



GFMD
 Mayors
 Mechanism

LOCALIZING THE GLOBAL COMPACTS

Second Report on Local
 Action for Migrants and
 Refugees - 2023



Call to
 Local Action
 for Migrants
 and Refugees

Co-steered by



In partnership with



2022 ACTIONS

Local and regional governments:

Accra, Ghana
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Arua, Uganda (2)
Barcelona, Spain
Barranquilla, Colombia (2)
Beira, Mozambique
Beirut, Lebanon
Bogotá, Colombia (2)
Boston, USA (5)
Braga, Portugal
Bristol, UK
Coto Brus, Costa Rica

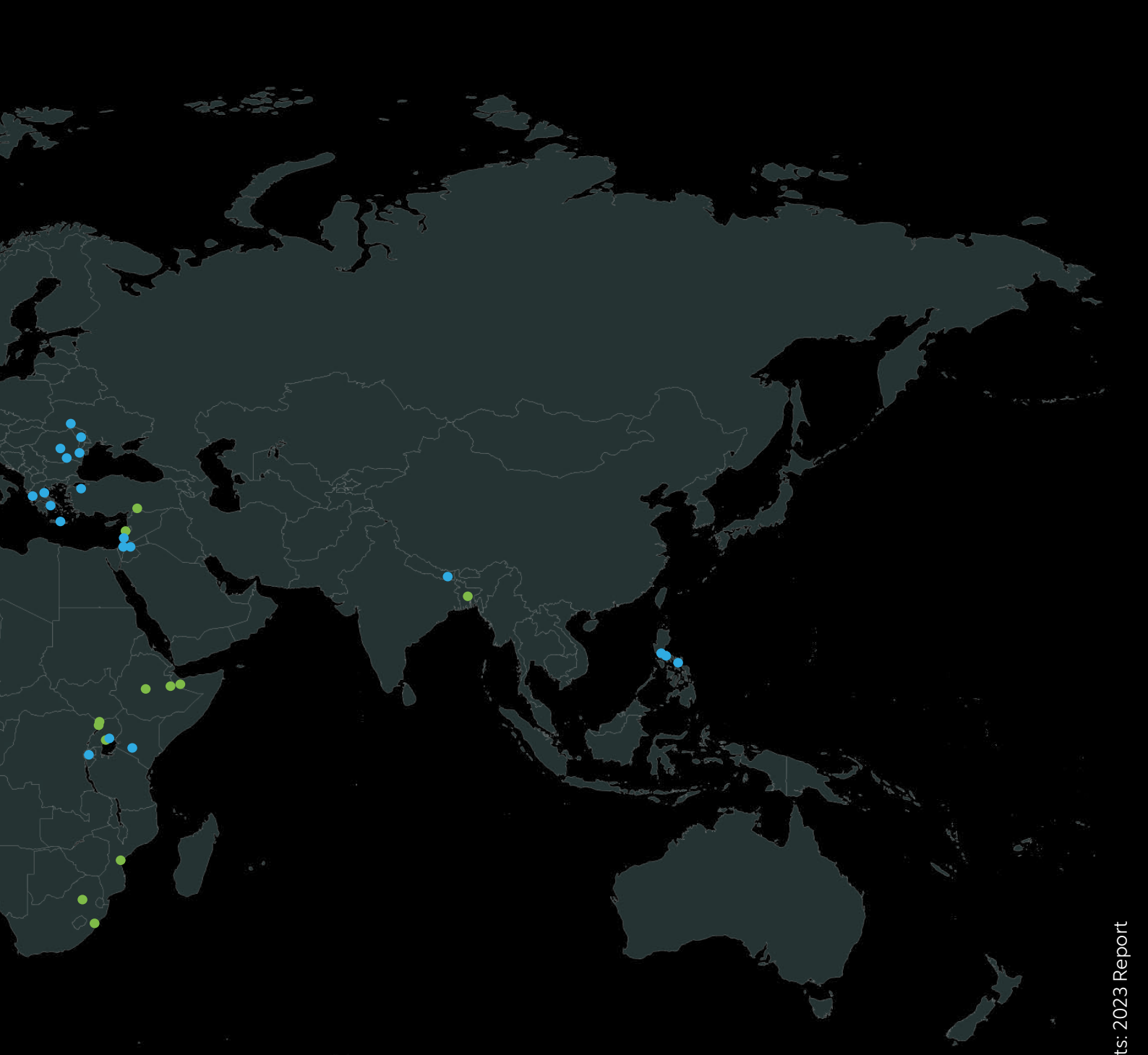
Dhaka North, Bangladesh
Dédougou, Burkina Faso
eThekweni (Durban), South Africa
Entebbe, Uganda
Esteban Echeverría, Argentina
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Fuentabrada, Spain
Gaziantep, Türkiye
Haho, Togo
Hargeisa, Somaliland
Jigjiga, Ethiopia
Johannesburg, South Africa
Kampala, Uganda

Koboko, Uganda
Lampedusa, Italy (2)
Medellín, Colombia
Mechelen, Belgium
Mexico City, Mexico
Milan, Italy (3)
Monrovia, Liberia
Montevideo, Uruguay
Montréal, Canada (3)
Nador, Morocco (2)
Nairobi, Kenya
Paris, France
Quito, Ecuador
San José, California, US

San José, Costa Rica
São Paulo, Brazil
Sfax, Tunisia
Strasbourg, France
Zürich, Switzerland (3)

Organizations:

ANVITA, France (5)
C40–MMC, Global
FAMSI, Spain (4)
Mayors Mechanism - Germany



2023 ACTIONS

Local and regional governments:

- Amman**, Jordan
- Athens**, Greece
- Barranquilla**, Colombia
- Brasov**, Romania
- Bucharest**, Romania
- Buenos Aires**, Argentina (2)
- Carmen de la Legua**, Peru
- Dallas**, USA
- Dhankuta**, Nepal (2)
- Dunavtzi**, Ukraine
- Galați**, Romania
- Guayaquil**, Ecuador

- Heraklion**, Greece
- Ioannina**, Greece
- Kampala**, Uganda
- Laguna Province**, Philippines
- Lancaster**, USA
- Larissa**, Greece (2)
- Legazpi City**, Philippines
- Maipú**, Chile
- Milan**, Italy
- Montevideo**, Uruguay
- Montréal**, Canada
- Nairobi**, Kenya (2)
- Nilüfer**, Türkiye
- Nyamagabe**, Rwanda

- Quezon City**, Philippines
- Quilmes**, Argentina
- Ramallah**, Palestine
- Rennes**, France
- Salt Lake County**, USA (2)
- San Antonio**, USA
- São Leopoldo**, Brazil
- São Paulo**, Brazil
- Straseni**, Moldova
- Terrassa**, Spain
- Tlaxcala**, Mexico
- Tyre**, Lebanon
- Zürich**, Switzerland (3)

Organizations:

- ANVITA**, France
- C40–MMC**, Global
- Cities Alliance**, Global
- Eurocities**, Europe
- Government of Brazil and the National Network of Welcoming Cities**, Brazil
- Mayors Migration Council**, Global
- United Cities and Local Governments**, Global
- Welcoming America**, USA



Photo: A young refugee from Afghanistan stands between two makeshift shelters, inside an informal camp adjacent to the Moria reception and identification centre on Lesbos. © UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

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FOREWORD

In the face of growing global crises, local governments are central actors and visionary leaders in addressing refugee and migrant inclusion and protection. Every day, local governments around the world are stepping up as problem solvers taking pragmatic actions to create thriving communities that include migrants and refugees. This report shows the power of local government solutions. Together, we hope local action can turn into global impact.

In the past year, UN leaders have sounded the alarm of a humanitarian system on the verge of collapse and called for a global rescue plan for sustainable development. Crises are multiplying — from new or continuing conflicts to climate chaos to worsening inequalities. Meanwhile, solutions go unfunded.

This year, the world was supposed to celebrate progress made on refugee protection and solutions since the adoption of the landmark UN Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in 2018. Instead, more than one of every 73 people on Earth is forcibly displaced — a historic high of 114 million people. In just the past 12 months, UNHCR declared a record 46 emergencies across 32 countries.

70% of forcibly displaced people look to cities for safety and opportunity.

Local and regional governments are stepping up in response. Facing multiple crises and limited budgets, local and regional governments remain committed to the UN's global goals and to taking concrete actions for refugees and migrants in their cities.

This report represents the political commitment and concrete actions local and regional governments are taking to meet the needs of refugees and migrants in 2023. Collected through the [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#), these actions contribute to the UN Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and help keep the world on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2022, this partnership [delivered 70 actions](#) from local governments to the first-ever UN International Migration Review Forum.

Now, the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees is delivering more than 100 local pledges for refugee inclusion and protection to the 2023 UN Global Refugee Forum.

“ From implementing local housing projects to sheltering those displaced and ensuring their access to schools and other critical social services, cities are at the helm on creating open, inclusive, and supportive environments for refugees and IDPs. ”



Filippo Grandi
High Commissioner,
UN Refugee Agency

“ Cities are engines of economic growth and innovation that hold the key to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. They are also on the frontlines of today's complex challenges, from the climate crisis to growing inequalities and political polarization. But local authorities are struggling with limited support and resources. ”



António Guterres
UN Secretary-General

These actions make a tangible difference to the lives of migrants and refugees and help the world rescue our global humanitarian and development goals.

New commitments taken by local governments include:

- Support for refugee reception and inclusion in Gaziantep (Türkiye), Bucharest (Romania), Rennes (France), and more.
- Support for refugee jobs and livelihoods in Kampala (Uganda), Barranquilla (Colombia), Montréal (Canada), and more.
- Support for refugee education and early childhood development in Milan (Italy), Guayaquil (Ecuador), Ramallah (Palestine), and more.
- Support for climate action in refugee hosting areas in Amman (Jordan), Nyamagabe (Rwanda), and Nairobi (Kenya), and more.
- Support for countering discrimination and xenophobia in Nilüfer (Türkiye), Dallas (US), Terrassa (Spain), and more.

Despite the political will of local governments, municipal access to finance is a major barrier to local action for migrants and refugees, particularly in **low- and middle-income countries where 90% of forcibly displaced people live.** In 2022, **only 1.2% of total international humanitarian assistance was given to local and national actors,** including cities — the target was 25%.

As the world reels from the socioeconomic shocks of the pandemic, refugee crises across the world, and the worsening climate breakdown, the pledges delivered in this report represent an opportunity for the intentional community to deliver global impact by investing in local action, an opportunity that was underrepresented at the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019. **As this report shows, local and regional governments are already committing their ideas, resources, and political power to create inclusive societies where refugees and migrants can thrive. Matching these local commitments with global resources will not only bring us back from the brink, but push us towards a more equitable, vibrant, and inclusive world.**

Join us in supporting the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees. Together, we can support city leaders to support migrants and refugees and turn local action into global impact.

“ 65% of SDG targets cannot be met without involving local and regional governments. The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees is the pathway for cities and regions to localize the SDGs for migrants and refugees. ”



Emilia Saiz
Secretary General,
UCLG

“ To address the critical shortfall in funding for local action and model behavior for others to follow, the Mayors Migration Council is pledging to bring the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees to US\$50 million – starting with US\$25 million by 2025. Only through direct funding of city-led projects can we meet the scale of need for urban migrants and refugees to thrive. ”



Vittoria Zanuso
Executive Director,
Mayors Migration
Council

“ Local and regional governments play an undeniable role in meeting the challenges of the future. In my new role as Director General, I’m committed to building a UN Migration Agency that works hand-in-hand with local governments to serve migrants. From addressing the impact of climate change on human mobility to building job opportunities and pathways, cities are critical partners in action. ”



Amy Pope
Director General,
UN Migration Agency



Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees

Join the global movement of more than 80 local and regional governments (LRGs) and partners committed to localizing global goals for migrants and refugees.

WHAT IS THE CALL TO LOCAL ACTION FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES?

The [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) is the official pathway for LRGs to pledge to implement the UN Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in unison, as a concrete avenue to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recognized by the UN Secretary-General, the Call to Local Action captures the political commitment and vast practical experience of LRGs. The Call to Local Action builds on the political commitment LRGs made in the 2018 [Marrakesh Mayors Declaration for Migrants and Refugees](#).

WHO SUPPORTS THE CALL TO LOCAL ACTION?

The Call to Local Action is a collaborative effort from the [Mayors Mechanism](#) steering committee members, [United Cities and Local Governments](#) (UCLG), the [Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC) and the [UN Migration Agency](#) (IOM)—in partnership with the [UN Refugee Agency](#) (UNHCR).

A growing coalition of city networks and partners support the Call to Local Action, including ANVITA, Cities Alliance, C40, Eurocities, FAMSI, Global Cities Hub, ICMPD, Migration Children and Youth Platform, Welcoming America, the 2022–2023 French Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and the Governments of Brazil, Germany, and Switzerland.

As of December 2023, 74 LRGs from 40 countries have joined the Call to Local Action.

WHY JOIN?

By joining the Call to Local Action, LRGs gain:

- **RECOGNITION:** LRGs get public recognition of their political leadership in official UN pledging systems and in the annual Report on Localizing the Global Compacts.
- **ACCESS:** LRGs contributing to the Call to Local Action receive diplomacy opportunities at the political and technical level at official intergovernmental meetings and summits (e.g. International Migration Review Forum, Global Refugee Forum, Global Forum on Migration and Development).
- **KNOWLEDGE:** LRGs get regular updates about global processes on migration and forced displacement and can join opportunities for peer-learning and capacity development.
- **RECEIVE FUNDING:** LRGs pledging to the Call to Local Action are invited to submit proposals to the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, as funding rounds are available.

WHO CAN JOIN?

- Local and regional governments, with endorsement from the executive level.
- Organizations that work in partnership with local and regional governments (e.g. national associations of municipalities, city networks, UN partnerships with cities, etc.).

HOW TO JOIN?

LRGs can join the Call to Local Action through a two-step process:



STEP 1

SIGN the Marrakech
Mayors Declaration



STEP 2

SUBMIT actions.

WHAT TYPE OF ACTIONS CAN LRGs SUBMIT?

- Actions that uphold the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, including pilot projects, policies, or campaigns.
- Actions that are ongoing or new and that start after June 2022.

GET STARTED:



localaction.mayorsmechanism.org

IMPACT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP ON GLOBAL GOALS SINCE 2022

In 2022, local governments officially launched the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees and delivered 70 local government actions that make a tangible difference to the lives of migrants and refugees, while keeping the world on track to meet global goals. This section provides an overview of the impact of the Call to Local Action since its 2022 launch and an assessment of the 2022 local actions.

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the UN adopted two global frameworks for migration and forced displacement, the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) and the [Global Compact for Migration](#) (GCM). These compacts set ambitious international goals on migration governance and refugee protection and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). The GCR and GCM complement global efforts to promote sustainable development and explicitly link to the SDGs. When States and stakeholders implement the GCM and GCR, they are directly supporting achievement of the SDGs.

Local governments are recognized as indispensable partners in the realization of both frameworks. Upon the adoption of the Compacts, 150 local government leaders endorsed the [Marrakech Mayors Declaration “Cities Working Together for Migrants and Refugees,”](#) pledging to advance the principles and objectives of the GCM and GCR. Since 2018, LRGs have played an ever-greater role in global governance discussions on migrants and refugees.

For a full overview of the history of local leadership on the GCM and GCR and progress made since 2018, please consult [“Localizing the Compact Compacts: First Report on Local Action for Migrants and Refugees 2022.”](#)

ADVANCEMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

The role of LRGs in advancing global goals, including the GCR, GCM, and SDGs, was further cemented in 2022 with the launch of the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees at

the [International Migration Review Forum](#) (IMRF). The 2022 IMRF marked the first-ever global review of progress towards the GCM. Organized under the auspices of the UN General Assembly from 16–20 May 2022, the IMRF brought Member States and stakeholders together for five days of programming and resulted in a Progress Declaration adopted by the General Assembly.

A global delegation of mayors and local government leaders actively engaged in the preparations for the 2022 IMRF and attended the IMRF in person at the UN New York Headquarters. The participation of this delegation marked a historic advancement for local governments in global migration governance.

In the lead up to the IMRF, LRGs contributed to activities organized by the [UN Network on Migration](#) and the [Regional Reviews of the GCM](#), as well as successfully influenced the IMRF Progress Declaration. As a result of this active engagement in the preparations, the [UN Secretary-General’s Report on the Status of Implementation of the GCM](#) in February 2022 acknowledged the “instrumental role” of LRGs and their role in promoting and implementing the GCM. The report specifically mentioned several LRG initiatives, such as the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees and the [C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate Migration](#).

