

“Humanitarian Action for Forced Migration” Research Project Held Three-day Workshop at JICA Yokohama

The members of the research project ["Evolving Humanitarian Action for Forced Migration"](#) held their second in-person meeting from Jan. 24 to 26, 2024, at the JICA Yokohama Center. This gathering is the fifth in a series of online and in-person discussions aimed at developing the outputs of the research project. This meeting focused on creating a Guidance Note for humanitarian practitioners and organizations working with vulnerable and marginalized groups in forced migration. The document seeks to complement a forthcoming book that will analyze practices to improve humanitarian action for vulnerable, forced migrants, featuring five case studies that look into the assistance and support provided to forcibly displaced children, women, people with disabilities, older people, and trafficked migrant workers in different humanitarian settings.

The three-day workshop was organized by the Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Support Cluster of the JICA Ogata Research Institute for Peace and Development. Workshop activities included internal brainstorming discussions, exchanges with humanitarian actors in Japan, and presentations of selected findings through a seminar.

Day 1: Brainstorming Session to develop the Guidance Note

On the first day of the workshop, project members, both in-person and online, re-capped and combined the findings of their case studies with their pre-existing experiences on humanitarian action for vulnerable groups. Based on these, the Guidance Note concentrates on the importance of addressing the existing challenges in participation, coordination, data, and service provision in order to deliver and implement humanitarian assistance for diverse at-risk people in displacement. The day concluded with a tentative draft of the note with substantial details on key challenges in humanitarian action and potential enabling solutions to overcome these issues.



Day 1: Brainstorming discussion for the Guidance Note

Day 2: Exchange with J-FUN

The project employs a participatory approach in developing the Guidance Note and thus gaining feedback from actors directly engaged in humanitarian activities is essential. The second day's highlight was the study session with J-FUN (Japan Forum for UNHCR and NGOs), where the project members could share the results of the first day's session and receive feedback and input from the practitioners. Aside from gaining valuable input from this activity, which was integrated into the document, the activity was an opportunity to interact and build networks with organizations with similar humanitarian works in and out of Japan.



Day 2: Study Session with J-Fun

Day 3: Cluster Seminar and some insights into Japan's Migration Experience

The third and last day of this author's meeting started with a wrap-up session and discussion on the inputs received during the study session with J-FUN. This was followed by the cluster seminar, "Importance of Standardized Data Collection for Humanitarian Action: Lessons from Practice," where some of the project members presented the findings of their case studies about data. First, Salma Nooh (formerly with the International Organization for Migration's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre: IOM-GMDAC) illustrated the challenges of missing data on child migration. Oliver Wieggers (Christian Blind Mission) and Louisa Yasukawa (formerly with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: IDMC) followed with their insights into data collection on displaced persons with disabilities. Lastly, Nikki Herwanger and Alexandra Bate (the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix: IOM-DTM) highlighted the importance of female participation in data collection. After the presentations, Professor Tatsuya Hata from Kindai University shared his feedback, highlighting the importance of data in carrying out effective humanitarian actions. Additionally, Director General Ono Hiroe of the JICA Yokohama Center provided concrete examples of how data plays a vital role in JICA's activities. Online participants actively shared their insights and raised questions about the vital role of data in JICA's development work. The third day of the workshop concluded with a guided tour of the [Japanese Overseas Migration Museum](#) at JICA Yokohama Center to gain a better understanding of Japan's migration experience.



Day 3: Guided tour of the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum (JICA Yokohama)

The fruitful three-day workshop came to a close, bringing valuable learnings from various activities. The Guidance Note will be further improved and refined, and will be made available online for the free and tailored use of humanitarian actors and other practitioners.



Research project members with Dir. Gen. Ono of JICA Yokohama. (L-R): (standing) Shota Oboshi, Signy Goto-Spletzer, Lisette Robles, Alexandra Bate, Oiver Weigers, and Ono Hiroe; (front) Nikki Herwanger, Orita Tomomi, Louisa Yasukawa, Muto Ako and Lorenzo Guadagno.

Related Links:

[Research on the Evolving Humanitarian Action for Forced Migration - JICA Ogata Research Institute](#)

[MUTO Ako - JICA Ogata Research Institute](#)

[Lisette R. ROBLES - JICA Ogata Research Institute](#)

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