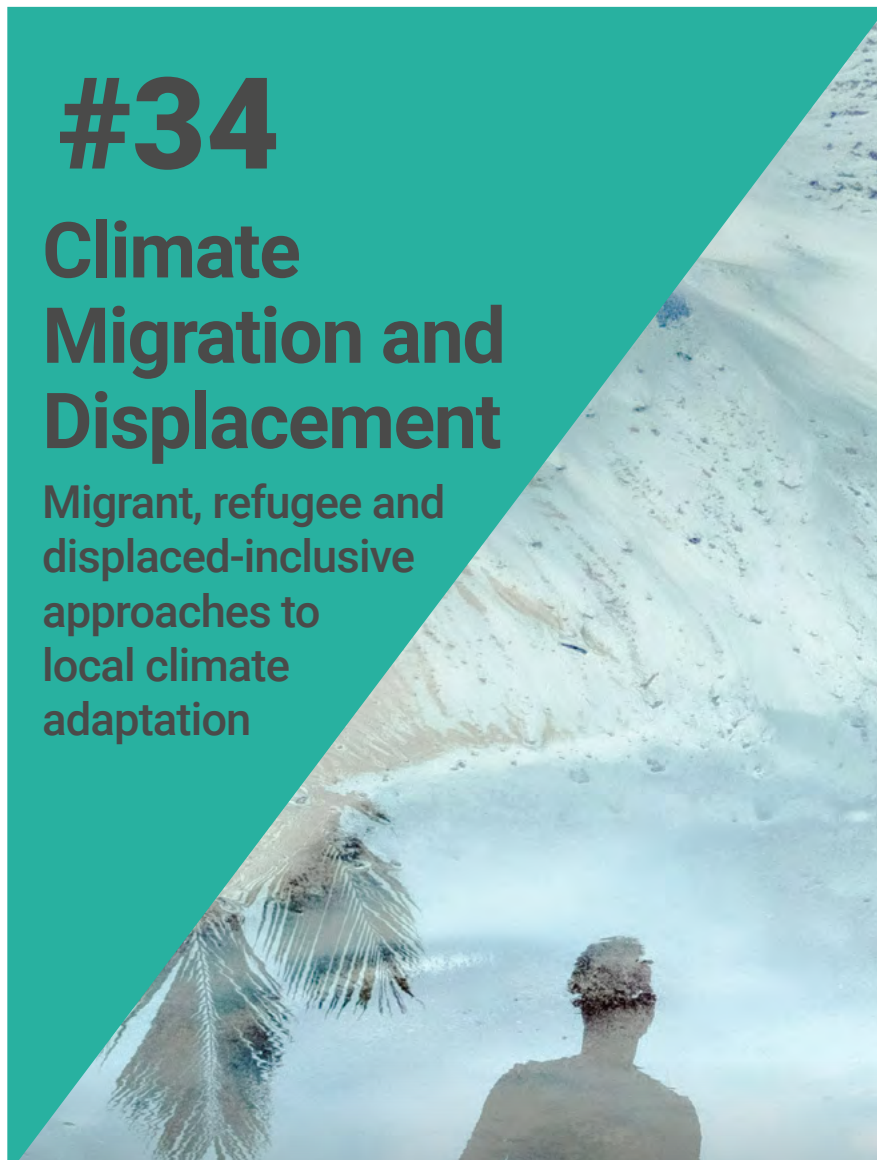


# #34

## Climate Migration and Displacement

Migrant, refugee and  
displaced-inclusive  
approaches to  
local climate  
adaptation



Peer Learning  
June-July 2023



Call to  
Local Action  
for Migrants  
and Refugees

Learning  
UCLG

## Credits

### Coordination

City of Paris  
 United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)  
 Mayors Mechanism Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees  
 Mayors Migration Council (MMC)  
 International Organisation for Migration (IOM)  
 IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division  
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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 Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Global Covenant of  
 Mayors for Climate & Energy

### Editors

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

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 “Equal Partnerships – African Intermediary Cities as Actors and  
 Partners in Urban Migration Governance”

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Cover Photo: by Martin Bertrand.

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# Foreword

**The city of Mardaan is nestled in the heart of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Our region, with its rugged beauty, has borne the brunt of climate change and the resulting human mobility, like many others in the Global South. In 2005, 60% of our city was submerged due to devastating floods. We stand as a refuge for displaced populations, welcoming those who have been affected by climate-induced disasters. Moreover, our country has a long history of hosting Afghan refugees, with the most recent influx in 2021 following the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan.**

As local and regional governments, we find ourselves at the forefront of addressing climate migration and displacement. In times of climate emergencies and disasters, our community networks play a pivotal role in providing assistance to those displaced by calamities. They open their homes to the affected families, offering temporary shelter and aid. These local networks are the bedrock of our response and recovery efforts. We collaborate with national agencies, disaster management authorities and international organizations to build back better after disasters. However, the bulk of our actions are mobilized by the resilience of our local communities and our informal city networks.

This reality at the forefront of the climate emergency, calls for our inclusion in national climate adaptation and urban planning strategies. Our engagement in international spaces is crucial, as is the recognition of local governments' role to coordinate and accelerate the localisation of inclusive climate adaptation actions aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees. Moreover, these fora bring us valuable opportunities to showcase our local actions supporting migrants, refugees and other vulnerable communities displaced due to

climate change, and to collectively claim responsibility and access to financial resources and aid, such as the loss & damage funds agreed on last COP27 and other international initiatives.

