

# SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL

## REFUGEE AND DISPLACED SCIENTISTS INITIATIVE

The world is currently witnessing the highest numbers of forcibly displaced people on record. By the end of 2019, 79.5 million were forcibly displaced worldwide according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). These displacements are a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and climate change. Countries such as Iraq and Syria, which once had well established science institutes and systems, have seen their science infrastructure largely dismantled by conflict and violence. Two-thirds of displaced migrants come from just five countries, including countries with some of the world's most poorly funded science institutes and systems.

In the light of this challenge, an initiative on refugee and displaced scientists was established by The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in partnership with the International Science Council (ISC) and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), under the umbrella of Science International, and launched in 2020. The project aims to develop a cohesive and coordinated response that will assist scientists who have been rendered refugees or are otherwise displaced by crises in their home countries. A number of organizations and programmes do exist that support such affected scientists, but they typically offer short-term support and are not always coordinated with one-another.

### Vision:

An active international movement which promotes the protection of scientists, leading to better science and contributions to humanity.

### Mission:

To enhance the work and lives of refugee and displaced scientists globally

### Objectives

1. To collect, develop, and share information and knowledge to inform policy, practice, and the public.
2. To raise global awareness and advocate for improved measures to protect and support displaced and refugee scientists.
3. To strengthen the coordination mechanisms and capacity of organizations and institutions to deliver better programming and a holistic response.

### Thematic Focus Areas

- Defence and preservation of science
- Engagement of refugee and displaced scientists
- Regional development
- Advocacy campaign

### Who should be involved?

- Organizations supporting refugee and displaced scientists
- International agencies and relevant NGOs
- Government bodies
- Academia
- Refugee and displaced scientists
- Diaspora networks
- Experts on the geographical displacement of professionals
- Donors

### Why join this initiative?

This work matters because it aims to help trained researchers and scientists to stay up to date in their field and be in a position to help rebuild their countries once conditions allow.

Until then, these professionals are valuable assets for the country that hosts them.

### How to get involved:

- Attend the launch workshop on 30 March and 1 April
- Become a member - participate in working groups and organized activities
- Email: [displacedscientists@twas.org](mailto:displacedscientists@twas.org)