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Dear Readers,
Welcome to the 73rd Edition
of VIVAT Newsletter!

During the months of October to December 2017 there have been a number of events both at United Nations and grass-roots levels. Some of the dominant issues at the UN were migration and refugees, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Global Compact for Migration (GCM) has entered the next stage after a series of sessions at the UN for over 9 months of consultative phase to Stocktaking phase, in which inputs from civil society, private sector and academia were taken. This issue covers two of these important meetings in relation to GCM: The Thematic Session held in Geneva from 11 to 13 October, 2017 (p. 8) followed by the Stocktaking Meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 4-6 December, 2017 (p. 2 & 11). In both these, VIVAT International was present.

Alongside, this issue also brings three stories of good practices from the grassroots in relation to migration and refugee issue. The one is about St. Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham, UK that provides a place of welcome and practical support for asylum seekers and refugees (p. 4); another is about welcoming Syrian refugees in Dobrodzien, Poland (p. 9), and about empowering 400 refugee widows in West Timor (p. 9).

Fr. Daisuke Narui's and Sr. Elisabeth Pedernal's participation in the 3rd Forum of Catholic Inspired NGO's (p. 7) and the inspiring work of Fr. Heinz Kulüke, SVD, President of VIVAT International, among the poor in slum areas of Cebu, the Philippines (p. 10), are included in this issue.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the main framework for UN commitment to humanity and Mother Nature, and many VIVAT members are working for their implementation at national and local level. In this issue we will find four articles related to SDGs. The first one is from India sent by Fr. Laurence Correa, SVD on a Conference on Knowledge Partnerships and SDGs (p. 3); Fr. Lourduraju's work with the Gypsies in Hungary which led him to receive a prestigious award from Hungarian Government (p. 5), and Sr. Petronella (Nelly) Boonen's human rights awareness raising educational program in Brazil (p. 6). This issue ends with the 6th part of introduction to the SDGs (p. 12).

While welcoming new articles, we would like to thank all those contributed to this issue.

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STOCKTAKING PHASE FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

From December 4 to 6, 2017 the United Nations held the stocktaking meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The participants were from 136 member states, with over of 400 delegates, 16 international Non-Governmental Organizations, VIVAT International among them, and UN specialized agencies.

The stocktaking phase considered the inputs received from five regional meetings, two multi-stakeholder hearings, seven regional civil society consultations, and around 70 national consultations. The co-chairs of the meeting were the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, Juan Jose Gomez Camacho and Jörg Lauber, the co-facilitators for the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

In the welcome ceremony, Louise Arbour, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration, gave an historical talk about the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) process, and expressed that there is a “lot of misperception in the migration field that needs to be addressed”. People need to change the narrative of migration, and this narrative needs to be based on facts and not on perceptions. Luis Videgaray Caso, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, who also participated in the welcome ceremony, stressed that Mexico believes in the construction of bridges and not in walls. He, as many participating States, lamented the withdrawal of the USA from the UN process of the GCM. However, Videgaray expressed, Mexico will continue to work together with the USA in migration issues, since millions of Mexican people live in the USA.



During the first day, in the retrospection session, looking back on phase 1, the panelists coming from UN agencies, academics, civil society, and parliamentarians stressed the importance of change narrative and misperceptions driving public opinion and public policies about migration. In order to change these narratives, the panelists also shared facts about the impact of migration in development. For instance, 3.5% of the migrant population has contributed 9% of global GDP. Also, the impact of remittances is high in the origin countries. Migrants have a positive impact on the development of the origin and destination countries.

The panelists also spoke against the detention of unaccompanied children and the criminalization of migration. They asked for regularizing migration, and having the GCM a gender perspective. They highlighted the importance to involve everybody in the process. Gabriela Cuevas, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, expressed that the parliamentarians are the ones who realize how the community is changing for the migration flows, and they are the ones signing, ratifying, and implementing international treaties and agreements.

Mr. Luis Raúl González Pérez, the President of the National Human

Rights Commission of Mexico, speaking on behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), mentioned the importance of having an accountability mechanism for the GCM. This should have principles of coherence and consistency, public access and transparency, responsibility for monitoring and oversight of the GCM, participation and integration of all the stakeholders, and results-based work with clear timeframe and targets.

