

# International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement

*From emergency to resilience and development*

Gaziantep, 26-27 November 2019

The United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), the United Nations Refugee Agency (**UNHCR**), the UN Migration Agency (**IOM**), together with the **Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality (GMM)** which hosts 500,000 Syrian under temporary protection, the World Academy for Local Governance and Democracy (**WALD**), the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (**UMT**), and the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section are (**UCLG-MEWA**) cordially inviting you to the [International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement](#).

The forum brings together several local development actors from different countries. The event provides an opportunity to showcase and **exchange good practices** between Turkish municipalities and local authorities around the world, **facilitate city-level partnerships**, and **contribute to the existing networks of relevant actors** in the migration and displacement contexts.

The Forum highlights how approaches bridging humanitarian and development responses, such as the New Way of Working, have been put into practice to achieve the goals and objectives of **the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)** and **the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**. Turkey, currently hosting the largest number of refugees in the world, has not only been a leading partner in the global discussions on the Compacts but also demonstrated how they can be successfully implemented. Turkish response highlights how development approaches can provide a critical added value to local authorities in mitigating the negative impact and maximizing the opportunities of displacement on local communities.

The two compacts as well as other international initiatives, such as the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognize and emphasize the role of cities and local authorities in humanitarian and development efforts. As it stands, migration and displacement have become primarily an urban phenomenon. Municipalities in Turkey and elsewhere are at the forefront of managing the impact of migrants and refugee movements as well as promoting inclusive, safe and sustainable societies. In this sense, any opportunity for local authorities to exchange and showcase the increasing role of cities and other local authorities in providing support to migrants and refugees has become even more important.

As such, in addition to drawing from the experience of Turkish and other municipalities involved in the **Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)**, the Forum builds on other recent initiatives promoting the role of local authorities in displacement. This includes:



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- The Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development was launched in 2013 following the UN GA High Level Debate on Migration and Development. In 2017, the Mayoral Forum was organized for the first time back-to-back with the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD).<sup>1</sup>
- The GFMD chairs (Germany and Morocco) formalized the connection between the GFMD and the Mayoral Forum in 2018. This led to the establishment of the GFMD Mayors Mechanism (MM).
- The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) was established in December 2018<sup>2</sup> to empower and enable cities to engage in migration diplomacy and influence policymaking at regional and international level. IOM, UCLG, and the Mayors Migration Council constitute the Steering Committee of the GFMD Mayors Mechanism.
- The UNHCR High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges from December 2018 also focused on the role of cities and local authorities in the delivery of protection and assistance in urban spaces. The Dialogue called for ensuring the participation of cities in decision-making at the global, regional and local level.

The forum aims to build on these initiatives by facilitating city-level partnerships and exchange of experiences as well as focusing on the added value of development actors and approaches in supporting local authorities regarding the implementation of the Global Compacts. Hence, the forum also outlines how local authorities' solutions to improve the life of refugees, migrants, and host communities can be replicated and scaled up while opening a platform to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities to promote further international cooperation in response to migration and displacement at the local level.

More specifically, this Forum:

- Facilitates the sharing of **examples and good practices**, helps to identify gaps in current models to strengthen municipal-level responses to migration and displacement and highlights the link between national and local authorities as well as the added value that development actors can bring to the table in supporting local authorities
- **Feeds into the global agendas** and debates on migration, displacement and development by demonstrating how global principles and commitments have been or can be implemented on the ground such as i) the localization of SDGs in such a way that informs the High Level Political Fora on SDGs 11 and 16 and ii) the implementation of the Global Compacts, New Way of Working and the New Urban Agenda and the World Urban Forum 2020.
- Strengthens city-level **partnerships and networks** to sustain cooperation and knowledge management between local actors ensuring that existing initiatives are able to support the local implementation of the SDGs related to the management of migration and refugee movements.

The outcomes of the event will feed directly into the global level discussions on the implementation of the Global Compacts, notably into the **Global Refugee Forum** (GRF) to be organized in December 2019,<sup>3</sup> the 2019 Mayoral Forum to be organized in Quito in November 2019 as well as into other key events such as the UCLG World Congress and the Global Parliament of Mayors Annual Summit which will take place in Durban, in November 2019.

The event is structured around nine thematic topics essential to the local authorities' responses to migration and displacement: i) Localization of the SDGs, ii) City networks and south-south cooperation, iii) Job creation and partnerships with the private sector, iv) Protection and social protection, v) Multi-level governance, vi) Gender and

<sup>1</sup> The GFMD is a state led process functioning as a bridge between countries of origin, transit and destination. The GFMD is outside of the UN, but reports to the High Level Political Forum reviewing progress towards the SDGs

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/global-refugee-forum.html>



youth empowerment; vii) Inclusive access to quality services, viii) Sustainable cities and environment and ix) New technology and data management.

A key outcome of the International forum will be the **2019 Gaziantep Declaration** reflecting, inter alia, good practices on the implementation of globally and regionally agreed principles on local solutions to migration and displacement. The draft version will be shared with the participant Municipalities for their review in advance and the agreed version will be signed at the end of the Forum. The Declaration will be communicated to the GRF, the GFMD and its Mayors' Mechanism, the Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development and UCLG Congress to feed in these respective discussions.



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