Local and regional governments are committed to accelerating action, listening to our communities and learning from one another's experiences. This peer learning note documents the meaningful exchanges and discussions we had during this peer learning experience, coinciding with the Global Forum on Migration and Development dialogues taking place in Paris, France in June 2023. As we continue discussions on the road to the COP28, the Global Refugee Forum and the 2024 Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit, I invite you to learn from the experiences and innovative solutions of fellow local governments.

It is our collective responsibility to address the challenges of climate-induced migration and ensure that no one is left behind. Together, we can build more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities for all.

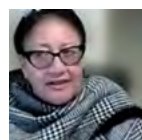
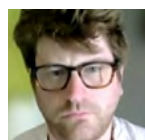
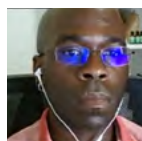
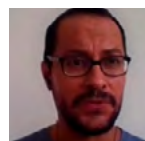
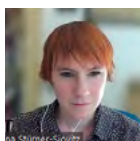


**Mr Himayat Ullah Mayar**  
Mayor of Mardan

# Introduction

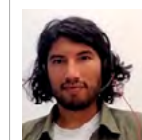
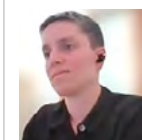
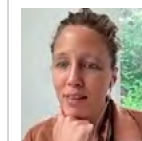
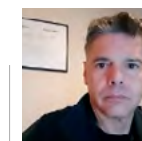
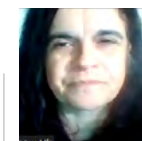
**As part of the Call to Local Action on Migrants and Refugees, the global peer learning on *Climate induced human mobility* gathered the interest of about 180 participants from over 55 countries.**

Organized on July 4-5 by UCLG as part of the Mayors Mechanism Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees (co-steered by UCLG, MMC, IOM and UNHCR) in partnership with Welcoming International and the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy, the activity explored inclusive territorial actions aimed at addressing the drivers and impacts of climate change induced migration and displacement. Municipal workers and practitioners from about 20 cities, city networks, civil society, international organizations and academia discussed emerging trends, promising practices and territorial challenges to improve the livelihoods of communities while contributing to achieve global climate and human mobility goals.



The virtual peer learning was built on a visit and deep-dive workshop with the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division of the IOM and the city of Paris, which took place on June 27th. This workshop discussed the outcomes of the “Urban Climate Migration: Challenges, Representations and Inclusion” project implemented by the city of Paris, complemented by a roundtable on local climate migration governance under the framework of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) Climate, Culture and Human Mobility Events held in Paris on June 28th.

13 local practices from across the globe, including Paris and Mardan, were brought up during the event, which also included open dialogues with civil society and academia, bringing up key reflections, areas for action, lessons and recommendations for local and regional governments at the forefront of the climate emergency.



# Background

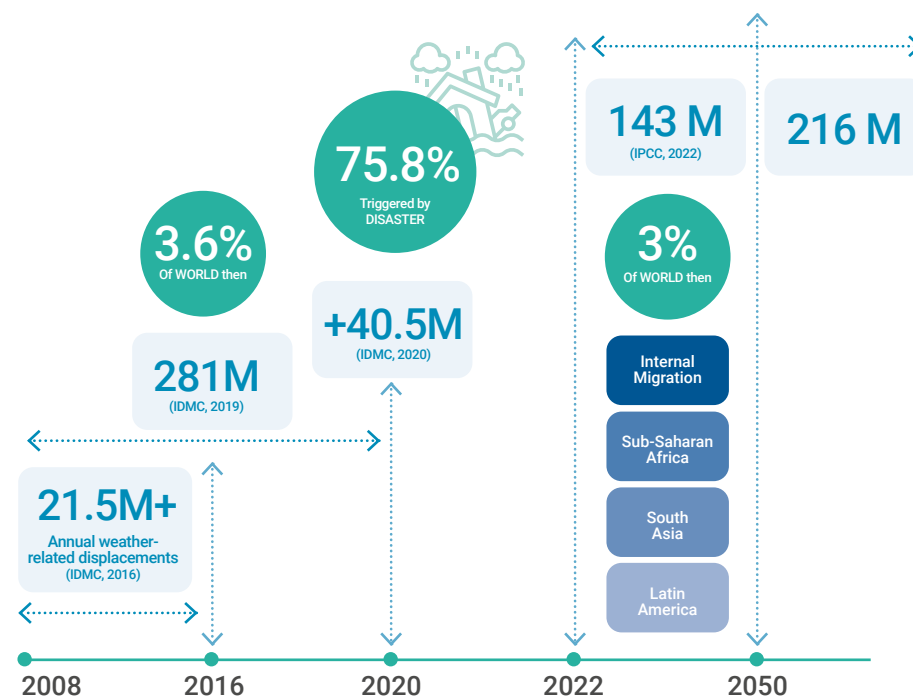
Climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters due to natural hazards are profoundly reshaping contemporary migration patterns worldwide in diverse ways<sup>1</sup>. The decision to move can be shaped by sudden-onset events (such as tropical cyclones, hurricanes, coastal floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions), slow-onset events (such as sea level rise and coastal erosion, rainfall variability and drought, increasing temperatures, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification), and human-induced hazards such as industrial pollution, factory explosions, fires, and chemical spills and nuclear accidents. Migration in the context of climate change is, however, often multicausal - a combination of social, political, economic, environmental, and demographic drivers.

The line between migration and displacement can be difficult to define, but the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility defines climate-induced displacement as the one where people are forced to leave their home permanently or temporarily, driven mainly by a sudden-onset climate-related event(s), whereas climate-induced migration is more complex, with the decision to move often linked to multiple drivers (including climate risk and slow-onset climate events) and, to some degree, voluntary<sup>2</sup>.

Whether displacement or migration, the reality is that **the impacts of climate change are already being felt in all parts of the world, although low-income households or people living near or below the poverty line are particularly vulnerable to them**. This is due to several factors, including lower quality and quantity of housing, higher probability to stay in hazardous zones, the dependence of those populations on agricultural production yields to secure their livelihoods, greater vulnerability to rising food prices and food insecurity, lower access to public services such as education and healthcare, among others. In many cases, these are the people who are trapped and do not have the means to or the opportunity to move out of degraded areas.

<sup>1</sup> <https://publications.iom.int/books/institutional-strategy-migration-environment-and-climate-change-2021-2030>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/migrated\\_files/pbn/docs/Human-Mobility-in-the-context-of-Climate-Change.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/migrated_files/pbn/docs/Human-Mobility-in-the-context-of-Climate-Change.pdf).



**Figure 1:** Key trends and Projections on Climate Change Induced Human Mobility.

Source: Author's image<sup>4</sup>

Ultimately, **those least responsible for CO2 emissions are also the people most affected by the impacts of climate change with a limited amount of coping and adaptation strategies.**

At present, the vast majority of people who are moving because of the impacts of climate change are displaced within their own country, and they tend to end up in urban areas, as they search for more diverse income opportunities and better access to services and amenities. An additional 2.5 billion people are projected to be living in urban areas by 2050, with up to 90% of this increase concentrated in Asia and Africa<sup>3</sup>. They are part of the broader trend of increasing urbanization occurring globally, but particularly in the Global South, which is expected to host 143 million new urbanites in the coming 20 years.

<sup>3</sup> [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_FuIIReport.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FuIIReport.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Derived by compiling findings from the IOM's [World Migration Report 2022](#), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) [2016](#) and [2021](#) GRID reports - Global Report on Internal displacement and the [6th Assessment report 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#).

# Local Action

**At the local level, cities are innovating solutions and responses towards addressing climate and human mobility. These responses are not only about safeguarding natural resources and improving urban land-use and planning, but also about guaranteeing basic services and essential human rights to those affected by the effects of climate change. Moreover, local and regional governments facing increasing climate migration and displacement are at the forefront of developing broader rights-based approaches to ensure these newcomers' right to work and inclusion, for example, by transitioning reframing local economic models to foster migrant and displaced communities' active contributions to environmental, social, and economic resilience.**

In the context of this peer learning, initiatives by local and regional governments at the intersection of climate change and migration can be seen to act in the following areas, as categorized by the Mayors Migration Council (MMC):

- **Urban inclusion (Reception):** Developing inclusive strategies and bolstering city services to ensure the protection, access to fundamental rights and inclusion of people who move into cities, including those in the context of natural disasters and climate displacement.
- **Urban resilience (Adaptation):** Building climate resilient cities and tackling needed transformation in local/regional economic activities so that people aren't forced to move for climate reasons or, if they must, can do so with dignity.
- **Urban transformation (Mitigation):** Recognizing migrants and refugees as agents of change in the green transition and working in partnership with them to deliver a just green transition.

As seen in the different practices discussed in the peer learning and presented in this note, cities are increasingly aware of the need for holistic responses to both climate change and human mobility and assert that, with adequate planning and preparations, they can seize the opportunities where climate and migration intersect. Typical priority actions comprise reinforcing the resilience of residents to climate hazards and climate displacement; ensuring that those who move into cities are welcomed, included and protected; and delivering a green and just transition in alliance with migrants and refugees.





# Peer Learning

This section summarizes the territorial experiences and policy reflections shared by cities and stakeholders at the hybrid workshop hosted by the city of Paris and with a thematic roundtable on local climate migration governance under the framework of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) from June 27-28, that were carried forward to the peer learning.

## Deep Dive with the City of Paris

On the 27th of June, the Mayors Mechanism and the City of Paris co-organized a technical workshop at the Académie du Climat in Paris, back-to-back with the Paris GFMD 2024 Thematic Preparatory Meetings. Representatives from cities, city networks, research institutes and civil society discussed the question: “How to implement climate adaptation policies promoting migrant and refugee inclusion in local contexts?”



The workshop was opened by François Croquette, Directeur de la Transition Écologique et du Climat, City of Paris and his team, who shared experiences from their project [“Climate Migration in Urban Areas: Challenges, Representations and Inclusion”](#), with the IOM’s Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) unit and the Hugo Observatory of the University of Liège. Carrying forward the five thematic areas intersectional to climate migration from the agenda of the City of Paris - housing, employment, healthcare, advocacy, participation and inclusion - the workshop participants explored three main questions.

