



Global Task Force on Migration (GTFM)
Webinar on “The importance of multi-level governance to ensure effective local responses to migrations and displacement”

3rd February 2021, Wednesday

Location: Online via Zoom (Registration link below)

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlf-ysqTMqHNb_w-tk_Lnk_jebo70TIBBg

Context of the Event

There are more than 272 million international migrants around the world, who are considered more vulnerable than others because of personal, social, situational and structural factors¹. Their vulnerabilities may be exacerbated in crisis situations and it becomes critical to adopt a ‘whole of society’ approach in preparing, planning and responding to community needs, especially to effectively include these vulnerable groups. During unforeseeable crises, local communities often face the impacts of the disaster alone. Since local governments are the first line of support due to their direct contact with citizens, local governments must take the lead in decision-making, processes, information exchange, and communication to protect their citizens in general and particularly the vulnerable groups as it was clearly and painfully evident during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, it is clear that local governments have a key role to play in assessing and responding to the complex nature of migration. A coordinated, multi-level² governmental effort is the best way to prepare and respond to the impacts of migration. First, data and information sharing between different levels of government is a critical aspect of multilevel governance. Local governments are the key decision-makers and problem-solvers in all problems that affect their citizens. As a result of this role, local governments have accumulated significant hands on experience. However, they are also facing challenges to acquire or access accurate data on refugee and migrants in a timely fashion which may lead to waste of limited time and resources. Herein, effective data-sharing between different levels of government comes to the fore. As it is seen in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, accessing reliable data is of the essence to take adequate measures in time and to be well-prepared to face future shocks and crisis. Second, multi-level governance and cooperation of municipalities with other levels of government is also particularly important from a preparedness perspective, so as to be better able to anticipate and absorb shocks, including population movement and influx.

Indeed, migration is driving much of the increase in the population in urban areas as thousands of people are leaving their villages and their rural ways of lives behind to find better opportunities in cities. When it comes to international migration, nearly one in five of all migrants live in the world’s top 20 largest cities³. In many of these cities, migrants represent over a third or more of the population. Metropolitan cities are overwhelmed by this extraordinary flow of newcomers, and cannot readily respond to the needs of their new residents, with their limited budgets allocated based on their registered populations only. Intermediary cities (I-Cities), which can be roughly categorized as cities with a population

¹ Migration Factsheet No. 6 – The impact of COVID-19 on migrants

² The definition of Multi-level Governance: <https://www.oecd.org/regional/multi-levelgovernance.htm>

³ World Migration Report 2015 – Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility, IOM

between fifty thousand and one million people, generally playing a primary role in connecting rural and urban areas to basic facilities and services, may act as “buffer zones” in relocation of refugees and migrants. Settlement of refugees and migrants in I-Cities will allow for a better distribution of the responsibilities among different local governments, alleviating the stress on metropolitan areas and will ensure those locations receive the economic benefits of the social vitality that migrants and refugees bring. Likewise, domestic migration policies may take into account the role that I-Cities can play to prevent overpopulation in large metropolises.

In this context, the Global Task Force on Migration (GTFM) aims to organize its second meeting as a webinar on “The importance of multi-level governance to ensure effective local responses to migrations and displacement” with the participation of its members, local stakeholders and international partners. This will seek to identify the realities on the ground, exchange initiatives, and brainstorm collectively on short-term solutions and long-term strategies to tackle these vulnerabilities. The webinar on “The Important role of local governments in mitigating the impact of crisis” will provide a space for local governments to identify ways to enhance refugees' protection and inclusion while fostering multilevel and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

About Global Task Force on Migration (GTFM)

The Global Task Force on Migration (GTFM) was established within the framework of the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement ([The Municipal Forum](#)), which took place on 26-27 November 2019 in Gaziantep, Turkey. The main objective of the GTFM is to follow-up on the commitments of the [2019 Gaziantep Declaration](#) and to translate its words into action. The GTFM is managed by a Steering Committee, consisting of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT), World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD), UCLG-MEWA, UNDP, UNHCR and IOM. UCLG-MEWA assumes the secretariat of the GTFM, and facilitates its activities.

Methodology

This webinar will combine panel discussions between local authorities and actors and international organizations to identify challenges and public policy measures to support refugees and actors working at the local level to assist them in the migration process.

This webinar is addressed to technical staff working in the areas of refugees at the municipal level. Private sector, civil society, NGOs and academia are also encouraged to participate in the discussion.

Meeting Agenda

Time (CET)	Item
12:00 – 12:10	Welcome and framing the work of the meeting GTFM Secretariat
12:10 – 12:25	Keynote Speech Stephanie Loose, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat
12:25 – 13:10	First Session: Multi-level governance and effective data sharing as a key role for recovery Moderator: Sümeyye Gedikoğlu Doğan, The Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) - Sultanbeyli Municipality, Turkey. - Seda Rass-Turgut, Osnabrück Municipality, Germany. - Leila Youssef, Irbid Municipality, Jordan.
13:10 – 13:55	Second Session: The role of small and intermediary cities as catalysts for stability Moderator: David Savard, Emergency Coordinator, International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Firdaous Oussidhoum, Special Adviser to UCLG Secretary General. - François PAUL YATTA, UCLG Africa. - Sombor Municipality, Serbia *TBC - Campillos municipality, Spain *TBC
13:55 – 14:00	Wrap-up GTFM Secretariat

Partners:

