



CALL TO LOCAL ACTION FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Frequently Asked Questions

July 2023

How do I join the Call to Local Action?

1. Sign the [Marrakech Mayors Declaration](#) (for local and regional governments) or endorse the Call to Local Action (for organisations).
2. Submit your action(s) [online](#).

How long does it take to fill out the Call to Local Action form?

Filling out the [online form](#) is simple and fast and will take you about 20 minutes, provided you have the information ready at hand. This [Word-form](#) can help you pre-fill the required information.

Can I submit more than one action?

Yes, you are more than encouraged to and the online submission form will allow you to do so!

My organisation would like to join this effort but is not a local and regional government. Can we join?

Yes, organisations that work in partnership with local and regional governments can also join the Call to Local Action (e.g., national associations of municipalities, city networks, UN partnerships with cities, etc.). While local and regional governments are requested to endorse the [Marrakesh Mayors Declaration](#), partnerships are requested to disseminate information about the Call to Local Action to their membership. In return, the organisation's logos will be added on Call to Local Action branding materials as a supporting partner.

Do I have to create a profile to submit an action?

Yes, this lets us track how many actions your local or regional government has submitted. The form will also ask the submitting person's name, email address, job title, nature of the submitting organisation (if local or regional government or a partner), country of the organisation as well as seek to gather information about national or regional policy processes your government / organisation has been involved in.

Can I pause and continue later if I run out of time?

Yes, creating a profile also allows you to stop and continue later as needed.

Our local government already submitted an action through the online platform, but the person managing the online profile has changed. How can we access our profile?

Please drop us a line at cta@mayorsmechanism.org and we will grant you access to the profile.

I have filled out the Word form in Spanish or French, but the online form is only available in English. What should I do?

At the moment our website is not yet available in French and Spanish; however, you are welcome to submit your responses in the online form in French and Spanish. We will make the necessary translations on the back end.

My country has not endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration or has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention. Can I still join the Call to Local Action?

Yes, this process helps to showcase how local and regional actions are spearheading the implementation of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#) and the [Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\)](#), including in countries that have not endorsed the global frameworks.

I made a mistake! What can I do now that I submitted the form?

Once you have submitted the form you will not be able to edit it. If you would still like to make adjustments, please email cta@mayorsmechanism.org.

Once I submit, how and where will my action be showcased?

Your action will be formally submitted to multiple UN and Member State platforms and actively showcased in multiple Call to Local Action materials.

Call to Local Action showcasing materials include:

- Our Annual Call to Local Action Localization Report (For the 2022 edition, click [here](#)) and online [Action Repository](#).
- Mayors Mechanism partners' social media accounts.

Based on your action's target group and timeline, your action will also be submitted on your behalf to the:

- [UN's GCM Pledging Platform](#) (new/ongoing actions) or [GCM Repository of Practices](#) (concluded actions).
- UN's [GCR Pledging Platform](#) (new/ongoing actions) or [GCR Good Practices Platform](#) (concluded actions).
- Member State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development's [Platform for Partnerships](#).

- [Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments](#)' Report to the High-Level Political Forum (subject to their consideration).

How can my action get maximum visibility?

There are two criteria that will impact how and where your action will be showcased:

1. **Target group:** We recommend submitting actions that target all different groups of people on the move, regardless of status (migrants, refugees, IDPs and stateless persons). This would be in line with the commitments made in the [Marrakesh Mayors Declaration](#) and will ensure a maximum showcasing of your action. Actions that only target migrants will not be considered for the GCR stocktaking platforms. Similarly, actions that only target refugees will not be considered for the GCM stocktaking platforms.
2. **Timeline of your action:**
 - Ongoing actions and actions that have yet to start will be considered as pledges to the GCM and GCR processes.
 - Ongoing actions may also be considered as good practices provided there is enough data available to draw recommendations, lessons learnt and assess impact of the action so far.
 - Once an action has been concluded, it will only count as a good practice and will remain on the GCM and GCR good practices repositories—it will then be taken down from the pledging platforms.

I want to submit an action that started before December 2018. Can I?

Local and regional governments are encouraged to make contributions that are ongoing or new and that contribute to the GCM and GCR, which were both endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2018. We therefore welcome actions that started as of 2019.

How long does it take for my action to appear online?

