

OUR YEAR 2018

Permaculture for Refugees – P4R

www.permacultureforrefugees.org

Annual Report: November 2017- 2018

P4R has continued to work with refugees in different situations, consolidating our research and reaching out to people working with refugees and adding to our knowledge of where permaculture is engaged and where it might engage in the future. (Report 2016-2017 see Appendices)

During the year the forced global migration situation was exacerbated when nearly 1,000,000 Rohingya were expelled from Myanmar by their Government forces. As well, Kabul now has about 3,000,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) as the Taliban gain provinces in Afghanistan, and Syrian refugees continue to flee their homes for any place of safety, while wider Europe begins to turn against and close its borders to new arrivals.

P4R has expanded as permaculturists work in refugee camps, with Internally Displaced People, or in war zones. The results may appear small however the motivation and commitment to work under extraordinarily difficult situations and give hope to others is remarkable. We salute those teachers.

Permaculture for Refugees (P4R) has been working since October 2016 to

- build knowledge about refugees in camps and communities
- build a website and data-base of case studies
- collect and collate information about permaculturists working with refugees
- set up permaculture courses in camps and communities
- publish booklets for online information about particular approaches to permaculture applied to refugee situations.
- As P4R has a global concern for refugees, further plans are underway to initiate projects with IDPs as their needs are huge, and they are often forgotten for the more visible distress of refugees moving across borders.

P4R has undertaken several significant actions during 2018 to build its capacity, visibility outreach and effectiveness in reaching its mission.

Building the Data Base

Duration: All year

Location: Mainly Italy and Spain

Funded by: Transform Aid International, Australia

Employees: Male 3, Volunteers 3 – Antonio, Marguerite and Ruth

Others interested and concerned for refugees who see the transformative potential of permaculture

Funding: Anonymous: to initiate the website, and LUSH, UK for additional funds to finish this work.



Zarghuna in Bamyam Afghanistan started teaching women see her materials above

Activities and Progress

The Website

Our website is slowly developing with content and structure. The complete structure of the website has been already outlined, even though not all menu elements are active at this point because they still lack content. Three of us have been working on different aspects of the site including: visual identity and logo, content, installation of different plugins and CSS coding of different aspects of customizing the wordpress theme we are using, revising and filling the different sections with content (some of which was generated during the first year of our partnership). We have been also collecting images to illustrate our web pages.

Data Bases

Some effort has gone in collecting initial case studies from other organizations, and internally, so that they can be presented on-line in the near future. We are looking into building a database of case studies that can be easily presented and retrieved on demand from our website. Creating also an on-line fill out form that can be handed to prospective representatives of permaculture projects in existing refugee camps and communities. Right now we have four case studies that have been submitted through a form prepared with this goal in mind and which will serve as a template for building the on-line form. We are investigating a Wordpress plugin that can actually help us structure all this database.

We are also slowly collecting names of people who show interest in collaborating with P4R. These names will eventually be stored in a private database (see above: Building the database). It's not yet clear how this info will be dealt with. We need to set up policies for use of these personal data.

Teaching and Courses



Greek Mediterranean Permaschool of Nea Guinea, in Nea Makri

A second PDC was held for Afghan Peace Volunteers in Kabul and some of those graduates led by Alina Muradyar, shown below at the University plot, have been invited by Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Kabul to give permaculture courses to IDPs. They are also teaching at the Agricultural University.

Another Afghan permaculturists, Zarghuna Rhamoni, had a traineeship in India with Aranya Agricultural Alternatives, who sponsored accommodation and training and she is now teaching women in Bamyam, Afghanistan - a province at war. Her fares were sponsored by Australian private donors. *See report*



Afghanistan



Photos: Zarghuna Rahmoni



Organic matter and extra materials of kitchen buried in soil of their yard

Photo: Zarghuna Rahmoni



Putting large buckets for reusing gray water of washing clothes in rest room Photo: Zarghuna Rahmoni



Photo: Zarghuna Rahmoni



One of the women has cultivated spices in buckets

Photo: Zarghuna Rahmoni

Aranya Alternatives in India held a permaculture Teacher Training in November where three participants who work with refugees: two from Bangladesh. Boniface Gomes and Mr Eshad, work with Bangladeshi IDPs or Rohingya refugees.



Permaculture volunteers started teaching permaculture to university students in Kabul and Bamyam

Hushyar Salih, from Kurdistan, and who had taught a course for displaced citizens/civilians from Mosul also attended the course and is keen to continue teaching.



In Iraq, Hushyar started teaching IDPs who will have to rebuild their homes in Mosul

photos: Hushyar

Candela Vargas, of the La Bolina Restoration Project held a PDC Jan-Feb 2018 , or refugees and local people, in Granada, Spain where there is a very strong refugee program. Candela and Alfred Decker also taught a permaculture Teaching Training in Switzerland where six migrants/refugees from La Bolina were sponsored to attend from the course fees paid by the other participants. These are the first refugee permaculture teachers.

Contacts and outreach

During the year, contacts were made with several people with offers of assistance. We welcome them and are grateful for their services, advice and experience.