At the IMRF itself, the Mayors Mechanism partnership (UCLG, MMC, IOM), in affiliation with the [Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments](#), convened and supported an official LRG delegation, secured formal access for 16 mayors and local government leaders, and ensured speaking opportunities



Photo: MMC in Beria, Mozambique
© Samer Saliba/MMC

in over 85% of all IMRF sessions. LRGs also co-hosted high-level meetings, including with the President of the UN General Assembly, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, and the European Commissioner for Home Affairs. Lastly, 5 cities were invited to join their respective national delegations, bringing the whole-of-government principle to life. These avenues helped cities highlight their critical role in global migration governance and advocated for increased access, mandates, and resources.

LRG KEY MESSAGES AT IMRF

- Local governments are critical actors of global migration governance and need increased access, mandates, and resources.
- Local governments are part of the solution to climate migration.
- Local governments spearhead people-centered migration policies and contribute to saving lives.
- Local governments are forerunners of universal access to services.
- Local governments propose a balanced narrative on migration.



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The IMRF also allowed LRGs to inform the GCM implementation assessment by showcasing their commitments and contributions. Importantly, it was an opportunity to influence the recommendations for future GCM implementation, as set out in the [IMRF Progress Declaration](#), adopted by the UN General Assembly. **The IMRF Progress Declaration recognizes the role of LRGs in migration governance and reaffirms key policy areas of concern to LRGs, including a whole-of-government approach, equal and safe access to services, eliminating discrimination, and promoting migration pathways.**

Critically, the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees was officially launched at an IMRF side event organized by the Mayors Mechanism (UCLG, MMC, IOM, in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and UNHCR). During the event, LRGs officially delivered 70 local pledges to Global Compacts to Mr. António Vitorino, then Director General of IOM and guardian of the GCM implementation. Through the Call to Local Action, LRGs delivered more pledges to action than any other stakeholder group attending the IMRF outside of member states.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE IMRF

- LRGs launched the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees and delivered 70 actions to the UN that make a tangible difference for migrants and refugees.
- The IMRF Progress Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly recognizes the role of the LRGs.
- LRGs had speaking roles in 6 of the 7 official IMRF sessions.
- LRGs participated in 20 IMRF-related events.

A full summary of activities is available in the [“IMRF Summary Report 2022: Local Government at the First Review of the Global Compact for Migration.”](#)

CONNECTION TO LOCALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Since the IMRF, LRGs and the Call to Local Action have made several key advancements.

Dignifying human mobility and territorial solidarity in a renewed vision of multilateralism: The Pact for the Future of Humanity and the Lampedusa Charter

Adopted by UCLG at the 2022 World Congress held in Daejeon (Republic of Korea), the [Pact for the Future of Humanity—the Daejeon Political Declaration](#) is a political and programmatic beacon of the LRG constituency around the world. Amongst others, it acknowledges the ineffectiveness and unfairness of border-centered approaches to human mobility and calls on all stakeholders to take a caring and people-centered approach that contributes to a sustained and profound transformation of our societies, including migrants irrespective of their administrative status.

The [Lampedusa Charter on Dignified Human Mobility and Territorial Solidarity](#), also endorsed and officially launched at the UCLG World Congress in October 2022, is a further milestone in a long path of local efforts and global advocacy to overcome border-centered approaches to migration and forced displacement. Framing our priorities to implement our global commitments as part of the People’s axis of the Pact for the Future, the Lampedusa Charter renews the narrative on human mobility by establishing a notion of citizenship that acknowledges all communities as neighbors, right holders, and community developers.

Built upon the engagement and contributions of hundreds of stakeholders, including LRGs, global partners, and territorial allies from around the world over two years, the Lampedusa Charter is more than a leadership commitment. It is a process, a political vision and an action plan that involves the whole society. Through the Charter, LRGs commit to promote and defend the Right to the City for all, standing at the frontlines with dignity, equity, recognition, participation, solidarity, community, and resilience as their main driving principles.

Strengthening the focus on migration and forced displacement at the July 2023 UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

The HLPF is the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,



© Anna Watts/MMC

which meets annually in July. In 2023, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities was under review, together with SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure, and SDG 17 on partnerships.

On the Local and Regional Governments' Day, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments released its [7th Report to the HLPF](#). The report includes 5 thematic papers that zoom in on how LRGs advance different dimensions of SDG 11. Cities and regions that joined the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees were included throughout the different SDG localization papers, illustrating the crosscutting nature of migration and forced displacement across local policies on housing, access to health care, environmental justice, and participation.

UN-Habitat released its [SDG 11 Synthesis Report](#) at the 2023 HLPF, which considers human mobility as helping to make a “transformative shift for a better urban future,” including through the achievement of the Migration and Refugee Compacts. To do so, the report states, LRGs need a role in the design and implementation of responses to human mobility. The report also recognizes the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees as a “repository of ready-to-be-scaled solutions to further both Compacts.”

IOM and UNDP hosted an HLPF Side Event [“Leveraging Human Mobility to Rescue the 2030 Agenda and Accelerate the SDGs.”](#) At the HLPF, IOM also called on governments and stakeholders to take six “Accelerating Actions” to meet the SDGs, including increasing support for urban development planning and taking action on climate migration.

[The Call to Local Action at the core of the SDG Summit: a High-Impact Initiative accelerating the 2030 Agenda and contributing to rescuing the SDGs](#)

The Pact for the Future, the Lampedusa Charter, the Call to Local Action, and the participation at the HLPF, allowed the constituency of local and regional governments to bring their engagement a step further and play an active role at the UN SDG Summit held in September 2023 within the framework of the UN General Assembly High-Level Week. The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees was recognized as one of 10 transformative high-impact coalitions that accelerate collective progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, hence included into the UCLG decalogue and presented by the Mayor of Lampedusa during the Local and Regional Governments Forum, part of the official program of the SDG Summit.

“With human rights and peace as our horizon, we make human mobility work for all and foster social inclusion, with dignity at the center together with other spheres of governments, local communities and civil society, as well as international organizations, and other key partners, we are scaling up the transformative initiatives co-created in our territories.” (UCLG Decalogue “Towards Cities, Governments and a Multilateral System that Care for People, Democracy and our Planet”, presented at the SDG Summit)

Also during the 2023 SDG Summit, the UN identified 12 High-Impact Initiatives to transform and accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda. The Call to Local Action, which was proposed by UCLG on behalf of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, was selected as one of the “existing initiatives and [...] best practices [to] build an enabling environment to fill in gaps” towards achieving the SDGs. The success of the Call to Local Action was acknowledged by UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Kelly T. Clements during the Summit’s Acceleration Day. With this global recognition, the Call to Local Action was further placed at the heart of the SDG global rescue

plan called by the UN Secretary-General in the framework of the UN General Assembly 78 High-level Week.

New UN partnership for complementary implementation of the GCM and the GCR

States, stakeholders, and UN entities have increasingly highlighted the need for complementarity in the implementation of the GCM and GCR for a more effective and coordinated approach for refugees and migrants. Encouraging complementary between the GCM and GCR is a long-standing priority of local governments and a foundational principle of the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees. To fill this need, IOM, together with UNHCR, introduced a “mirror pledge” approach under the umbrella of the UN Network on Migration. Mirror pledges enable entities to make commitments to both Compacts and serve both refugees and migrants, a major win not agreed in 2018. The mirror pledge mechanism will follow through to the Call to Local Action, which has already put this approach into practice with more than 80% of 2022 local pledges serving both communities regardless of status.



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2022 CALL TO LOCAL ACTION SUBMISSIONS: TRENDS AND LESSONS

In May 2022, the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees delivered 70 actions to the IMRF that help achieve the GCM and GCR in unison. Key trends and lessons emerged from this first collection of LRG actions that will inform the future mobilization of the Call to Local Action.

The 2022 actions showcase the key role of LRGs in spearheading concrete GCM and GCR implementation. Not only are LRGs principal providers of services to newcomers but they also spearhead principled action to address longer-term inclusion needs. Working closely with LRGs offers enormous potential: LRGs hold the key to unlock the whole-of-government and whole-of-society principles and many commitments in the GCM and GCR. If LRGs are backed up with the needed mandates and financing, their successes can truly drive national success and global impact.

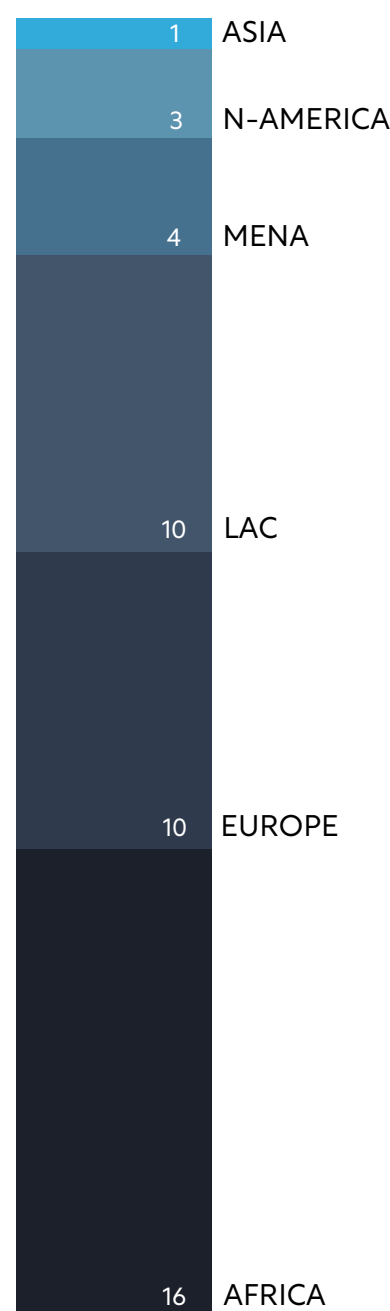
2022 Trends

- LRGs joining the Call to Local Action serve a population of 100 million people globally and have mobilized \$23 million to localize the Global Compacts for Migrants and Refugees.
- **84% of actions were from LRGs** (59 actions delivered by 44 different LRGs). The remaining 16% of actions were submitted by networks or partnerships supporting LRGs (11 actions).
- **20% of LRGs committed to take more than one action** (Arua, Barranquilla, Bogotá, Boston, Lampedusa, Milan, Montréal, Nador, and Zürich).
- **83% of actions are direct service delivery projects or programs** supporting migrants and refugees, rather than advocacy efforts or communications campaigns.
- **73% of actions serve both migrants and forcibly displaced populations.** Many also simultaneously serve host communities (22%), building inclusion and local development simultaneously.
- **83% of actions are delivered in partnership with civil society**, including migrant and refugee-led organizations, contributing to the whole-of-society and localization principles of the Compacts.
- **Most LRG actions are from Africa (36%), North America and Europe (30%), and**

Latin America and the Caribbean (23%). Asia and the Middle East and North Africa are underrepresented in the 2022 actions at just 9% of submissions.

- **LRGs are taking action regardless of their size**, with 36% of actions coming from cities with a population of more than 1.5 million and 25% coming from small urban areas with a population under 200,000.

2022 LRGs BY REGION



PRIORITIES OF 2022 ACTIONS



2022 Lessons

Despite the impact achieved, the Call to Local Action and LRGs face several barriers and challenges to meaningfully engaging in migration governance and refugee protection and support the implementation of the Global Compacts.

Multi-level Governance:

- Only 3 LRGs reported they have been invited by their national government or regional organization to join GCM/GCR implementation or review discussions. While LRGs were active at the IMRF, access and accreditation remained a significant barrier to entry. Significant progress is still needed to make the whole-of-government and whole-of-society vision a reality for GCM and GCR implementation.

Size and Regional Representation:

- More specific and targeted outreach to partners in Asia and the Pacific will be important for the future of the Call to Local Action. Further outreach to secondary cities as well as smaller cities and towns (under 50,000 residents) could be another area to grow. Such diverse participation will foster improved understanding of the differences between types of cities and their actions and capacities.

Sustainability and Budget:

- Most 2022 actions are pilot projects with limited costs (under \$1M) that could be scaled up for larger impact and greater achievement of the Global Compacts. The Call to Local Action could offer a pathway to identify investment-ready projects and support their scaling but further investment from donors is needed.

Inclusive Approach:

- Many LRGs serve migrants, refugees, and IDPs indiscriminately: migratory status often does not impact how LRGs foster inclusion and address specific vulnerabilities in communities. Several local actions focus on IDPs only, particularly in response to the impact of climate change on migration and displacement. However, these actions are not recognized by the UN pledging system, since internal forced displacement falls outside the scope of the Migration and Refugee Compacts. Not recognizing this reality in these global and complementary frameworks risks leaving out specific situations, particularly relevant in the face of climate change and a whole-of-journey approach.

SPOTLIGHT: CALL TO LOCAL ACTION'S 8 PRIORITIES

Actions submitted to the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees will contribute to better management of migration and forced displacement at the local level, in line with all the Global Compact for Migration's objectives and guiding principles and the Global Compact on Refugees' objectives and focus areas, both of which enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

CALL TO LOCAL ACTION FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES PRIORITIES

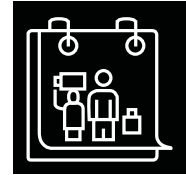
1. Improving local governance



2. Minimizing drivers



3. Protecting those most vulnerable



4. Providing infrastructure services



GCM OBJECTIVES

Objective 23

Objective 2

Objective 7

Objective 4

GCR FOCUS AREAS

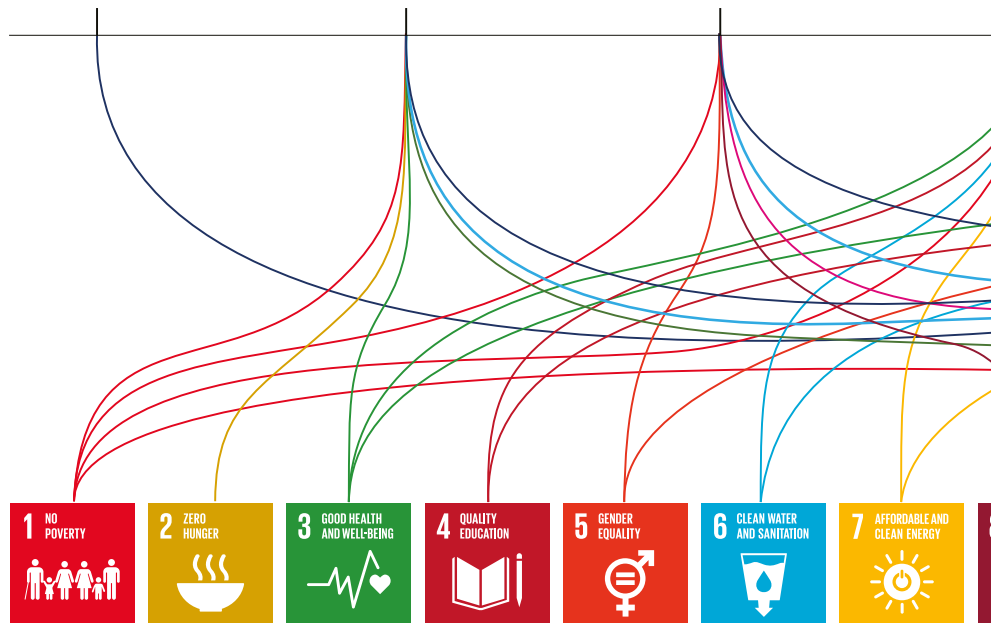
Responsibility Sharing

Solutions

Protection Capacity

Education, Health, Energy, Infrastructure

SDGs COMMITMENTS



Providing access
to infrastructure &
services



Objective 15

Education
with
energy &
infrastructure

5. Realizing
social inclusion



Objective 16

Solutions
Jobs &
livelihoods

6. Eliminating
discrimination



Objective 17

Protection
Capacity

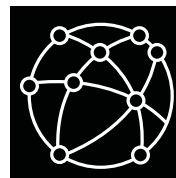
7. Supporting
reception &
sponsorship



Objective 7 & 15

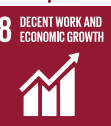
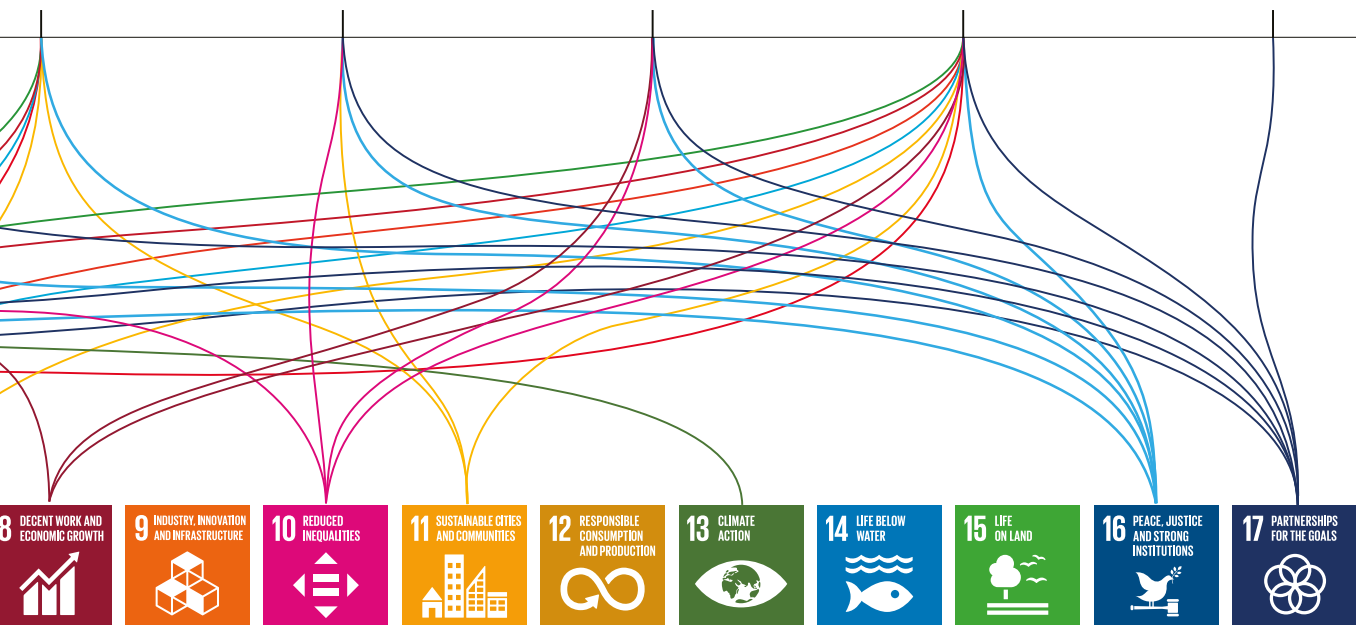
Solutions

8. Engaging in
partnerships



Objective 23

Responsibility
Sharing





1. IMPROVING MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT PROTECTION

GCM Objectives: 23

GCR Focus Areas: Responsibility sharing

SDG Commitments: Goal 17

Type of Actions: Actions that improve LRGs' 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 the local level.

2022 Action – São Paulo’s Municipal Plan of Policies for the Immigrant Population

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 participation of migrants and refugees and in accordance with the city’s ground-breaking policy framework. More information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action – Improving Refugees’ Participation in City Planning in Arua

Arua committed to improve the representation and participation of urban refugees and migrants in its governance processes. Through the project “Strengthening Mechanisms for Receiving, Managing, and Integrating Involuntary Migrants within the Municipal Council,” Arua’s Municipal Development Forum (MDF) at the city level and Division Development Forums (DDF) at the sub-city level will be reorganized to improve the coordination of and social accountability towards community structures and stakeholders. The forums will provide a platform for dialogue, identification of community needs, and acting on community preferences, including migrant and refugee communities. This project is supported by the Cities Alliance’s Global Programme on Cities and Migration. More information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action – San José’s Local Migration Governance Indicators Process

San José participated in the Local Migration Governance Indicators Process (Local MGI) from 2020–2022. Through the Local MGI, the Municipality of San José took stock of the policies, structures, and initiatives in place related

to migration. The results of the assessment provided key insights about the challenges and opportunities and the importance of having disaggregated data to understand patterns of migration and the profiles of migrants that come to the municipality, to provide differentiated assistance to this vulnerable population. As a result, the municipality identified the need to strengthen coordination with the national government on migration issues. Further, the exercise highlighted the importance of integrating migrants into existing municipal services and social programs and including migration as a key issue to be addressed in municipal development plans. As a result, the Municipality was able to prepare a plan of action and set priority actions that reflect its capacities and competencies. More information on this action [here](#).

2023 Action – Brazil’s National Network of Welcoming Cities

The Brazilian Government commits to support a National Network of Welcoming Cities (RNCA, in Portuguese), a collaborative and voluntary space for Brazilian municipalities and the national government to debate and discuss proposals on decentralized, democratic, and participatory governance that supports decision-making in the field of human mobility, including forced displacement and statelessness. It aims to support policy development that fosters the inclusion of migrant, refugee, and stateless populations at local level; enables the distribution of grants to support decision-making at the municipal level and to disseminate the principles, objectives, and guidelines of relevant national legislation and policies in the field of migration and forced displacement.



© Brazil’s National Network of Welcoming Cities



2. MINIMIZING 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, foster the inclusion of migrants and refugees in the green transition, help voluntarily relocate those vulnerable to climate change, and provide support for income generation to those that have been forcibly displaced due to climate change.

2022 Action — Reducing Climate Vulnerabilities of Migrants in Accra

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 information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action — “Climate Migration in Urban Areas” Project with the City of Paris

Paris, in partnership with the UN Migration Agency (IOM) and the Hugo Observatory of Liège University, committed to understand the impacts of climate change on migration to and from urban areas and to consider this when developing urban planning tools and climate and migration policies. The project's main objectives are to expand the knowledge available on climate change impacts on migration to and from cities, promote good practice exchange, and support cities in developing inclusive urban policies toward a just and sustainable ecological transition. More information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action — Reducing Climate Vulnerability of Displaced Persons in Beira

With support from the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, Beira commits to supporting the dignified relocation and reintegration of displaced communities forced to leave their homes due to the impacts of climate change. Multiple coastal storms have badly damaged the Praia Nova area of Beira, once a key fishing hub. The city government will transform the 20 de Agosto fish market into a temporary shelter for those families of Praia Nova that have lost or had their homes damaged by extreme climate events. At the same time, the

city government will relocate 100 families to a safer area of the city and provide them with land ownership and livelihood support to aid their reintegration into safer areas of Beira. This project will lead the way for the broader voluntary and dignified resettlement of all Praia Nova families to safer locations in Beira. More information on this action [here](#).

2023 Action — Amman Children's Climate Academy and Park

The Greater Amman Municipality commits to constructing a public park near Al-Hussein Refugee Camp and establishing the city's first Children's Climate Academy to teach Amman's youngest generation the importance of environmental stewardship.

Amman will rehabilitate an open space near Al-Hussein Refugee Camp to build an accessible, climate-adaptive, and age- and gender-responsive public park. In addition to a children's playground, reading area, sports pitches, and walking paths, the park will feature shaded areas where caregivers can rest and relax. The park will also incorporate green infrastructure, such as vegetation and green cover, permeable surfaces to reduce water runoff, and flood-prevention mechanisms. These features will help Amman adapt to and mitigate climate change by improving air and water quality, preventing flooding, and reducing the urban heat island effect.

Within the park, Amman will establish its first ever Children's Climate Academy to provide a safe and welcoming space for refugee and Jordanian children to learn about inclusive climate action. The Academy will offer hands-on workshops on topics like the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the greenhouse effect, and air pollution. With this commitment, Amman will build a more inclusive, climate resilient future for its youngest residents. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.



Photo: Waste recycling area, Accra, Ghana. ©Samer Saliba/MMC



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.

2022 Action — Increasing Immigrants’ Legal Access in Boston

Boston’s strategy commits to providing grant funding to immigrant-led and immigrant-serving organizations to hire culturally competent attorneys and paralegals/case coordinators and pay for the Department of Justice (DOJ) accreditation training process. This approach allows immigrants to utilize the services of known and trusted community-based organizations that provide culturally competent and language-accessible legal services. Moreover, the DOJ accreditation allows these CBOs to provide immigration legal services in-house. To date, funding under the pilot phase has provided support to three CBOs to provide services to their own community based on linguistic needs predominant in the City of Boston—one Haitian Creole-serving, one Brazilian Portuguese-serving, and one Spanish-serving. More information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action — “EMBRACIN” Comprehensive Inclusion for Young Adult Migrants in Andalusian Cities

To reduce vulnerabilities of migrant youth, FAMSÍ (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 migrant youth reception and protection. More information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action — Bogotá’s Nutrition Reception Center for Migrant & Refugee Children & Mothers

Bogotá committed to establish a “Nutrition Reception Center for Migrant and Refugee Children and Mothers,” ensuring food security for vulnerable migrant and refugee populations in the city with a focus on young children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers.

The Nutrition Reception Center will be the first of its kind operated by the city through the District Secretary of Health and the District Secretary of Social Inclusion with private sector and international cooperation. The center will serve as Bogotá’s main service delivery point for outreach activities, food distribution, and case management and referral pathways for migrant and refugee children and their caregivers. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees. More information on this action [here](#).

2023 Action — Facilitating Dual Nationality, Preventing Statelessness, and Promoting Inclusion for Foreign-Born Children and their Families in the State of Tlaxcala

The State of Tlaxcala commits to ensuring effective access to the right to identify for individuals born abroad through the elimination of the requirement to present an apostilled foreign birth certificate in order to obtain dual nationality.

With this policy, the State offers a structural solution that allows effective access to the right to identity for individuals born abroad, which in turn secures access to other fundamental rights such as health, education, work, and housing. It guarantees protection of foreign-born children and also provides an opportunity for returning and deported families to integrate into their communities. This action represents an effective implementation of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States (Article 30) which directly grants Mexican nationality to individuals born abroad whose parents were born in Mexican territory or acquired it through naturalization. However, federal entities often impose requirements through their secondary regulations that exceed those required by the Constitution. This policy now reaffirms the constitutionality of the actions of local governments in civil registry matters and upholds the rights outlined in the Political Constitution of the Free and Sovereign State of Tlaxcala and the Law of the Rights of Girls, Boys, and Adolescents of the State.



Photo: Bogotá’s Nutrition Reception Center. ©Samer Saliba/MMC



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 to migrants regardless of status, as well as setting up a one-stop shop for services and introducing referral mechanisms and outreach initiatives about available services.

2022 Action – Fearless Access to Services for Migrants with Precarious Immigration Status in Montréal

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

2022 Action – Beirut’s Mobile Health Clinic

Beirut commits to bringing health care services closer to those in need, including migrants and refugees. In partnership with UN-Habitat Lebanon, the city government has purchased and deployed the city’s first Municipal Mobile Health Clinic, which provides free and non-discriminatory COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and other basic medical services to individuals otherwise unable to access them. Beirut is committed to building on the experience of the Mobile Health Clinic to continue delivering flexible services to vulnerable communities while strengthening its accountability toward all of Beirut’s residents. This project was supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees. More information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action – Insight-driven response to homeless migrant and displaced populations in eThekweni

The eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality implements an insight-driven response to the unmet social and economic needs of undocumented migrant and displaced populations living in situations of homelessness. Focused on improving documentation and access to social services, the project follows a three phased approach. Phase One will focus on a comprehensive point-in-time survey to gauge current needs and numbers of the target population. Phase Two will include the development of eThekweni’s ‘CARE’ database—a self-registration platform that will be connected

to existing local drop-in centers distributed across the city. This development phase will also include trust-building activities run in partnership with local civil society organizations to ensure the buy-in of the target population. The final phase of the project will be the roll-out of the CARE program, which will facilitate the registration of refugees and asylum-seekers at the city-level, providing them with unique identification codes they can use to access critical city services, such as access to healthcare, education, food and non-food items, temporary shelter, and livelihoods programs. More information on this action [here](#).

2023 Action – The City of Dallas Community Ambassador Program: Facilitating Access to Information and Services for Linguistically Diverse Communities

The City of Dallas commits to implementing the Community Ambassadors Program. Rooted in Dallas’s Welcoming Strategic Plan, this program aims to raise awareness of municipal services in linguistically diverse communities and enhance communication between the city and its residents. In collaboration with local non-profits, the City of Dallas has recruited immigrant residents as community ambassadors, engaging them directly in neighborhoods that host high numbers of migrants and refugees. These ambassadors will offer information about available services in multiple languages. Acknowledging the evolving diversity of the Dallas immigrant population, the city is also interested in providing services in languages of more recent newcomer populations. Dallas also will work with the ambassadors to identify needs and thresholds, with the aim to better tailor municipal services. They will also play a crucial role in collecting information from their networks and building trust between the city administration and language-diverse communities. By partnering with local non-profits and working directly with community members, the City of Dallas aims to build welcoming connections and address the unique needs of immigrant and refugee populations, ultimately building bridges among immigrant residents and other members of the community.



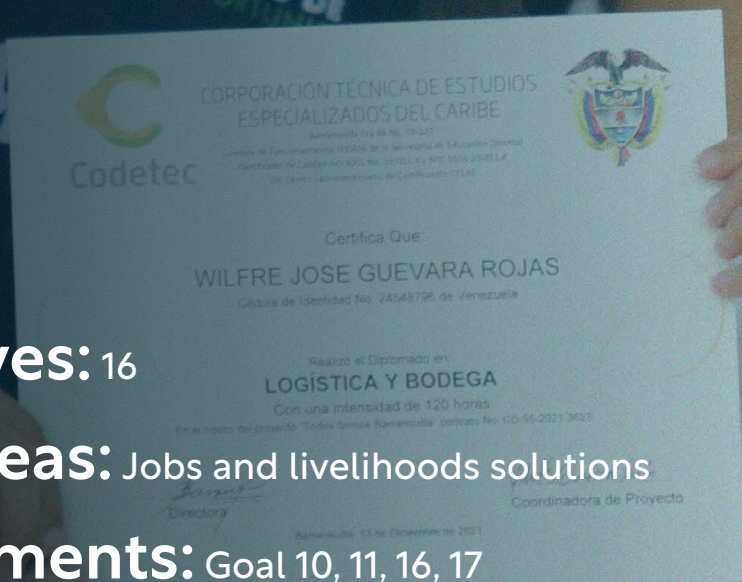
5. REALIZING SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

GCM Objectives: 16

GCR Focus Areas: Jobs and livelihoods solutions

SDG Commitments: Goal 10, 11, 16, 17

Type of Actions: Actions may include initiatives that ensure the participation of migrants and refugees in local policymaking, 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.



2022 Action – Todos Somos Barranquilla Opportunities Center

Barranquilla committed to expanding its “*Todos Somos Barranquilla*” project to realize socio-economic inclusion of migrants and refugees through access to services and employment opportunities. Established in 2021, Todos Somos Barranquilla offers a comprehensive suite of services to 100 clients, providing them with specialized vocational training, psychosocial support, legal documentation support, and direct access to over 90 of Barranquilla’s employers. Focused on Venezuelan refugees but open to all, clients include women, youth, victims of armed conflict, and persons living with disabilities. More information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action – Boston’s Immigrant Professionals Fellowship

The City of Boston committed to developing 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 information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action – Youth Work for All in Mechelen

Mechelen commits to implementing the “Youth for All” project to support migrant and refugee youth and strengthen the youth movement in the city. Not every family finds its way easily to youth work, and the youth movements of Mechelen are not yet a reflection and representation of the diversity in the city. Mechelen’s Youth Service has taken up the challenge to change this, working with the youth movements and their associations. The project is targeted at families

with a migration background and/or a refugee story and youth movements to support their outreach to migrant and refugee communities and to set up their own diversity policy. The main objectives of the project are: guiding new members with a migration background towards sustainable youthwork; supporting youth associations regarding diversity, inclusion, and accessibility; and raising awareness of the added value of youthwork. More information on this action [here](#).

2023 Action – Laguna Province Establishes a One Stop Migration Resource Center

Laguna Province establishes a “One Stop Migration Resource Center,” which serves as the hub for information and support to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families. OFWs are often burdened with the feeling of homesickness, lack of inclusion, and specific health implications. Many face problems with regard to their contract, claims, and benefits. Returning migrants have often faced abuse and exploitation and can find themselves estranged from their family at home, and families left behind are often experiencing the social cost of migration such as estranged relationships and negligence of the children. The One Stop Migration Resource Center serves as the hub for migrants and their families to access information with the aim to prevent human trafficking and help with the reintegration of returning migrants into their home communities. It offers economic opportunities, provides specific trainings for both departing and returning migrants, and ensures psychosocial support for migrants and their families. Lastly, the Center supports and complements the efforts of local governments and other partners and provides a space for discussion and capacity building of stakeholders working with migrants.



Photo: “Youth for All” activities, Mechelen, Belgium. ©City of Mechelen



6. ELIMINATING ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC DISCOURSE

GCM Objectives: 17

GCR Focus Areas: Protection capacity

SDG Commitments: Goal 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.

