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The UN Refugee Agency



REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY DO, WHOM THEY SERVE

Refugee-led Organizations in Switzerland and Liechtenstein

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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This report sheds light on the activities, challenges and strengths of refugee-led organizations (RLOs) in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, as well as their contribution to facilitating the integration of newly arriving refugees. It identifies potential entry points and opportunities for actors to engage with communities of refugees and promote their participation in a more meaningful and sustainable manner.

Data for the mapping was primarily collected through an online survey containing 34 questions. Frequent contacts with the participating RLOs were needed to build trust, explain the value of the exercise, and answer their questions and concerns.

A total of 38 RLOs participated, spread across 11 Swiss cantons and Liechtenstein. The mapping focused on RLOs representing the most populous and most recent refugee groups by nationality.

The survey revealed the following main characteristics of the participating RLOs:

- ➡ Most are diaspora organizations operating at local or national level.
- ➡ They generally have more than 25 members.
- ➡ The vast majority of members are refugees.
- ➡ Most have been in existence for less than a decade.
- ➡ Half of the organizations are officially registered.
- ➡ Most are led by men, and gender breakdown shows a predominantly male membership.
- ➡ The organizations seem to struggle to attract young members.

In terms of *raison d'être*, the findings show that the main motivation for creating an RLO is to help compatriots new to the host country to integrate and cope with the challenges they face. Maintaining cultural ties is another main motivation for establishing an RLO. It is noteworthy that, despite RLOs' desire to help new ones integrate into the host society, many of their activities are focused on cultural celebrations and preserving the traditions and language of the home country. RLOs are keen to offer integration courses and consultations on life in the host country, but they struggle to find the necessary resources and infrastructure.

Around 80 per cent of the RLOs depend on member contributions and income from local events. Less than one fifth of the organizations surveyed said grants from public authorities represented their most important source of financing, and the majority of these RLOs are still dependent on the work of volunteers.

RLOs use a variety of channels to reach their target audiences and communicate with their members. Overall, personal, two-way communication is preferred, for example, via messaging and chat apps, face-to-face meetings and phone calls. Many also use social media networks.

All of the participating RLOs see the value of networking and cooperation with other RLOs in order to respond more effectively to their various challenges and needs. Moreover, the RLOs are keenly interested in building alliances with local actors, NGOs, local authorities and other civil society players. However, the mapping results show limited coordination and cooperation with key actors in the sector and between RLOs themselves.

One of the foremost challenges identified by RLOs is a lack of resources, both financial and logistical. The organizations also struggle to maintain the motivation and commitment of their volunteers in order to be able to organize activities.

However, alongside these challenges are many strengths, including RLOs' capacity to adapt, strong sense of solidarity, willingness to cooperate, and keen understanding of and proximity to their people.

In view of these strengths, this report underscores the value of RLOs in reaching out to refugees and ensuring the success of inclusion and integration initiatives – and therefore the need to foster genuine collaboration with these organizations.

Other key recommendations include the recognition and systematic identification of RLOs in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, further research into their role, capacity-building to help them achieve their potential and access more funding, and increased support and financing.

If the current and potential contribution of RLOs is recognized and these organizations are given the support they need, they will be able to play an even greater role in the successful inclusion and integration of refugees in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

CHAPTER 1:

INTRODUCTION



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Refugees¹ bring a wealth of skills and experience to their new countries and communities. Stakeholders are increasingly recognizing the value of harnessing these assets and including refugees in processes and projects that impact their lives, as borne out in a number of recent studies.² Moreover, the Global Compact on Refugees³ acknowledges that “responses are most effective when they actively and meaningfully engage those they are intended

to protect and assist”. It encourages States and relevant stakeholders to “explore how best to include refugees and members of host communities [...] in key forums and processes”.⁴

Many countries and organizations, including UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, have started to establish systems and structures to further refugee participation. More and more, refugees are invited

¹ For the purpose of this publication, this term includes individuals who have been granted asylum and/or refugee status in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, as well as individuals with provisional admission.

² See, for example: M. Alio et al., *By Refugees, for Refugees: Refugee Leadership during Covid-19, and Beyond*, International Journal of Refugee Law, 32(2), 2020; M. Duale, ‘To Be a Refugee, It’s Like to Be without Your Arms, Legs’: A Narrative Inquiry into Refugee Participation in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Nairobi, Kenya, Local Engagement Refugee Research Network Paper No. 7, May 2020; K. Pincock, A. Betts, and E. Easton-Calabria, *The Global Governed?: Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2020; Z. Sahin Mencutek, *Refugee Community Organisations: Capabilities, Interactions and Limitations*, Third World Quarterly, 42(1), 2021; Y. Gidron and F. Carver, *International Organisations and ‘Local’ Networks: Localisation and Refugee Participation in the Ethiopian–South Sudanese Borderlands*, Refugee Survey Quarterly, 41(1), 2022.

³ The Global Compact on Refugees, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, was adopted by the international community with a view to a better, timelier and more comprehensive response to refugee situations.

⁴ UNHCR, *Global Compact on Refugees*, 2018, p. 14, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/63b43eaa4.html>, (accessed 3 January 2023).

to actively participate in policy discussions at global level. For example, UNHCR global initiatives include the multi-stakeholder approach of the Global Refugee Forum, one of the mechanisms created by the Global Compact on Refugees to implement its objectives, or the refugee representation in the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement.⁵

In Switzerland and Liechtenstein, UNHCR recently launched a Swiss and Liechtenstein refugee team to support its decision-making processes and projects.

Interest is likewise growing among other actors in reaching out to refugees to understand their situation and ensure that programmes and projects target their needs. The fact that refugees have become more vocal, as evidenced by the recently created Refugee Parliament in Switzerland,⁶ is further incentive for increased refugee participation.

Experiences in other countries have shown that working with organizations and groups set up and led by refugees can be a way to approach refugee communities.

While such organizations and groups exist in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, most are very small. Little is known about them, and they are difficult to find and contact.

To address this gap, UNHCR commissioned a mapping. The exercise sought to shed light on the activities of refugee organizations, their challenges and their strengths, as well as their contribution to facilitating the integration of newly arriving refugees. Most importantly, it aimed to identify potential entry points and opportunities for actors to engage with communities of refugees and promote their participation in Switzerland and Liechtenstein in a more meaningful and sustainable manner.

The mapping focused on organizations where refugees play a primary leadership role in the management and conduct of activities, and where the stated objectives and activities are focused on responding to the needs of refugees or their communities. These organizations are generally referred to as “refugee-led organizations” or RLOs. Given the vast number of such groups and variety of organizational structures, the mapping had to be limited to the most recent and largest refugee groups according to nationality in the countries of study. Although the mapping does not provide a comprehensive picture, it does offer important insights into RLOs in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

⁵ Further examples are mentioned in: J. Milner, M. Alio, and R. Gardi, *Meaningful Refugee Participation: An Emerging Norm in the Global Refugee Regime*, *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 41(4), 2022.

⁶ See “Swiss Stories” section of UNHCR.ch: A. Kypriadi, *Das Flüchtlingsparlament bietet Menschen eine Diskussionsplattform, die aus ihrer Heimat fliehen mussten*, 30 May 2022, <https://bit.ly/3ZTpsKD>, (accessed 3 January 2023, available in French and German only).

CHAPTER 2:

METHODOLOGY



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The mapping was carried out between August 2021 and August 2022. An expert with a refugee background and good contact with refugee communities was recruited to reach out to potential participants. These were identified through Internet searches and personal connections. In addition, various cantonal websites list migrant associations in their region, including some RLOs. The focus was on the German-speaking part of Switzerland and Liechtenstein, but some organizations from other parts of Switzerland also participated.

Given the many organizations in which refugees are organized, the following selection criteria were used:

- Only refugee-led organizations were included, i.e. organizations where refugees play a primary leadership role in the management and conduct

of activities, and where the stated objectives and activities are focused on responding to the needs of refugees or their communities.

- The mapping focused on RLOs representing the most populous and most recent refugee groups by nationality. According to the asylum statistics, the top 10 countries of origin of asylum-seekers in Switzerland between 2011 and 2020 were Afghanistan, Eritrea, Syrian Arab Republic, Somalia, Iraq, Sri Lanka, China, Türkiye, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Ethiopia.⁷ The rationale in focusing on these nationalities is that the more recently a group has arrived in a country, the higher the demand for integration – and, therefore, the more important the role RLOs play in facilitating the integration process. Similarly, the larger the refugee group by country of origin, the greater the chance of finding RLOs that serve these groups.

⁷ State Secretariat for Migration, Asylum statistics, <http://bit.ly/3XHvo7N>, (accessed 3 January 2023).