1. How to better anticipate movements from, within and towards cities in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters?
2. How to better include migrants in urban climate adaptation policies?
3. What are the opportunities associated with migrants in the fight against climate change (mitigation and adaptation), disasters and environmental degradation?

Participant cities and stakeholders highlighted the unique advantage possessed by local and regional governments (LRGs) to unite diverse stakeholders around the table to shape coherent climate adaptation practices and policies. They emphasized that partnership and collaboration are crucial in the following areas:

- Among LRGs, (local) research institutes, migrant and refugee associations, national statistical offices and international organizations: to inform and access localized territorial data on climate migration

flows, identify climate vulnerabilities of the diverse affected communities and develop short and medium-term scenarios to guide policy implementation, especially in the housing sector, to accommodate the incoming newcomers.

- Among LRGs and migrant and displaced communities: to identify what works in their territories and what resources they need and to develop narratives and actions that present climate mobility not as a crisis but as an opportunity.

City representatives underlined the need to holistically devise effective territorial solutions to ease the pressure on urban settings impacted by climate change, while implementing a timely ecological transition to reinforce urban resilience. They also the need for developing sustainable city policies - promotion of livelihoods and green jobs in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, upgrading old houses, overcoming language gaps in early warning systems, ensuring access to services and (mental) health care, as well as access to/training for green jobs to all inhabitants.

Participants stressed the significance of including migrants and refugees in consultations towards developing climate adaptation policies and implementing ecological transition, given their invaluable experience of living with climate change and enhancing adaptation capacities in countries of origin via remittances. It was reiterated that these consultations should not be simple tick-box exercises. To fully reap the benefits of their knowledge, migrants and

refugees should be a part of the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes wherever possible. Lastly, it was deemed essential that LRGs advocate at national and international levels for financial transfers to implement the above actions, allowing for inclusive approaches in local adaptation planning.

**For more information, you may refer to the extensive workshop summary [here](#).**



## GFMD Roundtable on the Local Governance of Climate Migration

During this GFMD Panel, experts discussed the impacts of climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation on displacement and migration in urban and community settings. The discussion, moderated by Ms. Cécile Riallant of the IOM Sustainable Development unit, featured valuable insights from contributors such as Mr Himayat Ullah Mayar, the Mayor of Mardan (Pakistan), Mr. Yann Françoise from the city of Paris, Dr. Iniabong Awe from the Climate Departments of Nigeria, Ms. Pefi Kingi from the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs, IPCC author Dr. Helen Adams, and Ms. Verena Knaus of UNICEF.



Key takeaways included the recognition that climate change and human mobility are tangible realities in urban areas, emphasizing the need for fair and sustainable transition and adaptation strategies. Priority areas included ensuring access to essential services, such as housing, healthcare, and human rights, for those affected by climate-induced displacement.

Mitigating displacement risks within cities and addressing internal urban migrations were highlighted to avoid repeated displacement within a single



urban context. The importance of inclusivity in adaptation and relocation plans was emphasized, calling for the inclusion of vulnerable communities, youth, and indigenous groups. Cultural sensitivity was also brought up as a vital aspect in planned relocations from high-risk areas. Social protection systems and climate finance were seen as essential for strengthening resilience, reducing reliance on emergency responses, and making climate mobility an opportunity rather than a crisis.

The panel advocated for enhanced climate literacy, data disaggregation, and localization to inform decision-making. Innovative proposals included creating climate visas to eliminate administrative hurdles for displaced persons and redirecting national and international climate finance to the local level. The panel emphasized that financial support should be complemented by local capacity building and sharing successful practices from other local and regional governments.



## Case Studies

**Over dedicated segments for participants from the Eastern and Western hemispheres, 11 promising practices were presented by city representatives, from welcoming and supporting affected migrants, refugees and displaced communities, to including them in local climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and combating climate mobility drivers at their origin via needed ecological and economic transformations, to alleviate further forced migration and displacement.**

These practices were peer reviewed amongst the city representatives and the civil society and academia experts via an interactive exercise that also assessed the contributions of these local actions to global migration and refugee and the 2030 agendas, by matching them to the fitting priorities of the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees. This section showcases six of these practices.



**CTA 1**  
Improving Local Governance



**CTA 5**  
Fostering Social Inclusion



**CTA 2**  
Minimizing drivers



**CTA 6**  
Eliminating Discrimination



**CTA 3**  
Protecting the Vulnerable



**CTA 7**  
Reception & Community Sponsorship



**CTA 4**  
Access to Services



**CTA 8**  
Building Partnerships

# Welcoming and supporting populations displaced by climate-induced events

## London (United Kingdom)

Building London's response to climate migration

**The Greater London Authority (UK) is striving to build their city's response to climate migration, by pledging solidarity towards collective climate mitigation efforts aiming for London to become net zero carbon by 2030.** With more than 4 in 10 Londoners being born abroad (aprx. 40% of the population in 2021), and more than 1 in 5 having a non-UK passport (aprx. 25%), London underlines its welcoming nature, with the current Mayor committed to championing migrant rights, celebrating its diversity, and strategically investing in services that ensure migrants can access their rights and entitlements in London.

