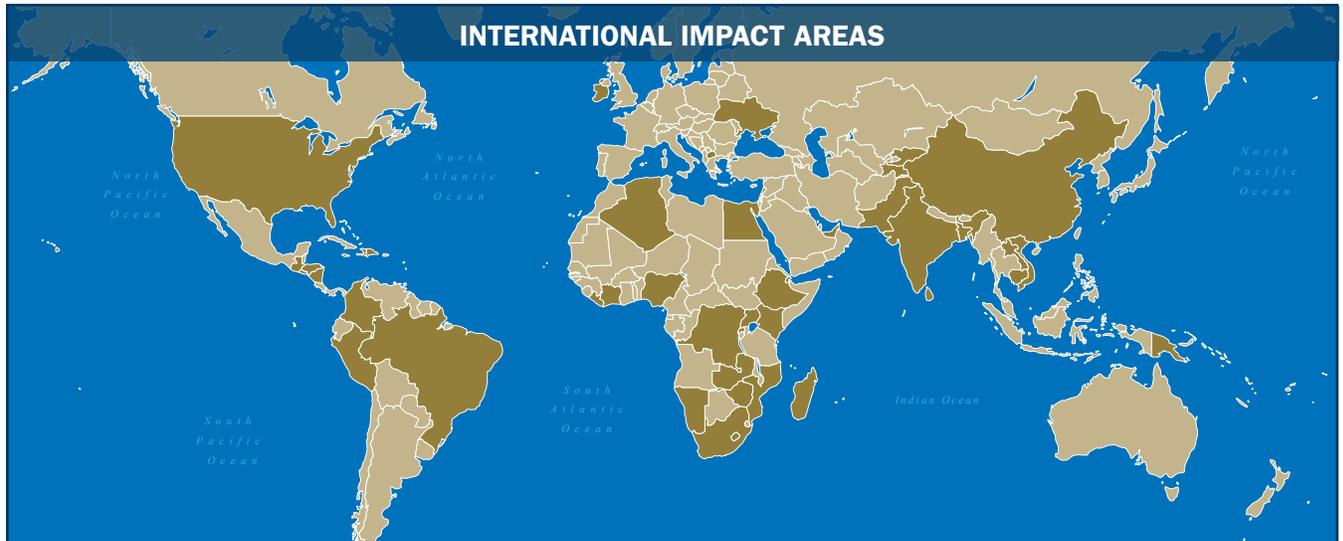


MISSION. The mission of American Institutes for Research (AIR) is to conduct and apply the best behavioral and social science research and evaluation to improve people's lives, with a special emphasis on helping the disadvantaged.

COMMITMENT. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, estimates that more than 65 million individuals are fleeing their homes because of war, persecution, and violence. Among them are nearly 25 million refugees (more than half of whom are under the age of 18) and 40 million people internally displaced within their countries. In addition, nearly 10 million stateless people have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, health care, and employment. With the mission to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged, AIR recognizes the importance of this extraordinary challenge and both a humanitarian and development imperative to help governments, UN agencies, and key stakeholders enforce stronger, more relevant policies and implement evidence-based interventions that protect the rights and dignity of those who have been forcibly displaced.

AIR aims to reinforce a protection and development nexus that looks at durable solutions and migration management in terms of integration, return, and resettlement. We offer evidence-based approaches to policy, practice, and systems change in low-, medium-, and high-income settings, as well as mixed-methods approaches to research and evaluation. AIR will focus on refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and stateless populations; and on new forms of displacement such as environmentally displaced persons, victims of human trafficking, and other forms of violence, as well as those in additional forced migrant categories.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE. Established in 1946 as a not-for-profit organization, AIR has an experienced staff of more than 1,800 professionals in offices around the world. AIR has deep knowledge and experience in education, health and well-being, and workforce development in the United States and globally. The map illustrates AIR's international impact:



In detail: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Macedonia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of South Africa, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, United States, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

AIR has worked with a variety of international and domestic clients, including but not limited to the UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Bank, International Labor Organization, Open Society Foundations, United States Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, UK Department for International Development, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation.

Following are some recent **examples of our work** in refugee, stateless, and IDP communities:

- Evaluations of and capacity building for innovative humanitarian education initiatives in five protracted refugee crises (UNICEF/UNHCR/DFID, 2016–2019)
- Cash transfer evaluation in Syrian communities in Lebanon (UNICEF, 2016)
- Development of a legal resource handbook for refugee community centers in Cairo to provide information for Syrian and Sudanese refugees on their rights to access education, health, and livelihood services (U.S. Department of State, 2015)
- Situational stakeholder analysis and development of survey methodology tools for an enumeration of the stateless population in the Dominican Republic (UNHCR/Open Society Justice Initiative, 2014–2015)
- Technical and logistical support to the UN technical conference in Lebanon on education service delivery as part of Syrian regional refugee response efforts (UNHCR/UNICEF/UNESCO, 2013)

- Literature review, analysis of, and field research on teacher retention challenges in refugee camps in Algeria, Ethiopia, and Pakistan (UNHCR, 2013)
- Qualitative evaluation of community-based technology access centers in Armenia, Georgia, Kenya, and Rwanda (UNHCR, 2012)

KEY CONTENT AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE.