It can take about 2 weeks for your action to appear in the Call to Local Action online repository. For the GCM and GCR online pledging platforms and repositories it can take up to 3 months.

I am interested in learning more on migration and forced displacement policy and opportunities for city diplomacy. What learning opportunities does the Call to Local Action offer?

- Once you have submitted your action, you will be included in our Call to Local Action mailing list through which you will receive regular updates about the global processes on migration and forced displacement and will be invited to join peer-learning and capacity development activities.

- These updates will also be made available on the Call to Local Action website and social media channels. You will also be included in upcoming mailings about next iterations of the [Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees](#).
- You also have the opportunity to take the [Massive Online Open Course](#) on “**Localising the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees: Territorial Action on Human Mobility**”, where you can learn about the role of LRGs in managing migration and displacement. You will learn about what others are doing and how your action helps achieve global agendas. Podcasts, animated videos, games and questionnaires will guide you through the different chapters of this course, in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).
- You will be able to indicate interest to participate in the UN Migration Agency’s [Local Migration Governance Indicators Process](#), a tool that offers an opportunity to have an introspective look at the policies, programmes and structures your local government has in place to manage migration.

What are the 8 Priority Objectives of the Call to Local Action?

To connect the GCM and GCR with the Marrakech Mayors Declaration, the Mayors Mechanism has identified 8 Priority Objectives that connect the Declaration with specific sections of the GCM and GCR, as well as to 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

How do I decide under which Priority Objective my action falls?

Local and regional governments are welcome to tick multiple boxes in case their action fits several priority areas. We recommend ticking no more than three per action.

If you are interested to **see what others submitted** under each priority area, have a look [here](#).

The below overview gives further guidance on the type of actions to fit under each of these priorities, as well as gives an example of existing LRG actions per priority.



1. Improve migration governance and forced displacement protection

GCM Objectives: 23

GCR Focus Areas: Para 17-19; para 33-34; Focus area: Responsibility sharing

SDG Commitments: Goal 17

Type of actions: Actions that improve local and regional governments’ institutional policy frameworks and capacities and improve local vertical and horizontal policy coherence, as well as actions that facilitate stakeholder collaboration and access to data at local level.

Example: With the first Municipal Plan of Policies for the Immigrant Population, São Paulo committed to take 80 actions from 2021-2024 to achieve the GCM and GCR in unison. The plan was developed with direct social participation of migrants and refugees and in accordance with the city's ground-breaking policy framework. (More info on this action [here](#)).



2. Minimising the drivers of forced displacement, including climate change and environmental drivers

GCM Objectives: 2

GCR Focus Areas: Solutions

SDG Commitments: Goals 1,2,3,13, 16, 17

Type of actions: Actions that deliver inclusive climate action that is equitable and beneficial for all, including migrants and refugees. These may include actions that enable urban planning and preparedness for climate-related impacts on human mobility, fostering inclusion of migrants and refugees in the green transition, helping to voluntarily relocate those vulnerable to climate change and providing support for income generation to those that have been forcibly displaced due to climate change.

Example: The Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) committed to reduce migrants' vulnerabilities to climate change by generating evidence on migrants' presence in the city's informal economy, strengthening this economy's resilience to the impacts of climate change and improving working conditions of migrants working in informal waste management. The project will collect data, provide financial support and generate infrastructure in line with the city's Climate Action Plan. (More info [here](#)).



3. Protecting those most vulnerable

GCM Objectives: 7

GCR Focus Areas: Protection capacity

SDG Commitments: Goals 1, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17

Type of actions: Actions that promote and protect the rights of migrants and refugees that face situations of vulnerability arising from the circumstances in which they travel, such as children and women, members of ethnic and religious minorities, victims of violence, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons who are discriminated against on any basis, indigenous peoples, workers facing exploitation and abuse, domestic workers, victims of trafficking in

persons, etc. Actions may include the provision of legal aid and information; the facilitation of guardianship for unaccompanied children; the set-up of safe zones for reporting crimes and mechanisms to protect migrants and refugees from exploitation.

Example: To reduce vulnerabilities of migrant youth, FAMSI (Asociación Fondo Andaluz De Municipios Para La Solidaridad Internacional) committed to help municipalities from Andalusia through the EMBRACIN project. With the support of six professionals from different disciplines: medicine, law, social work, language interpretation, teaching and psychology, the project sets up a comprehensive model for their reception and protection. (More info [here](#)).