The city is well aware that some migrant groups are more vulnerable to environmental injustice and that is why a fair transition is at the heart of its Green New Deal net-zero strategy. As such, London also aims to support cities in the Global South facing mass displacement and the migrants living in London, with a focus on climate justice and green transitions to open green jobs opportunities to minorities, low income, and removing administrative barriers for migrants to access educational courses,

including on green re-skilling. For example, the 3-years residency requirement to access publicly-funded Adult Education in London have been waived, allowing Londoners to access training and skills learning, including green skills, from the moment they arrive in the city. This will facilitate access



for migrants to some of the 56,000 jobs that will be needed by 2050 to retrofit homes and green infrastructure as part of its net zero strategy.

The city's climate mitigation team works transversally within different sectors to embed a migration angle across its organization, ensuring opportunities stemming from the climate crisis can support social integration and are inclusive of migrant communities, for example, through the city's participation in the [Inclusive Cities programme](#). It understands that climate action done well - co-designed with residents so that it can deliver on people's needs (jobs, health, livelihoods and better quality of life) - is the best viable option to overcome the joint crises we are living in without paving the way for new ones, and is committed to continue to build international awareness of climate-led migration and engage with partners around the world in finding common responses and solutions to the growing challenges of climate change.

### Areas of action:

- CTA1: Improving Local Governance
- CTA3: Protecting the Vulnerable
- CTA8: Building Partnerships
- CTA5: Fostering Social Inclusion

### Challenges:

- Limited localized disaggregated data on arriving migrants
- Lack of authority on many migration issues

### Key Lessons:

- Need to embed migration into climate action and other transversal agendas to ensure a fair transition
- Political will, and a well established diaspora & CSO networks are needed to ensure welcoming environment and support new arrivals

## Nairobi (Kenya)

### City of Choice Project

**In Nairobi, Kenya, the City of Choice Project, under the Safer Nairobi Initiative, aims to address the needs of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by climate crisis, particularly along the river, through focused group and community dialoguing on common challenges and public participatory design projects to devise mitigation strategies**

SNI has adopted a people-centric approach of engagement, informed by its core thematic areas of urban inclusion, resilience and transformation. The refugees, migrants and IDPs together with the host communities have been at the forefront in steering dialogues on the challenges they face, including climate change as well as coming up with mitigation measures. This includes partnerships with other organizations including the City County Government, Refugee-Led Organizations in Nairobi and Humanitarian bodies such as UNHCR, HIAS and IRC-ReBUILD.

So far the project has benefited over 1000 migrants, refugees, and IDPs, 600 of whom are women and 400 men. It has been able to promote self-reliance of



the target groups by providing a wide range of practical community support services such as the Choice Innovation Hub at One Stop Youth Centre, which have help to increase physical and mental health among the groups and within the community, provide meaningful livelihoods improvements, and promote social cohesion among target communities. It has also provided a safe space in which community dialogue can address tensions between the refugee and host communities.

#### Areas of action:

- CTA 5: Fostering Social Inclusion
- CTA 3: Protecting the Vulnerable
- CTA 8: Building Partnerships
- CTA 4: Access to Services

#### Challenges:

- Limited financial resources, and difficulty to engage with individual migrants/displaced people (easier when they are organized)
- Tensions existing already among communities in target area

#### Key Lessons:

- Migrant, refugee and IDP populations have massive potential that needs the right platforms and opportunities to be tapped on and awakened
- People-centric engagement from the start can facilitate community dialogue and empowerment



## Tackling needed transformations to avert further migration & displacement

### **Hargeisa (Somaliland)**

Resettlement and resilient livelihoods for flood risk zones of Daami IDPs

**Hargeisa municipality in Somaliland showcased their resettlement and resilient livelihoods project aimed at relocating IDP families out of flood risk zones in the vicinity of the Daami dam. A grantee of the MMC Global Cities Fund, the project aims to provide around 100 relocated families land ownership and planned settlements, with entrepreneurial training, capital and equipment for 20 young women to establish alternative livelihoods.**

The city worked hand-in-hand with internally displaced families living in flood-prone areas to relocate them to safer areas of the city and provide them with land ownership and a planned settlement. Beneficiaries will



avail land tenure of 10 by 12 meters, in addition to support of 100 USD per family for 8 months + non food items (NFI) for their relocation, resulting in reduced risks from climate impacts, security of land tenure, and security of income and assets through self-employment opportunities resulting from the small business grants and direct cash assistance.

The action has been funded through collaboration between Hargeisa Municipality, Humanitarian Actors, GCF/MMC and AKIA Foundation. The AKIA Foundation provided \$200,000 through GCF, and Hargeisa Municipality is contributing around \$38,160 in cash, in addition to land allocation and logistical services for the entire activities, constructed schools, health facilities and security police posts.

