

Inclusive Cities: Enhancing the Positive Impact of Urban Migration



A. Rationale

Globally, more than a billion people are migrants. Out of these, almost 258 million¹ live outside their own countries. Many people move voluntarily (and regularly) in search of better livelihood opportunities, employment or education, but for others migration is not a choice, but a necessity and the only means to survive or protect their families.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), “wars, violence and persecution have driven record numbers of people from their homes worldwide.”² Climate conditions also force people to move as their seasonally or permanently, in response to droughts, flooding or other natural disasters.

In many cases migration occurs in a regular way,³ but the growing trend of irregular migration and forced displacement leaves many migrants vulnerable and negatively shapes the public discourse on immigration. Migrants are not a homogenous group but include people with diverse backgrounds regarding education, skills and financial means as well as broadly varying legal statuses which affect their rights (refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, stateless people, ‘other people on the move’).

Women migrants face greater discrimination and are more vulnerable than men to mistreatment, while carrying significant responsibilities as main care-givers of children and other dependents. Children and young people also face specific challenges, particularly when unaccompanied. Also, when facing forced migration, their education is often interrupted. Similarly, ethnic or racial minorities are often disproportionately subject to discrimination and exclusion.

Cities are major destinations for migrants as it is in cities where they hope to find increased livelihood opportunities, safety and access to basic and urban services. In 2015, 60 per cent of the then 14.4 million refugees worldwide and 80 per cent of the world’s 38 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) resided in urban areas.⁴

Migration is among the main drivers of urbanization. An evidence-based projection of urban population growth or a risk analysis on upcoming urban crises due to displacement, are needed for increased preparedness of cities to respond to changing population dynamics. With population dynamics changing, both, accommodating basic needs, especially in forced displacement context, and capturing the economic, social and cultural potential of migrants, need to be explored.

Migration has a positive impact for cities as migrants introduce fresh ideas, skills, resources and perspectives that enrich economic,⁵ social and cultural dynamics. Once formally integrated, migrants contribute with taxes, act as entrepreneurs, create jobs⁶ and spend approximately 85% of their income in hosting communities.⁷

Migration can boost productivity and local economic development and strengthen urban-rural economic and social linkages. Furthermore, migrants positively contribute to their place of origin with an estimated 450 billion US (2017)⁸ of remittances per year. But large-scale movement of migrants, refugees, IDPs or returnees into cities can also create tension when host populations perceive increased competition for basic, social or urban services, jobs, land and housing or infrastructure, or when social exclusion and

1 <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates17.shtml>

2 <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/stories/2019/6/5d08b6614/global-forced-displacement-tops-70-million.html>

3 https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/country/docs/china/r5_world_migration_report_2018_en.pdf

4 UN-Habitat, IOM (2015) Habitat III – Issue Paper II: Migrants and Refugees in Urban Areas; <https://www.unhcr.org/innovation/the-power-of-cities/>

5,7,8 <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/infographics>

6 UNCTAD, 2018: Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees, p. 10

inequality are on the rise. Small towns and secondary cities are often struggling most, when impacted by large influx, due to their limited resources and capacity.

To minimize tensions between host and migrant communities, integrated approaches towards inclusive cities and communities should take account of the living conditions and livelihood opportunities of all inhabitants, by applying an area-based approach, while recognizing the rights linked to specific legal (migration) statuses. Whole-of-government and whole-of-government approaches need to be fostered.

This flagship programme acknowledges the linkage of migration and urbanization that is highlighted through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDG 11 and its

emphasis on making cities inclusive, particularly SDG 11.1 that aims to achieve adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services for all, is today closely linked to SDG 10.7, which aims to ensure migration is safe, orderly and responsible.

The New Urban Agenda, which guides the achievement of the urban SDGs, promotes frameworks that enable the positive contribution of migrants to cities and “pluralistic societies, where the needs of all inhabitants are met, recognizing the specific needs of those in vulnerable situations.”⁹ This flagship will build upon the linkages between the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees and the New Urban Agenda.

9 UN Habitat, 2017, New Urban Agenda, paragraphe 13b



B. Objective

The objective of this flagship programme is to support local and national authorities to create inclusive and non-discriminatory urban environments for all people, especially in situations where rapid influx of people has led to an urban crisis.

Urban migration, when well-planned and well-managed, has a positive impact on cities and communities, but non-discriminatory policies and systems that are responsive to population changes and ensure the rights of adequate standards of living for all urban dwellers, must be in place. Only by linking humanitarian and development efforts, those positive impacts can be achieved in the long run in forced displacement and urban crisis contexts.

