



Inclusive Cities: Enhancing the Positive Impact of Urban Migration



Rationale

Migration is at the core of urbanization, and while today cities are home to 54 percent of the world's population, by 2050 this number is expected to rise to 68 percent¹. The total number of international migrants in 2020 was estimated at 280.6 million. In May 2022, UNHCR announced that the number of people forced to flee their home had reached more than 100 million for the first time on record². The rise continued in 2023, as mid-year the total of forcibly displaced reached 103 million, driven by the war in Ukraine and unresolved crises across the globe³.

Migration to cities occurs for a variety of factors such as conflict, impact of environmental degradation and climate change, poverty, lack of (employment) opportunities and (spatial) inequalities. Climate change is increasingly driving displacement and increasing the vulnerability of those already forced to flee as a result of extreme weather events, flooding, heat and droughts in addition to general environmental degradation.

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

The Flagship Programme targets countries and cities in need of UN-Habitat's expertise for area-based development, especially in the complex urban and urbanising contexts which UN-Habitat is specialised in. UN-Habitat's services come with its strong focus on promoting participation and social cohesion and the protection of Human Rights for all. Each programme activity will support countries to advance the United Nations 2030 Development Agenda commitment of Leaving No One Behind. The Flagship will build upon the linkages between the Global Compact on Migration, the Global Compact for Refugees and the New Urban Agenda.



Objective

UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme "Inclusive Cities: Enhancing the Positive Impacts of Urban Migration" aims at supporting local and national authorities to create inclusive and non-discriminatory urban environments for all people, especially in situations where a rapid influx of people has led to an urban crisis.

The flagship programme will build upon the linkages between the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees and the New Urban Agenda.

¹ <https://www.un.org/sw/desa/68-world-population-projected-live-urban-areas-2050-says-un>

² <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/insights/explainers/100-million-forcibly-displaced.html>

³ <https://www.unhcr.org/spotlight/2023/01/2023-a-moment-of-truth-for-global-displacement/>



Outcomes, Initiatives and Results

The flagship programme aims to facilitate strategic changes in the UN-Habitat's work with migration and ultimately enhance its impact on the ground. By creating an enabling urban environment for socio-economic and environmental development for all, including migrants and displaced people, the positive impact of urban migration is harnessed contributing to the long-term impact of promoting social cohesion, ensuring that no place and no one is left behind.

To achieve these changes, the programme adopts the four strategic pillars of: 1) Governance, 2) Territorial and Spatial Planning, 3) Devising and implementing inclusive solutions and 4) Innovative Financing Mechanisms.

The Flagship will deliver the following outcomes:

Outcome 1 Improved knowledge informing integrated and inclusive solutions for urban migrants and displaced people

Outcome 2 Innovative, integrated and people-centered solutions are scaled to respond to migration and displacement challenges and opportunities in urban areas

Outcome 1 will be achieved through the below 2 outputs:

- Global, regional, national and local capacities are strengthened to collect and analyze data on urban migration and displacement and to advance evidence-based research on the impact of migration and displacement on urbanization.
- Normative guidance for more effective response to urban migration and displacement is developed in line with the HDP nexus.

Outcome 2 will be achieved through the below 2 outputs:

- Programme development support is in place to improve the quality and scale response to priority (sub)regions and countries.
- Country and regional context specific programmatic urban solutions are designed and implemented allowing more coherent system-wide response within the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) nexus.

Two Tracks: Knowledge and Urban Solutions

The data and normative tools, which constitute the programme knowledge track, will inform the second programme development track focusing on improved quality and more effective urban solutions along the HDP nexus. The process is interlinked, as one track feeds in the other, continuously informing and consolidating the normative and operational work.

Five Pillar Strategy

1. Training and Capacity Building

Topics include among others: developing a system of data collection and indicators on urban migration and displacement indicators, support various stakeholders (UN, governments, cities, NGOs, donors) to integrate urban migration and displacement challenges into (sub)regional, national and local response policies, strategies and plans.

2. Advocacy, Communication and Outreach

Adapting and producing new knowledge products, publishing researches and relevant reports for wide dissemination.

3. Establishing Partnerships

Working collaboratively with a multitude of UN and non-UN partners, leveraging multiple resources.

4. Innovative Urban Solutions

Providing technical assistance to design and implement programmatic urban solutions along the HDP nexus.

5. Resource Mobilization

Identifying financing opportunities tapping on diverse sources (public, private and bilateral/multilateral donors) to achieve long-term development impact.



UN-Habitat's comparative advantage

UN-Habitat will enhance its ongoing collaboration with partners at the global, regional, national and local level under 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.

In 2023, UN-Habitat adopted its **Institutional Plan on Solution to Internal Displacement**, as a contribution to the Secretary General's Action Agenda. UN-Habitat's plan is accessible here:

The plan constitutes an important part of the work under this flagship programme.



Preliminary proposed locations

The flagship programme aims at supporting cities globally, across continents: Africa, Arab States, Asia Pacific, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In its Institutional Plan on solutions to internal displacement, UN-Habitat identified 5 priority countries: Colombia, Afghanistan, Somalia, Mozambique and Iraq. Besides these

focus countries, UN-Habitat will continue its engagement in other countries, such as Burkina-Faso and the Sahel region, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Syria among others. The agency will also work on establishing its programme in the new crisis's hotspots, such as Ukraine.



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, more particularly UNHCR, IOM and UNDP, but also international organizations, NGOs, civil society and academia and research organizations.



Ramadi kids in Iraq benefiting from public space



Our Asks

Partners can support the implementation of the flagship programme “Inclusive cities: enhancing the positive impact of urban migration” by:

Ask 1: Support the flagship programme at global level. For a duration of **four years (2022-2025)**, the total budget required for a comprehensive implementation of all programme’s component at global level amounts to **US\$ 7.6 million**. This includes the following deliverables:

- Up to 15 supported global, (sub) regional, national and city-level data structures.
- A total of 100 days seminars, workshops and training events.
- A total of 14 produced/adapted technical tools.
- A total of four normative publications.
- A total of 15 field and technical cooperation projects.

Ask 2: Support the implementation of the flagship programme at regional and country levels. The estimated costs to support the implementation at regional and country

level amounts to **US\$ 1.2 million** per region/country for a duration of **four years (2022-2025)**.

Ask 3: Support the key role that UN-Habitat can play in the implementation of the Secretary General’s Action Agenda on solutions to internal displacement. As recognized in the Action Agenda, displacement has become primarily an urban issue. Addressing internal displacement in urban areas would help addressing the issue at scale globally. UN-Habitat’s plan to support this agenda is accessible [here](#)

Contributions to support the implementation of the Plan can vary, depending on the activities supported.

As an example, with **US\$800K**, UN-Habitat can establish an Urban Lab in a country, to support participatory and inclusive planning exercises in support of cities facing large influxes of IDPs (1 year).

With **US\$250K**, UN-Habitat can deploy an urban durable solution expert to a Resident Coordinator’s office for one year in one country, to advise the UN country team on solutions to urban displacement.

A better quality of life for
all in an urbanizing world

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