The stocktaking meeting included a Ted-Talks lab, as a “platform to stimulate analysis with innovative initiatives, ideas, visions and concrete objectives”. The speakers were from the civil society and business sector. The topics were about data and evidence, the public perceptions and narratives about migration, and migration and identity.

In the second day, the participants were divided in action groups discussing and analyzing the six dimensions from different perspectives: human, community, local/sub-national, national, regional and global dimensions. The participants proposed “actionable commitments and means of implementation.” At the end of each session, the moderator and rapporteur summarized the discussion and main outcomes of the action group.

The human dimension group rapporteur said that migration is about people who decide to move, and the voice of migrants needs to be heard in the GCM. People are the center in the GCM, and protection to the people is a responsibility, especially the children and migrants in vulnerable situations.

(continued to p. 11....)

India: Knowledge Partnerships and Sustainable Development Goals

An International Interdisciplinary Conference on “Knowledge Partnerships to Advance UN Sustainable Development Goals” was organized by St. Philomena’s College, Mysuru, India, in collaboration with Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) University Network, SIAM University, Thailand, Chulalongkorn University Global Network (CGN), Thailand, and The Sustainability Platform (TSP) on November 17-18, 2017.

There were about 600 participants from all walks of life, including research scholars, foreign and Indian delegates, faculty members and students from various colleges in Mysuru.

During this Conference, Fr. Lawrence Correa spoke on Climate Change Challenges and Resilience Strategies (SDG 13 – Climate Action) with special reference to Natural Resources Management, Disaster Risk, Reduction and Climate Resilient Agriculture. Since he was associated with the UN at the time MDGs were introduced in the year 2000, as VIVAT International was being formed, and contributed substantially as part of the NGOs, especially in the area of poverty reduction, he could link them and show how the SDGs were evolved as important goals towards sustainable development. The Paris Agreement’s central aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius



above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius was highlighted.

He stressed on the role of NGOs in achieving the UN SDGs, with special reference to SDG No. 13, Climate Action. There is a need for the NGOs to work towards reducing Carbon Dioxide and raise awareness among people for the same. They also need to promote energy revolution that lets us quit coal in favour of renewable energy sources like biomass, wind power and solar energy. They need to raise awareness to protect the forests, so that they contribute to keep our atmosphere clean. NGOs need to collaborate

with the Government and lobby with them in regard to the need to reduce CO₂, reduce emissions in vehicles, promote use of alternate energy like wind power and solar energy. They also need to promote and take part in rain water harvesting, reforestation, and eco-friendly and non-commercial agriculture. At the Educational Institutions level, courses and projects could be introduced and the students may be educated in this area and made to participate in projects and programmes undertaken by the Government and NGOs.

*Fr. Lawrence Correa SVD,
VIVAT International India*



England: **ARRAY OF HOPE** St. Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham

St. Chad's Sanctuary is a voluntary organization and registered charity operating in central Birmingham. It was founded in 2010 by Sister Margaret Walsh with the support of the Infant Jesus Sisters, Archdiocese of Birmingham and the Salvation Army.

The Project's primary purpose is to provide a place of welcome, hospitality and practical support for asylum seekers and refugees, particularly those who have no recourse to public funds. We offer a range of services including distribution of clothes, food, toiletries and household items, English language classes and welfare assistance. At present, we three SSpS are involved in this project.

Sr. Adel and I began volunteering from 2013. After a year, I was asked to be one of the six staff member team. There are about 150 volunteers and many generous persons who donate money and things. On a normal day we need about 20 volunteers to cater for up to 100 people. Currently, it has become a massive project and the only one that helps the refugees and asylum seekers in the Midlands, in such a large scale. Sr. Yudith Anu joined us since 2016 as a volunteer.

The Sanctuary is situated closer to the initial accommodation given to the refugees by the government. On their arrival, often, the people who come to



Sr. Lizy (far right) with three other SSpS Sisters in Birmingham

us for help will have only the clothing that they are wearing and a pair of flip flaps in such cold and wet weather. We provide all that is needed for them to keep themselves warm.