The flagship will enhance the capacity of cities to accommodate additional population groups, including migrants, refugees, IDPs and other people of concern, with a specific focus on social cohesion and the protection of Human Rights for all, while fostering well-functioning urban systems that benefit both migrant and host communities.

As migration has a strong regional component, strengthening small and intermediary cities along the rural-urban continuum, will reduce drivers of migration and population stress on major cities. The programme draws on UN-Habitat’s work in different regions and country contexts and its experiences in urban and territorial planning, housing, land, basic services, inclusive governance and municipal finance as well as work in conflict and post-conflict settings. For the first phase (2020-23) the programme will focus on the following settings:

- Countries anticipating significant population movements into cities and other human settlements, e.g. rapid urbanization forecast, and at risk of natural and socio-political crisis causing displacement;
- Cities currently experiencing impacts of significant population movements, e.g. protracted displacement crisis and rapid urban growth due to migration, exceeding the city’s capacity to effectively absorb and include additional population.



C. Outcomes, initiatives and results

Together with the other flagship programmes and in collaboration with other UN agencies, state and non-state actors, this flagship on “Inclusive Cities - Enhancing the Positive Impacts of Urban Migration” is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1** Strengthened urban and territorial systems to respond to rapid population movements, enabling social, cultural and economic development resulting from migrants’ inclusion in cities and reducing root causes of migration and displacement;
- Outcome 2** Strengthened capacity of local authorities for advancing inclusive cities, benefitting both host and migrant communities;
- Outcome 3** Strengthened social cohesion between host and migrant communities.

Outcome 1 will be achieved through a variety of initiatives, including:

- Mapping and assessment of regional, national, territorial, city and neighbourhood level data (including spatial data and disaggregated by target groups such as women, children and youth, older persons and those with disabilities) on current and projected population movements, including their impact on the functionality of urban systems and for economic, social and environmental development;
- Recommendations for specific local contexts (at different levels, from regional to neighbourhood) to improve urban systems, decrease spatial inequalities in service provision and enhance standards of living for all (across countries and within) aiming to reduce drivers of migration;
- Support to cross-sector, multi-governance level urban, national and territorial planning, to realize the economic and social potential of cities for enabling them to accommodate additional populations, also in case of urban crisis;
- Technical advisory services to foster social and economic development in cities within the humanitarian-development nexus (from crisis to development);

Outcome 2 will be achieved through a variety of initiatives, including:

- Capacity building of local authorities in non-discriminatory urban governance, planning, land,

urban financing, service delivery and inclusive, participatory decision-making processes through development, compilation and dissemination of tools, guidance products, lessons learnt, knowledge and learning exchange programmes and advocacy packages on inclusive cities and communities with specific focus on migration and displacement challenges for different government and planning levels;

Outcome 3 will be achieved through different activities, including:

- Support to city authorities and migrant/host communities in designing, implementing and managing community-led interventions that meet specific shared needs and foster social cohesion based on the protection of fundamental Human Rights;
- Technical advisory services to local authorities on projects that increase social cohesion, and foster the inclusion of migrants in urban societies, with special focus on the most vulnerable population groups.

A robust results framework will track the impact of the flagship programmes through SMART indicators, including:

- Number of cities in the countries most impacted by migration and displacement¹⁰ that have improved urban and territorial systems for better managing rapid influx of people;
- Number of cities and regions that have policies in place that ensure an adequate standard of living and non-discriminatory access to services, designed and delivered according to a human rights-based approach;
- Number of cities with increased capacity to provide services, infrastructure, housing and livelihood opportunities and foster social cohesion between host and migrant communities;
- Number of cities that have successfully implemented activities for increased social cohesion and for inclusion of migrants/refugees/ IDPs and returnees.

¹⁰ Population movements include rural-urban migration, forced displacement, return, circular/seasonal migration



D. UN-Habitat's comparative advantage

UN-Habitat will collaborate with partners at the global, regional, national and local level in implementing the flagship programme. UN-Habitat's unique value proposition and selling point consists of long-year experience in:

1. Neighbourhood, urban and territorial spatial analysis to strengthen evidence-based decision-making;
2. Inclusive urban policies;
3. Urban and territorial planning, inclusive urban governance and municipal financing for sustainable solutions;
4. Capacity activities to improve access to housing, basic services, and livelihood opportunities and (land) tenure rights;
5. Community engagement for enhanced social cohesion in both migration and forced displacement contexts.



E. Preliminary proposed locations

West Asia: Iraq; Jordan; Turkey; Syria; Yemen; Lebanon;
Eastern Europe: West Balkans; CIS countries;
North Africa: Egypt; Libya; Tunisia; Morocco;
East Africa: Somalia, Ethiopia; Kenya; Uganda; Sudan,
Djibouti

West African and francophone African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Mali (selection to be made);
Asia-Pacific: Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia;
Latin America: Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Brazil and Peru.



F. Partnerships

Under the overall guidance of the UN Resident Coordinators, UN-Habitat will support the UN system and other partners by providing recommendations for joint advocacy, policy advice and joint programming for sustainable urban development, with focus on improved social cohesion and inclusion of migrant populations.

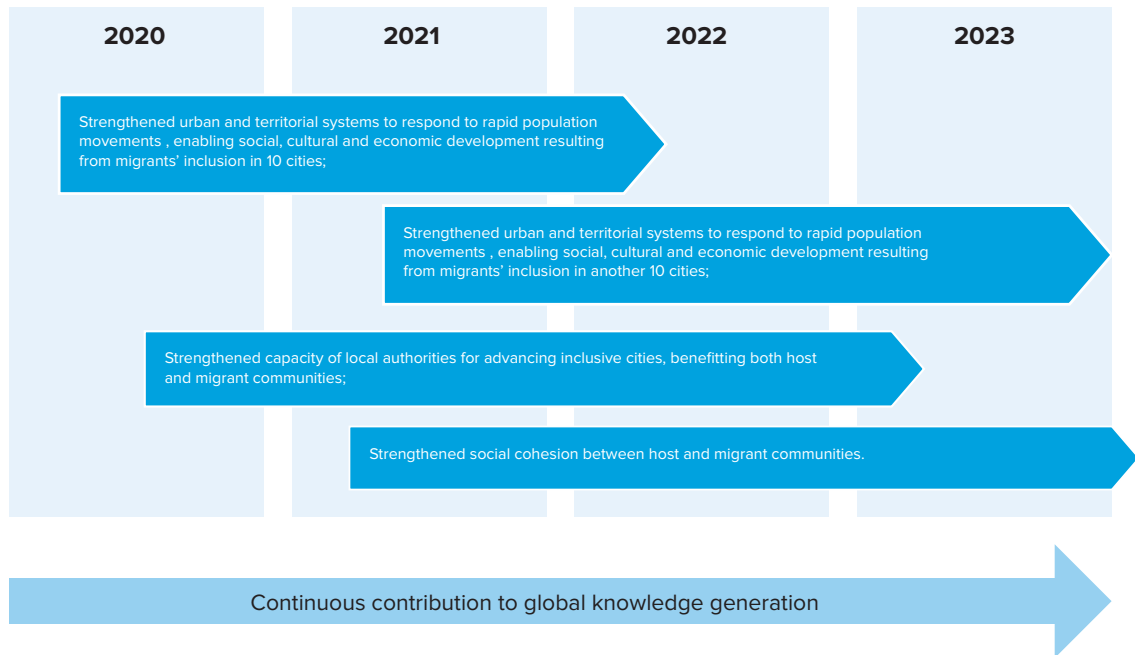
The flagship will contribute to global knowledge on sustainable urban approaches related to migration and displacement through feeding local experiences into the knowledge and monitoring mechanisms of the global compacts for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM) and for refugees (GCR) and other relevant global processes.

By collaborating with national level authorities, local governments and their networks, development banks, bilateral- and multi-lateral development partners and urban planning professional networks, the flagship will enhance engagement with a wide stakeholder base towards achievements at scale. Partners will include UN agencies, but also international organizations, NGOs, civil society and academia and research organizations.



G. Phasing and milestones

The 10-year flagship initiative will be launched during WUF 10 in February 2020. The timeline for the first four years is as follows:



H. Budget

Given the scope of the programme (global, regional, national and local) and the range of activities, the flagship programme is estimated at \$85 million USD over a period of 10 years. For the programme cycle from 2020-23, the budget is \$45 million USD. UN-Habitat will drive the development, implementation and monitoring of the programme in conjunction with a wide range of credible and experienced partners. To achieve Outcome 1, the implementation of a comprehensive set of initiatives is estimated at \$17.5 million USD and will include pilot

implementation activities in 10 countries. Upscaling the activities in additional 10 countries and building on the experiences made in the first phase, Outcome 2 is estimated at \$15 million USD. For Outcome 3, estimated \$7.5 million USD are estimated. Throughout the entire programme cycle, the results and insights from both phases will continuously contribute to global knowledge generation, advocacy work and monitoring and will lead to the reformulation of activities in the second half of the flagship programme until 2030.

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