- Given that the purpose of the mapping was to determine how RLOs contribute to integration and inclusion in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, RLOs organized primarily for religious and political reasons were not included.

Of the more than 100 community organizations identified, 38 met the definition of an RLO and the criteria set. Moreover, of the selected RLOs, around 82 per cent are based in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, 13 per cent in the French-speaking part, and the remaining 5 per cent in Liechtenstein.

The RLOs were contacted via email or telephone. This initial contact was followed by in-person or virtual meetings with the organizations that had shown interest in participating in the mapping, to build trust and explain the value of the exercise. Data was then collected through an electronic questionnaire (see Annex 3). This was emailed to the representatives, along with guidelines explaining the purpose of the community mapping. Throughout the process, frequent contacts were required with RLO representatives to provide any necessary information, instil confidence, and answer their questions and concerns. This helped not only to collect data but also to build meaningful relationships with several RLO contacts.

The questionnaire was organized into three main sections:

- 1 The first section focused on general information about the RLO. Respondents were invited to provide contact details for their organization.
- 2 The second section asked respondents to provide information about their reasons for establishing an RLO, the activities and courses they offer, their funding, and the communication channels they use to reach out to their members.
- 3 The final section focused on the RLO's challenges, needs and strengths, as well as the organization's cooperation and networking efforts.

In total, the questionnaire contained 34 questions: 20 open questions (including 6 concerning contact

details) and 14 closed questions. Some of the key open questions focused on the organization's challenges, needs, strengths and networks, as well as the nationalities of members.

To analyse the quantitative data provided by the respondents, descriptive statistics methods were applied. The qualitative material was analysed through conventional thematic analysis methods, such as cluster analysis and word cloud analysis.

The 38 participating RLOs constitute the primary data source for this mapping. Once collected from the respondents, the data was cleansed and transformed prior to analysis. First, the data was translated into English, as the survey questions and responses were in French and German. Second, the responses to some of the open questions were transformed to enable the analysis of themes such as challenges, needs and strengths.

2.1 Challenges and limitations encountered

This exercise revealed a number of challenges and limitations of refugee community mapping on a national scale:

- The RLO representatives often expressed mistrust of organizations approaching them. Many claimed that they had frequently been approached in the past with various requests, such as for data about their organization, but that there would be no further contact once they had provided the requested information. They therefore felt used and frustrated. This led to an initial unwillingness to participate in the mapping. To overcome this barrier and convince them to participate, frequent contact and lengthy explanations were necessary. This challenge is well known. Several researchers have highlighted the importance of establishing a trusting relationship prior to embarking on research with refugee communities.⁸
- Data on RLOs in Switzerland and Liechtenstein had never before been collected. This created additional challenges and called for new approaches.

⁸ M. Spring et al., *Sampling in Difficult to Access Refugee and Immigrant Communities*, *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 191(12), 2003.



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- The refugee groups were not always organized in terms of country of origin. Syrian refugee organizations, for example, were grouped according to ethnicity rather than nationality. Syrian Kurds were members of Kurdish communities in Switzerland, which included Kurds from Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and Türkiye. Syrian Arabs were found to be members of RLOs for Arabic-speaking refugees.
- It was not uncommon to find up to four RLOs for a single country in one city. Refugee communities often reflect the political reality of the home country; as such, they might be divided along ethnic, political or religious lines. It was therefore difficult to decide which ones to include in the sampling.
- Some of the RLOs had a hierarchical and very bureaucratic structure. Any participation in the mapping required meetings and discussions with their executive committees. Follow-up calls and emails were required to secure participation – sometimes to no avail.
- Language was an issue. Some RLO representatives did not speak or understand any of the Swiss national languages or English.

- Some of the RLOs were difficult to identify. Many do not have an online presence and are not officially registered. This is a common challenge, as researchers have pointed out that refugee populations are often physically, linguistically and culturally inaccessible.⁹

GLOSSARY

Refugee-led organization: A group in which persons with lived experience of forced displacement play a primary leadership role in the management and activities of an organization whose stated objectives and activities are focused on responding to the needs of refugees and/or related communities.¹⁰

Refugee participation: When refugees – regardless of location, legal recognition, gender, identity and demographics – are prepared for and participating in fora and processes where strategies are being developed and/or decisions are being made (including at local, national, regional, and global levels, and especially when they facilitate interactions with host states, donors, or other influential bodies), in a manner that is ethical, sustained, safe, and supported financially.¹¹

Inclusion: The integration of refugees is a dynamic and complex two-way process that is specific to the needs and abilities of each individual and each local community. It requires efforts by both host society, public and private institutions to welcome refugees and meet their needs and refugees themselves to adapt to the new environment without renouncing their own cultural identity. When refugees feel secure, confident and welcome, they are able to invest in their new country of residence and make valued contributions to society. Adequate support, motivation, familiarization with the local culture and acceptance of the new social environment can yield great mutual benefits.¹²

⁹ M. Porter and N. Haslam, *Predisplacement and Postdisplacement Factors Associated with Mental Health of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: A Meta-Analysis*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 294, 2005.

¹⁰ The definition has gone through a consultative process and has been endorsed by UNHCR. It was developed in collaboration with the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN), hosted by the Carleton University, with over 30 organizations led by displaced and stateless persons, NGOs and academics; it was then field-tested by RLOs in 14 country operations.

¹¹ Global Refugee-Led Network, *Meaningful refugee participation as transformative leadership: Guidelines for concrete action*, 2019, p. 7, <https://bit.ly/3wicPLz>, (accessed 3 January 2023).

¹² UNHCR, *Effective inclusion of refugees: Participatory approaches for practitioners at the local level*, *Municipalities Toolkit Handbook*, 2021, p. 12, <https://www.unhcr.org/62b320424>, (accessed 3 January 2023).

CHAPTER 3:

KEY FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Main characteristics

Most of the RLOs are led by men

The analysis of the collected data indicates that more RLOs are initiated and led by men (68 per cent) than by women (32 per cent).

Gender breakdown shows a predominantly male membership among the RLOs

Among the RLOs surveyed, 50 per cent have an equal gender distribution, while 31.5 per cent are composed predominantly of men and 18.5 per cent predominantly of women.

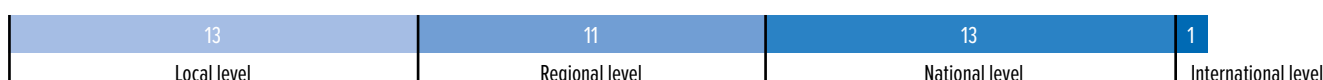
Most RLOs have been in existence for less than a decade

As shown in Table 1, 71 per cent of the RLOs have been operational for less than 10 years. However, this means that 29 per cent have been operational for more than a decade. This suggests that, despite the many challenges, some RLOs can exist over a long period of time.

Table 1: Age of RLOs according to survey respondents

Age of organization (in years)	Percentage of the 38 responses
Less than 3	16%
3 to 5	29%
6 to 10	26%
More than 10	29%

Figure 1: Distribution of RLOs by geographic coverage



Most of the RLOs are diaspora organizations

Close to 74 per cent of the mapped RLOs gather members from only one country. Multinational groups account for only 13 per cent of the RLOs. The other 13 per cent are organized in terms of an ethnic¹³ community spanning more than one country (e.g. Kurds or Arabic speakers).

Table 2: RLO membership composition

Type of RLO	Community	No. of RLOs
Single nationality	Afghan	8
	Eritrean	8
	Somali	3
	Sri Lankan	2
	Turkish	2
	Ethiopian	1
	Sudanese	1
Ethnic community	Kurdish	3
	Tibetan	3
	Arabic-speaking	2
Multinational	Multinational	5

Most of the RLOs operate at local or national level

The focus of the RLOs varies in terms of geographic coverage. Some are mostly active at local level, namely, in a given town or city. Others have a regional (cantonal) or national reach. RLOs operating at local or national level are evenly distributed (34 per cent in both cases). Close to 29 per cent are active at regional level. Only one RLO operates at international level. (see Figure 1)

¹³ "Ethnic" is understood here as relating to a specific group with common religious, linguistic or cultural origins.



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RLOs seem to struggle to attract young members

Among the RLOs surveyed, 47 per cent have members aged mostly between 30 and 50. Only 11 per cent of the respondents indicated that their members are mostly between 15 and 30 years of age. The remaining 42 per cent of RLOs indicated a more mixed membership in terms of age groups. However, none reported having primarily members older than 50 years of age. The statistics show that, although more than half of the total number of asylum-seekers in Europe are between 18 and 34 years of age,¹⁴ young adults do not seem to be very active in association life. One RLO explicitly stated that it was difficult to attract young members.

Most of the RLOs have more than 25 members

Of the RLOs surveyed, 68 per cent have more than 25 members, 21 per cent have between 10 and 25 members, and 11 per cent have fewer than 10 members.

Figure 2: Size of RLOs



The vast majority of RLO members are refugees

In more than 80 per cent of the RLOs, people with a refugee background make up the vast majority of the members, meaning that 85 to 100 per cent of the members are refugees. Furthermore, 37 per cent of the RLOs have exclusively refugee members. However, close to 57 per cent have a mixed composition including members with no refugee background.

These findings show that engaging with RLOs could help facilitate refugee participation.

The RLOs surveyed are located in 11 cantons plus Liechtenstein

Table 3: Distribution of RLOs across Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Location	Number of RLOs
Canton of Zurich	12
Canton of Bern	4
Canton of Lucerne	4
Canton of Vaud	4
Canton of Aargau	3
Canton of Solothurn	2
Canton of Zug	2
Canton of Graubünden	2
Liechtenstein	2
Canton of Basel-Landschaft	1
Canton of Geneva	1
Canton of St. Gallen	1

¹⁴ Eurostat Statistics Explained, annual asylum statistics, age and sex of first-time applicants, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained>, (accessed 3 January 2023).

3.2 Motivation, activities, financing and communication channels

Integration in the host country is a primary motivation for establishing an RLO

Respondents had different reasons for establishing an organization to support other refugees, ranging from integration within the host society, to maintaining their social contacts and cultural heritage. Integration reasons mostly had to do with “exchanges about life in the host country”, as well as “helping compatriots who are new to the host country or who are facing difficulties”. Cultural heritage reasons were related to “maintaining contact with compatriots”, “maintaining culture and tradition of homeland” and “maintaining the language of the homeland”. The findings indicate that refugees have a strong desire to integrate into the host society’s culture and way of life, but they are also keen to preserve their cultural heritage.

Figure 3 shows refugees’ top two reasons for establishing organizations: to support those arriving in the host country and help them navigate life in the new country. Two other key motivations involve rebuilding social bonds with compatriots and maintaining the group’s cultural heritage.

The fact that they were dependent on support themselves during the initial phase often forms the basis for refugees’ desire to provide a support network for their newly arriving compatriots. Some received this support and see it as very valuable; others report that they received too little assistance

and emphasize its importance in this phase. Helping new refugees is also seen as an opportunity to pass on one’s own experiences. The linguistic and cultural proximity eases these exchanges and facilitates integration.

Another frequently cited motivation is the desire to maintain and exercise one’s own culture within one’s own community or in the host society

Only a few of the RLOs are involved in politics and religion. As indicated in Chapter 2, RLOs primarily established for religious and political reasons were not included in the mapping. However, Figure 3 highlights that even RLOs with different objectives may have religious and political motivations, albeit of lesser priority. It seems impossible to completely exclude political and religious activities, especially among groups practising the same religion (e.g. Afghan or Somali communities).

Although the thematic focus of the RLOs varies widely, cultural and educational activities are predominant

The RLOs are typically engaged in cross-cutting activities covering several thematic areas. Almost all the RLOs (97 per cent) are involved in cultural activities. This shows the importance RLOs attach to preserving cultural heritage and harmoniously co-existing with the host society. Second most important are educational activities, in which 63 per cent of the RLOs are active. Around 50 per cent support activities mainly targeting women, and 37 per cent include activities for children and youth.

Figure 3: Cluster analysis of motivations for establishing an RLO

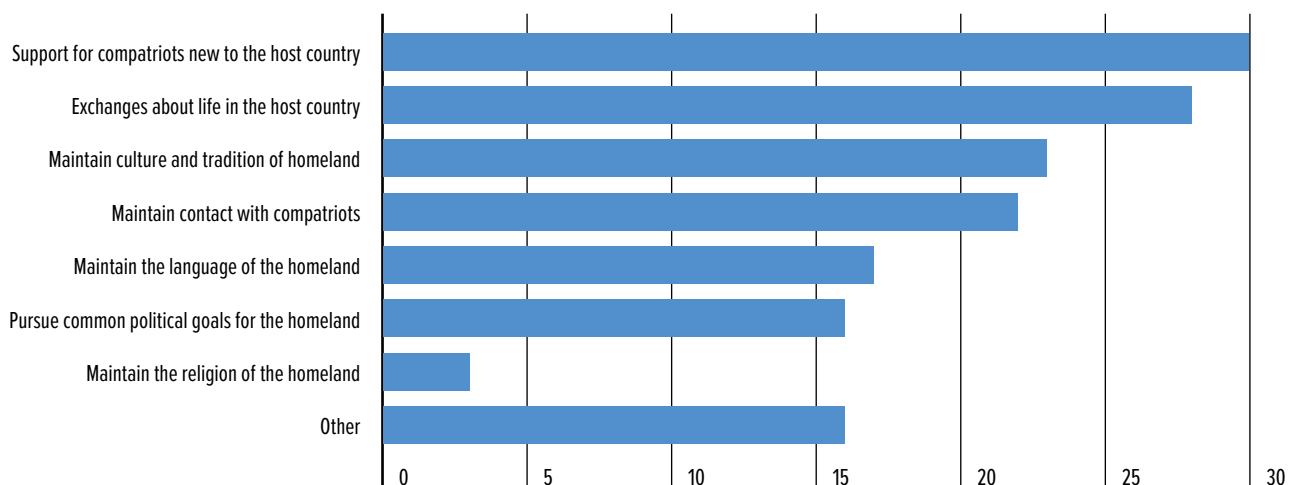
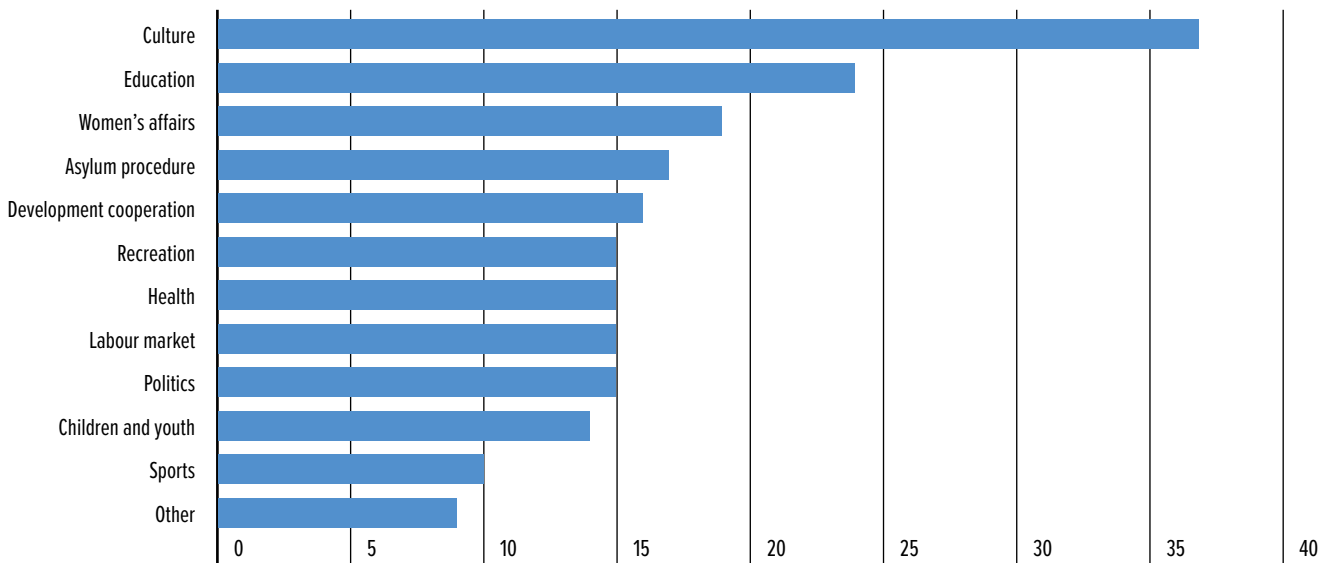


Figure 4: Cluster analysis showing RLOs' areas of activity



ASSOCIATION DE CULTURE ANATOLIENNE ET D'ORIENTATION DES IMMIGRANTS – LAUSANNE

Rifat Altan arrived in Switzerland in 2020. He first stayed in a federal asylum centre and other collective centres, where he met other Kurdish people. All of them identified a need to keep their culture and their mother tongue alive and to pass these traditions on to their children. This led to the creation of an association in 2021. “We don’t have big dreams for our group. We just want to live our culture and our language, because it was very frustrating not to be able to understand each other among people speaking different Kurdish dialects,” explains Rifat.

