UN-HABITAT
ASSEMBLY
5 to 9 June 2023

Achieving SDGs in times of global crises

#UNHA2

Side Event Number 1

The Multiple Voices in Urban Migration Contexts: Linking Spatial Planning to Financing Opportunities

Monday 5th JUNE 2023, 13:15 – 14:15

Conference Room 6

SUMMARY

Urbanization is a defining global phenomenon with over half of the world's population living in urban areas – this is estimated to grow to two thirds come 2050. In recent years, escalating scales, durations and frequency of crises have led to increasing proportions of migrants moving to cities, including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), asylum seekers and stateless persons. The rapid influx of displaced populations to urban settings has major spatial, economic and social impacts and aggravates existing challenges that municipalities face. Similarly challenging is the issue that cities struggle to provide long-term solutions, leading to migrants and displaced persons experiencing continued uncertainty and protraction. Measures to solve these problems need to be guided by sustainable long-term urban development visions. Urban planning approaches have the potential to coordinate development and humanitarian assistance effectively and create opportunities and improved access to services for local and migrant communities.

The event aims to highlight the multiple voices and the different roles of the key actors in the development process, including government decision makers, civil society, migrant communities including refugees and IDPs, financiers/donors, technical experts, and private sector, to create an inclusive dialogue. The event will discuss the experience undertaken in the "*Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts" (UPIMC)* program, which has aimed to develop transformative interventions in the most vulnerable urban areas through integrated and participated spatial planning followed by linking these interventions to financing opportunities. Stories from Amman and Irbid Cities in Jordan, Douala City in Cameroon, and Damietta City in Egypt will be shared. The UPIMC program has supported these selected municipalities in developing a long-term strategic approach to connecting migration and displacement-affected neighborhoods with improved access to public services through transformative interventions and infrastructure investments.

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The three-way planning approach - understanding, planning, and transforming a city - which formed the backbone of these efforts will also be presented. The approach includes components such as evidence-based planning and spatial profiling, visioning and scenario building, defining prioritized urban projects and linking them to financing for implementation. A multi-stakeholder and participatory process was ensured throughout the program, which continues to integrate various stakeholder groups such as civil society, migrant communities including refugees and IDPs, humanitarian and development actors, as well as line ministries and sectoral departments. This can better connect short-term humanitarian responses with longer-term development interventions and enable the development of more inclusive neighborhoods and cities, that enhance socio-economic opportunities for all.

Organizer(s)

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO and UN-Habitat

Moderator

Herman Pienaar, Head of Urban Lab, Planning, Finance and Economy Section, UN-Habitat HQ, Kenya

Speaker(s)

Welcoming remarks

Mr. Valentin Zellweger, the Swiss Ambassador to Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia

Speaker 1

Ms. Efua Dadze-Arthur, Head of Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Egypt

Speaker 2

Ms. Célestine Courtes Keutcha, Minister of MINHDU, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Cameroon

Speaker 3

H.E Mr. Ahmad Malkawi, City Manager of Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan

Speaker 4

Mr. Babati Mokegthi, Urban Development Officer, African Development Bank Group

Speaker 5

Mr. Alex Francisco, Global Program Manager, ARCADIS, Netherlands