



## *Outcome Report: Cities and their contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees*

### **Introduction**

The following report is the outcome of the September 2021 meeting of 210 cities from all over the world on their contributions to achieving the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees in preparation for the High-Level Officials Meeting to be held on 14-15 December 2021. The meeting was hosted by the Global Task Force on Migration (GTFM) and UNHCR. The GTFM is made up of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Union of Municipalities of Turkey, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, WALD, and UCLG-MEWA. The GFMD Mayors Mechanism, Cities Alliance, the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), UCLG and UN-Habitat are partners in this initiative.

### **City contributions**

In addition to reviewing pledges made by cities at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, cities contributed to a [Good Practices & Innovative Approaches dashboard](#) highlighting their efforts to support and include refugees, migrants, internally displaced and stateless people in their programmes and initiatives. The diversity of local contexts, and the differences between resettlement countries and countries hosting large numbers of forcibly displaced persons means that there is not a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. These good practices include innovative approaches in responsibility sharing, education, livelihoods and job opportunities, expanding services, housing and inclusion. The event included discussions about challenges cities continue to face in delivering services due to COVID-19. Cities of Arua and Koboko, Uganda, Kakuma, Kenya and Gabiley, Somalia, made new pledges.

### **What are the overarching gaps identified by Cities?**

National policies sometimes work against local solutions municipalities are trying to achieve resulting in systemic challenges. Ensuring that municipalities are included in planning and empowered to participate in national and global policy-making forums is key to addressing these gaps:

1. Not enough information exists on barriers to achieving inclusion and social cohesion in cities. In contexts where there is a very centralised form of government, municipalities may not have the mandate to implement social cohesion policies
2. Cities do not have access to adequate data on their refugee residents. Better data would assist cities in meeting their needs and understanding the social and economic contributions of refugees.
3. Refugees are not always included in national and local development or strategic plans, making it challenging for Municipalities to access funding to expand services to meet the needs of refugee residents.
4. Many cities include refugees, migrants, internally displaced in their existing services without adequate financial resources.

### **City Representative Recommendations to the 2021 High-Level Officials Meeting**

#### **Solutions – Inclusion and Social Cohesion**

1. Robust social inclusion approaches implemented by cities should facilitate interaction between the host community and refugees.
2. Initiatives that tackle racism and xenophobia and promote tolerance, inclusion, and diversity at the local level need to be scaled up.
3. National and city governments should work together to create opportunities for refugees to meaningfully influence the plans, policies, and programs that affect their lives
4. Refugees should be supported to settle in intermediary cities when appropriate.
5. The media should highlight the positive social, cultural and economic contributions of refugees and migrants to enriching cities.

### **Jobs and Livelihoods**

1. International humanitarian donors, financiers and national governments should increase their funding to city governments and their civil society partners to better resource, scale, and refine inclusive services and programs. Local municipalities should be supported to advocate for more resourcing
2. Municipalities should have a clear policy & inclusive strategy to act on livelihoods and economic inclusion, including building partnerships with the local private sector.
3. Municipalities should foster female entrepreneurship and economic empowerment to include the wider household and the refugee community.

### **Protection - Children and Documentation**

1. Data collection and sharing should be prioritised by all stakeholders to improve information and increase access to basic services and protection for children and the most vulnerable.
2. Flexible new approaches and the use of technology should be explored by National Governments and Municipalities to ensure access to birth registration.

### **Protection – Access to Education and Health Services**

1. Programmes to improve community-level solidarity should be prioritised by Municipalities to address discriminatory behaviours and systems, increasing the capacity of community organisations to represent the forcibly displaced and avoid exclusion from access to services.
2. Successful city-level innovations that overcome barriers to accessing services should be supported to be scaled up with funding from international humanitarian donors, financiers and national governments scaled up.
3. Access to adequate data will help improve city planning for refugees and host communities.

### **Energy and Infrastructure –Housing**

1. Medium-term financial support to refugees from international humanitarian donors, financiers and national governments will help alleviate affordability concerns and ensure housing access.
2. Coordination mechanisms need to be created amongst service providers (both public and private).
3. Municipalities should work more closely with landlords and refugees to promote the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced and their obligations and standards for all parties.
4. Investment in all forms should be made in the local government land planning and housing provision.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps for cities**

Following the sharing of this report at the High-Level Official Meeting, UNHCR, the GTFM, the GFMD Mayors Mechanism, Cities Alliance, the MMC and UN-Habitat urge all relevant stakeholders, National Governments and the international community to empower cities through increasing opportunities for their meaningful participation in national and global policy formation and through funding and technical support, acknowledging the continued burden sharing role that cities play contributing to the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

The GTFM will continue organising regular quarterly meetings to facilitate networking and experiences between municipalities. To take stock of progress, challenges, and support needs to implement the collective commitments to the 2019 Gaziantep Declaration, including the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Compact on Migration, localisation of the SDGs, and the New Urban Agenda in the lead up to the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 Global Refugee Forum in 2023.