To better understand each other and be able to read their language, courses on Kurdish culture are held. Activities are also organized, such as picnics for children and other events with music, dance and poetry in Kurdish. Rifat speaks very fondly of these events. “At our last activity, we had traditional Halay dance with music. It reminded me of my life in my home village. For a little while, I went back to my life before I had to flee,” he says.

However, the association faces a lack of resources, especially financial, when it comes to organizing more activities. The association now has about 30 members, but they can only contribute in a limited way. This does not dampen Rifat’s enthusiasm – he looks forward to organizing more activities to raise awareness of Kurdish culture.

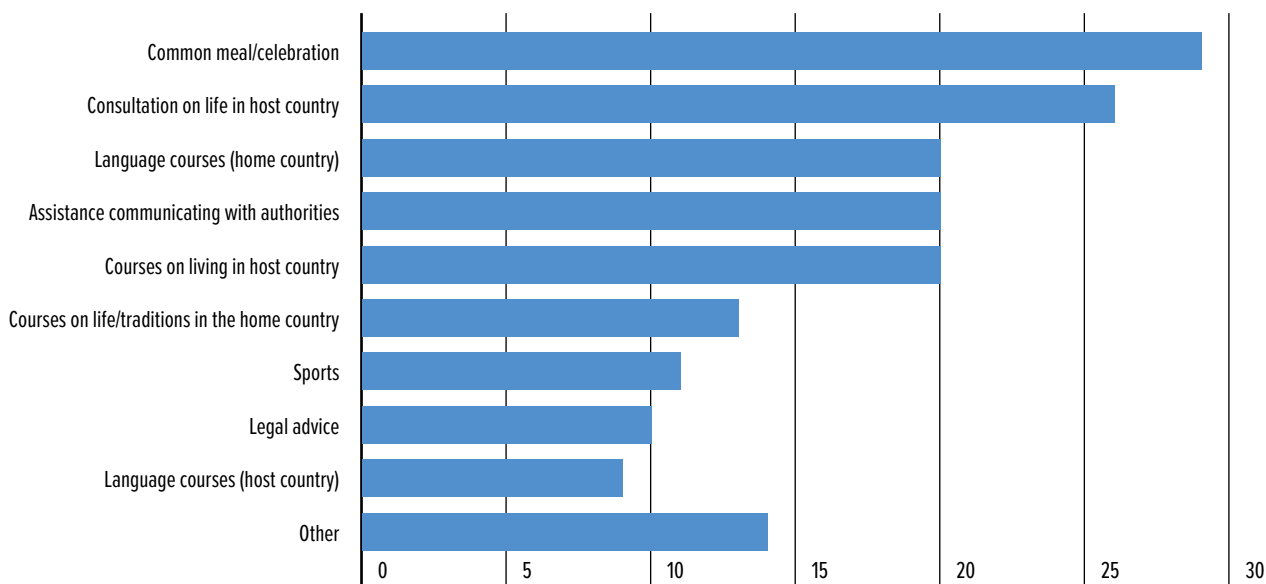
Most RLOs are engaged in cross-cutting activities

RLOs offer a platform for refugees who have integrated well in the host society and have a good knowledge of it to provide support to recently arrived refugees. This helps new ones adjust and begin their new lives.

Specifically, the RLOs teach newcomers how to navigate life in their host country. As one respondent explained, “refugees learn how things work in Switzerland”. This includes everyday tasks – such as filling out forms, translating letters, setting up bank accounts, making and keeping medical appointments, going shopping, using public transportation, and getting SIM cards – as well as more complex tasks, such as raising children who are exposed to the culture and norms of both their parents and their Swiss peers.

As shown in Figure 5, the top three activities offered by the surveyed RLOs are common meals and celebrations, consultations on life in the host country, and courses on the language of the home country. These results demonstrate the importance of rebuilding social bonds and community structures lost in the pre- and post-flight experience. Most of the RLOs are therefore engaged in this area. Eventually, their work gives the refugees the ability to be themselves. Refugees are helped to embrace their own culture and identity, while also having some sense of belonging and comfort.

Figure 5: Cluster analysis showing activities/courses offered



More in-depth analysis is provided below for some of the most frequently mentioned activities. These observations are additionally based on workshops held in 2021 with RLO representatives.

a) Common meals and celebrations

Common meals and celebrations are the most frequently mentioned activities organized by RLOs. Since they are essentially community organizations, their members naturally wish to gather for social and recreational activities. Such events are useful as they keep members together and attract new ones. Furthermore, they are particularly conducive to rebuilding social bonds and community structures lost in the pre- and post-flight experience, reducing isolation, and expanding social networks. These activities are important for refugees because they facilitate informal exchanges about some of the most pressing issues experienced in the host country. Some RLOs even go as far as enabling contacts with the wider community. For example, the Sudanese community actively tries to attract locals and other people with a refugee and migrant background.

b) Consultation on life in host country (work, housing, health, etc.)

The ability of RLOs to provide advice, information in community languages and translation services makes them particularly well suited to support newly arrived refugees. Some RLOs organize individual counselling in the areas of employment, education and child upbringing, nutrition and health.

c) Community language courses

Most surveyed RLOs teach community languages to children and young adults. For some RLOs, this is a priority because parents notice that their children – who are immediately included in the school system and quickly exposed to the new language and culture – are losing their ability to speak their mother tongue. In addition to community language courses, RLOs also organize courses on the culture and history of the country of origin.

d) Assistance communicating with authorities (translation and writing of letters, administrative procedures, etc.)

RLOs build bridges between refugee communities and the authorities, institutions and local society. They assist refugees as they settle into their new life, mediate between cultures, and facilitate communication through free translation services. In this way, they promote understanding between the authorities and the people concerned, and they accelerate the inclusion process.

e) Courses on living in host country (integration courses)

While most RLOs claim to help their members integrate into the host society, the majority mainly invest time in organizing celebrations and common meals to rebuild cultural ties. This discrepancy might be explained by the fact that facilitating inclusion is more demanding in terms of time, energy and

resources than simply arranging meetings and social gatherings among members. For example, activities that facilitate inclusion require knowledge of the host country's language and an understanding of the culture, political system and bureaucracy. In addition, they require a certain level of financial and infrastructural resources, among others.

ARARAT AND ARARAT FAMILY – ZURICH

German, Italian and English language courses, football tournaments, dance, parties, music and literature groups: the Ararat association has a full programme. It all started in 2008, with the opening of the language school. Ararat was founded a year later, explains Hamed Amin, its co-president. A single language course was offered free of charge. The course was quickly in high demand, especially among the Kurdish community, Hamed's home community.

Ararat now has between 600 and 700 members living in and around Zurich. According to Hamed, 200 to 300 of them are active members. Thanks to the success of Ararat, he founded Ararat Family a few years ago. This association is more international. It brings together people from over 60 countries, many of them from South America. "We also organize language courses, especially for children, and computer courses, and we have a literature group," explains Hamed.

Despite the success of all these activities, Ararat still faces many challenges. For example, Hamed does all his work on a voluntary basis, in addition to his own employment. He also explains that it is not easy to find meeting places and to keep them in the long term. "I come from Syria where I never learned to use a computer. It's not something easy here," says Hamed.

Being active in Ararat is also a lot of fun. Over the years and through all these activities, Hamed has met thousands of people. He has learned to speak many languages and now speaks more than 10. "I have started to learn Russian," he laughs.

His dream is to continue developing these two associations, especially Ararat Family. "I want to have members from all countries. For example, we recently welcomed people from China. I want it to be a big family," explains Hamed.

For most RLOs, member contributions are an important source of financing

Table 4: Sources of financing for the RLOs

Source of financing	Percentage
Private donations	49 per cent of the associations rated private donations/member contributions as the most important source of financing.
Income from events	30 per cent of the RLOs indicated that community events are their most important source of financing.
Grants from public authorities	18 per cent rated public grants as their most important source of financing.
Donations from religious communities	Only 3 per cent rated these donations as their most important source of financing.

Around 80 per cent of the RLOs depend on member contributions and income from small local events. This limits the scope of their activities.

Grants from public authorities were cited as the most important source of financing by 18 per cent of the RLOs surveyed. However, when asked for further details, those running the RLOs pointed out that the amount was not sufficient to plan long-term projects. Despite receiving some grants, most are still dependent on the work of volunteers. RLOs do not think they receive enough financial support for what they do or what they could do.