Religious Education is one of the sessions we have with the refugees besides English classes and giving various provisions. Sr. Margaret takes this class on Friday 2pm -3pm. She helps them to develop their English, express own belief without offending or arguing with others beliefs and learn from each other's faith and religion so that there will be greater tolerance and respect. At times this session she moves to the Cathedral. As you know the people to

whom we cater are mainly Muslims.

Many schools have well informed the children about the severity of the situation and taught them how to respond to it. As a result the children from various schools raise funds and give us generously. The awareness given in the parishes got great response as we receive materials as well as volunteers.

Many of our volunteers are well qualified and experienced. They help the asylum seekers and refugees with teaching English, social activities, immigration and welfare advice, lobbying campaigns and administration. Above all reach out with warmth and compassion and treat all who arrive at our door with dignity and respect. The regular social evening gives them a platform to relax and share their trauma.

Ever summer we have almost a week long celebration with the refugees. We call it summer school. It is also the end of the year long English classes – ESOL. During this week, we hire a bus and take them out for a picnic, give them bikes as well as a bike ride along the canals, a grand barbeque, recreational activities and the climax is giving the ESOL Certificates with a special gift to each one of them.

I feel that this ministry makes me aware of my own blessings as I listen to the stories of misery and hardship those people go through. I am grateful to the Lord and the congregation for giving me this chance to serve the neediest of our times.

If you like to know more about what is happening visit www.stchadssanctuary.com.

Sr. Lizy Joseph SSpS, England

Hungary: Prima Primiissima 2017 Award to Fr. Lourduraju, SVD



*fotó: Varga Tamás
(Kulcs Magazin)*

Good news to all the VIVAT International family. Fr. Lourduraju, SVD, the JPIC Coordinator of SVD Hungary Province has been awarded as the *Prima Primiissima* of BAZ county in Hungary for his valuable services among the Gypsy community in the fields of social, cultural and educational programs. Fr. Lourduraju has been working for the Gypsy communities for the last four years and since then he is rendering valuable services for the Gypsy children, youth and the families by promoting justice and peace among them.

A starting point for JPIC and VIVAT mission in Hungary according to Fr. Lourdu has been focused towards human formation such as community building, pastoral care and social awareness - rehabilitation

(alcohol and drug) and also the personality development programs for the families, children and the youth by which JPIC gives human dignity to Romani community and thereby integrate them into the life of the society and the church. As JPIC coordinator and VIVAT member Fr. Lourduraju also promotes education and skill training by sending the youth to different schools for further education and also adults to different skill training courses.

The people in Fr. Lourdu's parish are very poor. But there is a growing interest for education among the Gypsy communities. So, along with JPIC team Fr. Lourduraju is working hard to empower the children by facilitating for them many possibilities for education, spiritual growth and moral values.

Now in Hungary, the mission among the Gypsies is a perfect example of "putting the last first". This is an invitation and also a challenge for the Divine Word Missionaries as well as VIVAT members by which we give these poor people a sense of human dignity and identity. Fr. Lourduraju is striving hard to live up to this goal by opening his heart to them and by entering into their real-



ity. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Lourdu and the JPIC team in HUN province.

Daisuke Narui, SVD

Brazil: No Education, No Future!



In September 2017, Brazil is living the worst recession for decades and has 14 million people unemployed. The social environment is increasingly chaotic: changes in legislation threatens advances in food security, as well as undermining health, education and social security services and eradication of slavery. According to the UN agency, one in five babies born in Brazil is from a teenage mother. From these, out of five, three do not work or study; seven out of ten are Afro-descendants.

Brazil celebrated its removal from the UN hunger map in 2014. Now it is in danger of being reinstated. During the last 12 years about 30 million Brazilians escaped extreme poverty with the help of acclaimed social policies like the family allowance. Those living below the poverty line felled from 25% in 2004 to 8% in 2014. Everything seemed to be fine for the feverish consumer, the economists and politicians.

But right now, people are awakening from the dream. In fact, increasing economic dates, being included in consumption does not mean citizenship or public safety. Nor does it mean access to justice or to the health system.