We were offered the legal services of Alan Clayton, a lawyer who deals with international law.

Thomas Kern became our accountant with experience and skills beyond what we probably require and we are grateful.

Nadia Polivka in France, is our psychologist. Nadia worked for 25 years with the French National Refugee organization and is now engaged/working in....

Evan Welkin and Federica Faggioli from *Helping the Helpers*

Yuluck Dohun Jang designed the logo and supporting documents.

Marguerite Kahrl and Kathleen Sullivan's proposal was accepted for a P4R workshop for the conference [CCC19](#) at the Findhorn Foundation in April of 2019.

Our organization and its capabilities – Highlights

Personal

As the P4R core group we continue to work as much and as well as can. We are all volunteers, and give skills, knowledge and abilities to this commitment. We are a rather exceptional group of dedicated people. We care about refugees and also have been supportive of each other. We have had our personal challenges:

Ruth sold and bought a house – always an unsettling experience

Antonio found good accommodation and is now settled

Marguerite had several exhibitions, an accident and developed visual identity and banners with Yuluck.

Franci and John had a difficult year with John's heart surgery and later relapse

Sarah seems to have been in much demand through EmerGENcy and also supporting us with assistance and advice

Rowe never received a visa for Iraq/Kurdistan despite waiting weeks in Viet Nam. This was due to Iraqi

clamp down on Kurdistan which voted for independence from Iraq. She felt a little of the uncertainty of being in limbo.

In May, we missed Ruth and Sarah when the rest of us were fortunate enough to meet in France at the lovely home of Brigide Polivka where we had three days to discuss our future direction and what is required to achieve our aims. It is always so valuable to work face-to-face, having time to reflect on plans. Franci introduced us to sociocracy decision-making, which we found has great promise.

Organisational and current projects

1. We were donated the funds to establish a zoom room for a year. We found working by skype across continents and islands (the Philippines) quite challenging. Often Skype would break up and Zoom has proven to be more reliable. We meet when we can which is probably about once a month. We also hold interest/work groups between group meetings.
2. We wrote a project proposal for Quaker Service Australia (QSA) which was accepted and will fund the two courses in Bangladesh and we hope this relationship will continue.
3. Contact was made with Evan and Frederika who offered to assist with evaluations of our work and goals. Also we have asked an evaluative project in Bangladesh to include the permaculture courses.
3. We wrote a proposal for LUSH to fund us 2000 English pounds to cover costs of our evaluation meeting in Greece in May which is a critical part of our forward planning. (see below)
4. We are in touch with several organisations doing very exciting practical work with permaculturists and refugees - with huge benefits, and seven of these have shared their project process and summaries. However we need the evaluated evidence over a number of countries, religions, cultures and different managements where refugees live, and we look forward to collating all we are learning
5. The following program was designed, together with an Evaluative record to enable data to be compared, contrasted and collated.

Forward planning

We anticipate conclusive results from the wide range of refugee situations to be able to provide evidence to camp managers, governments, INGOs and NGOs. We will go public with these and then scale up providing consultancies and support to the agencies to meet our goal of transforming refugee camps.

The next phase is to:

- Support and encourage refugees to train as teachers, to participate in the planning and become independent wherever possible.
- Develop training booklets and syllabus for camps, and for permaculturists who want to work in camps
- Focus on refugees in communities

2019	Place	Beneficiaries	Budget AUD	Teachers
Jan 22 - Mar 3	Coxs Bazaar, Bangladesh 2 PDCs	Local camp managers and organisers Rohinga refugees	FUNDED by QSA	Rowe, Jed, Ruth
Mar 4 - Mar 20	Cesme, Turkey at Imece Koyu ecovillage	Syrian Women Refugees	10,000	Rowe, Franci, Marguerite
Mar 22 - Apr 8	Lesvos, Greece,	Long term refugees	Need to confirm	Rowe, Antonio?, Fotini
Apr 10 - 22	The Permaschool, Nea Makri Myketi, Greece	Afghan/Syrian refugees	Need to confirm	Rowe, Antonio, Fotini, Kostas
May 2 - 12	5 closed days for P4R and 5 shared days Evaluation Meeting* 12 people, possibly - two more or less. Ruth, Franci, Marguerite, Antonio, Rowe, Franci, Fotini, Costas, John, Nadia Core Greek trainers?? Including following permaculturists working in camps with refugees Hushyar Salih – Kurdistan Rita, Lebanon? Alfred Decker, Spain Palestinian teachers? Candela Vargas, Spain Turkish teachers?	P4R, UNHCF, countries with refugees	Project proposal Written and submitted to LUSH	Aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Summarise findings of these five courses and others experience. · Collate figures, · Develop scaling up teacher training for refugees teaching permaculture · Confirm monitoring · Publicise results widely

P4R - PDC COURSES FOR REFUGEES JANUARY TO MAY 2019

Talking to others

[Green Releaf](#) with Sarah in the Philippines is where permaculture is working with people displaced by natural disasters and the bombing of Marawi.



Green Releaf Philippines

BASD in Bangladesh with Boniface Gomes which has a wide ranging program of targeted activities for Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and internally displaced people due to floods.