2022 Action – Social & Sustainable Nador

The City of Nador contributed to the development of social and sustainable cities by promoting a realistic and fair discourse on migration. This 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-centered narrative on human mobility. More information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action – Lampedusa Inauguration of the “Walk of Peace”

On 3 October 2013, 368 migrants lost their lives after a boat carrying them to Europe capsized off the island of Lampedusa in southern Italy. Since then, it is estimated that more than 15,000 migrants have lost their lives in the Mediterranean during their migratory journeys. Every 3 October, survivors and their families, together with civil society organizations and national and European authorities, gather on the island to honor those lost and call for a renewed framework to protect all. The annual commemoration marks a symbolic turning point towards a joint municipal effort to promote human rights-based approaches to human mobility as part of the Lampedusa Charter Process. More information on this action [here](#).

2023 Action – Expanding Welcoming Week Across the Globe and Fostering Belonging for All

Welcoming America commits to delivering its annual Welcoming Week campaign and to expand that campaign in 2024. Welcoming Week provides institutions and individuals the opportunity to showcase their values through initiatives that foster connections between migrants and non-migrants, as well as belonging for all. Started in 2020, Welcoming America supports the expansion of Welcoming Week globally and provides a toolkit, technical assistance, peer learning, campaign assets, and/or financial resources to additional implementing organizations—both national governments and civil society—to launch Welcoming Week in their countries. Local and regional governments, NGOs, migrant- and refugee-led organizations, local businesses, and others participate by hosting events (670 in 2023) and engaging on social and traditional media.



بتنفيذ من:



Photo: Information poster, City of Nador, Morocco. ©City of Nador



7. SUPPORTING RECEPTION AND ADVANCING COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVES

GCM Objectives: 7, 15

GCR Focus Areas: 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.

2022 Action – Local & Regional Governments' Pledge for Children Displaced by the Conflict in Ukraine

The City of Braga committed to welcoming children and their families and providing 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 information on this action [here](#).

2022 Action – The Gaziantep Social Cohesion Model

Gaziantep remains committed to the integration of Syrian refugees. Taking a humanitarian approach based on social justice and human rights, the city works with UN Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, and public entities, to implement the Gaziantep Migration Model's (GMM) migration policy. The GMM's policies will contribute to ensuring the common welfare of refugees and host communities. As part of the GMM, the city has established Turkey's first [Migration Management Directorate](#) to lead the refugee response program of the city, ensuring no one is left behind.

2022 Action – Humanitarian Aid from Zürich for Ukrainian refugees in neighboring countries

With a financial commitment of 500,000 Swiss francs, the City of Zürich committed to supporting refugee reception and assistance in Ukraine's neighboring countries. This

encompasses contributions to humanitarian aid programs maintained by national charitable collection organizations as well as the four largest Swiss relief organizations. The main focus of the aid is emergency assistance for refugees at the borders of Ukraine with the neighboring countries Romania, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, and Poland. The Zürich City Council will consider further financial contributions to humanitarian assistance for Ukraine in 2022. More information on this action [here](#).

2023 Action – Galați Supports Ukrainian Refugees, Fostering Their Self-Reliance and Well-Being

Galati Municipality commits to enhance the livelihoods of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. In light of the Russia–Ukraine conflict in 2022 and arrival of Ukrainian refugees, Galati has recognized the demand for short and medium-term accommodation support. The mobilization of various stakeholders was critical in the success of this humanitarian effort. The local community was actively involved through private and volunteering initiatives, providing essential supplies, and creating a welcoming space for those forced to flee their homes. The municipality acknowledges all community efforts to integrate refugees into the community, facilitate access to education, and promote social cohesion as crucial for the long-term well-being.

Continuing accommodation support, Galati also provides access for refugee children to state kindergartens and nurseries. This fosters resilience and helps refugees secure employment and achieve social integration. The establishment of transparent communication channels help refugees to keep informed about available housing options, support services, and employment opportunities as well as facilitating community integration by the organization of social events promoting social cohesion.



©Dunaivtsi City Council, Ukraine.



8. ENGAGING IN REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS AND INCREASING CITY-TO-CITY COOPERATION

GCM Objectives: 23

GCR Focus Areas: Responsibility Sharing

SDG Commitments: Goal 17

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

2022 Action — Germany and the Mayors Mechanism

Local and regional governments (LRGs) are at the forefront when it comes to responding to migration. It is at the local level that international, regional, and national policies and programs are implemented. The local level can also be a catalyst for innovative and human-centered practices that have potential to be scaled, replicated, or adapted to other local, national, or international contexts. Germany recognizes this key role of LRGs and values their participation in global migration governance processes. Therefore, Germany supports the GFMD Mayors Mechanism in the rollout of its Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees. This Call to Local Action aims to increase states' and multilateral actors' recognition of the transformative impact of LRGs on migration governance by showcasing local approaches to migration governance and illustrating actions that contribute to the implementation of the GCM and the GCR. More information [here](#).

2022 Action — C40 Cities and the Mayors Migration Council Invest in Achieving the Global Mayors Action Agenda on Climate and Migration

As leading mayor-led organizations on climate and migration, respectively, C40 Cities and the Mayors Migration Council join together and commit to accelerating global action on climate migration. C40 and MMC will invest in and scale up the work of the C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate Migration (C40-MMC Task Force), a mayor-led initiative to accelerate global

responses to climate and migration. They will be guided by the Global Mayors Action Agenda on Climate and Migration launched at COP26 in 2021, which sets out a collective vision for inclusive climate action. In 2022–2023, C40 and MMC will: 1) Work together to achieve the Global Mayors Action Agenda on Climate and Migration; 2) Support city-led solutions to climate and migration challenges through a new chapter of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees focusing on Inclusive Climate Action (GCF:ICA). The GCF:ICA will provide direct technical and financial resources to cities addressing the needs of migrant and displaced communities affected by the climate crisis. These actions are in line with the Paris Agreement, the GCR, and if achieved, will contribute to the direct advancement of GCM objectives (mainly: 2, 5, 7, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 23).

2022 Action — Africa-Europe Mayors' Dialogue, Milan-Freetown Partnership on Fashion and Textile

The Cities of Freetown and Milan committed to working 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 information on this action [here](#).



SPOTLIGHT: LOCAL-GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE CALL TO LOCAL ACTION

Local governments are not in it alone. The partners of the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees have each established dedicated tools to support and stand with local governments as they serve migrant and refugee communities.

UCLG: ENHANCING LOCAL CAPACITIES THROUGH CITY-TO-CITY PEER LEARNING TO CO-CREATE A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT BASED ON CARE AND RIGHTS

In 2023, under the collegiate mandate of Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and President of the World Organization, UCLG took an **unprecedented commitment to bring the protection and inclusion of refugees and migrants at the heart of all the global development agendas—and at the center of the global learning and advocacy strategy** of the organization. It did so with the inclusion of the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees as a backbone strategy of UCLG for the SDG Summit, which was also included by the UN as part of **one of 12 High-Impact Initiatives** to transform and accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

UCLG also materialized its commitment through **peer-learning on local responses to address climate displacement, as well as on anti-discrimination and participation for migrants and refugees**, as part of the learning pillar of the Call to Local Action. The promising practices by 25 diverse cities, the experiences of around 100 local actors including other local and regional governments, CSOs, and stakeholders from all over the world, together with the knowledge, reflections, methodologies, and tools exchanged during these two peer-learning days, contributed to collecting, disseminating, and supporting innovative responses and solidarity initiatives from the territories that benefit migrant, displaced and host communities alike.

Concurrent to these cyclical peer learning, 215 local actors are learning in depth about

how these territorial actions on human mobility are cumulatively localizing the Global Compacts for Migration and on Refugees, through our **Massive Open Online Course**, launched December 2022. This growing community of learners on human mobility comprises over 25 municipal representatives, technical staffers from CSOs, city networks, municipal associations, international and UN organizations, university students, and academic researchers engaged in migration governance and refugee protection.

Building on these experiences, the Mayor of Konya, as President of World Organization, presented at the Global Refugee Forum **UCLG's pledge to continue promoting the inextricable centrality of the human mobility agenda, fostered through local action, for the achievement of all the global development agendas**, in the framework of the GTF's work and looking at the Summit of the Future. This pledge, including tangible results, involves:

- Placing the importance of refugee and migrant protection and integration at the **center of the conversation about the need for a rescue plan for the SDGs**, and about how to shape a renewed multilateral system that is networked, efficient, and inclusive.
- Including migration and refugee issues as **core elements of the LRGs input for the Summit for the Future**
- Promoting the Call to Local Action as a **blueprint of high-impact initiatives** that are advancing the 2030 Agenda and contributing to approaching global challenges in partnership through enhanced multilevel governance.



© UCLG

- Supporting inclusive local policies for migrants and refugees through **capacity building of local stakeholders** on the Global Compacts on Migration and for Refugees and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through learning tools such as the Massive Online Open Course on localizing the compacts and the Call to Local Action learning pillar.
- Showcasing the role of local governments in **advancing the Global Compact for Refugees** and as a means to implement all the global development agendas.

“*The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees is more than a repository of city actions to deliver the Global Compacts. It’s also a marketplace of solutions ready to be scaled by donors through the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.*”

Vittoria Zanuso,
Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council

MMC: BRINGING THE GLOBAL CITIES FUND FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO \$50 MILLION

The MMC’s [Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees](#) (GCF) responds to the unmet needs of cities as they support migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs) in the face of pressing challenges, from global pandemics to the climate crisis. By directly funding cities to implement inclusive programs of their own design, the GCF builds precedents of fiscal feasibility in city governments that are often disregarded by donors with low risk tolerance.

At the 2023 GRF the MMC pledged to bring the Global Cities Fund to reach \$50 million—starting with \$25 million by 2025— so it can support more cities and deepen its impact through multi-year grants and more predictable funding rounds.

This pledge builds on three years of impact highlighted in the GCF Progress Report released in December 2023. Created by the MMC in 2021 with an \$1 million seed investment to support 5 cities in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, in just 3 years the GCF has become an \$8 million fund supported by 5 donors with a pipeline of 28 city grantees delivering solutions on health, economic inclusion, climate migration, early childhood development, and more.

In successfully delivering their projects, city grantees are localizing the Global Compacts while building their case for more direct funding to continue or expand their projects. To date, **90% of cities who benefited from the GCF have already used this seed funding as proof of concept to independently unlock additional investments.** All have pledged their projects to the Call to Local Action, recognizing their connection to the Global Compacts for Migrants and Refugees.

The success of GCF cities presages the potential of all cities to welcome migrants and refugees. To realize this potential, the international humanitarian and development community, together with national governments and multilateral funding mechanisms, must use

the GCF as evidence of the impact of directly investing in cities.

Examples of impact from GCF cities include:

Medellín, Colombia, used its GCF grant to provide emergency shelter for more than 300 migrant and refugee families at risk of homelessness. The city coupled this emergency intervention with complementary programs to register migrants, get kids into local schools, and secure formal jobs for parents. With this comprehensive support, more than 75% of participating families found permanent housing in the city. Medellín used this success to independently secure over \$1 million to keep this project going.

Freetown, Sierra Leone, used its GCF grant to create a waste management program that loans tricycles to micro-enterprises run by youth living in informal settlements — many of whom are rural migrants. Two years later, these enterprises are still active and have paid back 50 percent of the cost of each tricycle, which the city is using to establish additional youth enterprises and expand the project’s impact. Freetown secured over \$1 million in funding from a multilateral development bank to expand the project.

Beirut, Lebanon, used its GCF grant to purchase and operate the first ever Municipal Mobile Health Clinic, which provides free and accessible healthcare services to residents, regardless of origin. After vaccinating over 3,500 Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, and Iraqi residents of Beirut during the project’s timeframe, the clinic is now a permanent fixture of the city’s healthcare system supported by Beirut’s own budget.



Photo: Freetown, Sierra Leone, Waste Management Project ©Freetown Municipality



Photo: Beirut Mobile Health Clinic ©Samer Saliba/MMC



Photo: Moria camp, Greek Island of Lesbos.
©UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

UNHCR: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE AMERICAS ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF INTEGRATING AND INCLUDING REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN HOST COMMUNITIES.

In the Americas, most refugees and migrants live in urban or peri-urban areas, and local authorities play a crucial role in identifying solutions for their integration and active contribution to society. Local authorities facilitate access to essential services. They can bring about local policy changes that positively impact the lives of refugees.

City of Solidarity is a network of more than 70 cities, local governments, associations, and networks of national and regional municipalities that cooperate and exchange good practices to provide protection and ensure the inclusion of refugees and migrants in urban areas. It promotes development, diversity, and cultural exchange in host communities.

The City of Solidarity initiative stems from the recommendations identified by the countries of the Americas and the Caribbean in the

framework of the 2004 Mexico Plan of Action and the 2014 Brazil Plan of Action to recognize the efforts of local governments to protect and integrate refugees and migrants.

UNHCR: “EFFECTIVE INCLUSION OF REFUGEES: PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES FOR PRACTITIONERS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL”

To support and enhance the partnership between UNHCR and Local Authorities, the toolkit “[Effective inclusion of refugees: Participatory approaches for practitioners at the local level](#)” was released in April 2022. The toolkit provides step-by-step practical guidelines and communication materials for running integration and inclusion practices, helping local actors build participatory approaches in their respective towns. It focuses on the design, monitoring, and evaluation of such practices, including providing guidance on eliciting feedback from beneficiaries and indicators for measuring progress, assessing impact, and adapting when required.

Find out more about UNHCR’s work with Local Authorities [here](#).

“Local and regional governments are the first respondents to promote the social and economic inclusion of migrants and refugees, reducing their vulnerabilities and protecting them from exploitation and harm.”

Marta Suplicy,
Secretary of International Affairs, City of São Paulo, Brazil

IOM: MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION INTO LOCAL POLICIES AND PLANNING

IOM's Migration and Sustainable Development division has led two flagship programs to mainstream migration into local policies and planning and connected these policies with national planning and policy processes, while providing technical assistance, partnership development, and capacity building activities to improve services for migrants and displaced persons. Additional guidance was provided in partnership with other UN agencies to LRGs and rural communities seeking to integrate migration into planning and service delivery. This also included support to UN Country Teams to better reflect LRG priorities in their strategic planning.

Additionally, IOM has produced many tools and training materials to support LRGs such as the My JMDI Toolbox, IOM Emergency Manual, Mainstreaming Migration into Urban and Rural Development co-authored with UN Habitat and the FAO, respectively, and Guidelines on Mainstreaming Migration into Local Development Planning. IOM aims to engage in stronger, more targeted outreach to IOM Country Offices to encourage them to join the Call to Local Action. Additionally, IOM has strengthened the **M4D Net**, an inter-agency knowledge platform on migration and sustainable development and an active network of over 1000 practitioners and policy-makers, including many local authorities, which forms a community of practice on migration and development.

IOM: MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

As the role of cities in international climate governance is growing in importance, IOM contributes to fostering the dialogue between LRGs willing to promote ambitious action to address the challenges of climate change and migration in urban contexts. For example, given the focus of this year's Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) on the impact of climate change on human mobility, IOM supported the organization of a technical workshop, co-organized by the City of Paris and the Mayors Mechanism. It brought together cities from all over the world to discuss how to implement climate adaptation policies that promote migrant and refugee inclusion at the local level. This initiative took place in the context of a broader project conducted by IOM with the Hugo Observatory and the City of Paris:

“Climate Migration in Urban Areas: Challenges, Representations and Inclusion,” which resulted in the drafting of an action agenda for the City of Paris to ensure a fair, inclusive, and resilient transition. The City of Paris submitted this project to the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, hereby simultaneously pledging to localize the GCM and GCR.

IOM: LOCAL MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

The Local Migration Governance Indicators (Local MGI) initiative has been supporting LRGs since 2018 in developing evidence-based policies, improving their migration management systems, and fostering dialogue between local and national authorities to promote policy coherence. For example, the Local MGI supported the municipality of San Marcos (Guatemala) in developing its new municipal migration policy, and, as a result of the process, a Municipal Office for Migrant Assistance was established to provide safe and accurate information on migration procedures, services offered, and regular pathways for migration, addressing a gap identified in the assessment. Additionally, to recognize and give visibility to the efforts of local governments keen on improving their local migration governance, the second edition of the **MGI success stories** features good practices from local governments in the Americas, including San Marcos (Guatemala), Medellín (Colombia), Coto Brus (Costa Rica), and Guanajuato (Mexico), in Africa (Freetown, Bo, Kenema, and Makini in Sierra Leone) and in Europe (Cahul and Balti in Moldova).

The Local MGI has sparked new initiatives aimed at offering technical assistance and support to local governments beyond the initial assessment. For instance, in Argentina and Brazil, the Local MGI served as a basis to develop the *MigraCiudades* project, which is being implemented in close collaboration with actors from academia, to build the capacity of local governments, foster dialogue on migration issues, and certify governments that are taking steps to enhance their migration governance. Moreover, in Cahul and Balti (Moldova), where the impacts of the war in Ukraine have put pressure on the local services, the Local MGI methodology was combined with IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to develop an innovative approach that enables a more comprehensive assessment of the needs of migrants to inform policy and tailor programmatic responses on the ground.