What Brazil missed is a systematic investment in education which considers also human rights. We perceive that the global media informs litigation of human rights more than education and how to implement them. The news seems to focus on generating commotion more than to contribute to systemic changes promoted by knowledge and subsequent implementation of human rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26.2) reads: Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. [UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/UnitedNationsDeclarationonHumanRightsEducationandTraining(2011).aspx) ([http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/UnitedNationsDeclarationonHumanRightsEducationandTraining\(2011\).aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/UnitedNationsDeclarationonHumanRightsEducationandTraining(2011).aspx)), establishes that human rights education encompasses:

- (a) Education about human rights, which includes providing knowledge and understanding of human rights norms and principles, the values that underpin them and the mechanisms for their protection;
- (b) Education through human rights, which includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and learners;
- (c) Education for human rights, which includes empowering persons to enjoy and exercise their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others.

With more education in human right, the people would be able and empowered to face the austerity measures that the government is imposing and that will increase poverty in Brazil. They would be able to put pressure on politicians to adopt a fairer tax system (the highest tax rate in this deeply unequal country is 27.5%). They would fight against the loss of social security.



And the people would stand up against the high level of police shootings, which, in the city of Sao

Paulo, was responsible for one in four people murdered in 2015. The police killed 412 people in the capital, representing 26% of the city's 1,591 murders, a record. In 2014, the police killed 24% of the murder victims. In 2013, 16% and in 2005, 5% (<http://g1.globo.com/sao-paulo/noticia/2016/04/uma-em-cada-4-pessoas-assassinadas-em-sp-foi-morta-pela-policia.html>).

Without education in human rights, there is no way to break open the circle of violence and humiliation. Without education, there is no way to save future generations. This is a call for mission for all people of good will.

*Sr. Petronella (Nelly) Maria Boonen, SSpS,
VIVAT Brazil*

A NOTE FROM THE 3rd FORUM OF CATHOLIC INSPIRED NGOs

Representing VIVAT International, Fr. Daisuke Narui, SVD and Sr. Elisabeth Pedernal, MSCS, participated in the Catholic Inspired NGOs Forum taking place in Villa Aurelia, Rome on January 11 -12, 2017.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE FORUM

The 3rd Forum of Catholic Inspired NGOs was held after 7 years from the 2nd Forum. This time, 136 participants from more than 100 organizations participated from different continents. Those NGOs are basically working on advocacy for different themes. Good number of them have accreditation from the United Nations. Their secretariats are located in different parts of the world, often in relation to their issue such as NY, Geneva, Vienna, Rome, Brussels, Strasbourg, Nairobi, etc. One of the important participants were the representatives from Holy See, particularly from the Secretary of the State and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

CONTENTS OF THE FORUM

Basically, there were two major contents of the Forum: first is the information and brainstorming on the Forum itself, and the second is inputs from experts.

Information and brainstorming on the Forum itself

Development and nature of the Forum

Founding document was presented and various inputs made by the secretariat and the Holy See. To us, following points were important to understand:

First, the involvement of the Holy See. The Forum provided very unique space to collaborate with the Holy See (not just with Dicastery for Integral Human Development, but also the Secretary of State).

Second, the Holy See provides the forum



and mutual learning, but never coordinates or directs the activities of the organizations.

Thematic Group

Human Rights, Education, Family, Development and Environment, Migration, and Health were identified as thematic groups this Forum. More than 50% of the participants indicated education as their field of interest.

VIVAT representatives participated in migration thematic group discussion. Sr. Elisabeth introduced the document of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development of 20 points on the Global Compact for Migrants and Refugees. Good number of organizations committed for the Global Compact.

Fora in 3 cities

There are Fora that already exist and have been functioning in Geneva, Rome and Strasbourg. They provide a space for networking and organize seminars and side events. There is no Forum in NY,

but NGOs are encouraged to be in contact with the Permanent Representatives of the Holy See to the UN.

Inputs from experts

Some experts were invited to give inputs on the issues of the identified themes.

WAY FORWARD

The secretariat introduced the following points as the initial future plan:

First, in February 2018, the Forum's website will be launched. English version will come first, and then other international languages follow. Official email address will be announced.