#### **Areas of action:**

- CTA 2: Minimizing drivers
- CTA 5: Fostering Social Inclusion
- CTA 3: Protecting the Vulnerable
- CTA 4: Access to Services

#### **Challenges:**

- Psychological preparation and support was necessary for beneficiaries to adapt to the new environment
- Scarcity of resettlements of relocation land, and inadequate funding for resettlements programs to respond to the large number of IDPs

#### **Key Lessons:**

- Time is necessary for preparing such relocation operations in coordination with beneficiaries and multiple partners
- Creation of conducive economic package and appropriate support can improve livelihood opportunities after resettlement



## Manta (Ecuador):

### Proyecto PRORED

**Manta, the second biggest coastal city in Ecuador, is one of seven municipalities implementing the 'PRORED' Project in the country, aiming to boost local governments' capacity to address disasters.** The city conducted seasonal livelihood studies to identify what actions could be taken to overcome historical climate change impacts, such as a protracted drought due to the El Nino phenomenon, and created local risk management committees spearheaded by women, working closely with universities, national institutions, international agencies, the private sector, and community grassroots organizations.

The actions implemented include and account for the huge rural and international Venezuelan migrant communities that the city receives and supports. In the 1970s and 90s the city saw a 5% increase of population due to rural-urban migration exacerbated by the El Nino phenomenon. And in the last two decades it has welcomed many families coming from Venezuela. The city participates in the formulation of migration policies at the cantonal level,



through the Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights (CCPD), and in the definition of programs such as the "Agenda of public policies for the protection of rights of priority attention groups of the canton Manta 2018-2023".

Beyond the two local committees, the project also reinforced the capacities of Manta's directorate for the management of risks, with a strong focus on the inclusion of vulnerable groups, engagement of informal settlement communities, and participatory processes. The project counted with funding of approximately USD 200,000 through USAID/BHA, and impacted 1583 families who were beneficiaries.

#### Areas of action:

- CTA 2: Minimizing drivers
- CTA1: Improving Local Governance
- CTA 3: Protecting the Vulnerable
- CTA 5: Fostering Social Inclusion

#### Challenges:

- EPCI cantonal index indicated medium-low capacity (logistical and financial) of local governments to tackle disasters and undertake risk management
- Floods, drought, & landslides incurring recurrent negative socio-economic impacts on people's livelihoods

#### Lessons learned:

- Move from humanitarian to sustainable approaches with social inclusion & gender perspectives at their heart, responding and adapting to local rhythms and dynamics
- Local authorities & institutions need to be engaged for a more committed engagement by local communities, including through promotion of the leadership of young and adult women, who were key in the process

## Working locally and across borders to accelerate climate action

### **Abasan Al-Kabira (Palestine)**

#### Innovative Solutions for Renewable Energy Sources

**Abasan Al-Kabira in Gaza was one of the first Palestinian cities to join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy back in 2013. Even among the challenging conditions faced, with limited resources, land, and severe siege policies from Israel that restrict the capability to reach the basic needs for living of its population - many of whom have been displaced, the municipality is implementing innovative solutions to increase clean water availability and renewable energy sources projects.** Through several EU funded projects the municipality has seek to address the water scarcity, electricity deficiency and infrastructure inadequacy faced by their communities owing to protracted conflict and vulnerability to extreme weather events, while mitigating the environmental impact of the city in line with its Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SEAP) originally prepared in 2016, and recently updated.



The SUNBUILDING project specifically aims to develop alternative energy and renewable resources to supply electricity to public buildings (water facilities, schools, clinics etc.) as well as some residential buildings in marginalized areas. This will be achieved through a 5000 kW solar park, that could generate up to 75% of the electricity needed by these facilities. Paralellaly, the project is working to reduce energy consumption in public buildings of the municipality by 20%, and build up a research station for scientific and educational purposes which could also stimulate local economic growth and transfer technological know-how from EU countries to Palestine. The total project budget is 5,000,000 Euros, 50% contributed by the EU as part of its "Climate for Cities" ("C4C") Programme for implementation in the South Neighbourhood region, and 50% by the Gaza Life Power for Energy (Hayat Gaza Company) as associated partner.

#### **Areas of action:**

- CTA 2: Minimizing drivers
- CTA 8: Building Partnerships
- CTA 4: Access to Services
- CTA 1: Improving Local Governance

#### **Challenges:**

- Complex governance environment because of blockade/ occupation and humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip
- Sustained population growth (3% / year) but limited land and resources

#### **Key Lessons:**

- Importance of coordination with local and international NGOs to communicate to external actors in context of conflicts in order to protect project areas
- Multiple benefits of mitigation actions including by strengthening energy system's autonomy and resilience

## Move Green (Spain & Morocco)

(E)co-development for innovation and employment in the green and circular economy between Andalusia and North of Morocco

**FAMSI, the network of Andalusian local governments, together with AN^MAR (Federation of local authorities of North Morocco & Andalusia) y Claner (Andalusian Cluster of Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency), are implementing the EU co-financed overseas programme “MOVE GREEN for (E)co-development for innovation and employment in the green and circular economy between Andalusia and North of Morocco” aimed at the vocational training of young university students from Northern Moroccan cities in green and circular economy and their employment and entrepreneurial placement on return to their cities.**

The project looks to address the high brain drain between Morocco and Europe, with an extremely low percentage of returning migrants with engineering training (13,2% - according to the European Training Foundation). With local government associations as implementing partners, the project is also a unique example among a wider absence of local authorities in the international and transnational cooperation between African and European countries.

