

Roundtable "Refugees & Restoration" (2)

How to use the potential of regenerative practices to improve the living conditions of forcibly displaced people?

1 Nathalie Meier



Movement on the Ground

What we need to scale our projects

www.movementontheground.com

Why are regenerative practices a good idea for refugees?

- working with and for refugees and host communities
- using the environment as a healing space, trees for shading...
- fundamental needs like food and infrastructure need to be met
- massive influx of waste and destruction of olive trees for fire wood
- mental health
- lightbulb icon
- Movement on the Ground =
- Dutch organization, founded in 2015
- operating in Greece
- started as music festival camping
- 3 pillars: Infrastructure, programs and communities

What is needed to establish restoration projects with refugees?

- grass root
- active community living in the camp
- trust, cohesion and respect for the environment and community
- first, fundamental needs of the refugees need to be met before they can think about other things, such as waste reduction
- trust and inclusion to minimize tensions
- lightbulb icon
- Movement on the Ground does this through
- camp to campus philosophy
- transform refugee camps in safer surroundings
- renewable energy
- olive groves: renewable energy helps to not cut trees for firewood

How can projects like ours multiply, speed up and scale?

- more attention for the positive impact on health
- economic and human resources
- being able to show the impact of the work
- demonstrate willingness of refugees to engage, in order to enable the programs better
- willingness from camp management to implement projects
- megaphone icon

2 Noah Ssempijja



YICE Uganda

How regenerative practices can empower refugees

www.yiceug.org

Why do regenerative practices have a big impact in our camp?

- promoting food security
- WFP has cut rations due to lack of funding, and refugees have difficulties with getting enough food
- 1.4 Mio. refugees in Uganda in 11 settlements
- Uganda provides 50-100 feet land pieces for refugees
- small pieces of land to build a home and farm for food
- lightbulb icon
- improved nutrition for young kids

How did we achieve a lot with small grants?

- creating incomes for small farmers
- teaching them how to make organic fertilizer
- organize them in small groups to start savings to increase their resilience
- enhancing biodiversity
- achieving climate change adaptation
- lightbulb icon
- train refugees in permaculture design farming

How can projects like ours multiply, speed up and scale?

- target reach 5,000 refugee households
- looking for 100,000 US Dollars funding
- agriculture has been perceived as not sexy for young people, but there is a mind-set change
- motivate young people with Apps etc.
- megaphone icon

3 Elham AlAbbadi



Bayoudha Village

Working with locals and refugees in Jordan

<https://www.facebook.com/KarmAlardhah/>

Why are regenerative practices a good idea for refugees?

- Jordan has to deal with a lot of refugees and water shortage
- restoration efforts provide a good angle for solutions
- refugee farmers have been teachers for Elham
- use roof top gardens and any space available
- lightbulb icon

What is needed to establish projects in Jordan?

- they planted rooftop gardens and fruit trees
- need the chance and the land to put their knowledge into practice
- transform camps to oases, paradise, green hubs
- take Bayoudha declaration as example for peace building and restoration
- lightbulb icon

What do we need to start?

- discuss with local authorities
- talk with scientific arm of environmental ministry
- start with 2 forests as a pilot
- raise awareness of community to work together: refugees and villages
- begin with a pilot project!
- megaphone icon

4 John D. Liu



Founder of Ecosystem Restoration Camps

How knowledge, education and media can help

www.commonland.com

Why are regenerative practices a good idea for refugees?

- ecosystem restoration has to become central into our civilization
- we are at a turning point and a huge opportunity to grow the knowledge and wisdom about these refugees
- What about peace, human rights and justice?
- There is no us and them. There is just us.
- lightbulb icon

What should we take into consideration?

- communications are necessary to transmit and accumulate knowledge throughout time
- translation and accumulation is essential and to make it freely available to everyone
- all voices need to be heard, and this has to be a continuous conversation
- we have to look at value, not only money -> get the message right Ecological value is higher than anything human beings can make
- you need time to observe and reflect and consider what is important rather than grasp at policies and actions.
- lightbulb icon
- Create a collective intelligence
- we are not strong enough yet as a movement to go to refugee camps, visit, design, establish, water, and make sure that refugees themselves can be heard
- make materials freely available

How can knowledge, education and media help?

- we increasingly see that the interests are the same for host communities as well as refugees
- we should not focus on influencing policy as if they are the only ones who can do anything about it
- Voices of refugees are essential in this conversation.
- monitor and access information
- translate material for refugees
- megaphone icon
- existing ecosystem restoration camps and refugee camps could work together
- make sure that refugee voices are heard

5 Maya Hennerkes



European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

What funders & impact investors need to fund projects

What is the funding / economic potential for regenerative projects in refugee camps?

- There is enough funding out there.
- impact investing has become a trend
- pushing the environmental and social perspective into funding
- problem for investors is that they are always looking for sustainable investments, but the underlying business model and the risks
- financing is always about risks. And innovative areas are hard to measure
- lightbulb icon

What do impact investors / funders need to fund such projects?

- bankers do not like to fund projects they cannot measure
- we need to make all the information and experience measurable (data) this will unlock finance to flow
- massive market failure is that other factors such as human well-being are not part of the equation
- we have a lot of knowledge on microfinance, climate finance and other things. Restoring the need to be heard requires finance and not just business and how to make it work
- stakeholder engagement
- lightbulb icon
- learn from local communities to make projects more resilient and more profitable
- concept for scaling, long-term economic growth

How can projects and investors / funders communicate better with each other in the UN Decade Ecosystem Restoration?

- Create a demonstration project to proof a concept
- bring all information together and make it usable
- finance needs data to be unlocked
- figure out a business case
- capture environmental and social value
- megaphone icon
- partnerships!