Second, from 2018, the quarterly newsletter will be published.

Finally, it will start gathering together as Thematic Working Groups from September or October 2018.

The tasks of the Thematic Working



Groups have not yet been cleared, but it will be discuss what is the theme of interest for VIVAT during one of the VIVAT meetings.

*Report by Elizabeth Pedernal, MSCS,
and Daisuke Narui, SVD,
VIVAT Contact Persons*

IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY

My Participation at UN Events in Geneva

From October 2nd to 13th, 2017

VIVAT New York I participated in three United Nations events in Geneva, Switzerland. The first session: United Nations Social Forum organized by the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights Council (OHCHR) under the Theme, “*Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of the HIV Epidemic and Other Communicable Diseases and Epidemics*”, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 2 – 4 October, 2017: The focus was on seeing HIV/AIDS and other related diseases and epidemics and the people affected by them from a human rights perspective and on the need of collaboration and partnership for combating such epidemics.

VIVAT International also had an opportunity to deliver an oral statement on SDG 3 (health) by highlighting some good practices by its members in dealing with epidemics in the countries where its members work such as building hospitals and clinics and health centers; providing doctors and nurses to help improve peoples’ health; running schools that add health education to their curricula; and offering trainings and workshops on health and sanitation as human rights; and offering counseling and rehabilitation centers for people with HIV/AIDS and leprosy. It recommended that national and local governments subsidize its educational and health institutions through national and local budgeting policy for

The second session was a three-day education session, 5 – 7 October 2017, organized by the Office of Human Council on Civil Society Participation



the benefit of all being served by VIVAT members. in UPR and UPR follow-up. It gave space to civil society organizations and individuals to participate in monitoring and evaluating human the rights situation in their own countries; and introduced procedures and mechanisms on how shadow reports could be written and submitted by civil society organizations or institutions or individuals to OHCHR.

The third session was on the theme “Informal Thematic session on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration.” This session took place on 11-13 October 2017 and focused on gaining inputs from Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector and Member States.

In this session, VIVAT delivered an oral intervention emphasizing the value and importance of collaboration and partnerships and lesson-learned from some good practices by civil society organizations, especially by faith based organizations to address the issue of integrating migrants and refugees into the host society. It also mentioned the importance of community-based approach in facilitating migrants and refugees to be fully integrated into the host communities and cultures. For more information: <http://webtv.un.org/search/panel-1-smuggling-of-migrants-2nd-in-formal-hearing-global-compact-on-migration/5604588221001>, minutes 53.46 – 57.00.

Robert Minsel, SVD



REACHING OUT TO REFUGEE FAMILIES

Stories from Poland and Indonesia

Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS) in Poland have been in contact with some Syrian refugee families, for the past two years. One couple, Shadi and Marii, have three children. Sr. Renada and Sr. Celina started visiting them



Sr. Dolores Zok, Marii and Shadi, Sr. Celina and Sr. Marcelina

and helping in various aspects of life. Sr. Sisters Celina and Dolores visited them in the small town of Dobrodzien, Poland. The sisters asked for help from the Bishop of Opole, Andrzej Czaja. The bishop put a lot of effort into the issue of the living situation of this family. Through his request a large company donated a house for them.

In Opole, SSpS Community is taking care of another Syrian family. Sr. Aldona, with the support of the local Bishop and Caritas, helped them to find jobs. The sisters often invited the refugee families to their community.

IN the beginning, several people from Syria came to the area and the Bishop offered them houses and other places for them to live, but it was not necessary since they preferred going elsewhere. Most of them went to Germany.

The two families the sisters in touch with are Christians and they have chosen to

remain in Poland, even though the living conditions and the social help in Poland are less promising than in Western Europe.

The sisters are happy that they are open to their brothers and sisters Syrian refugees. They expressed their gratitude for the presence of these refugees in their midst, as Sr. Dolores wrote: “We are grateful for their presence in our lives because our own hearts are changing and becoming more sensitive towards human poverty and struggle. They make us aware that we are one human family belonging to our one God who is

LOVE.”