The project, already in its second phase, includes five main activities. It first aims to diagnose the skills and professional profiles most in demand in the



green and circular economy and renewable energy; while identifying and involving a pool of strategic private and public stakeholders in this sector. It then selects young Moroccans and provides them with pre-departure language, socio-cultural, and professional training in Morocco, before they are sent for four months to Andalusia (Spain) where they engage in specific academic and technical-vocational training about renewable energy, sustainability and the green economy sector. After these four months, the project accompanies and supports the reintegration and labor market inclusion of participants in Morocco, and also identifies and provides support for the implementation of the best self-employment projects. Throughout the process, the project also facilitates exchange visits between public and private Andalusian and North of Morocco entities, fostering the technical exchange and expansion of opportunities for returning professionals.

### Areas of action:

- CTA 8: Building Partnerships
- CTA1: Improving Local Governance
- CTA 5: Fostering Social Inclusion

### Challenges:

- High brain-drain between Morocco & European countries
- Project currently targets only high-skilled students / professionals directly, not addressing the main flows of mostly low-skilled migration

### Lessons learned:

- Be mindful of gaps in North and South Agendas and development pathways, not putting directly in practice projects from North in South, but fostering dialogue and adaptation.
- Circular and returning migration should be a free choice for individuals, taking into account multiple reasons to move or not return, and other vulnerability aspects

# Open Dialogues

**Before and after the peer review of the practices, participants in the peer learning were able to engage in open dialogues with other city practitioners, representatives from civil society, and academia, discussing the challenges being faced and opportunities available for local and regional governments to further advance their actions and commitments.**

The discussions reasserted the frontline role of LRGs, together with diaspora and local communities and civil society in ensuring the arriving migrant, internally displaced and refugee communities' access to municipal services, upholding of human rights, and sense of belonging, socio-economic inclusion and integration. The discussions also drew overlaps between how LRGs addressed integration and climate action agendas - from laying out a long term vision, collaborating with transversal city departments and institutions, to tackling underlying socio-economic inequalities and other obstacles common to accessing housing, employment, etc.

LRGs implement such local action towards climate resilience building and adaptation in parallel to global debates about responsibility for climate change, loss and damage, and the impact of global value chains on climate change. Hence, they need to be involved in these discussions to bridge policy coherence by integrating human rights and climate justice into these conversations, and to claim responsibility to manage loss and damage funding, as suggested during the GFMD events in Paris, with a focus on reparative and regenerative approaches to non-economic and cultural losses as well.

***"Climate justice is at the heart of the matter.***

*The cultural layers and non-economic losses have not been addressed, but they are a big deal to the people being dislocated."*

**Pefi Kingi**

QSM, Pacific Civil Society Leader

In light of a reiterated lack of climate literacy, disaggregated localized data and awareness of climate migration amongst local actors, as often stated at global fora, these practices showcase the ingenuity of LRG representatives in addressing these looming challenges despite limited mandates, resources and competencies. LRGs are mobilizing local community and CSO networks to reach out and enable the participation of vulnerable migrant and displaced groups in climate and disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning.

Via international agreements, LRGs are also providing youth with overseas skilling opportunities in green and circular economies, to gain firsthand experience from developed and global north countries which are implementing these green transitions, to transfer and adapt them to their global south territories of origin. Global north cities are increasingly assuming their responsibility to work with their twin cities, and global south cities, towards collectively mitigating climate change by advancing on global climate goals.

***"Immigration only works when integration works.***

*Moving can be a traumatic experience, and cities, through the connection with the diasporas, can do a lot in terms of giving people a sense of what future life can look like"*

**Denis Kierans**

University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society

Cities are drawing from their historic experiences with receiving migration flows, from rural-urban to cross border migration, to educate and adapt their local responses to migrants and displaced communities forced to flee due to climate change and environmental degradation. Cities do so without distinguishing people on the move by their motivations to flee or administration status, unlike Member states, and deploying bottom-up, inclusive and gender-sensitive approaches and collaborating with the whole of society.

An open dialogue with civil society and academia representatives also shed light on how LRGs could benefit from increased cooperation with civil society through multi-stakeholder partnerships and co-creation of initiatives and better appeal to national governments and agencies, vis-à-vis international institutions and organizations.



*"We have many grassroots organizations working with local governments. There needs to be more spaces like this, where we can share our perspectives, find ways to implement new policies locally, and **bring our voices to national policy making processes.**"*

### Efrain Jimenez

Coordinator of the Collective of Mexican Migrant Federations and Organizations (COLEFOM)

By building on established structures and initiatives within the respective local settings – whether within local government, NGOs, or civil society – and establish focal points within migration and/or climate change, related to other cross-cutting issues, or build on already existing communication platforms for other existing social issues. These initiatives can be carried out regardless of legal or political mandates, granted by national governments. Civil society actors have direct contact with vulnerable communities, migrants, and displaced persons, and can therefore aid LRGs with outreach activities regarding populations that are 'hard to reach'.

As a result of the contemporary global focus on climate change, the current situation is a good time for increased advocacy work to promote the visibility of these local actions by LRGs with local actors, since international and development agencies engaged in migration issues will probably increase their focus on climate change in the future.