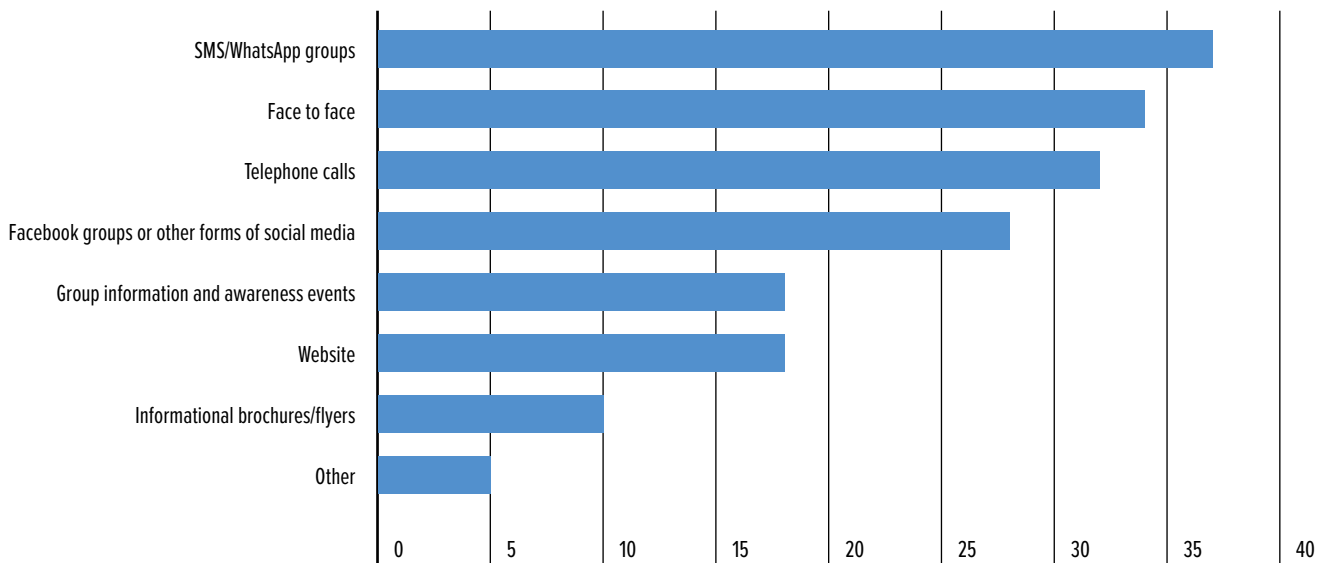
Messaging and chat apps are the preferred communication channels for RLOs

RLOs reach their communities in a variety of ways. They use channels such as text messages and chat apps, social media (online communities), and word of mouth, as well as radio and other media in some cases.

Figure 6 lists RLOs' preferred communication channels to reach out to their members.

The predominant use of messaging and chat apps by RLOs is in line with assessments led by UNHCR in other countries. Most refugees have some sort of experience in using smartphones and other devices. Many researchers have confirmed that

Figure 6: Cluster analysis showing the communication channels RLOs use



young refugees tend to use digital channels to make decisions about whether to move, as well as to research information about their host country.¹⁵

Overall, personal, two-way communication is preferred, for example, via messaging and chat apps, face-to-face meetings and phone calls.

Many RLOs also use social media networks to reach target audiences. Moreover, informational meetings and awareness-raising events are organized by more than half of the RLOs. Far fewer RLOs produce and distribute their own publicity materials, such as flyers or brochures.

Networking and collaboration is very limited in most RLOs

RLOs are legitimate representatives of refugees when it comes to creating alliances or cooperating with key actors in the field. Lublanc Prieto, Director of Fundacolven, strengthens this premise. Fundacolven is a Colombian–Venezuelan non-profit foundation dedicated to the creation of long-term solutions for the Venezuelan refugee population. Here is what Lublanc has to say about RLOs and their role in creating alliances with other key actors in the sector:

“Refugee-led organizations create an essential space of recognition, trust, and sensitivity within communities. Because of this, communities trust us to facilitate connections between them and host community and state institutions, leading to healthier and more integrated communities.”¹⁶

RLOs in Switzerland and Liechtenstein have a strong desire to cooperate with one another. All of the RLOs surveyed see the value of networking and cooperation with other RLOs – they seek to come together to respond more effectively to their various challenges and needs.

Moreover, RLOs are keenly interested in building alliances with local actors, NGOs, local authorities and other civil society players.

Yet, the mapping results show limited coordination and cooperation between RLOs and key actors in the asylum and refugee sector. In fact, at local, regional and national level, meaningful cooperation with RLOs has rarely occurred. Although cooperation between RLOs is also limited, some do exchange with other RLOs, as confirmed by the Somali Swiss Development Organization example.

¹⁵ R. Dekker et al., *Smart Refugees: How Syrian Asylum Migrants Use Social Media Information in Migration Decision-Making*, *Social Media + Society*, 4(1), 2018.

¹⁶ Amnesty International, *Refugee-led organizations need support to continue their vital work*, 19 August 2020, <http://bit.ly/3wmsM3i>, (accessed 3 January 2023).

Although RLOs are at times able to cooperate with local actors or NGOs, they are seldomly included in the decisions that affect them. Many of the RLOs surveyed emphasized the need for more meaningful participation in issues that affect their members' lives. Cooperation is often limited to initiatives or projects that the local authorities or NGOs initiate, and the role of RLOs is generally limited to implementation.

SOMALI SWISS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION – LIECHTENSTEIN

Founded in July 2018, the Somali Swiss Development Organization has about a dozen active members. Interestingly, it is established in Liechtenstein, but it also has members living in eastern Switzerland, in particular in the canton of St. Gallen.

This relatively new and small organization has already established contacts with other refugee communities. These exchanges are very important for the Somali Swiss Development Organization, which hopes to be able to continue to strengthen and expand its activities. "We have contacts with other associations, in particular with associations of Eritreans and Nigerians. These exchanges are important, because they are a kind of role model for us. We hope to work with these communities and others," says Qatro Shire Mohamed, head of the Liechtenstein-based association.

"These contacts with other communities also allow us to share the difficulties encountered by everyone," explains Qatro. For the Somali Swiss Development Organization, the difficulties are mainly related to finances and lack of space. "We lack resources to organize events and a place to meet."

Despite this lack of resources, the association can count on highly motivated volunteers. They use a variety of communication channels in order to reach their members, including a WhatsApp group, a Facebook page and a website, in addition to many phone calls – all necessary means of communication for organizing meetings.

The meetings play an important role in integration. "It is essential to be able to meet people of the same culture, but also to be able to exchange on the culture of the host country," says the community leader.

3.3 Challenges, needs and strengths of RLOs

A) Challenges and needs

Respondents identified a large number of challenges they face in their activities, listing them by level of importance. One of the foremost challenges identified was a lack of resources, either financial or logistical.

In addition to the questionnaire, a workshop was organized with the RLO representatives in autumn 2021. Figure 7 depicts the challenges identified and their degree of importance. As can be seen, other key challenges include decreased motivation and commitment of members, a lack of support from local volunteers, and a shortage of personnel and time.

“ Our association needs financial support so that we can become better in what we do and can broaden our scope of activities and services.”

Respondent

Overall, as mentioned above, respondents pointed to a lack of financial resources as the most significant challenge they face in their pursuit of community engagement. These financial constraints make it difficult for them to broaden the scope of their activities and implement long-term action plans. This corresponds to the findings of several researchers who have identified reduced access to funding as a major problem for refugee community organizations in Europe at both the local and EU level.¹⁷

“ We need more visibility so that we can acquire more partnerships, sponsors and donors and thus expand our activities. We also need to become more known so that refugees and migrants are aware of our offers.”

Respondent

¹⁷ M. Torfa, *Refugee-led Organisations (RLOs) in Europe: Policy Contributions, Opportunities and Challenges*, European Council on Refugees and Exiles Working Paper 01/2019, <https://bit.ly/3J1aE6G>, (accessed 3 January 2023).

DAR AL FARAH – ZURICH

Dar Al Farah is a registered multi-ethnic association that is politically and religiously neutral. It acts as a bridge between locals and immigrants/refugees. It serves as a mediator between the Arab and Swiss cultures and offers inclusion assistance for Arabic speakers. Since its founding in 2004, Dar Al Farah has been working for a harmonious coexistence of refugees/immigrants and the host society.

Its activities are well recognized in Switzerland and internationally. Dar Al Farah won the Dream Teams Award in 2015, for its work fostering the inclusion of Syrian refugee women. This award was launched by the Swiss Refugee Council, together with UNHCR and Switzerland's State Secretariat for Migration (SEM). That same year, the Swiss National Coalition Building Institute's Bridge Builder Award was handed to Dar Al Farah for promoting the integration of Arabic speakers in the canton of Zurich. Moreover, Opfikon, a town in the canton of Zurich, has recognized the association for its great commitment to inclusion work in the context of native language and culture courses.