4. Providing access to urban infrastructure, social services and education regardless of status

GCM Objectives: 15

GCR Focus Areas: Health, education, energy and infrastructure

SDG Commitments: Goal 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 16

Type of actions: Actions that guarantee migrants' and refugees' non-discriminatory access to services regardless of migratory status. Actions may include expanding existing local services so they are accessible for migrants regardless of status, as well as setting up a one-stop shop for services and introduction of referral mechanisms and outreach initiatives about available services.

Example: The City of Montréal committed to ensure the accessibility of its services to all migrants regardless of status who reside on its territory. The city created a concrete tool: an identification card that allows them access, among other things, to vaccination against Covid-19, access to food banks and banking services, without fear of deportation. (More info [here](#)).



5. Realising socio-economic inclusion

GCM Objectives: 16

GCR Focus Areas: Para 99-199; Focus area: Jobs and livelihoods solutions

SDG Commitments: Goals 10, 11, 16, 17

Type of actions: Actions may include initiatives that ensure the participation of migrants and refugees in local policy making, as well as actions that facilitate migrants' and refugees' spatial,

social, economic and cultural participation, for example by empowering migrants and refugees to find work, start a business and participate in local cultural festivities.

Example: The City of Boston committed to develop a pilot program that provides training, career coaching and a 3-month fellowship placement at local hospitals to immigrant professionals from Africa and the Caribbean with backgrounds in healthcare, hereby overcoming existing administrative barriers migrants are often confronted with when seeking employment in this industry. (More info [here](#)).



6. Eliminating all forms of discrimination and promoting evidence-based public discourse

GCM Objectives: 17

GCR Focus Areas: Protection capacity

SDG Commitments: Goals 8, 10, 16, 17

Type of actions: Actions that prevent, denounce and act against racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination against migrants, refugees and members of the diaspora, as well as actions that raise awareness regarding the benefits of migration and/or that foster community cohesion.

Example: The City of Nador contributed to the development of social and sustainable cities by promoting a realistic and fair discourse on migration. Their action encourages dialogues in schools on the principles of living together, inclusion and interculturality, with conversations targeting the root causes of discrimination and exclusion, with the intent to promote a new, people-centred narrative on human mobility. (More info [here](#)).



7. Supporting reception and advancing community sponsorship initiatives

GCM Objectives: 7,15

GCR Focus Areas: Para 37; Focus Area: Solutions

SDG Commitments: Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17

Type of actions: Actions that provide local solutions to migrant and refugee arrivals such as strengthening reception infrastructure, offering specific and dedicated services to those migrants and refugees that are particularly at risk, such as children; coordinating local volunteers and ensuring access to shelter for newly arriving migrants and refugees.

Example: The City of Braga committed to welcome children and their families and provide the support and assistance they need immediately, without any discrimination, while building the local capacities to accommodate, support, include and protect children and young people based on their evolving needs and vulnerabilities. Braga is stepping up to welcome refugee children and families into their homes, their schools and their communities. As families fleeing Ukraine have the right to protection and the chance to choose where they stay, local and regional governments in Europe have seen an estimated 2 million children arriving to their cities and towns. (More info [here](#)).



8. Engaging in regional and multilateral partnerships and increasing city-to-city cooperation

GCM Objectives: 23

GCR Focus Areas: Para 38; Focus Area: Responsibility Sharing

SDG Commitments: Goal 17

Type of actions: Actions that increase collaboration amongst local and regional governments, build bridges between local governments and other levels of government/multilateral bodies, contribute to strengthen the voice of local and regional governments in related national and international policy processes, or implement city-to-city programmes with the objective to share knowledge and best practices and to pursue urban diplomacy and joint advocacy.

Example: The Cities of Freetown and Milan committed to work together towards shifting the narrative on migration, highlighting the opportunities that connecting cultures and people can bring to cities in both Africa and Europe and the vital contribution of migrants to economies and societies. The partner cities strive to create opportunities for exchange and collaboration between their fashion industries and creative communities, through skills exchanges between designers and alliances amongst manufacturers, to better support local business development and investment. (More info [here](#)).

I have more questions! What can I do?

Please drop us a line at cta@mayorsmechanism.org and we will get in touch with you.