

**EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

New York, 26 February 2019

**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

*United Nations Human Settlement Programme
(UN-Habitat)*

¹The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

A. Urban actors and local authorities for the implementation of the Global Compact and the integration of migrants in urban areas for migration and development

People migrate for a multitude of reasons¹ and statistics show that more than half of migrants have in the last years chosen urban areas as destinations², hoping to find improved livelihood opportunities and jobs; better access to urban services; housing and shelter or safety. Urban actors, including local authorities, civil society, and private sector are therefore often in the front line to address the needs of newly arrivals for service delivery, social and economic integration of migrants³. Migration is among the most important drivers for urbanization, and, if well managed, has proven to have positive impact on social and economic development and cultural diversity of hosting communities, providing additional labor force, skill sets and, where formally employed, contributing to municipal revenue.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda promote inclusive cities, acknowledging the right of all inhabitants (including refugees, migrants, IDPs) to access to adequate housing; job and livelihood opportunities; infrastructure, public services and facilities; access to public spaces as well as the possibility for active participation in community life and the respect of their human rights. Depending on national level legislation and the level of decentralization, it is local authorities that are primarily responsible for responding to those needs for hosting and migrant communities. But due to limited resources and capacities, local authorities often struggle to provide those services adequately to their own population and struggle even more when facing a large (and unplanned) influx of migrants or in urban crisis situations. Migrants are therefore often excluded for access to services including health, education as well as financial and administrative services, face challenges regarding adequate housing and employment and are often socially and spatially segregated (and therefore disadvantaged).

Governments can support the integration of migrants into urban societies, foster social cohesion, economic development and reduce inequalities in cities at different levels. At national level, the integration of representatives of migrants' communities in national (urban) policy development processes and mainstreaming migration and inclusion in national or subnational urban policies have shown positive results. At regional level, integrated territorial development approaches can include a "migration perspective", mapping out migration flows and understanding how migration can fostering economic development and trade ties across national boundaries. Sharing of experiences at city-to-city level and regional platforms for knowledge sharing, e.g. in the Mediterranean Region or across Arab States have proven successful for enhanced capacities on integration of migrants into urban areas. At city level, enhancing equality for access to services and housing, introducing participatory planning processes as well as increasing capacity of local actors on how to best support migrants has accelerated integration in cities. Integrated approaches, across sectors and including multiple stakeholders – such as private sector and civil society – as well as the provision of city level integration services (language course; joint sports or recreation activities or neighborhood forums) are among actions that have reduced xenophobia and supported social cohesion. Urban actors and local authorities are also important stakeholders for data collection on migration in urban areas and a collaboration across the different government levels is important for disaggregated data generation and implementable policies.

¹ Including voluntary, involuntary/forced migration; on a temporary, permanently, seasonal basis; due to political, social, economic, environmental reasons (e.g. conflict, natural disaster, climate change, lack of human rights).

² https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en_chapter10.pdf

³ The term "Migrant" in this text is used as it was defined in the IOM publication "Migration and the 2030 agenda, A Guide for Practitioners" (2018): The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines a migrant as "any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is."

B. Achieving global frameworks on (urban) migration and development: multi-stakeholder and whole-of-government approaches

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges strong links between migration and sustainable development in different goals and targets. UN-Habitat's mandate is strongly linked to SDG11, while many issues related to migration related to SDG 10, aiming to "Reduce inequality within and among countries", with target 10.7 highlighting the need to "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". Those migration policies are often developed at national level, but cities play a crucial role for migrant integration and provision of services in the first place.

UN-Habitat is providing support to local and national governments to reflect the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and recent globally frameworks, such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in city and country development plans and policies, in strong collaboration with partners.