Meanwhile, from Indonesia we hear another story of refugee families. As we know, following the violence that escalated around the independence referendum on August 30, 1999 in East Timor (now Timor Leste), hundreds of thousands of people fled to West Timor, Indonesia and 100,000 people chose to continue their lives in the Province of East Nusa Tenggara, 60,000 of which live in Belu Regency.

With her co-workers, Sister Sesilia Agung, SSpS from Bali who has spent most of her time in West Timor organized widows among the refugees for some basic training in cooking, weaving, making bags and religious items (rosary), decoration, etc. These products were sold to markets.

Now, more than 300 widows, whose husbands either died before or after the 1999 conflict, are receiving help from Sr. Sesilia and her organization. Sr. Sesilia said she decided to work with the widows because she felt moved by their suffering in the early days when they first sought shelter in West Timor.

To help those in Belu Regency, Sr. Sesilia established the “Forum for Women and Children” in 2002. The forum continues its operations today providing aid to the people in cooperation with non-governmental organizations just as the Jesuit Relief Service, UNICEF, and Save the Children. They provided critical support services in the areas of domestic violence and victims of rape, especially much needed educational services. Every year, dozens of former refugees return to Timor Leste. Since 2000, Sr.



Sr. Sesilia Agung with some refugee women

Sisilia and her co-workers have facilitated the return of more than 400 people to their homeland.

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A Leader in Words, A Leader in Deeds

Fr. Heinz Kulüke’s Commitment to Humanity in the Philippines

In October 2017 VIVAT Office in New York received a package of the DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES MAGAZINE of Fall Edition. At the front cover page of the magazine we found a picture of a woman with a heavy sack full of garbage on her head and a white man trying to put his head under the sack. That man is Fr. Heinz Kulüke, SVD, the current Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) as well as the President of VIVAT International. Long before he was elected SG of the SVDs, he had worked in the Philippines as a lecturer at the University of San Carlos in Cebu, as an activist, and later as Provincial Superior of the SVDs in the Philippines South.

As a missionary of the the Society of Divine Word, his heart was and is still with the poor and marginalized in the slum areas of the country, especially in Cebu City. Together with his fellow SVDs he ran some projects to save the lives of thousands of families to give them a bit of dignity, sustenance, education and shelter.



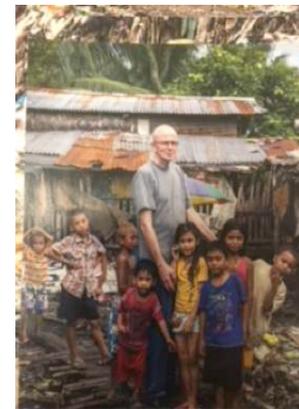
But more than that, Fr. Heinz and his SVD confreres spend their times to talk to everyone with comforting words. He knows everyone’s struggles and story, including that of a woman who brought 13 children into the world and each one died due to the hardships of living in the dump. She was not the only one that has that horrible fate.

Poverty is still a big challenge in the Philippines. About 21% of Filipinos lived in poverty in 2015, according to the Philippines Statistics Authority, earning less than \$1,982 per year. The number of poor has hovered between 20% and 30% for at least the past 10 years despite decades of poverty-reduction efforts under a succession of presidents. Previous efforts over-focused on fiscal expansion and “unsustainable” tax cuts, says Barclays regional economist Rahul Bajoria, though ex-president Benigno Aquino made headway in his 2010-2016 term. Aquino imposed “sin” taxes to raise revenue needed for poverty reduction work and taking a jab at the sensitive issue of family planning. He increased the infrastructure budget, as well (source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ralphjennings/2017/07/06/the-philippines-will-stay-poor-despite-new-anti-poverty-pledges/#5d5c671c176f>).



The United Nations has prioritized poverty eradication as its number one goal for 15 years ahead until 2030. Along with the United Nations and other Civil Society Organizations, VIVAT International has also committed to doing its effort to combat poverty in all its forms in the countries and communities where they do their ministries.

What Fr. Heinz and his colleagues have been doing for the poor in the slum areas of the Philippines is an invitation to



all VIVAT members to join efforts to combat poverty and other social problems toward life in dignity for all whom they serve and work with.