CALL TO LOCAL ACTION: 2023 BY THE NUMBERS


Over 2022–2023, the Call to Local Action has mobilized **124 local actions from 40 countries** that make tangible difference in the lives of migrants and refugees, while keeping the world on track to meet commitments set out in the GCM and GCR.

In 2023, this second report on Localizing the Global Compacts highlights:

54 local actions that make a tangible difference in the lives of migrants and refugees, while keeping the world on track to meet commitments set out in the GCM and GCR.

47 commitments from LRGs and their associations, representing 27 countries.

34 mirror pledges, 5 GCM only pledges, 15 GCR only pledges, 2 IDP pledges



25 local actions that expand access to services to migrants and refugees.

10 local actions that serve migrant and refugee children and youth.

13 local actions that expand employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for migrants and refugees.

7 local actions that address the impact of the climate crisis on migration and displacement.

8 local actions that offer humanitarian or financial assistance to migrants and refugees in times of crisis.

14 local actions that improve city governance, accountability, and responsiveness to migrant and refugee communities.

CALL TO LOCAL ACTION: 2023 SUBMISSIONS

Local and regional governments are leading the way to implement the GCM and the GCR, and by doing so achieve the SDGs. They are committed to taking local action that has global impact.

With this 2023 report of the Call to Local Action, LRGs bring over 50 local actions that make a tangible difference in the lives of migrants and forcibly displaced people, while keeping the world on track to meet global commitments. This builds on [70 local actions delivered in May 2022](#).

Each LRG submission below showcases a bold, people-centered local action. From supporting emergency housing and services, to connecting refugees and migrants with jobs, to taking innovative climate action in refugee hosting areas — each action offers a pragmatic local solution to a global challenge.

By sharing these highlights of local level progress so far, this report hopes to inspire more LRGs and partners to take action or share their innovations. This report will be issued annually, adding new submissions collected through the Call to Local Action each year.

Join this localization movement by submitting your action or supporting local-led action!



Photo: Barranquilla, Colombia, PA'LANTE Action ©Barranquilla Municipality

AMMAN

Jordan

Mayor: H.E. Dr. Yousef Al Shawarbeh

TITLE: Amman Children's Climate Academy and Park

DURATION: October 2023 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR Only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Greater Amman Municipality commits to constructing a public park near Al-Hussein Refugee Camp and establishing the city's first Children's Climate Academy to teach Amman's youngest generation the importance of environmental stewardship.

Amman will rehabilitate an open space near Al-Hussein Refugee Camp to build an accessible, climate-adaptive, and age- and gender-responsive public park. In addition to a children's playground, sports pitches, and walking paths, the park will feature shaded areas where caregivers can rest. The park will also incorporate green infrastructure, such as vegetation and green cover, permeable surfaces to reduce water runoff, and flood-prevention mechanisms. These features will help Amman adapt to and mitigate climate change by improving air and water quality, preventing flooding, and reducing the urban heat island effect. Within the park, Amman will establish its first Children's Climate Academy to provide a safe and welcoming space for refugee and Jordanian children to learn about inclusive climate action. The Academy will offer hands-on workshops on topics like the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the greenhouse effect, and air pollution.

With this commitment, Amman will build a more inclusive, climate-resilient future for its youngest residents. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.

ATHENS

Greece

Mayor: Kostas Bakoyannis

TITLE: Fostering Local Integration Through a Participatory and Multi-stakeholder Approach in Athens

DURATION: Aug 2023 – Dec 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR Only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Athens commits to promote the integration of refugees, by applying an intersectional lens and through a participatory approach. By the end of 2024, the municipality will have set up a new Local Integration Strategy, which will be implemented by the Migrants' Integration Center of the City of Athens and Eurocities. This strategy has been developed following a participatory and bottom-up approach involving refugee communities. They will also be involved in its implementation and evaluation. The city will also set up dedicated mechanisms of consultation with central and local government as well as civil society actors and UN agencies.

Through this Strategy, recognized refugees and migrants with a regular status are eligible to find accommodation and support in the Homeless Center of the City of Athens and will be included in any social and affordable housing policy that will be developed. The municipality will also enhance its services promoting access to skills and qualifications based on job market needs, with an emphasis on women entrepreneurship and smooth transition of young adults to technical education and work.

BARRANQUILLA

Colombia

Mayor: Jaime Pumarejo

TITLE: PA'LANTE: A Comprehensive Approach to Achieve Socioeconomic, Cultural and Urban Integration of Migrant and Refugee Families in Barranquilla

DURATION: Jun 2023 – Dec 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Barranquilla commits to implement the PA'LANTE project from June 2023-December 2024 to support 500 migrant and refugee families with a comprehensive service approach to support their socioeconomic, cultural, and urban integration. With this program, Barranquilla shifts from a service-focused intervention model to a model that starts with a deep understanding of the needs of each family and all its members, in order to facilitate their access to a set of services that cater to their individual needs and preferences. The model also measures progress of the integration trajectories by factoring in the opinion of the migrants, refugees and their families, and their own assessment of the evolution of their well-being.

The objectives are to: i) increase the level of integration of 500 beneficiary families in the social, cultural, urban-housing, and productive components, ii) implement a new intervention model for the Integration Center based on the integration trajectories and preferences of beneficiary families, iii) generate a scalable and replicable intervention model in other regional contexts that comprehensively addresses the family to achieve their socioeconomic, cultural, and urban integration; and iv) develop a qualitative analysis and a synthetic index of migrant and refugee integration that assesses the initial state of family trajectories and their evolution throughout the intervention process.

BRASOV

Romania
Mayor: Allen Coliban

TITLE: Braşov Comprehensive and Compassionate Response to Welcome Refugees

DURATION: 2023 – 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR Only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The municipality of Brasov pledges to continue the activities of the KATYA Welcome Centre, a one-stop shop providing immediate assistance to arriving refugees. The center serves as a hub for streamlined registration, offering essential services. The center operates with the involvement of 10 associations and foundations from Brasov, which provide educational services for children, support in finding a job, mental health assistance, and psycho-social support and provide interpreters for refugees from Ukraine so they can access medical services. The hub currently has around 500 beneficiaries.

With this center, Brasov: i) demonstrates a whole-of-society approach, coordinating with local NGOs and international agencies to efficiently deliver aid and support; ii) sets up innovative initiatives, including language and vocational training programs tailored to the specific needs of the displaced population; and iii) sets up transparent communication initiatives so that both refugees and the local population are well-informed about the ongoing efforts, and to combat xenophobia and discrimination.

With this pledge, Brasov showcases a deep-seated commitment to upholding the dignity and well-being of those seeking refuge within its borders.

BUCHAREST

Romania
Mayor: Nicuşor Dan

TITLE: Bucharest's Comprehensive Public Policy for Refugee and Migrant Integration

DURATION: Nov 2023 – May 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR Only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Bucharest commits to support migrants and refugees by facilitating their access to services such as healthcare, education, and integration into our labor market.

In the wake of the conflict in Ukraine, Bucharest established a humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian refugees, offering immediate assistance that encompassed shelter, sustenance, and clothing. This humanitarian effort underscored the need for a comprehensive public policy that supports the inclusion of refugees and migrants into the local community. Bucharest is now developing a comprehensive public policy that will facilitate access to education, employment services, housing, and medical care. The City Hall's budget and external grants are being explored as options to finance the projects.

The city also: i) partners with the private sector to promote diversity and remove barriers and stereotypes that can lead to the marginalization of migrants and refugees; ii) encourages migrants and refugees to participate in volunteering activities for more active and inclusive community; and iii) works to create a communication hub to develop effective communication strategies that will benefit migrants and promote social values within the city.



Photo: Buenos Aires' Nosotras Conectadas ©Marta Patricia Infante

BUENOS AIRES

Argentina

Mayor: Horacio Rodriguez Larreta /
Jorge Macri (incoming)

TITLE: Buenos Aires Nosotras Conectadas Programme: Creating Economic Opportunities for Women Migrants and Refugees in the Technology Sector

DURATION: March 2021 – ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



TITLE: Automatic Electoral Registry for Migrants and Awareness Raising of Political Rights in Buenos Aires

DURATION: 2022 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCM only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Buenos Aires commits to coordinate the initiative *Nosotras Conectadas* (We Connected): a collaboration between the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, UNHCR, and the L’Oreal Foundation. The initiative aims to promote employment of women migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, stateless individuals, and others with international protection needs, in the digital technology sector. The *Nosotras Conectadas* project provides training in technological skills related to programming and digital marketing, with the goal of providing equitable opportunities for this population in the formal employment sector. The project specifically seeks to integrate vulnerable women into the technology sector, which has a high demand for human resources and is historically male-dominated. These training spaces have a dual impact, addressing both gender and displacement disparities. The project has had two editions carried out between 2021 and 2023, and as of today, the program has resulted in the graduation of 206 women in programming and digital marketing courses. The city now commits to continuing this program, subject to the availability of funding.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: In 2022, the General Directorate of Political and Electoral Reform of the Government of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (CABA) launched a “Migrant Electoral Guide”, in collaboration with IOM Argentina and UNDP. The guide, available in Spanish, French, Catalan, Guaraní, Chinese, and Korean, is a step-by-step informative tool to promote autonomous participation in local elections and the exercise of political rights for migrants residing in the city. In 2018, the guide emerged with the approval of the Electoral Code Law No. 6031 of the CABA, which allows foreigners, from 16 years of age with permanent residence in the City, to vote in local elections without the need for any prior registration. The guide is produced as part of the “In the City, You Vote” (*En la Ciudad, Votá*s) program, whose objective is to raise awareness about the voting rights of migrants and to encourage their participation. This program, which is ongoing, will offer a range of awareness-raising programs, such as the set-up of “Information and Consultation Stands”, located in strategic places within the city. It will also provide the space to train and exchange organizations and community representatives who have close ties to the migrant population

“Cultural diversity enriches our city, but it is inclusion that makes us a resilient city, developing and growing by addressing the needs of its population. In the City of Buenos Aires, we understand that the inclusion of migrants and support for diverse communities contribute to strengthening local capacities, advancing the construction of a society that recognizes, respects, and provides equal opportunities for all individuals.”

Horacio Rodriguez Larreta
Mayor of Buenos Aires

CARMEN DE LA LEGUA

Peru

Mayor: Edwards Javier Infante Lopez

TITLE: Municipal Local Action Plan to Build a Future with Migrants and Refugees 2023 - 2026

DURATION: 2023–2026

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The municipal government of Carmen de la Legua commits to implement the Municipal Local Action Plan to Build a Future with Migrants and Refugees 2023–2026. The objectives of the Plan are: i) to contribute to eliminating all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourses; and ii) to mainstream migration and forced displacement in municipal services and in local, regional, and multilateral partnerships to increase cooperation between cities. Some of the Plan key actions are: a) promoting compliance with Ordinance No. 014–2017 MDCLR, which prohibits discrimination and racism; b) organizing the Forum of Mayors of the Callao Mancomunidad, hereby facilitating alignment between partners active in the National Refugee and Migrant Working Group (GTRM), as well as other coordination platforms; c) promoting the coordination and alignment of public activities led by implementing partners at the local level in order to better protect the most vulnerable population; d) the implementation of the Municipal Office for Orientation of Migrants, Refugees, and Returnees; e) providing safe spaces for the economic development of migrants, refugees, and returnees, as well as formalized and tax-paying entrepreneurs and business owners; and f) inclusion of migrant, refugee, or returnee volunteers in awareness-raising activities centering on forced displacement, climate change, and the environment.

DALLAS

United States of America

Mayor: TC Broadnax

TITLE: The City of Dallas Community Ambassador Program: Facilitating Access to Information and Services for Linguistically Diverse Communities

DURATION: January 2024 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Dallas commits to implement the Community Ambassadors Program. Rooted in Dallas' Welcoming Strategic Plan, this program aims to raise awareness of municipal services in linguistically diverse communities and to enhance communication between the city and its residents.

In collaboration with local non-profits, the City of Dallas has recruited immigrant residents as community ambassadors, engaging them directly in neighborhoods that host high numbers of migrants and refugees. These ambassadors will offer information about available services in multiple languages. Acknowledging the evolving diversity of the Dallas immigrant population, the City is also interested in providing services in languages of more recent newcomer populations. Dallas will work with the ambassadors to identify needs and thresholds, with the aim to better tailor municipal services. They will also play a crucial role in collecting information from their networks and in building trust between the city administration and language-diverse communities.

By partnering with local non-profits and working directly with community members, the City of Dallas aims to build welcoming connections and address the unique needs of immigrant and refugee populations, ultimately building bridges among immigrant residents and other members of the community.



©Dhankuta Municipality

DHANKUTA

Nepal

Mayor: Chintan Tamang

TITLE: Dhankuta Municipality: Ensuring Sustainable Reintegration of Returnees and Their Families

DURATION: February 2021 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Dhankuta commits to facilitate the successful and sustainable reintegration of vulnerable returning migrants, refugees, and their families by providing economic, psychosocial, and capacity-building assistance.

Working in partnership with civil society, the private sector, and local community leaders, Dhankuta will connect returnees to specific employment and networking opportunities, psychological assistance, support with access to rights, cultural adaptation, and other services as needed. Interventions are tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of returnees, including victims of trafficking and gender-based violence survivors.

The initiative employs follow-up mechanisms to monitor outcomes and links beneficiaries with supply chains and municipal services. The project also supports the growth and development of local communities by creating employment and business opportunities, to reduce the need for citizens to seek foreign employment in the future.

TITLE: Dhankuta Municipality: Nepal's First-Ever Local Government Reintegration Policy

DURATION: August 2021 – ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Dhankuta commits to develop the first-ever local government “Foreign Employment and Reintegration Policy” in Nepal. This groundbreaking policy will help improve the lives of its residents, including returnees, and reduce the need to leave the country to seek employment opportunities, fostering sustainable development within the municipality.

Developed in partnership with the local community and returnees themselves, the policy will provide Nepali youth with access to verified information about employment opportunities abroad. It will also seek to ensure the successful reintegration of returning migrants and refugees, with a specific focus on gender equality. Among other things, this will involve specialized support for trauma recovery, language acquisition, and cultural integration, for a holistic reintegration process for returning refugees. The framework encourages the promotion of skills acquired abroad to support entrepreneurship, employment, and boost the local economy. Ultimately, this policy is expected to improve social cohesion and reduce family fragmentation, benefiting the entire local community.

DUNAVITSI

Ukraine

Mayor: Velina Zaiats

TITLE: A Home Away from Harm: Sheltering IDP Families

DURATION: Oct 2023 – Sept 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: IDPs



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The town of Dunaivtsi – home to 15,243 residents – has received over 5,000 IDPs since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the wider Dunaivtsi territorial community has received more than 12,500 IDPs. To address the needs of IDP families, the Department of Social Protection and Labor of the Dunaivtsi City Council commits to rehabilitate a medical building to establish a family center that will provide housing and wraparound inclusionary services to 30 internally displaced families with young children. In addition to housing, the family center will provide internally displaced children and their caregivers psychological counselling and access to social services to support their well-being, inclusion, and healthy development. The center's wraparound offerings will include individual and family meetings with psychologists, educational and touristic excursions, and visits to after-school and sport programs. Dunaivtsi territorial community will also furnish the family center with age-responsive indoor and outdoor spaces for children and their caregivers to safely play and rest. With this commitment, Dunaivtsi territorial community will fill a critical need for dignified and safe housing for internally displaced families. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.

GALATI

Romania

Mayor: Ionuț Pucheanu

TITLE: Galati Municipality commits to enhance the livelihoods of refugees and forcibly displaced persons

DURATION: Dec 2023 – Dec 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Galati Municipality commits to enhance the livelihoods of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. In light of the Russia–Ukraine conflict in 2022 and arrival of Ukrainian refugees, Galati has recognized the demand for short and medium-term accommodation support. The mobilization of various stakeholders was critical in the success of this humanitarian effort. The local community was actively involved through private and volunteering initiatives, providing essential supplies, and creating a welcoming space for those forced to flee their homes. The municipality acknowledges all community efforts to integrate refugees into the community, facilitate access to education, and promote social cohesion as crucial for the long-term well-being.

Continuing accommodation support, Galati also provides access for refugee children to state kindergartens and nurseries. This fosters resilience and helps refugees secure employment and achieve social integration. The establishment of transparent communication channels help refugees to keep informed about available housing options, support services, and employment opportunities as well as facilitating community integration by the organization of social events promoting social cohesion.

GUAYAQUIL

Ecuador

Mayor: Aquiles Alvarez

TITLE: Guayaquil's Centro Municipal Ciudadanos Integrados: Holistic Support for People and Children on the Move

DURATION: Nov 2023 – Nov 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Guayaquil commits to open a welcoming center for migrants and refugees in the city's busiest transit hub. The center will provide migrants, refugees, and Ecuadorian returnees coming into the city with legal assistance, access to education and job opportunities, psychosocial support, and a safe space for children's play and development. The center will seek to improve the integration and well-being of this vulnerable population, addressing their specific needs and promoting their social inclusion. It is expected to reduce inequalities, promote gender equality, guaranteeing the protection and empowerment of children and adolescents in situations of human mobility. It is also expected to strengthen alliances and articulation with cooperation agencies at national and international levels, as well as with other organizations and relevant actors in the territory. This initiative will contribute to building a more inclusive, equitable and prosperous city in Guayaquil, where all people have equal opportunities and can enjoy a dignified life. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.

HERAKLION

Greece

Mayor: Vasilis Lambrinos

TITLE: Providing Holistic Refugee Support in Heraklion

DURATION: Jan 2024 – Dec 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Heraklion commits to intensify its efforts to support refugees and asylum seekers integrate into local society and pledges to work towards this direction via a series of inclusive and innovative policies/ actions: A) Update and further materialize from the beginning of 2024 and onwards the Heraklion Local Plan of Integration for Migrants and Refugees with particular focus on ensuring livelihoods, employability, women's empowerment, combating discriminations, and promoting gender equality of refugees and migrants. This Local Plan has been developed in consultation with local refugee and migrant communities. B) In close collaboration with the Heraklion Development Agency, explore available opportunities and apply to fund projects that will offer holistic support to local refugee communities. C) Update of the local policy on homelessness, to facilitate the inclusion of refugees in all aspects of the local municipal homelessness schemes/ services and especially allow access of non-Greek speaking recognized refugees to the Heraklion Center for Homeless Persons. D) Organize and lead a local coordination Working Group bringing together refugee and migrant communities, international organizations, public and private stakeholders, in order to design and produce durable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers, especially in the directions of integration and overall protection.



Photo: Makasi Hairdressing Class, Kampala, Uganda ©Helen-Elizabeth Yu

IOANNINA

Greece

Mayor: Dimitris Papageorgiou

TITLE: Establishment of a Center for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Ioannina

DURATION: August 2023 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Ioannina recognizes the significant challenges faced by the 900 refugees residing in and around the city and commits to establish a Center for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees (CIMR) on the basis of the Joint Ministerial Decision No. D14/15834/237/08-04-2019.

The Center will be the one-stop shop for informing, serving, and networking the refugee and migrant population of the municipality. It will offer specialized services to foster inclusion at the local level, with emphasis on employment, education, health, protection and welfare, social security, and intercultural mediation/interpretation. The ultimate objective of the Center is to empower refugees and migrants so they can become self-reliant and contribute to their host communities.

The mission of the CIMR will be to i) operate as an information hub for various municipal services; ii) foster partnerships between different stakeholders to ensure social inclusion services and programs; and iii) implement actions that promote social cohesion and access to the labor market, such as Greek language courses, and intercultural activities with an emphasis on social coexistence.

KAMPALA

Uganda

Mayor: Erias Lukwago

TITLE: Kampala and Nairobi Joint City Pledge to Institutionalize Refugee Inclusion

DURATION: 2024-2027

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Kampala Capital City commits to partner with Nairobi City County to institutionalize refugee inclusion and access to city services through a series of policies and programs over the next five years.

First, by 2024, Nairobi and Kampala commit to conducting baseline surveys of their refugee populations and implementing programs to support refugees' socioeconomic inclusion, including upskilling. By 2027, the cities will each establish at least one innovation center to foster entrepreneurship and creativity among refugees and receiving communities. By 2025, Nairobi and Kampala will establish coordination mechanisms for integrated service provision to urban refugees alongside NGOs and INGOs. Then, by 2027, the two cities aim to actively involve refugees in city planning, provide psychosocial support for refugee households, and establish mechanisms for refugee participation in local decision-making. Finally, by 2027, each city will establish dedicated sectors or departments for refugee engagement to ensure refugee inclusion is integrated into city policymaking. Nairobi and Kampala will implement this pledge with support from the International Rescue Committee through its Re:BUiLD program, the Mayors Migration Council, and local civil society organizations including the Platform for Vendors in Uganda (PLAVU) and the Pamoja Trust in Kenya.



©Laguna Province

LAGUNA

Philippines

Mayor: Ramil Laurel Hernandez

TITLE: Laguna Province Establishes a One Stop Migration Resource Center

DURATION: March 2019 - ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCM only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Laguna Province commits to establish a “One Stop Migration Resource Center”, which will serve as the hub for information and support for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families. Laguna Province is one of the principal points of departure in the Philippines for OFWs. The top five country destinations for OFWs are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and Australia. Overseas workers are often burdened with the feeling of homesickness, lack of inclusion, and specific health implications. Many face problems with their contract, claims, and benefits. Returning migrants have often faced abuse and exploitation and can find themselves estranged from their families at home. The One-Stop Migration Resource Center serves as the hub for migrants and their families to access information to prevent human trafficking and foster the reintegration of returning migrants into their home communities. It offers economic opportunities, provides specific training for both departing and returning migrants and ensures psychosocial support for migrants and their families. Lastly, the Center supports and complements the efforts of local governments and other partners and provides a space for discussion and capacity building of stakeholders working with migrants.

LANCASTER

United States of America

Mayor: Danene Sorace

TITLE: Lancaster Welcomes: Embracing Diversity with a Strategic Welcome Plan for Immigrants and Refugees

DURATION: 2023 –2025

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Lancaster commits to institutionalize the “Welcoming Plan for the City of Lancaster” through policy, legislation, and programming.

The City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, became a Welcoming Certified City in 2019 through Welcoming America. The city boasts a 300-year-long history of hospitality and is recognized as “America’s refugee capital” in 2019 for resettling 20 times more refugees per capita than the rest of the nation. The city completed an intensive evaluation in 2019 and again in 2022 for Welcoming re-certification, involving over 40 partnering organizations. The Welcoming Standard is an extensive roadmap for building welcoming communities guided by the following seven frameworks: Government Leadership, Equitable Access, Civic Engagement, Connected Communities, Education, Economic Development, and Safe Communities.

The city is now developing pathways to institutionalize a Welcoming Plan for the City of Lancaster through policy, legislation, and programming. The Department of Neighborhood Engagement will be charged with the oversight of the Welcoming Standard. In our three-year plan, we aim to operationalize a Welcoming Plan, develop a Welcoming Ordinance, establish an Office of Welcoming and Language Services, and convene and develop a coalition of community partners focused on immigrant and refugee integration.

LARISSA

Greece

Mayor: Apostolos Kalogiannis

TITLE: Establishment of Center for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Larissa

DURATION: Aug 2023 – Dec 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Larissa commits to establish a Center for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees (CIMP) to enhance the access of refugees and asylum seekers to opportunities for self-reliance, increasing their sense of belonging as well as facilitate their effective integration.

The CIMP will provide comprehensive support for refugees and will strengthen partnerships and collaboration between different actors to advance durable solutions for refugees. The ultimate goal of the CIMP is to empower refugees to become self-reliant and contribute to their host communities.

The CIMP will aim to reach approximately 700 refugees and asylum seekers who stay on the Site of Koutsochero and in the city of Larissa. Asylum seekers and refugees will be offered individual or group counseling by lawyers on legal matters; support from social workers on education, health care, social security, tax; counseling on employment issues by employability and livelihood experts; and psychological support by psychologists in their own language.

TITLE: Vocational Training to Unaccompanied Children and School Support to Refugee Children in Larissa

DURATION: Aug 2023 – Dec 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Larissa pledges to provide vocational training on digital skills and after-school support for unaccompanied children (UAC) to improve their academic performance and increase future employability.

The Municipality of Larissa has established a Migrant and Refugee Integration Council (MRIC), an advisory body to the Municipality for enhancing refugees' and migrants' integration in the local community. Following the recommendation of MPRIC, the municipality will invest in vocational training on digital skills and after-school support of the around 100 unaccompanied children who reside in two shelters for UACs in the City.

The connection between the municipality of Larissa and the UACs shelters is important. The municipality has shown a commitment to supporting vulnerable young people who have experienced trauma and hardship by providing access to municipal services. Classes for AUC will be offered in the Lifelong Learning Center of the Municipality.

LEGAZPI

Philippines

Mayor: Carmen Geraldine B. Rosal

TITLE: Legazpi City: Expanded Help Desk for Overseas Filipino Workers

DURATION: September 2023 - Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCM only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Legazpi City commits to provide services to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and their families through a Municipal Help Desk and to expand the Help Desk services in 2023 to support pre-migration orientation seminars and improved access to health care. Since 2015, the Municipal OFW Help Desk i) engages with civil society and the Filipino diaspora to monitor OFWs needs and to map stakeholders, ii) it compiles information on government services and informs prospective OFWs on the processes and risks of overseas employment, and iii) conducts training for the families of OFWs, as well as provides training materials to prevent human trafficking. Through this initiative, Legazpi City has already reached over 4,037 OFWs. The work of the Municipal OFW Help Desk has also forged cooperation with national governments to protect the welfare of Filipinos living abroad. The City now commits to further expand its activities with: a) Pre-Migration Orientation Seminars before departure, b) work with Legazpi City Hospital to ensure medical services are available for OFWs, c) develop a Community-Based Monitoring System to improve the effectiveness of the Help Desk; and d) advocate at national level, and specifically with the National Department of Migrant Workers to support with the organization of Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars in Legazpi City



©Andrea Scuratti/City of Milan

MAIPU

Chile

Mayor: Matías Stevanato

TITLE: Strengthening Maipú's Governance Capacity to Promote Social Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

DURATION: November 2022 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Maipú Municipality commits to strengthen its local capacity to govern migration and forced displacement in a way that promotes social inclusion and peaceful coexistence between migrant and refugee families and other members of the community. It will build its capacity by participating in the MigraCiudades Argentina project, developed and implemented by the IOM in coordination with the National Direction of Migration. This includes assessing existing local governance structures, providing training for government officials, and designing action plans and monitoring systems to facilitate the successful socioeconomic inclusion of migrants and refugees.

In this context, Maipú is institutionalizing a local Immigration Office. This Office consolidates all relevant information for migrants and refugees in one place, including access to rights, services and job opportunities, this way institutionalizing all reception, integration and protection services in a “one-stop shop”. The Office will also identify key areas for collaborations with other departments within the municipal government, hereby promoting cross-cutting interventions that encourage social inclusion and coexistence between migrant families and other members of the community. The center is also actively engaged in the design and implementation of migratory policies and seeks to foster partnerships with organizations experienced in migratory matters.

MILAN

Italy

Mayor: Giuseppe Sala

TITLE: “First Steps in Milan”: Ensuring Access to Educational and Childcare Services for Newly Arrived Migrant and Refugee Families

DURATION: Oct 2023 – Sep 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Milan commits to implement the “First Steps in Milan” project to enhance and accelerate the inclusion of newly arrived migrant and refugee children aged 0 to 6 and their families by providing early socioeducational interventions. The project addresses challenges faced by migrant and refugee minors and their caregivers waiting to access municipal services or national refugee reception services, as delays in their integration in the school system can generate psychological, relational and identity discomfort.

To address this issue, Milan will establish a specialized team of educational, psycho-pedagogical, and neuropsychiatric professionals to assess family needs and create personalized education plans. Using a two-generational approach, the program will introduce flexible preschool and daycare services for children while providing their caregivers with job training, language courses, and cultural workshops. These services will also be accessible to other families residing in the city, to favor peer exchange and strengthen community ties. In the long term, “First Steps in Milan” is expected to foster innovative educational strategies that benefit the entire education system, ultimately promoting the inclusion of foreign minors and their integration into society. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.

MONTEVIDEO

Uruguay

Mayor: Carolina Cosse

TITLE: Montevideo Resound Project: Establishing the City’s First-Ever Early Childhood Care Center for Migrant and Displaced Families

DURATION: Oct 2023 – Sept 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Montevideo commits to create its first ever early childhood care center for migrant and displaced families in recognition of the importance of prioritizing children’s needs and how their wellbeing is linked with that of their caregivers. Taking a two-generational approach, the center focuses on providing female caregivers with legal, medical, and employment support while offering their young children access to food, recreational activities, and a safe space to play and learn. The center gives mothers and children greater access to their rights while also supporting children’s development and families’ overall well-being. The city expects to help over forty migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women find stable employment in the project’s first year. The center’s care team will also work with caregivers to enroll their children into Montevideo’s public school system, ensuring children’s education continues once they age out of daycare. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.

MONTRÉAL

Canada

Mayor: Valérie Plante

TITLE: Montréal Inclusive at Work Initiative: City-Led Podcast to Promote Migrant and Refugee Integration

DURATION: September 2023 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Montréal deepens its commitment to implement the *Montréal Inclusive au Travail 2022-2024* (Montréal Inclusive at Work) initiative, first pledged to the Call to Local Action in 2022, by launching a podcast - “Biais d’Entrée” (Entry Bias). The podcast aims to support Montréal companies in developing effective welcoming strategies for migrants and refugees and making their companies more diverse and inclusive.

This two-season podcast equips business executives and talent acquisition specialists with knowledge and tools to strengthen corporate capabilities in the hiring, integration, retention, and advancement of newcomers. Through the reflections of experts, the real-life experiences of entrepreneurs, and the testimonials of newcomers, the podcast identifies the obstacles to integrating newcomers and offers concrete solutions to include them in the job market in positions commensurate with their skills. It encourages companies to make significant, concrete changes to their organizational culture, and to accelerate the pace of such changes. It also combats discrimination and barriers experienced by newcomers and promotes their socioeconomic contribution.

NAIROBI

Kenya

Mayor: Hon. Sakaja, Arthur Johnson

TITLE: Inclusive Nairobi: Institutionalizing Refugee Inclusion in Nairobi City County Government

DURATION: October 2023 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Nairobi City County Government (NCCG) commits to delivering a new portfolio of policies and programs dedicated to institutionalizing the socioeconomic inclusion of Nairobi's refugees within NCCG's city planning, service delivery, and policymaking.

NCCG will institutionalize refugee access to city services and infrastructure by 2027 by establishing a section for refugees within a NCCG sub-sector responsible for developing policies and practices that promote refugee socioeconomic inclusion. These policies will include facilitating access to healthcare, trading and business licenses, education, and other essential services. The section will also be responsible for direct service delivery to refugee communities related to job training, access to County family and social welfare programs, psychosocial support, youth empowerment, and employment and self-employment. NCCG will involve refugee communities in the design of these policies and programs.

To align these policies and programs with the Nairobi context, NCCG will also create a city-wide coordination mechanism by 2025. This mechanism will allow NCCG to coordinate directly with existing INGOs and NGOs to facilitate data sharing, referrals, and program complementarity. NCCG will also conduct its own baseline study of refugees in Nairobi to complement the existing database and define its role within ongoing urban displacement responses.

TITLE: Nairobi and Kampala Joint City Pledge to Institutionalize Refugee Inclusion

DURATION: 2024 – 2027

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Nairobi City County and Kampala Capital City commit to institutionalizing refugee inclusion and access to city services through a series of policies and programs over the next five years.

First, by 2024, Nairobi and Kampala commit to conducting baseline surveys of their refugee populations and implementing programs to support refugees' socioeconomic inclusion, including upskilling. By 2027, the cities will each establish at least one innovation center to foster entrepreneurship and creativity among refugees and receiving communities. By 2025, Nairobi and Kampala will establish coordination mechanisms for integrated service provision to urban refugees alongside NGOs and INGOs. Then, by 2027, the two cities aim to actively involve refugees in city planning, provide psychosocial support for refugee households, and establish mechanisms for refugee participation in local decision-making. Finally, by 2027, each city will establish dedicated sectors or departments for refugee engagement to ensure refugee inclusion is integrated into city policymaking.

Nairobi and Kampala will implement this pledge with support from the International Rescue Committee through its Re:BUiLD program, the Mayors Migration Council, and local civil society organizations including the Platform for Vendors in Uganda (PLAVU) and the Pamoja Trust in Kenya.



Photo: Nairobi, Kenya's Green Jobs Training ©Samer Saliba/MMC

NILÜFER

Turkey

Mayor: Turgay Erdem

TITLE: Nilüfer Municipality's "House of the Exchange of Populations" Museum: Promoting Cultural Diversity and Co-existence by Preserving Social Memory

DURATION: 2022 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Nilüfer commits to promote cultural diversity and co-existence through the "House of the Exchange of Populations" museum. Founded by the municipality and local associations, this museum commemorates 1.5 million people displaced following the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 and preserves the history and folk culture of the region's communities.

Nilüfer is home to diverse cultural identities stemming from historical displacement in the region and Balkan immigration. The museum champions cultural diversity, enriches local understanding of differences, encourages social harmony and participation in cultural, political, and artistic movements, especially by civil society and women's groups. It facilitates exchanges between people affected by war and forced migration in Turkey and in Greece and provides a space that questions nationalistic approaches while allowing for discussions on identity, and personal, and collective memory.

The municipality hosts biannual anniversary events, fostering dialogues on topics like memory, identity, and cultural rights. In 2022, an event was hosted to commemorate the 1923 Great Exchange. It gathered 5000 people, including migrants from all over Turkey. The mayor publicly acknowledged migrants' and refugees' communities' invaluable contributions to economic change, social and cultural transformation in Turkey.

NYAMAGABE

Rwanda

Mayor: Hildebrand Niyomwungeri

TITLE: Nyamagabe District: Building Communities' Resilience to Climate Variability

DURATION: Feb 2023 – Jan 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Nyamagabe District commits to build community resilience and adaptive capacity for people living in Nyamagabe and the nearby Kigeme refugee camp, whose lives and livelihoods are severely impacted by floods, landslides, and droughts.

In collaboration with UNHCR Rwanda, Nyamagabe is terracing hillsides prone to landslides into viable agricultural areas, converting waste into renewable energy, and providing basic infrastructure and utilities for additional residential plots.

The project engages 480 individuals from both receiving and refugee communities, involving them in activities such as terracing, plot servicing, waste sorting, and briquette making. These environmentally friendly livelihood opportunities, coupled with training on climate-smart agricultural practices, contribute to enhancing the living conditions of both displaced individuals and Rwandan residents in Nyamagabe, while bolstering food security, improving resettled housing options, and mitigating exposure to natural hazards.

To amplify impacts, Nyamagabe is carrying out awareness campaigns on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to support long-term adaptation at the household level. The project creates opportunities for positive interaction between refugees and receiving communities and serves as a rare example of how camps and towns can support one another towards a green transition. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.

“African cities may be disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis, but we're also the ones showing the world how to develop innovative, inclusive solutions that make cities more sustainable – environmentally, economically, and socially. The helping hand of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees will create jobs for our displaced neighbors, convert waste into greener energy sources, and build vital kinship between Nyamagabe's refugee camp and its wider community.”

Hildebrand Niyomwungeri

Mayor of Nyamagabe District

QUEZON

Philippines

Mayor: Hon. Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte

TITLE: Quezon City's Migrants Resource Center: Solidarity in Diversity

DURATION: August 2022 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCM only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Quezon City commits to open a Migrants Resource Center (MRC) to cater to the needs of vulnerable migrants, with a particular focus on Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families. Administered by the Public Employment Service Office's Migration Services Division, the MRC is a "One-Stop-Shop" to provide comprehensive support under one roof at the local level of government nearest to OFWs and their families. It offers a spectrum of gender-responsive programs and services, including awareness campaigns, seminars, migration-related events, capability building, skills training, community organizing, and direct assistance like repatriation support, psychosocial counselling, and referrals to essential agencies. Through awareness campaigns and seminars, it educates migrants about their rights, financial literacy, and cultural adaptation. It fosters community and mutual support through community organizing while enhancing employability through skills training and capability building. The MRC plays a crucial role in providing essential direct services, offering distressed OFWs repatriation assistance, psychosocial counselling for emotional well-being, and connecting migrants with relevant government agencies. By addressing the multifaceted needs of migrants, the MRC empowers this vulnerable sector, facilitating their successful integration into new environments and contributing to their overall well-being and resilience in the face of the challenges associated with migration.

QUILMES

Argentina

Mayor: Mayra Mendoza

TITLE: Municipal Migration Governance Plan for Migrants and Refugees in Quilmes

DURATION: 2023 – 2027

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Quilmes commits to implement its Second Municipal Migration Governance Plan (2023 – 2027). Quilmes is the first municipality in Argentina to be declared "plurinational and intercultural" due to its significant migrant and refugee population, constituting 8% of the total inhabitants, with around 54,000 people of foreign origin. In 2019, the City launched its first Municipal Migration Governance Plan, offering an overarching strategy for policy planning. The municipality is now implementing the second iteration of the Municipal Plan. The plan has three main axes: i) to ensure access to rights for migrants and refugees, ii) to promote the institutional strengthening of local policies affecting the migrant and refugee population, and iii) to highlight and celebrate interculturality. Key activities include: a) the provision of services through the Office for Migrant Assistance, including help with document processing, provision of equal access to health care and education, and addressing cases of discrimination; b) the organization of Migrant Care Workshops in specific neighborhoods; c) offering awareness workshops and employability programs aimed to migrant and refugee communities; d) setting up Comprehensive Mobile Consulates to bring consular services closer to the population of interest; e) promoting the active political and social participation of migrants and refugees; and f) improving infrastructure of schools with a large number of refugee students.

RAMALLAH

Palestine

Mayor: Issa Kasis

TITLE: Durable Qaddura – Renovating Waste Management and a Public Park in the Qaddura Refugee Camp

DURATION: October 2023 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Ramallah commits to upgrading Qaddura Refugee Camp's solid waste management system, rehabilitating its public park, and launching an awareness campaign about environmental stewardship for families living in the camp.

Ramallah will overhaul Qaddura Camp's outdated and unreliable solid waste management system, which currently poses public health risks and contributes to environmental degradation in the camp. The municipality will identify waste collection needs, replace the camp's waste collection vehicle, install hundreds of new garbage and recycling bins, and implement an awareness campaign to teach children living in the camp about environmental stewardship and proper waste disposal.

Ramallah will also refurbish a popular recreational park in Qaddura to become age-responsive and gender-inclusive for children and their caregivers. The park receives over 1,000 visitors daily, but its facilities are dilapidated and in urgent need of repair. The upgraded park's vegetation, shaded areas, and other climate-smart infrastructure will help mitigate extreme heat and flooding, reducing impacts of climate change.

Ramallah's project will be implemented in close partnership with refugee leaders from Qaddura, to create a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for all residents. This project is supported by the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.



Photo: Main Qaddura Park, Ramallah, Palestine ©Ameen Saeb/Municipality of Ramallah

“Thanks to the support of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, the City of Ramallah will improve Qaddura Refugee Camp’s solid waste systems, rehabilitate the poorly developed recreational park, and promote awareness-building campaigns to develop the next generation of environmental stewards. This project will protect the public health of all living in the camp, especially our youngest new residents and future leaders: children.”

Issa Kasis
Mayor of Ramallah

RENNES

France
Mayor: **Nathalie Appéré**

TITLE: European Citizen Initiative in Rennes: “Ensuring Dignified Reception for Refugees and Migrants in Europe”

DURATION: Jul 2021 – Jul 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Rennes commits to initiate a consultative process to contribute to a pan-European citizen proposal to the European Commission, with the aim to ensure dignified reception for refugees and migrants in Europe. Rennes is a European city, and its citizens mobilize every day to bring the European project to life and to make it accessible to all its residents, especially those that are at risk of being left behind. All these individuals and community groups come together in the “Labo Europe” of the City of Rennes. This Labo aims to renew the citizens’ debate on European policies. The Labo is part of the “Fabrique citoyenne,” the city’s platform for citizen participation. Among the 12 European Citizens’ Initiatives (ECI) that were co-created by about 300 residents of Rennes, the call for dignified reception of refugees and migrants overwhelmingly won the online vote and was submitted to the European Commission as the first-ever ECI proposal drafted by a local government. It is now open to collect signatures across Europe. If this proposal receives 1 million signatures, the European Commission needs to take note of the proposal. This ECI is the result of collective work initiated by students from Rosa Parks College in Rennes.



“Salt Lake County offers so many services and it's essential that no matter the language a resident speaks, they are able to access those services. Efforts to ensure our content is written in easy-to-understand language is a vital component of ensuring that there is equitable access to our services.”

Jenny Wilson
Mayor of Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY

United State of America

Mayor: Jenny Wilson

TITLE: Welcoming Salt Lake: Government and Community Leadership Biannual Convening in Welcoming Week

DURATION: Dec 2023 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Welcoming Salt Lake Plan – drafted in 2016 – is a community-derived plan. The Plan directs the County's strategy to facilitate and accelerate immigrant inclusion in civic, economic, and social aspects of life. It ensures that any New American resident is engaged, respected, and has opportunities to reach their fullest potential.

In support of this Plan, the Salt Lake County Mayor's Office for New Americans commits to host recurring “Welcoming Week” events every six months, in March and September. On September 14, 2023, the City held the inaugural Government and Community Leadership Convening, to coincide with Welcoming America's government and community leadership theme.

The aim of Welcoming Week is to: i) amplify voices from diverse New American stakeholders concerning successes, challenges, and priorities of their integration in Salt Lake County; ii) engage in a dialogue with local government and community leaders on how to involve Salt Lake County residents in welcoming New Americans outside of the formal County-organized Welcoming Week activities; and iii) identify new partnerships and avenues for collaboration to advance New Americans' inclusion.

TITLE: The Language Services Collaborative Initiative of Salt Lake County: A Pathway to Ensure Equitable Access to Services for All Residents

DURATION: August 2023 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Salt Lake County commits to enhance access to services for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Residents through a “Language Services Collaborative Initiative”. The Utah Department of Health has shown that the estimated population of LEP Residents within the county exceeds 200,000, of which 33% state that they speak English less than “very well.” This lack of English proficiency puts these residents at risk to be underserved by county services.

Led by the Mayor's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, this initiative encourages different county departments to identify joint challenges and synergies to meet the needs of LEP residents and improve accessibility to services in the county, regardless of English proficiency level.

Primary objectives are: i) to align county programs with federal guidelines that prohibit discrimination and that ensure equal access in areas like education, employment, and public services. (e.g., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987); ii) to ensure that information about county services is accessible, transparent and understandable and in line with e.g., the Federal Plain Writing Act of 2010; and iii) to promote inclusivity by developing strategies that best serve the linguistic diversity of the county's population.

SAN ANTONIO

United States of America

Mayor: Ron Nirenberg

TITLE: San Antonio's Commitment to Serve Migrants and Refugees and Engage in National and Global Advocacy

DURATION: July 2022 – June 2025

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: San Antonio pledges to serve migrants and refugees by securing funding for its Migrant Resource Center (MRC) for direct service delivery and engaging in national and global advocacy to improve immigration and asylum policies.

As the United States' seventh largest city just 150 miles from the Mexico border, San Antonio hosts thousands of newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Venezuela, and Central America. In response, San Antonio launched the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) in July 2022 to provide essential services such as legal assistance and social support for asylum seekers. Beyond humanitarian response, San Antonio aims to enhance its community engagement collaborations, fostering long-term refugee inclusion and improving accountability to the city's migrant and refugee communities. To reinforce these commitments, San Antonio will engage in advocacy efforts with state, federal, and global officials. These initiatives serve as a countermeasure to adverse state and federal policies that impede migrants' right to asylum. The city will also engage in global advocacy, leveraging Mayor Ron Nirenberg's role as the newest member of the Mayors Migration Council's Leadership Board.

CITY SÃO LEOPOLDO

Brazil

Mayor: Ary José Vanazzi

TITLE: Empowering Migrants and Refugees by Offering Inclusive Portuguese language Courses and Promoting Intercultural Dialogue in São Leopoldo

DURATION: 2021 – ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: São Leopoldo commits to implement "Teaching Portuguese as a Host Language" (PLAC, in Portuguese), a course designed for migrants and refugees to facilitate their knowledge of the Portuguese language and foster an understanding of the Brazilian culture. The course seeks to empower migrants and refugees so they can actively participate in their host community and promotes opportunities for intercultural exchange among different nationalities. It was designed to bridge the students' cultural heritage with the various aspects of Brazilian culture, including by actively listening to students, getting to know their stories, and moving away from a perspective that portrays those seeking refuge solely as recipients of assistance. The course spans a total of 42 hours of in-person meetings. Upon course completion, students receive a certificate, fulfilling the requirement for proof of Portuguese proficiency as part of the Brazilian naturalization process. Since its start in 2021, the course has reached over 50 migrants of different nationalities (Syrians, Lebanese, Venezuelans, Moroccans, Senegalese, and Haitians). São Leopoldo will expand this course so it can reach more people by increasing the number of classes and providing recreational space so that students' children can accompany their parents.

SÃO PAULO

Brazil

Mayor: Ricardo Nunes

TITLE: São Paulo's New Reference and Assistance Center for Immigrants (CRAI) in the Eastern Region

DURATION: 2024 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: São Paulo commits to expand services for migrants and refugees by opening a new Center for Reference and Assistance to Immigrants (CRAI) in eastern São Paulo. Historically, the city of São Paulo has been the main destination for migrants and refugees in Brazil, known for its intercultural character and its ability to welcome diverse populations. With the intention of contributing to the improvement of services for migrants and refugees, the municipality developed and implemented a service provision model through the CRAI system, which is part of the municipal public network for human rights and citizenship. CRAI focuses on promoting human rights and social, cultural, employment, and economic inclusion, and works by integrating expertise from its diverse network of public services and civil society actors. Located in the center of São Paulo, the first service has been in operation since 2014. Now, the municipality is planning to open a second CRAI in the eastern part of São Paulo, an area with the second highest concentration of migrants and refugees. Additionally, this new center will hire migrant and refugee professionals who will offer cultural and linguistic mediation, provide social and psychological assistance, and help with legal counseling.

STRASENI

Moldova

Mayor: Valentina Casian

TITLE: Straseni's Awareness Raising Campaign about Refugee Rights

DURATION: December 2023

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Municipality of Straseni commits to facilitate refugees and host communities' access to information about their rights. The municipality will launch an information and awareness-raising campaign about refugees' and migrants' rights, which will be complemented by a series of workshops and legal consulting sessions for refugees. Other activities to support refugee inclusion, such as visits to local museums for refugee children, will also be implemented in parallel.

TERRASA

Spain

Mayor: Jordi Ballart i Pastor

TITLE: Moroccan Dialect Classes in Terrassa, Spain: Equipping Teachers with Language, Intercultural, and Anti-Racist Skills

DURATION: 2019 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Terrassa commits to implement an anti-racist and intercultural educational strategy by providing language and cultural training to its primary and secondary grade teachers. Facilitated by professionals, these courses were developed to meet the needs of Terrassa's Moroccan population, which represents the largest foreign population (6.13% of the city's inhabitants, with a distribution of up to 40% in some neighborhoods). The courses help teachers acquire basic language skills to improve interaction with their students of Moroccan origin and their families. The teaching of basic Darija (Moroccan dialect) language skills and Moroccan culture gives teachers powerful tools to create rewarding relationships with their students, value the contributions of different cultures, and make their educational practices more inclusive. The program also raises pupils' awareness of the right to religious freedom, and trains teachers to prevent situations of discrimination and racism, thus filling a major gap in teacher training, as teachers are not taught about cultural diversity during their studies.

TLAXCALA

Mexico

Mayor: Ramiro Vivanco Chedraui

TITLE: Facilitating Dual Nationality, Preventing Statelessness, and Promoting Inclusion for Foreign-Born Children and their Families in the State of Tlaxcala

DURATION: July 2023 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The State of Tlaxcala commits to ensure effective access to the right to identify for individuals born abroad through the elimination of the requirement to present an apostilled foreign birth certificate in order to obtain dual nationality. With this policy, the State offers a structural solution that allows effective access to the right to identity for individuals born abroad, which in turn secures access to other fundamental rights such as health, education, work, and housing. It guarantees protection of foreign-born children and also provides an opportunity for returning and deported families to integrate into their communities. This action represents an effective implementation of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States (Article 30) which directly grants Mexican nationality to individuals born abroad whose parents were born on Mexican territory or acquired it through naturalization. However, federal entities often impose requirements through their secondary regulations that exceed those required by the Constitution. This policy now reaffirms the constitutionality of the actions of local governments in civil registry matters and upholds the rights outlined in the Political Constitution of the Free and Sovereign State of Tlaxcala and the Law of the Rights of Girls, Boys, and Adolescents of the State.

TYRE

Lebanon

Mayor: Hassan Dbouk

TITLE: Tyre and Zürich: Improving Local Services for Migrants, Refugees, and the Local Population through City-to-City Cooperation

DURATION: 2022 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Tyre commits to partner with the City of Zürich to improve services for migrants, refugees, and locals in Tyre.