The Global Compact for Migration recognizes cities and urban areas as primary destinations for "people on the move". By bringing together different stakeholders – neighborhood and local key players, civil society, (including migrants, youth, women) and private sector in planning processes, UN-Habitat plays a strong role for advising governments on implementing the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles mentioned in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, **Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Gender-responsive, child sensitive approaches, Whole-of-government approach and Whole-of-society approach.**

The agency, in line with the New Urban Agenda, has been supporting countries in their National Urban Policy Development processes over years, by applying an inclusive and participatory approaches. The coordination and collaboration across government levels as well as bringing together all relevant stakeholders in National Urban Forums enhances the ownership of an urban policy – and strongly impacts its implementation processes. An integrated approach also enhances cooperation across sectors and an understanding of the connections between the different needs of people for a leading a decent live – such as the accessibility of jobs, services and housing, which can only be achieved when cities are planned in a connected, integrated and inclusive way.

Countries and cities need to address inequality in access to services as well as the access of migrants to affordable housing. By promoting public and housing policies that include housing rights for all, UN-Habitat's "Housing at the Centre Approach", underlines the access to adequate housing⁴ for all, as a basic human right and a core component of urbanization, mandated by SDG 11, target 11.1 "*By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums*". Housing policies are often developed at national level or are part of National Urban Policies, with one government authority spearheading the process at national level, while implementation is often the responsibility of city leaders (in cooperation with private sector). Housing is one primary example, how local (implementation) experiences should then again feed back into national level policy processes. Inclusive adequate housing solutions (being accessible and affordable by definition) should benefit both, host and migrant communities in order to not increase tension between different vulnerable groups.

UN-Habitat's convening role – bringing different stakeholders together and fostering the communication between different sectors and government levels on urban solutions – is be an important asset and is also applicable for advancing

⁴ The right to adequate housing is recognised in international human rights law as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living.⁵ It is a universal right for everyone, regardless of their migration status, as is reiterated in the NUA. In order for housing to be considered 'adequate' it must meet seven minimum criteria: 1) security of tenure; 2) availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; 3) affordability; 4) availability; 5) accessibility; 6) location; and 7) cultural adequacy. Please also see: UN-Habitat's POLICY BRIEF Access to Adequate Housing: The Pathway to Migrants' Inclusion in Cities", as contribution to the 5TH GLOBAL MAYORAL FORUM ON HUMAN MOBILITY, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, MARRAKECH, 8 DECEMBER 2018

other SDGs related to migration and development and is in line with the Global Compact for Migration Guiding Principles of a whole-of government approach. Close partnerships have been established over the years at global and country level including UN agencies (including IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP), but also local government networks and other development partners, in order to make sure, no-one is left behind.

UN-Habitat, working closely with UNDP and UCLG, has been supporting local authorities for the localizing SDGs in urban contexts, including better provision of urban services (including basic services), housing, planning, governance and urban finance. Normative tools such as the “Migration and inclusive cities: A guide for Arab City leaders” (UN-Habitat, 2018) give substantive practical guidance – with recommendations that are tailored to a specific regional context and were developed in an integrated approach with relevant local and national stakeholders – for achieving sustainable urban development for all and building up capacities.

Participatory planning approaches, in line with SDG 11, target 11.3 (“By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries”) have proven to foster the integration of migrants by enhancing capacity at national as well as local level on inclusive urban development and increasing the ownership of migrant communities in cities. Especially activities to achieve SDG 11, target 11.7 (“By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”) can advance the integration of migrants at community level, where inclusive planning processes enhance ownership on public space and foster to social cohesion of migrant and refugee communities, with a strong component of including youth and women.

In its strategic plan for 2020-2025, the UN-Habitat has named “Effective urban crises prevention and response” as one of the four priority areas for action, underlining that “sustainable and equitable urbanization is considered key to address some of the underlying risks to natural hazards and/or root causes of instability and conflict”. In line with the Global Compact for Migration’s Recommendation 2, “Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin” and grounded in the mandate given by UN Member States through UN-Habitat’s Governing Council Resolution 26.2, UN-Habitat will continue to support Member States at different government levels facing challenges due to mass influx of migrants to urban areas as well as harness the opportunities for long-term economic and social development – including urban crisis situations.

C. Research and data for Urbanization trends:

Selected tools for Data collection for migration related challenges: UN-Habitat’s city profiling methodology for collecting accurate and disaggregated (spatial data) for evidence-based policies on migration and in urban crisis situation

The Global Compact for Migration, in its recommendation 1, highlights the need for collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.

UN-Habitat’s strategic plan promotes integrated urban development strategies that address the needs of both host communities and the displaced, and the agency, with its tools for sustainable urban development, is well placed to support disaggregated, multisectoral, spatial data collection and analysis for evidence-based policy decision. UN-Habitat’s data collections tools consider planning, governance and finance aspects and the capacity of cities for absorption and integration of migrants, providing the basis for decision-making processes that impacts social and economic inclusion in a long-term, and by deploying technical support in areas of urban planning, land, housing and basic services.

For monitoring and reporting on SDG 11, one key challenge is the introduction of the city and neighborhood level as “units of analysis”, and the aggregation of results for national level reporting. This is the case with various SDG 11 indicators such as the public space (11.7.1), but also for public transport (11.2.1.), land consumption (11.3.1), solid

waste (11.6.1), and air quality (11.6.2). The same challenges occur for other indicators with a strong urban component such as secure tenure rights (1.4.2) and basic services (1.4.1) – which adds up to the challenges for collecting data for migration, with many migrants for example still being registered in their places of origins. Migration therefore strongly influences methodologies for data collection, and many countries have limited resources (financial, institutional, human and systems) for innovative data collection and analysis and therefore lack good quality, relevant, accessible and timely data on cities – and their (host and migrant) communities. This lack of sound urban data and collection methodologies also affects the formulation of evidence-based policies and the design of programs that respond to urban dynamics and migration related challenges.

UN-Habitat's Global Urban Observatory (GUO) has developed a diversity of tools which have been deployed to countries to support their urban monitoring and decision-making processes. Some of these include the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) and its related index, the urban observatory model and the National Sample of cities approach. The tools have been adopted by more than 100 countries, which are currently customizing them for SDG 11 monitoring process (including other SDGs with urban indicators). Advocacy towards refining and revising census data collection tools especially in urban areas to ensure that no one is left behind includes redesigning approaches to capture special groups such as those in slums areas or IDPs.

These tools could also be adapted for monitoring migration related data in urban areas and capacities could be build up at national and local level for localizing these existing tools according to migration priorities. The CPI is a tool to measure the prosperity and sustainability of cities and is based on six dimensions which are made to be contextually specific and globally comparable: infrastructure, development, productivity, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, governance and legislation. The CPI incorporates new analytical tools based on spatial indicators that facilitate a systematic disaggregation of information along the key dimensions of urban development, including migration and (rapid) population growth.

Among other tools, UN-Habitat has successfully also applied urban profiling for collection of spatial data as basis for recommendations for prioritization, especially in contexts of urban crisis and fast changing urban realities, with cities facing a large influx of IDPs and urban refugees. By including a wide range of urban actors, urban profiling leads to a shared understanding of the complexity of urban environments impacted by a large influx of migrants. Stakeholders, depending on the local contexts, come from different sectors and with different perspectives and include humanitarian and development organizations (where applicable), local governments, academics, civil society organizations and built environment professionals. It can be applied either in situation of urban crisis, as well as for sound data collection in non-crisis contexts, for better planning, managing and prioritizing of actions in urban areas.

Urban profiling is a collaborative process for collecting and analyzing data on the conditions of an urban area and its neighborhoods, and focuses on the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the population groups, to inform decision-making and planning before, during or after a crisis situation. It helps to prioritize people and places most in need, taking into account both chronic and acute vulnerabilities of both, host and migrant communities. The methodology draws on the collective knowledge of national and local governments, humanitarian and development actors, built environment professionals, private sector, civil society, and communities. Urban profiling can be adapted based on local context (including national legislation on migration related issues), actors involved, most pressing questions at hand, the availability of reliable quantitative and qualitative data, and context specific priorities.