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STOCKTAKING PHASE

(.....Continued from p. 2)

The community dimension group highlighted that a better protection of migrants is two way process: to consider the needs of the migrants and the needs of the community. The communities can have a role in protecting migrants in vulnerable situations. It is needed to inform migrants and communities about their responsibilities and rights. The community should address xenophobia, provide language training to the migrants, and promote multicultural activities. The governments should support capacity building to the communities, especially the rural and indigenous.

In the local/subnational dimension, the rapporteur expressed that migration happens at local level, in the school, work, and churches, and it is here that the narrative of migration changes. There is a labor need, and the recruitment should be ethical. Women can be powerful contributors to development, and youth should be included in the migration agenda. The role of national human rights institutions should be considered. For the implementation of the GCM, the grassroots organizations, community and religious leaders should be involved in the process.

The national dimension group asked for a disaggregated data, a better analysis, and the inclusion of human rights



protection for migrants. The States have the right to determine conditions of staying for migrants, and the return must be dignified and respectful to human rights. Also, the State has the commitment to fight trafficking in persons. The group urged to identify skills and facilitate employment creation. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) could help to identify gaps and provide capacity building to the States. The States can link migration policies to the 2030 agenda.

The action group about regional dimensions expressed the interest in regional mechanisms and the inclusion of a regional process in the GCM. The GCM should encourage regional mechanisms to come out with the best practices, policies, addressment of organize crime issues, and cooperation in fighting human trafficking and reducing human smuggling. Civil societies organizations participating in the group raised their voices asking for the need of a regional data base, and the addressment of the situation of missing migrants.

The global dimension group stressed the need of legal migration pathways and

and global standards for safe return of migrants. The participants expressed the importance that the GCM respects the sovereignty of the countries. Also, they suggested to have IOM leading the process and following it up.

In the follow up and implementation session, the

panelists stressed that the GCM is the beginning of the migration process. The GCM should be transparent in finances and produce an annual report to the UN or expert panel, and be follow up through partnership. The IOM could have a leading coordinated role in the process, and following up the mechanism.

In the concluding session, Louise Arbour expressed that the UN Secretary-General's report on migration should be released before mid-January. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, the President of the UN General Assembly, alerted about "tough negotiations" will come for the GCM in 2018. Intergovernmental negotiations will begin in February 2018 and will conclude in July. The document will be complete around August-September, and the adoption of the Compact will be at the end of 2018 in a conference on international migration in Morocco.

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INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Part 6



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

FACTS

- About two thirds of countries in the developing regions have achieved gender parity in primary education
- In Southern Asia, only 74 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in 1990. By 2012, the enrollment ratios were the same for girls as for boys.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia, girls still face barriers to entering both primary and secondary school.
- Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector. The proportion of women in paid employment outside the agriculture sector has increased from 35 per cent in 1990 to 41 per cent in 2015
- In 46 countries, women now hold more than 30 per cent of seats in national parliament in at least one chamber.

TARGETS:

The targets under this Goal are:

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere;
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation;

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation;

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate;

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws;

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women;

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels;

SOURCE:

1. <http://www.unescap.org/resources/sdg-5-achieve-gender-equality-and-empower-all-women-and-girls>
2. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-5-gender-equality.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **30-31 January 2018:** UN Conference on "The role of youth in building sustainable and resilient urban and rural communities", New York.
- **29 January – 7 February:** 56th Session of UN Commission on Social Development. Venue: New York
- **19 February – 19 March:** Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 69th session. Venue: Geneva
- **12 – 23 March:** Commission on the Status of Women 62nd Session. Venue: New York.
- **13 – 17 March:** World Social Forum. Venue: Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

UN Calendar of International Days:

January

27: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

February:

4 : World Cancer Day

6 : International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

13: World Radio Day

20: World Day of Social Justice

21: International Mother Language Day

March:

1 : Zero Discrimination Day

3 : World Wildlife Day

8 : International Women's Day

20: International Day of Happiness

21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; World Poetry Day; International Day of Forests

22: World Water Day

23 : World Meteorological Day

24: World Tuberculosis Day; International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

27: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust