

Employment, Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation of Migrants and Refugees Model

OVERVIEW

SIMN works in 34 countries on five continents —Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mozambique, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Taiwan, province of China, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam. SIMN promotes employment and job-creation programs for migrants and refugees and advocates for partnerships between governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Its aim is to support employment, entrepreneurship, and social innovation among migrants and refugees, which has already been accomplished in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico, in addition to Italy, South Africa and the Philippines. SIMN’s model increases employment, entrepreneurship, and social innovation in both countries of origin and destination.

GOAL

Encourage governments and the private sector, including migrant entrepreneurs, to adopt/support a social innovation, employment, and entrepreneurship model to improve the integration of migrants and refugees and tackle the root causes of forced migration.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Employment, entrepreneurship, and social innovation is a model through which governments, international NGOs, the private sector and civil society organizations, including migrant organizations, work together for the integration of migrants and refugees, or potential forced migrants, in both countries of origin and destination. The program is developed at the Scalabrini Centers in four main stages:

1. **Training and skill certification:** this stage entails three months of intense training (about 300 hours), including entrepreneurship skill development, and concludes with the certification of the different courses, provided by the government agency in charge of the skill certifications.
2. **Document regularization and work authorization:** in this stage, undocumented migrants, deportees, asylum seekers and refugees are referred to government agencies to regularize their migratory status and work authorization.
3. **Employment referrals and micro-entrepreneurship:** in this stage, migrants, refugees, and deportees with training certificates and work authorization can opt for two programs: first, an employment program, with referrals to potential employers; and second, an entrepreneurship program (job creation), with the creation and implementation of a business plan and a micro-loan for start-ups.
4. **Technical Support:** in this stage of the process, there is comprehensive support and control of the challenges and commitments made in the employment and entrepreneurship programs, including correction and redirection when the employment or entrepreneurship project is not meeting expectations.

Because this model represents a major paradigm shift, SIMN is engaging with governments and private sector to replicate it, focused on a systemic change of migration governance. Indeed, policies and programs for the integration of migrants and refugees would improve if individuals and the private sector across the world worked together with governments and international organizations to extend social justice to all people.

IMPACT

SIMN’s centers for training, employment, and entrepreneurship (job creation) in Brazil (São Paulo, Manaus, Cuiabá and Porto Alegre), Chile (Santiago), Colombia (Cucuta), Guatemala (Guatemala City and Tecún Umán), Mexico (Tapachula and Tijuana, and its two new centers in Guadalajara and Mexico), Italy (Rome and Siponto), South Africa (Cape Town) and the Philippines (Manila), have proven an efficient model for integrating migrants, refugees, and returnees; placing more than 15,000 people a year in a permanent job. From May 2016 to October 2017, in Mexico, for example, Scalabrini Centers have placed in different jobs 1,527 deportees in Tijuana, 3,387 migrants and refugees in Tapachula, and 3,488 deportees in Nuevo Laredo. Due to this model’s success, SIMN is opening two new centers in Guadalajara and Mexico City and is working with governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders in the 34 countries mentioned above, to implement the model elsewhere. If other countries replicate the model’s impact, these success rates will increase exponentially, providing enormous benefits to society in both the short and the long-term.