Dar Al Farah is strongly connected to the story of its co-founder, Inaam Al Haristany. Twenty years ago, she arrived in Switzerland as a migrant from Syria. Upon her arrival, she experienced a huge cultural shock and received little help. There was no access to any service that could facilitate her integration. She decided to take the matter into her own hands and eventually started to help others who struggled like her. Initially, with the help of other volunteers, she offered Arabic courses for children. These courses were gradually opened up to more people, mostly refugees. In addition, people came to her for advice and information, for example, concerning divorce issues or the school system. Over time, she noticed that the demand for assistance was increasing.

Over the last 20 years, Dar Al Farah has implemented a range of social initiatives, such as language courses, activities for the empowerment of women, inclusion courses, consultations for parents and cultural mediation. All these initiatives have resulted in considerable achievements.

Between 2019 and 2022 alone, more than 800 children from 13 different countries have attended Dar Al Farah's Arabic language courses. In addition, 75 women have volunteered as Arabic language teachers. This work has helped these women gain practical experience and integrate faster. During this same period, Dar Al Farah has implemented 40 integration projects and collaborated with nine institutions. Moreover, its consultation services help alleviate stress and confusion in dealing with the issues of day-to-day life.

Despite all its success and recognition, Dar Al Farah has faced several challenges, mainly financial. On more than one occasion, it came close to shutting its doors. The chairwoman describes the problem as follows:

“We depend mainly on the contribution of the parents, and it is very minimal. Organizing classrooms and materials requires a significant amount of financial resources. Our teachers and the secretary work voluntarily. It becomes overwhelmingly challenging to continue as such, because they also need to earn money. To volunteer for a long time is almost impossible. That is why we cannot keep our teachers longer, and we always need to look for new volunteers and resources to be able to sustain our programmes. We have several good ideas and projects that can enhance the inclusion of refugees and migrants, but without the resources required to implement them, they remain only ideas. There is a lot of demand for help, but we are not able to broaden our scope, our support and the courses we give.”

While Dar Al Farah has gone through ups and downs, it has managed to remain active for the better part of two decades. The chairwoman says that the secret to the association's longevity lies with its members:

“In our team and among the teachers, we are all women, and it also shows woman power. As women we have a strong will, strengths and the initiative to make things happen and last. I believe that is the secret to our success and sustainability.”²⁰

²⁰ For more information: www.daralfarah.ch.



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Essen für Alle

RLOs have also been able to showcase their abilities and gain recognition through their response to pressing issues, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic. An RLO from Zurich, Essen für Alle, is famous for the mobilization of food support for refugees and asylum-seekers. In March 2020, some cantonal initiatives that supported people with few material resources had to close indefinitely. Since then, Essen für Alle has been supporting all people. It was established during the worst period of the pandemic. Essen für Alle provided much-needed support by collecting and distributing food to refugees who were struggling to make ends meet during the crisis.²³

“When someone is sick, when someone in the family dies, we comfort our members, and we meet a few times a year and do things.”

Respondent

“We are the first Afghan women’s association in Switzerland. We raise our voices for our women; that’s why the initiative is very well received. Women fight for women.”

Respondent

²³ For more information: www.essenfueralle.org.

CHAPTER 4:

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

This mapping has studied selected RLOs in Switzerland and Liechtenstein to understand the nature and scope of their engagement. These organizations are very open to cooperation and are driven to tackle the challenges and obstacles they face and to grasp opportunities that arise. The example of Dar Al Farah presented in Chapter 3 is representative of many others.

RLOs build bridges between the host society and the refugee and migrant population. These groups support refugees as they settle into their new life. They act as cultural mediators and facilitate communication by offering translation services and other assistance. RLOs thus play a very important role in accelerating the inclusion process and enhancing refugee participation.

In addition, they provide education in refugees' native languages. The findings indicate that refugees have a strong desire to integrate into the host society's culture and way of life, but they are also keen to preserve their cultural heritage.

Although RLOs tend not to be well known by the general public, they are all resourceful and motivated. During challenging times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, some have stepped up their activities in order to help people who may otherwise have difficulty meeting their basic needs. However, this vital work is at times done with very limited support.

RLOs face many challenges in sustaining their activities and broadening their scope. For some, these challenges are a threat to their survival. Financial factors are at the forefront, including a lack of donor interest and of fundraising skills. Limited access to infrastructure to organize their activities is another major obstacle. Many RLOs rely on the volunteer work and financial support of their members, but this is not always enough to build sustainable structures and activities.

RLOs also grapple with a lack of visibility and recognition and have limited networking with other organizations and stakeholders. All these challenges make it difficult for them to accomplish their objectives. And yet more is needed than just financial support – RLO representatives themselves expressed the need for capacity-building.

At the same time, this exercise has also shed light on their many strengths. Their capacity to adapt, strong sense of solidarity, willingness to cooperate, and keen understanding of their people are some of the key elements identified. Their ability to reach refugees and their intercultural competencies are also very important assets.

This deep knowledge of and proximity to refugee communities makes RLOs valuable partners in ensuring the success of inclusion and integration initiatives. As this report has highlighted, these initiatives should be developed in close consultation with refugees, and RLOs are uniquely positioned to facilitate this process, especially if given much-needed recognition and support.



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4.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of the mapping exercise, the following are recommendations to help RLOs play an even greater role in the successful inclusion and integration of refugees in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The key actors targeted by the recommendations are specified.

IDENTIFICATION AND RECOGNITION

- Systematically identify and list RLOs. Organizational profiles could be drawn up and, with their consent, the RLOs could be listed on websites and other platforms. Several cantonal or city websites provide a list of migrant associations, and these lists sometimes include RLOs.²⁴ This practice needs to be strengthened. **(Recommendation for cantonal and local authorities)**
- Conduct further research to explore the roles played by RLOs, the challenges they face and how

they can be strengthened. **(Recommendation for the SEM, NGOs, UNHCR and academia)**

- Help RLOs gain recognition by promoting their success stories and good practices. Recognize the contribution of RLOs in facilitating integration and peaceful co-existence. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**
- RLOs are encouraged to organize public events in their localities to create awareness about their contributions, needs and challenges. **(Recommendation for RLOs)**

CAPACITY-BUILDING

- Build the capacity of RLOs to develop and manage projects, fundraise, and collaborate with each other and other stakeholders, by providing training and coaching, mentoring, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. **(Recommendation for cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**²⁵

²⁴ An example is the list published on the city of Lausanne's website: <http://bit.ly/3QV1aMm>, (accessed 3 January 2023, French only).

²⁵ PartecipAzione can serve as a model in this regard. PartecipAzione is a networking, capacity-building and empowerment programme realized by INTERSOS and UNHCR, aimed at supporting RLOs that promote the participation of refugees in social, economic and cultural life in Italy.

FINANCE

- Help RLOs diversify their funding sources to reduce their reliance on a single source of funding and thus improve the sustainability of their activities. Furthermore, many foundations and other funders prefer not to support non-profits that do not already have diversified outside funding.²⁶
(Recommendation for cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)
- Finance RLOs to help them maintain and broaden their activities. **(Recommendation for cantonal and local authorities)**

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

- Work with RLOs when reaching out to refugees. RLOs' access and intercultural competencies are very important assets. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**
- Use personal communication channels in reaching out to refugees. The mapping findings show that personal, two-way communication is preferred, e.g. messaging and chat apps, face-to-face meetings and telephone calls. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**
- Increase frequency of communication to instil confidence and motivate RLOs to participate in projects and activities concerning them. Focus initial exchanges on building trust. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**

COLLABORATION

- Foster genuine collaboration. When approaching RLOs with a view to cooperation, stakeholders should be aware that many RLOs are frustrated that they do not hear from stakeholders again once they have obtained what they want from the organization. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**
- Collaborate to reduce the duplication of efforts in work involving the participation of RLOs. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**
- Further study the nature and extent of RLOs' collaboration and networking with key actors in the sector because their success depends on it. **(Recommendation for academia)**
- Invest in strengthening RLOs' networks and collaboration with key stakeholders. RLOs may have easier access to needed resources and more opportunities if they are able to build alliances with local authorities and relevant civil society organizations.²⁷ **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**
- RLOs need to be open to collaboration and coordination, but they also need to start asking for something in return when academics, civil society organizations or government bodies need their help; they need to negotiate the terms and conditions before they invest their limited resources in supporting other actors in the field. **(Recommendation for RLOs)**
- RLOs should strengthen their cooperation with other RLOs. By pooling their resources, they can address their challenges and needs and better serve refugees. This synergy will enable them to act collectively, speak with one voice and gain legitimacy. **(Recommendation for RLOs)**

²⁶ E. T. Walker and J. D. McCarthy, *Legitimacy, Strategy, and Resources in the Survival of Community-Based Organizations*, *Social Problems*, 57(3), 2010.