AIR is committed to producing and applying the best evidence and the highest quality work. Our quality assurance process encompasses all stages of a project, from research design to evidence-based conclusions and recommendations, to intervention or program design, implementation, and scale-up. We also provide rigorous monitoring and evaluation, including mixed-methods approaches, as well as process, outcome, and impact evaluations.

Trauma-Informed Care. AIR is committed to addressing the effects of trauma on children and adults by helping to build trauma-informed service organizations, systems, and communities that understand the causes and consequences of trauma. We have designed training materials, assessment tools, and programs to promote healing and resilience, ensuring that

- International and local organizations and service providers are aware of the prevalence and impact of trauma among the people they serve and know how to respond in a trauma-sensitive manner.
- Organizations address and mitigate the negative effects of trauma on children, youth, and adults who are receiving care and are able to develop improved

outcomes across systems and coordinate efforts to build healthy communities.

- Organizations that provide services for trauma survivors in humanitarian and development contexts can create environments that promote healing and resilience for their own staff.
- Trauma survivors receive the highest quality care.

Youth Development and Supportive Learning

Environments. AIR supports the well-being and positive development of children and youth and creates the social and emotional conditions for learning. AIR delivers services to

- Support contextually driven interventions that elevate the strengths and resources in a community and provide opportunities to build skills and competencies for livelihood protection.
- Develop environments for social and emotional learning—the ability to successfully communicate, resolve conflict, interact with others, and manage emotional responses—so youth can do better in school and life.
- Provide tools, resources, and expertise for safer learning environments in conflict and crisis settings.
- Foster social and emotional well-being as a key component of improving conditions for community learning and living and as a key factor in social cohesion and peacebuilding.

Our work in this area focuses on strengths-based approaches that are culturally and community driven and help to build relevant and useful skills and competencies.

Protection of Livelihoods. AIR's Workforce Solutions develops and evaluates tools, systems, and programs designed to ensure that

- Employers are prepared to recruit, develop, and retain the human capital needed for and relevant to the job market.
- Individuals have the skills needed to engage in an existing labor market or adapt to changing environments so they can meet their household needs and contribute to their communities.

- Organizations that provide vocational and technical training in humanitarian and development contexts can work with host ministries of labor or manpower and connect existing skill and competency needs with training opportunities.

Our work encompasses the entire employment life cycle—labor market preparedness, recruitment, selection, performance management, training, retention, and more—and offers our public and private sector clients unique insights and solutions.

Literacy and Language Acquisition. AIR's work in reading and literacy focuses on research-based and language-specific methodologies. AIR strengthens and supports research and interventions that

- Investigate teachers' knowledge of beginning reading instruction and second language acquisition.
- Map languages to determine which are spoken in specific contexts and the extent of language preference or dominance for students being raised in multilingual households.
- Study the effectiveness of computer-based reading interventions and teaching instruction for low-literate adult learners.
- Guide instruction for struggling adult readers.
- Evaluate literacy and language programs.
- Provide research-based professional development to help educators and administrators meet the needs of a diverse population.
- Implement evidence-based, language-specific reading programs for in- and out-of-school children and youth.
- Strengthen instruction materials and methods to improve literacy and language acquisition in new settings for adult learners.
- Evaluate education programs and initiatives by using data to inform programmatic decisions.

Our experts in literacy and the Center for English Language Learners specialize in language transition, which is particularly relevant in the context of forced migration, where the language spoken may differ from the language of a host community or resettlement country.



Disability and Rehabilitation. AIR's disability and rehabilitation work promotes the independence and resilience of adults with disabilities and youth who are transitioning between school and the workforce. This work can be leveraged to help individuals who are adapting to new environments as part of migration or experiencing reentry into communities postconflict as part of peacebuilding efforts. Our goals are to

- Transform public perceptions of transition-aged youth and adults with disabilities.
- Inform policy and practice that promote the dignity and rights of people with disabilities or those engaged in rehabilitation.
- Apply knowledge translation approaches to make disability research relevant to all stakeholders.
- Enhance employment and other outcomes for people with disabilities by partnering and collaborating with individuals and organizations in the disability community.



Child and Youth Gender-Based Violence. AIR works across Latin America and the Caribbean to examine the risk factors for and drivers of interpersonal and public violence, identify examples of positive deviance related to mitigating violence through behavior and attitude change, and provide evidence-based approaches to protective response and referral systems for vulnerable children and youth. AIR offers services in

- Analysis of crime and violence data.
- Assessment and evaluation of programs and interventions with evidence-based recommendations for improvement and scale-up.
- Design and development of local communication and coordination models among first responders to gender-based sexual violence.
- Design and implementation of child protection interventions using local assets and resources.
- Evidence-based strategies for deterrence, conflict mediation, and negotiation.



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