

## **FIND Symposium - April 2021 - Breakout session faith-based and refugee self-help organizations**

April 21, 2021, around 8:20 EDT

**Key provocative statement:** *Responses by faith-based or refugee self-help organizations, though crucial, are impossible to scale.*

### **Summary**

Community driven organizations (CDOs) such as churches, mosques, and refugee-led organizations, often operate outside of the formal aid architecture, addressing the challenges faced by refugees and migrants with very little funding. In spite of limited resources, these organizations are doing much of the heavy lifting in building the financial lives of populations in displacement. CDOs provide a wide array of services including mental health support, language and skills training, community networks, savings mechanisms, and business capital. Moreover, CDOs understand the dynamic challenges facing displaced populations and have developed innovative solutions to many of these challenges. Despite their many successes, responses by CDOs are rarely scaled, remaining instead at the margins of big-donor funding and at the mercy of their agenda.

In this breakout session, we will explore the constraints facing CDOs, as well as their best practices that may stand to be replicated and scaled by international agencies and larger NGOs. The session will include a brief overview of our findings on the roles of CDOs in Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, and Uganda, in addition to the experiences of the panelists and the organizations they represent.

**Moderators** - Barri Shorey and María Teresa Nagel

### **Panelists**

- Sean Callahan (President and CEO of [Catholic Relief Services](#))
- Father Patrick Murphy (Director of [Casa del Migrante in Tijuana, Mexico](#))
- Abdulkadir Hussein (Founder and CEO of [ACEDONE](#))