²⁷ See also: D. Griffiths, N. Sigona, and R. Zetter, *Refugee Community Organisations and Dispersal: Networks, Resources and Social Capital*, 1st ed., Policy Press, 2005.



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- RLOs are encouraged to come together to avoid duplication of efforts, even if building the necessary relationships is not easy. RLOs are also encouraged to avoid reflecting the political realities of the homeland, since this leads to fragmentation and division. In addition, stakeholders might find it confusing to see several different RLOs in one city representing the same country of origin. **(Recommendation for RLOs)**

INCLUSION AND ORGANIZATIONAL OPENNESS

- Include RLOs' voices, concerns and ideas in planning, coordination and decision processes at institutional or organizational level. RLOs' intercultural and linguistic competencies can help build bridges between the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers and the support structures offered by governments. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**
- Study the potential for collaboration in informal educational activities. The mapping results show that 63 per cent of the RLOs are active in such activities. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**

- As RLOs are primarily made up of members in the 30–50 age bracket, they could explore how young and elderly people could be encouraged to participate or share their views in other ways. **(Recommendation for RLOs)**
- RLOs are encouraged to promote gender inclusion by addressing obstacles to female leadership. Only one third of the RLOs in the mapping are led by women, but the example of Dar Al Farah shows how female leadership can contribute to an organization's success and sustainability. **(Recommendation for RLOs)**

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

- Include RLO leaders and representatives in defining the national integration strategy, designing and implementing integration policies, and taking decisions that affect refugees, so that the needs of their communities are reflected. **(Recommendation for the SEM, cantonal and local authorities, NGOs and UNHCR)**

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ANNEXES

Questionnaire for refugee communities

Fragebogen für Gemeinschaften, Vereine und Initiativen von Flüchtlingen für Flüchtlinge.

Questionnaire pour les communautés de réfugié-e-s pour les réfugié-e-s.

1. Allgemeiner Datenschutz

Ich verstehe und stimme zu, dass die Teilnahme an der Umfrage, die zur Verfügung gestellten persönlichen und institutionellen Daten sowie die Ergebnisse der Umfrage vertraulich sind.

UNHCR führt die Umfrage einzig aus dem Grund durch, um den nötigen Hintergrund für die Umsetzung des Projekts im Bereich Partizipation und Community-Based Engagements mit Flüchtlingen in der Schweiz und in Liechtenstein zu erhalten.

- Ich stimme zu
- Ich stimme nicht zu

Protection générale des données: Je comprends et accepte que dans le cadre de ma participation à l'enquête, les résultats, ainsi que les données personnelles et institutionnelles soient confidentielles. Le HCR réalise cette enquête uniquement dans le but des informations pour la mise en œuvre de la participation et de l'engagement communautaire avec les réfugié-e-s en Suisse et au Liechtenstein.

- Je suis d'accord
- Je ne suis pas d'accord

2. Wird Ihr Verein, Ihre Initiative oder Gemeinschaft von Flüchtlingen für Flüchtlinge geführt?

- Ja
- Nein

Votre communauté est-elle gérée par des réfugié-e-s pour des réfugié-e-s ?

- Oui
- Non

3. Wie heisst Ihr Verein, Ihre Initiative oder Gemeinschaft?

Quel est le nom de votre communauté?

4. Kontaktangaben des Vereins, der Initiative oder der Gemeinschaft: Adresse (Strasse und Postleitzahl)

Contact de la communauté: Adresse (rue et code postal)

5. Kontaktangaben des Vereins, der Initiative oder der Gemeinschaft: E-Mail

Contact de la communauté: Email

6. Kontaktangaben des Vereins, der Initiative oder der Gemeinschaft: Telefonnummer

Contact de la communauté: Numéro de téléphone

7. Wer ist die Ansprechperson für Ihren Verein, Ihre Initiative oder der Ihre Gemeinschaft?

Qui est la personne de contact de votre communauté?

8. Kontaktangaben der Ansprechperson: E-Mail

E-mail de la personne de contact:

9. Kontaktangaben der Ansprechperson: Telefonnummer

Numéro de téléphone de la personne de contact:

10. Was ist der Tätigkeitsbereich des Vereins, der Initiative oder der Gemeinschaft?

- Gemeinschaftsebene
- Lokale Ebene
- Regionale Ebene
- Nationale Ebene
- Internationale Ebene

Quel est le domaine d'activité de la communauté?

- Niveau communautaire
- Niveau local
- Niveau régional
- Niveau national
- Niveau international

11. Wie viele Mitglieder hat Ihr Verein, Ihre Initiative oder Ihre Gemeinschaft?

- < 10
- Zwischen 10 und 25
- > 25

Combien de membres compte votre communauté?

- < 10
- Entre 10 et 25
- > 25

12. Wie viele der Mitglieder sind Flüchtlinge?

- alle
- weniger als 50%
- etwa 50%
- mehr als 50%

Combien de membres sont des réfugié-e-s ?

- Tou-te-s
- Moins de 50%
- Environ 50%
- Plus de 50%

13. Sind die Mitglieder überwiegend weiblich oder männlich?

- die meisten sind weiblich
- mehrheitlich männlich
- ausgeglichen

Les membres sont-ils majoritairement des femmes ou des hommes ?

- La plupart sont des femmes
- Majoritairement masculin
- Equilibré

14. Was ist das (durchschnittliche) Alter der Mitglieder?

- überwiegend Jugendliche (15 - 30 Jahre)
- grösstenteils zwischen 30 und 50 Jahren
- meist über 50 Jahre
- gemischte Altersgruppe

Quel est l'âge (moyen) des membres ?

- Principalement des jeunes (15-30 ans)
- Principalement entre 30 et 50
- Principalement plus de 50 ans
- Groupe d'âge mixte

15. Wie viele Personen sind aktive Mitglieder (ungefähr) ?

Combien de personnes sont des membres actifs (approximativement) ?

16. Wieviele Personen sind passive Mitglieder (ungefähr) ?

Combien de personnes sont des membres passifs (approximativement) ?

17. Was sind die Heimatländer der Mitglieder (bitte auflisten)?

Quels sont les pays d'origine des membres (veuillez les énumérer) ?

18. Seit wann gibt es den Verein, die Gemeinschaft oder die Initiative (Jahr)?

Depuis quand la communauté existe-t-elle (année) ?

19. Rechtlicher Status Ihres Vereins, Ihrer Gemeinschaft oder Ihrer Initiative?

- Offiziell registriert
- Nicht offiziell registriert

Statut juridique de votre communauté?

- Officiellement enregistrée
- Pas officiellement enregistrée

20. Wieso wurde Ihr Verein, Ihre Gemeinschaft oder Ihre Initiative gegründet? Was war die Motivation für die Gründung? (Sie können mehr als eine Antwort auswählen)

- Kontakte mit Landsleuten pflegen
- Die Kultur und Traditionen vom Heimatland pflegen
- Die Religion vom Heimatland pflegen
- Die Sprache vom Heimatland pflegen
- Unterstützung für Landsleute, die neu in der Schweiz sind oder die Schwierigkeiten in der Schweiz haben
- Austausch über das Leben in der Schweiz
- Gemeinsame politische Ziele für das Heimatland verfolgen

Pourquoi votre association a-t-elle été fondée ? Quelle a été la motivation pour la fonder? (Vous pouvez sélectionner plus d'une réponse)

- Garder le contact avec des concitoyen-ne-s
- Maintenir la culture et les traditions du pays d'origine.
- Maintenir la religion du pays d'origine
- Maintenir la langue du pays d'origine
- Soutien aux concitoyen-ne-s qui viennent d'arriver en Suisse ou qui ont des difficultés en Suisse
- Echanger sur la vie en Suisse
- Poursuivre des objectifs politiques communs pour le pays d'origine

21. In welchen Bereichen ist Ihr Verein, Ihre Initiative oder Ihre Gemeinschaft tätig? (Sie können mehr als eine Antwort auswählen)

- Arbeitsmarkt
- Bildung
- Kultur
- Entwicklungszusammenarbeit
- Politik
- Religion
- Sport
- Asylverfahren
- Frauen
- Kinder und Jugend
- Freizeit
- Gesundheit

Dans quels domaines votre association est-elle active? (Vous pouvez sélectionner plus d'une réponse)

- Marché du travail
- Education
- Culture
- Coopération au développement
- Politique
- Religion
- Sport
- Procédure d'asile
- Femmes
- Enfants et adolescents
- Liberté
- Santé

22. Welche Aktivitäten / Kurse bietet Ihr Verein, Ihre Gemeinschaft oder Ihre Initiative an? (Sie können mehr als eine Antwort auswählen)

- Sprachkurse (Schweizer Landessprachen)
- Sprachkurse (Sprachen des Heimatlandes)
- Kurse zum Leben in der Schweiz (Integrationskurse)
- Kurse zum Leben / den Traditionen im Heimatland
- Gemeinsames Essen / Feiern
- Religiöse Feierlichkeiten
- Sportaktivitäten
- Beratungen zum Leben in der Schweiz (Arbeit, Wohnungssuche, Gesundheit, Integration, Sozialhilfe etc.)
- Juristische Beratung (Asylverfahren, Sozialhilferecht, Härtefallbewilligungen etc.)
- Unterstützung bei Kommunikation mit Behörden (Übersetzung und Schreiben von Briefen, administrative Abläufe etc.)