<https://www.facebook.com/basdbd.org>



GEN has been in contact with Marguerite and we hope to work on a partnership agreement with them.

We hope that 2019 will be a more nurturing and accepting year for refugees everywhere as humane responses and solutions are found for and with them.

Very warmly, in peace The P4R core group of LANDED

APPENDICES

LandEd ANNUAL REPORT: 2016 - 2017

Supporting refugees in camps and communities and going home

Who we are and our convictions

The core group (Ruth, Marguerite, Antonio, NAD, John and Rowe) conceived P4R at the European Permaculture Convergence workshop in Italy in 2016. We liked each other, worked together well and found common concerns and desires to continue to bring permaculture to refugee situations in some way. Franci, who had wanted to join in Italy began to participate almost immediately after the IPC 2015. We are all volunteers.

We were united in our conviction that permaculture offers integrated and humane responses to the refugee crisis now and in the future, and that we wanted to take this concept further practically:

1. To refugees in camps because this is where there is some of the worst suffering
2. To refugees in communities where life is also extremely difficult especially at first.
3. For refugees returning home to damaged environments and painful memories

These were our basic motivations and direction. We called ourselves *LandEd* and our overall project *Permaculture for Refugees*.

The group changed over the following months. NAD dropped out because she felt her English language wasn't proficient enough to participate easily, however she remains concerned and working in her local region and has (17 January 2018) offered to translate the first booklet into French. Paula who co-facilitated the PDC in Kurdistan joined us for some time and we are grateful for her contributions. Debbi Evans assisted us with her formatting and editorial skills.

We all agreed that refugee camps could feasibly become ecovillages, and we were lucky enough to have Sarah from the Philippines and the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) and Green Releaf join our core group.

Our beginnings

We spent some of our skype time building our relationships with each other and later, when refugee work became stressful, this proved very important. It probably needs to be one of our activities but it isn't clear what form it will take.

We spent quite a lot of time 'threshing' or discussing to see exactly where we can be most effective and what our 'mission' is. This time was valuable when we came to produce work later. I feel we are better for spending time exploring the extent and depth of refugee issues and this needs to continue because the field is changing and varied.

Learning from others working with refugees

As we skyped relatively regularly we became more aware of issues and met permaculturists working in the many different situations that refugees find themselves in.

We asked them to be our critics, sources of news and information from several different situations i.e. Elena from camps in Greece,

Ben from a community in UK, John and Franci spoke of Sicily, others sent us information Antonio, Maria and Alfred from Spain, Rita Lebanon, Matthew from Norway and Pippa from Austria. We are so grateful to them as they read and commented on work we produced.

We worked collaboratively on a foundation document, which is incomplete but is a reference and jumping off board for our future work and direction.

We assessed the need for permaculture in the lives of refugees in three broadly different situations:

- Refugee Camps
- Refugees moving into new communities
- IDPs or refugees returning home

We agreed that we need to:

1. Hone the skills and profiles of permaculturists in these areas and provide specialist documents and training for them.
2. Build networks, databases, resources and identify best practice to support trainers, designers and permaculturists working with refugees.

We produced

- A **booklet** on *Transforming Refugee Camps into Ecovillages*
- A **website**, whose name and functions has taken time to become clear and to fund.
- A **Facebook** page
- Rowe and Paula taught a **PDC in a refugee camp** in Kurdistan
- Attendance at the IPC in India with a **panel to promote P4R** to the international body of permaculturists
- A **database** from IPC of permaculturists working with refugees globally, those potentially interested in this work and others who are interested and supportive.

Our future plans - Immediately a feasibility phase

- 2018 Teach a Permaculture Design course in a Greek refugee camp where there is support from an experienced permaculturist.
- Develop refugee trainers and designers and support permaculture based incomes
- 2018 Introduce trainers to new camps
- Document joys and sorrows of this work
- 2018 Produce more booklets: for Refugees in Community, and people wanting to work with

refugees

- Introduce GEN into all camps and subsequent to all teaching of PDCs in camps
- Started to build relationships with other organisation e.g. GEN
- Collaborate with, or form a formal organisation

Our future plans - longer term

- Support and monitor the impacts of new teachers in camps - both refugees and others
- Develop guidelines for teaching in camps
- Evaluate various projects for successes and challenges that can be used more globally
- Work with GEN for eco-village training where communities are stable
- Develop courses for refugees and residents in communities
- Put out evaluative findings to the permaculture, refugee and GEN network
- Work with, encourage, and provide resources to refugee permaculture trainers
- Have NGOs and INGOs accept this model.

Budget and financing

We presently have no funding because we wanted to produce some awareness and test our materials first. A small contribution was made towards the website.

We now have projects which can be itemised and then we will be ready to look for funding. Our first will be the joint PDC in Drama camp in Greece.

We have finished our first year with a good deal of heart since test materials have been particularly well received and people who have learned about us want to join or are congratulatory e.g. Asylum Seekers Centre, Sydney, Australia.

Next year will be more engaged and directed.

Warmly

Rowe Morrow, for P4R collective/group of LandED, January 31, 2018