This partnership aims to increase municipal staffing and expertise, conduct technical knowledge and best practices exchanges, while jointly implementing inclusive projects for Tyre's inhabitants, including Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

Building on earlier successful projects, Tyre is now designing two projects as part of the partnership. First, a "park and ride" service with a parking lot and bus shuttle system to provide refugees, migrant workers, and local communities with cheap and reliable public transportation to access the city's facilities and commuting zones, while contributing to the city's green transition. Second, a new digital hub and co-working space will seek to break down employment barriers for refugees, while helping to address Lebanon's economic challenges. The hub will provide skilled youth, including refugees and marginalized groups, with access to digital opportunities, while the co-working space will enhance social interaction and networking between investors and job seekers. These projects aim to foster social cohesion, economic inclusion, and a more sustainable and accessible urban environment for all residents of Tyre.

The City of Zürich and Tyre have submitted this partnership as a joint pledge.

Tlaxcala elimina el requisito de la apostilla para acceder a la doble nacionalidad

Después de 8 años de trabajo colectivo entre CAFAMI y el Grupo de Identidad y Educación, GIE*

1. No tendrán que invertir tiempo y dinero para adquirir la apostilla desde Estados Unidos.
2. Sus hijos e hijas nacidos en el extranjero dejarán de ser indocumentados en México.
3. Facilitará el acceso a derechos: educación, salud, trabajo, vivienda, etc.
4. Se aligeran los procesos de (re)integración a su país.

Seguiremos exigiendo a las autoridades que eliminen el requisito de la apostilla en todo el país. El derecho constitucional a la identidad no puede condicionarse a un requisito.

*Red de organizaciones civiles que trabaja por la defensa de los derechos de las personas en contextos de migración.

GRUPO IDENTIDAD Y EDUCACIÓN (GIE)

Photo: Information flyer regarding dual nationality by the State of Tlaxcala, Mexico. ©State of Tlaxcala.

ZÜRICH

Switzerland

Mayor: Corine Mauch

TITLE: Zürich and Tyre: Improving Local Services for Migrants, Refugees and the Local Population through City-to-City Cooperation

DURATION: 2022 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Zürich commits to partner with the City of Tyre to improve services for migrants, refugees and locals in Tyre.

This partnership aims to increase municipal staffing and expertise, conduct technical knowledge and best practices exchanges, while jointly implementing inclusive projects for Tyre's inhabitants, including Syrian and Palestinian refugees.

Building on earlier successful projects, Tyre is now designing two projects as part of the partnership. First, a "park and ride" service with a parking lot and bus shuttle system to provide refugees, migrant workers, and local communities with cheap and reliable public transportation to access the city's facilities and commuting zones, while contributing to the city's green transition. Second, a new digital hub and co-working space will seek to break down employment barriers for refugees, while helping to address Lebanon's economic challenges. The hub will provide skilled youth, including refugees and marginalized groups, with access to digital opportunities, while the co-working space will enhance social interaction and networking between investors and job seekers. These projects aim to foster social cohesion, economic inclusion, and a more sustainable and accessible urban environment for all residents of Tyre.

The City of Zürich and Tyre have submitted this partnership as a joint pledge.

TITLE: Pledge of the City of Zürich to the European Pillar of Social Rights: Ensuring access to municipal services for all

DURATION: 2021 – 2030

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCM only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Zürich commits to improve access to all its municipal services with a special focus on vulnerable groups. Limited access can affect people with disabilities, older people, people experiencing poverty, refugees, or migrants, for example. Among those, migrants with irregular status are particularly vulnerable. In this vein, Zurich commits to: i) invest CHF 4.5 million in a project that aims to ensure secure medical care for all persons without health insurance (including migrants with irregular status). The pilot ends in 2024 and the city will transfer successful lessons learned into regular operation; ii) allocate CHF 3.2 million from 2022 to the first quarter of 2026 to prepare for a "Zurich City Card", which will enable Zurich residents (including migrants with irregular status) to have access to municipal and private services (e.g., bank account, mobile phone subscription, etc.). Zurich also implements "practice tests" to improve the accessibility of municipal services for vulnerable groups; and iii) provide temporary financial assistance for migrants in emergency situations. This specifically concerns migrants who fear applying for regular aid for various reasons, such as loss of permit, and migrants with irregular status (5.4 million over 3 years). Implementation will begin as soon as (and only if) the appeal filed against the projects is rejected.

TITLE: Enhancing the Cooperation of all State levels – Municipal, Cantonal, National – in National Refugee Policy Making to Strengthen the Tripartite Asylum System in Switzerland

DURATION: Dec 2023 – Dec 2027

TYPE OF PLEDGE: GCR only



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Initiated by the City of Zürich, in collaboration with the Swiss Government, and supported by Swiss cities, the Swiss Association of Cities, the Swiss Association of Municipalities, and cantonal representations, this pledge commits to enhance the cooperation of all state levels in Swiss refugee policy.

The asylum system in Switzerland is a tripartite responsibility of the three state levels (national, cantonal, and municipal) with a system of delegated responsibilities. Recognizing the mutual benefits that systematic coordination brings to all levels in steering the asylum system, this pledge intends to increase predictability, strengthen joint planning, improve steering of policies and identify solutions by: i) taking stock of existing coordination and cooperation mechanisms in the Swiss asylum system which include the national government and the cantons, and that could benefit from the more direct involvement of municipalities, especially cities; ii) reviewing successful practices of tripartite cooperation and direct engagement between the national and municipal levels; iii) identifying opportunities for stronger recognition and involvement of municipalities, particularly cities, in national refugee policymaking; iv) exploring an institutionalized format for regular tripartite interaction that enables exchange on common concerns on a strategic and operational level, joint solution finding and exploration of new commitments by cities.



Photo: Accra, Ghana ©Samer Saliba/MMC

ANVITA (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WELCOMING CITIES AND TERRITORIES)

France

TITLE: ANVITA's Annual "Guide for A Welcoming France": Providing Advocacy Tools and Policy Guidance for Local Governments

DURATION: January 2022 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: ANVITA commits to publish an annual guide entitled "For a Welcoming France: Inspiring Territorial Practices" to highlight inspirational practices of local and regional governments that unconditionally welcome migrants and refugees. In addition to offering a clear and up to date overview of welcoming practices throughout France, the guide has three specific objectives:

It provides an advocacy tool for local governments to showcase their critical role in achieving national and international goals (such as Agenda 2030). It is directed both towards the French Government and to the international community at large.

It showcases the commitment of local governments to unconditionally welcome migrants and refugees in their localities and offers a pragmatic vision on what this can look like in practice. These practices also aim to debunk existing myths about migrants and refugees and helps balance dominant narratives about migration.

It provides guidance and assistance when it comes to developing local public policies and provides support to elected officials on how to put vision into practice. For example, by showcasing examples of policy planning and peer-to-peer exchange.

CITIES ALLIANCE

Global

TITLE: Cities Alliance Global Programme on Cities and Migration: Supporting Secondary Cities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia

DURATION: Nov 2022 – Dec 2026

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Building onto the first phase of the Global Programme, Cities Alliance commits to further support secondary cities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to improve their service delivery for migrants, refugees, and IDPs. This work is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Between 2022 and 2026, the Programme will support secondary cities with high numbers of migrants and displaced populations: Arua, Jinja and Kobobo in Uganda; Adama and Jigjiga in Ethiopia; Medenine, Tataouine and Kairouan in Tunisia; San Marcos and Amatitlan in Guatemala and towns and cities along the Urban Mekong Corridor in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam. The program will provide: i) technical support to effectively plan for expected urban expansion within the coming 30 years; ii) technical and financial support to improve service delivery and creation of job opportunities for migrants, refugees, and IDPs; and iii) peer learning and advocacy support, including the establishment of a regional network for dialogue in the Horn of Africa. The program hereby builds the capacity of secondary cities, contributing to more inclusive urban planning and service delivery and helps ensure that perspectives and realities of secondary cities on migration and displacement are understood nationally, regionally, and internationally.

C40 - MMC

Global

TITLE: C40-MMC Advance Thought Leadership on Urban Climate Migration and Loss and Damage

DURATION: 2023–2025

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Building on the leadership of the C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate & Migration, C40 Cities (C40) and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) pledge to increase support for local action on the urban dimension of climate migration through 2025. As cities are increasingly at the forefront of climate-induced loss and damage, especially climate migration and displacement, mayors are showing bold leadership in delivering inclusive responses, in line with the objectives of the Refugee and Migration Compacts and the Paris Agreement. Building from the C40 report "Urban Loss & Damage: Challenges and Opportunities for City Leadership", which sets out a vision of how global actors can support city leadership, including on climate migration and displacement, we will: i) continue to advance a shared understanding of the urban dimension of climate migration and displacement; ii) scale up mayoral advocacy to shift policy and finance outcomes in both the climate and migration diplomacy space; and iii) advance the development of dedicated programming and funding that is locally-led, demand-driven and fit for urban needs, such as the C40 Inclusive Climate Action Fund, The Global Green New Deal Pilots and the MMC Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees.

“Our work with the Integrating Cities Process shows that cities are key to ensure equal opportunities and to provide integration services for migrants and refugees indiscriminately. With our pledge we want to showcase this local commitment to welcome newcomers. At the same time, this pledge highlights the need to involve cities in policy making, and to make sure they get increased access to EU and national funding.”

Katharina Bamberg
Head of Migration, Eurocities

EUROCITIES

Europe

TITLE: Eurocities' Integrating Cities Process: A Framework for Building Capacity on Migration and Integration

DURATION: 2019 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Eurocities commits to deliver its "Integrating Cities Process"; securing commitments from European cities to integrate migrants and refugees and conducting an assessment of those commitments every two years. The Integrating Cities Process is Eurocities' framework to work on migration and integration. Local authorities are part of the Process through their pledges on the Integrating Cities Charter. Every two years, Eurocities assess cities' progress against the Integrating Cities Charter. The last assessment report, published in December 2022, shows that Europe has faced multiple crises, the effects of which have often played out at the local level. Cities have had to respond quickly to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic impact and, most recently, the Russian invasion and ensuing war in Ukraine, leading to record numbers of refugees seeking protection in neighboring countries and further afield. Nonetheless, cities pledge to continue their efforts to integrate migrants and refugees, and to embrace the diversity of their populations that is already a reality in cities across Europe. Eurocities will continue capacity building of local governments to better understand the needs and challenges of migrants and refugees, and to develop approaches that facilitate their access to services and furthers their inclusion.

GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL AND THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF WELCOMING CITIES

Brazil

TITLE: National Network of Welcoming Cities: An Institutional Space for Local-National Coordination and Collaboration in Brazil

DURATION: Nov 2023 – ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Brazilian Government commits to support a National Network of Welcoming Cities (RNCA in Portuguese), a collaborative and voluntary space for Brazilian municipalities and the national government to debate and discuss proposals on decentralized, democratic, and participatory governance to support decision-making in the field of human mobility, including forced displacement and statelessness. Concretely, the RNCA aims to: i) support policy development aimed at the inclusion of migrant, refugee, and stateless populations at the local level; ii) institutionalize a space for multi-level dialogue; iii) enable the distribution of grants to support decision-making at the municipal level; iv) provide opportunities for exchange and learning; v) incentivize the set-up of inter-municipal partnerships and programs; vi) disseminate the principles, objectives, and guidelines of relevant national legislation and policies in the field of migration and forced displacement; and vii) expand the institutionalization of municipal policies for migrants, refugees, and stateless persons across Brazil.

MAYORS MIGRATION COUNCIL

Global

TITLE: MMC Bring the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees to \$50M

DURATION: 2023 - ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) commits to bring the [Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees](#) to reach \$50 million—starting with \$25 million by 2025—so it can support more cities and deepen its impact through multi-year grants and more predictable funding rounds.

The [Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees](#) (GCF) responds to the unmet needs of cities as they support migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs) in the face of pressing challenges, from global pandemics to the climate crisis. By directly funding cities to implement inclusive programs of their own design, the GCF builds precedents of fiscal feasibility in city governments that are often disregarded by donors with low risk tolerance. This pledge builds on three years of impact highlighted in the [GCF Progress Report](#) released in December 2023. Created by the MMC in 2021 with an \$1 million seed investment to support five cities in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, in just three years the GCF has become an \$8 million fund supported by five donors with a pipeline of 28 city grantees delivering solutions on health, economic inclusion, climate migration, early childhood development, and more.

UCLG

Global

TITLE: UCLG Brings the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees at the Core of the 2030 Agenda and the UN Pact for the Future

DURATION: July 2023 – Sept 2024

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), commits to bring the protection and inclusion of refugees and migrants at the heart of all global development agendas. At the SDG Summit, UCLG recognized the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees as one of the UCLG transformative coalitions localizing the 2030 Agenda and serving as a blueprint to rescue the SDGs as called by the UN Secretary-General. Furthermore, under UCLG proposal, the UN included the Call to Local Action as part of one of the 12 High-Impact Initiatives accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Building on this, UCLG pledges at the Global Refugee Forum to continue promoting the centrality of the human mobility agenda, fostered through local actions as brought forward in the Call to Local Action, to achieve all the global development agendas as one. Looking towards the Summit of the Future and the UN Pact for the Future, UCLG pledges to continue mainstreaming human mobility through the means of engagement of the World Organization and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments—on top of it, with the input that LRGs will deliver at the Advisory Group of the United Nations Secretary General on Local and Regional Governments.

WELCOMING AMERICA

United States of America

TITLE: Expanding Welcoming Week across the globe to foster belonging for all people – No matter where we come from

DURATION: Nov 2020 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PLEDGE: Mirror pledge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Welcoming America commits to deliver its annual Welcoming Week campaign, expand that campaign in 2024, and increase events in following years. Welcoming Week provides institutions and individuals the opportunity to showcase their values through initiatives that foster connections between migrants and non-migrants, as well as belonging for all. Started in 2020, Welcoming America supports the expansion of Welcoming Week globally and provides a toolkit, technical assistance, peer learning, campaign assets, and/or financial resources to additional implementing organizations – both national governments and civil society – to launch Welcoming Week in their countries.

Local and regional governments, NGOs, migrant and refugee-led organizations, local businesses and others participate by hosting events (670 in 2023) and engage on social and traditional media to influence the public narrative on migration to be more positive and hopeful. The campaign's primary objectives are to: i) bring neighbors together—migrant, refugee, and non-migrant—to build connections; ii) celebrate ongoing local multi-sector inclusionary efforts; iii) affirm the importance of "welcoming communities" in achieving collective prosperity; iv) engage new stakeholders to achieve collective prosperity through longer-term commitments; and v) affect the public narrative on migration to be more positive and hopeful.

“ Welcoming Week is a moment to affirm that all of us can belong and thrive in the places we call home, no matter where we come from. We take inspiration from the leadership of communities across the globe, and their efforts to build a more welcoming society for all.”

Rachel Perić
Executive Director, Welcoming America



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ABOUT

The Mayors Mechanism – Co-Steered by UCLG, MMC, and IOM

In December 2018, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), and the UN Migration Agency (IOM) came together to establish a formal entry point to bring the voices, experiences and policy asks of local and regional governments (LRGs) to the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Together, they created the Mayors Mechanism of the GFMD with the aim to catalyze smarter, bolder global action to make migration work for all.

In its first three years, the Mayors Mechanism built a robust partnership which piloted new methods to mobilize local action to meet global goals and secured more direct and equal access for LRGs to the GFMD than ever before.

The partnership is now scaling its proven model to other State-led migration and forced displacement fora and launching a Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees

Local and regional governments are at the heart of migration and forced displacement. It is at the local level where we see pragmatic, principled, and people-centered approaches that meet or exceed global goals, such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Recognized by the UN Secretary General, the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees aims to capture this political commitment and vast practical experience. It will:

- Expand the number of LRGs publicly endorsing the Compacts through the Marrakech Mayors Declaration.
- Collect and showcase LRGs' actions that achieve or exceed the Compacts' goals, submitting those actions and pledges to the official UN online platforms and reviews.
- Create a cohort of LRG leaders engaged in robust GCM and GCR implementation to motivate scaling and investment in local practices by States, and form new partnerships with international actors.

The Call to Local Action is a collaborative effort between the **Mayors Mechanism** steering committee members – **UCLG**, **MMC**, and **IOM** – and is executed in partnership with the **UN Refugee Agency** UNHCR. It is supported by additional affiliated partners and city networks.





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CREDITS

Report available at localaction.mayorsmechanism.org
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Photo cover: Left: Ukrainian refugees and third country nationals arrive at the train station in Rzeszów, Poland. ©Muse Mohammed/IOM 2022; Center: Market in Accra, Ghana. ©Ida Lien/Urban-A 2023; Right: MMC in Quito, Ecuador. ©Samer Saliba/MMC.

Photo above: Martina Dayacos, one of IOM's beneficiaries in response to Typhoon Mangkhut. ©IOM



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