Quelles sont les activités/cours proposées par votre association ?

- Cours de langues (langues nationales suisses)
- Cours de langues (langues du pays d'origine)
- Cours sur la vie en Suisse (cours d'intégration)
- Cours sur la vie/tradition du pays d'origine
- Repas communs/célébrations
- Cérémonies religieuses
- Cours de sport
- Conseils sur la vie en Suisse (travail, logement, santé, intégration, protection sociale, etc.)
- Conseils juridiques (procédure d'asile, droit à l'aide sociale, autorisation pour cas de rigueur, etc.)
- Soutien dans la communication avec les autorités (traduction de lettres, rédaction de lettres, démarches administratives, etc.)

23. Falls Sie neue Aktivitäten / Angebote planen, welche sind das ?

Si vous prévoyez de nouvelles activités/offres, quelles sont-elles ?

24. Wie kommunizieren und erreichen Sie Ihre Zielgruppe? (Sie können mehr als eine Antwort auswählen)

- Persönlich
- Telefonanrufe
- Gruppeninformations- und Sensibilisierungsveranstaltungen
- Informationsbroschüren / Flyers
- Facebook-Gruppe oder andere Formen von sozialen Medien
- SMS / Whatsapp-Gruppen für den Austausch von Masseninformatioenen
- Webseite

Comment communiquez-vous avec vos membres ?

- En personne
- Appel téléphonique
- Information de groupe/sensibilisation du groupe
- Brochures d'informations/flyers
- Groupe Facebook ou autres formes de médias sociaux
- Groupe SMS/Whatsapp pour le partage d'informations en masse
- Site internet

25. Wie finanziert sich Ihr Verein, Ihre Initiative oder Ihre Gemeinschaft? (Sie können mehr als eine Antwort auswählen)

- Privatspenden
- Fördergelder von öffentlichen Stellen
- Mitgliederbeiträge
- Einnahmen aus Anlässen
- Spenden von religiösen Gemeinschaften

Comment financez-vous votre communauté?

- Dons privés
- Subventions d'organisme public
- Cotisations des membres
- Revenus des événements
- Rons des communautés religieuses

26. Was braucht Ihr Verein, Ihre Gemeinschaft oder Ihre Initiative, um seine/ihre Ziele effektiv zu erreichen?

De quoi votre communauté a-t-elle besoin pour atteindre efficacement ses objectifs ?

27. Was sind die wichtigsten Herausforderungen / Probleme, denen Ihr Verein, Ihre Gruppe oder Ihre Initiative derzeit gegenübersteht??

Quels sont les principaux défis/problèmes auxquels votre communauté est actuellement confrontée ?

28. Was sind die Stärken Ihres Vereins, Ihrer Gemeinschaft oder Ihrer Initiative? Was läuft gut in Ihrem Verein, Ihrer Gruppe oder Ihrer Initiative? Was könnten andere Vereine/Gruppierungen von Ihnen lernen?

Quels sont les points forts de votre communauté? Qu'est-ce qui fonctionne bien dans votre communauté? Que pourraient apprendre les autres communautés de vous?

29. Welche Fragen haben Sie an andere Flüchtlingsvereine, Gemeinschaften oder Initiativen? Was würden Sie gerne von anderen Vereinen lernen?

Quelles questions avez-vous à poser aux autres communautés de réfugiés ? Que souhaitez-vous apprendre des autres communautés?

30. Mit welchen anderen Organisationen, Vereinen, Gemeinschaften, Initiativen oder Behörden arbeiten Sie bereits zusammen?

Avec quelles autres organisations, associations ou autorités avez-vous déjà coopéré?

31. Mit welchen Organisationen, Vereinen, Gemeinschaften, Initiativen oder Behörden würden Sie in Zukunft gerne zusammenarbeiten?

Avec quelles organisations, associations ou autorités souhaiteriez-vous coopérer à l'avenir?

32. Kennen Sie andere Flüchtlingsvereine/ Gemeinschaften/Initiativen in Ihrer Region oder in der Schweiz, die wir eventuell kontaktieren müssen? Wenn ja, welche?

Connaissez-vous d'autres communautés de réfugiés dans votre région ou en Suisse, que nous pourrions contacter? Si oui, lesquelles ?

33. Wären Sie bereit, in den nächsten Monaten an anderen von UNHCR organisierten Aktivitäten (Fokusgruppendifkussionen, Auswertungen, Workshops etc.) teilzunehmen?

- Ja
- Nein

Seriez-vous prêt à participer à d'autres activités organisées par le HCR (discussions de groupe, évaluations, ateliers, etc.) dans les mois à venir ?

- Oui
- Non

List of participating refugee communities

Name	Founded	Region of origin of the members	Canton
Afghan Women Association Switzerland (AWAS)	2021	Afghanistan	Bern
Afghanischer Kultur Verein	2019	Afghanistan	Zug
Afghanischer Kulturverein	2019	Afghanistan	Zug
Ararat	2008	Kurdistan (Syria, Iraq, Türkiye, Iran)	Zurich
Association de culture anatolienne et d'orientation des immigrants	2021	Türkiye	Vaud
Association des Afghans en Suisse romande	1981	Afghanistan	Vaud
Association GEZANA - Association vaudoise érythréenne	2018	Eritrea	Vaud
Capacity	2015	Colombia, Afghanistan, Syria, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Iran, Peru, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Türkiye, South Africa, Nigeria, Venezuela, Gambia, Sudan	Zurich
Communauté tibétaine de Lausanne	2010	Tibet	Vaud
Dar Al Farah	2004	Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, Yemen, Palestine	Zurich
Eritrea voluntary association	2016	Eritrea	Bern
Eritreischer Medienbund Schweiz	2015	Eritrea, Switzerland, Italy	Lucerne
Eritreisches Integrations Verein Linth Gebiet	2015	Eritrea	St. Gallen
Essen für Alle	2020	Over 20 countries	Zurich
Ethiopian Verein	2015	Ethiopia and Eritrea	Solothurn
FEKI - Verein zur Förderung der eritreischen Kultur und Integration	2013	Eritrea and Switzerland	Aargau
Gemeinschaft der Eitreeer Freundschaft in Kanton Zürich	2017	Eritrea	Zurich
IntegrationsBrücke Bern	2018	Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Tunisia, Egypt	Bern
Kollektiv FmF (Freizeit mit Freund*innen)	2016	Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tibet, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Syria, Guinea, Venezuela, France, Switzerland	Zurich
Kurdischer Integration und Kulturverein	1993	Türkiye, Syria, Iraq, Iran	Lucerne
Kurdischer Kultur und Integration Verein	1995	Kurdistan	Lucerne
My life in Switzerland	2016	Afghanistan, Iran (Kurdistan)	Bern
Run-to-win	2018	Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia	Lucerne
Salsal und Shamameh	2015	Afghanistan	Graubünden
Somali Swiss Development Organization (Sosdo)	2018	Somalia	Liechtenstein
Somalischer Verein Graubünden	2017	Somalia	Graubünden
Somaliswiss Diaspora	1998	Somalia	Zurich
Sudanesische Migrant*innen Schweiz	2020	Sudan	Solothurn
Swiss Association Linking Migrants to Activities and Aide (SALMAA)	2020	Switzerland, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Spain, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Belgium	Geneva
Tamilischekultur Verein	2006	Tamil	Zurich
Tamilischer Verein NW	2004	Sri Lanka	Basel-Landschaft
Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein	1993	Tibet	Liechtenstein
Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein	1993	Tibet	Zurich
Unsere Stimmen / Flüchtlingsparlament Schweiz	2017 Unsere Stimmen / 2020 Flüchtlingsparlament	Eritrea, Syria and Afghanistan	Zurich
Verein Verfolgt-Aktion für geflüchtete Menschen aus der Türkei	2017	Türkiye, Kosovo, Switzerland	Zurich
Verein zur Förderung der afghanischen Freundschaft	2019	Afghanistan	Aargau
Verein zur Förderung der afghanischen Freundschaft	2018	Afghanistan	Aargau
voCHabular	2015	Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Somalia, Tibet, Poland, Germany, Switzerland	Zurich