## Key lessons & recommendations

While cities acknowledge the crucial link between climate change and human mobility, they often cite limited mandates and autonomy to act on this intersection as a significant barrier. Significant coherence gaps prevail between national and local policies in this regard, and continued advocacy towards national governments for coherent and well-structured national policies and strategies to address climate change induced human mobility will be necessary. In the meantime, LRGs can continue to advance their local action for migrants and refugees affected by climate change in different ways.

### 1. Integrate Human Mobility into Climate Action Plans

Local governments can holistically embed human mobility considerations into their climate action plans. For instance, climate mitigation plans could comprise the labor inclusion of migrant populations in 'green' jobs and 'greening' opportunities enroute to green transition. Concurrently, climate adaptation plans could also consider long-term and quality housing access to migrant and displaced communities, alongside climate and energy efficiency upgrades for sustainable housing. Lastly, interconnected disaster risk reduction plans could take advantage of migrants' skills and knowledge to ensure everyone is taken into account during pre-emptive evacuation procedures. Crucial to the above lies the acknowledgement that climate change has a significant impact on migration and displacement patterns. By mainstreaming human mobility, local governments can ensure that policies and strategies are inclusive and responsive to the needs of migrants, refugees, internally displaced and all persons affected by climate change, regardless of administrative status.

## 2. Champion Political Will and Inclusivity

Local leaders play a crucial role in advocating for the rights of migrants and refugees and creating a welcoming environment for new arrivals. The London case study, for example, highlights the importance of strong political commitment in welcoming and supporting migrants. This recommendation underscores the need to build robust diaspora and civil society networks that provide support and inclusivity, as discussed in the summary of discussions. Such diaspora networks, as well as associations of migrant and displaced people stand to be influential allies to local leaders at global discussions and policy consultations, ensuring that their voices are considered. Likewise, local leaders can potentiate transnational and solidarity action on climate change induced human mobility, by building bridges with diaspora networks. The resourcefulness of diaspora networks can co-steer local leaders' climate adaptation strategies in their territories of arrival and origin, towards alleviating climate induced drivers of human mobility.

## 3. Enhance Data Collection and Research

To address the challenge of limited localized and disaggregated data on arriving migrants, local governments must invest in data collection and research. The Manta and Paris case studies underline the importance of understanding the impact of climate change on migration patterns. Indeed, the lack of disaggregated data at varied levels of governance, was reiterated as a primary challenge throughout the Paris GFMD and peer learning events. Accurate and localized data, supplemented by a needs-based research on vulnerable communities is crucial for shaping effective policies and strategies that leave no one behind.

## 4. Focus on Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Communities:

Initiatives that prioritize social inclusion and protect vulnerable communities are essential. The Nairobi case study demonstrates how local governments can

engage communities, including migrants, in dialogues and provide community support services. Climate change is often a constant exacerbating factor of other various economic, social and other drivers that drive divides and inequalities among communities. Against this backdrop, inclusivity is an essential first step for the socio-economic inclusion of migrant and displaced persons and the bridging of divides amongst all communities. Such initiatives can potentially address and alleviate the multidimensional challenges faced by the newcomers, fostering their agency to seek financial inclusion and civic participation to drive long standing development of their host societies.

## 5. Support Skill Development and Access to Education

Local governments should provide access to educational courses and skill development opportunities, particularly in areas such as green skills and job training. The London case study highlights the importance of waiving residency requirements to enable access to training and skills learning for migrants. Access to education is essential for the integration of migrants, as emphasized in the summary of discussions.

## 6. Collaborate with well-matched local actors

Collaboration with civil society is essential for multi-stakeholder partnerships and co-creation of initiatives. Civil society actors have direct contact with vulnerable communities and can aid LRGs in outreach activities. This collaboration can help local governments promote the visibility of their actions and engage with national governments, international institutions and organizations in advocating for climate-induced migration. Likewise, LRGs should also seek partnerships with well matched private sector organizations that can also unlock needed financial resources to implement climate actions, under the latter's corporate social responsibility.

## 7. Minimize Climate Drivers and Promote International Collaboration

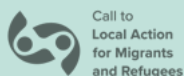
To reduce the drivers of climate-induced migration, local governments should focus on ecological and economic transformations. The Hargeisa case study illustrates how a resettlement and resilient livelihoods project aims to mitigate flood risks, providing alternative livelihoods and security. International collaboration, as seen in the Abasan Al-Kabira case study, is crucial for advancing global climate goals and addressing climate-induced migration.

## 8. Bridge Global Climate Debates and Local Action

Local governments must actively engage in global debates about climate change responsibility, an equitable distribution of climate benefits and burdens, loss and damage reparations, and the impact of global value chains on climate change. As emphasized in the summary of discussions, LRGs play a critical role in integrating human rights and climate justice into these conversations and claiming responsibility for managing loss and damage funds, accounting as well for non-economic and cultural losses. Concurrently, in their territories, local and regional governments must drive ecological and economic transformations, with the relevant ministries and multi stakeholders, to mitigate the adverse environmental and climate drivers that compel people to move. Doing so, they must also address and alleviate the risks and vulnerabilities faced during migration journeys, and boost community resilience to avert, minimize and address displacement. These actions would immensely uphold the local and regional leaders' claims to a seat at the global debates and consultations on climate action and human mobility, and to access financial resources to support future endeavors.

## Partners

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